

Iceland06 Dialog & Titles - Subtitle Translation Version.
7-23-2007

1 FRONT TITLES

1) Greene House Studio Presents

2) A Film Commissioned by The National Museum of Iceland

Fade up on

2 INT. MUSIC TEACHER IN OSKJUHLIOARSKOLI MUSIC ROOM - OLLIE
SITS DOWN AT THE PIANO

OLLIE
Shall I start?

MB (O.S.)
Yes

TITLE

3) Iceland 2006

Fade in title over live action

3 EXT. OSKJUHLIOARSKOLI PLAYGROUND - BARKING GIRL RUNS

PIANO PLAYS

KID 1
Hello

KID 2
Hello

KID 1
Good morning again.

MB (O.S.)
Good morning again

KID 1
What movie are you going to film?

MB (O.S.)
What's that?

KID 1
What are you making?

MB (O.S.)
I'm making a story about Alexander.

KID 1
OK

MB (O.S.)
Is that good?

KID 1
Yes

MB (O.S.)
Good

Camera moves to Alexander - FREEZE FRAME ON ALEXANDER

PIANO MUSIC ENDS

TITLE

4) ALEXANDER

4 EXT. SUMMER HOUSE - EXT WIND IN THE TREES - MUSIC - STEINUNN
& ALEXANDER MOVE TOWARD BRIDGE

STEINUNN (V.O.)
I will never forget that moment. As
soon as Alexander was born he was
blue and he was rushed into
intensive care.

5 EXT. STEINUNN & ALEXANDER THROUGH GATE TOWARD CAMERA

STEINUNN (V.O.)
Alexander was fighting for his life
the first few days. That moment
really changed everything. You went
through these days in a zombie
state. The news of everything that
was wrong paralyzed your emotions,
your muscles. Then you realized
that something was so severely
wrong with your child. The child
you had will never run or play
football or dance ballet.

6 INT. MUSIC PLAYS "MAMMA"

Steinunn & Alexander hand jive

STEINUNN (V.O.)

It's a moment in your grief when you really wonder about everything. You go into this self-destructive mode immediately. You keep on wondering constantly, "Did you do this - did you not eat well - was this your fault did you umm what, because you ate the yoghurt with the sugar on it?"

PALLI (V.O.)

When he was born he was totally paralyzed. We had to turn him over and he didn't even move.

7 INT. ALEXANDER IN WHEELCHAIR - ROCKY THE DOG PLAYS

PALLI (V.O.)

He had to be fed and he had a food tube into his nose. At that time there weren't very high expectations of anything. When he was three he couldn't hold his head yet. He couldn't sit up in a stool. He didn't have any strength in his body. He's been working very hard. He's been going to physical therapy every week, twice a week, three times a week in the beginning, since he was three months old. And slowly he's been brought out. He's been forced into himself - to have the strength to sit and now he can ride a bicycle and he can ride his wheelchair and he can walk in a walker. This was something nobody expected.

8 INT HOME ACCORDION PLAYS - ALEXANDER & BRYNYAR IN BEDROOM WITH TOYS

PALLI (V.O.)

When you have a disabled child you go through a grieving period for the child that you expected. So you have to get over it. And of course the first years are full of emotions, self-pity and all those things. And it takes years to sort them out. You just have to go through the sadness of it.

(MORE)

PALLI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

It tests your taboos- your own kind of understanding of handicap.

9 INT. STEINUNN PHOTO SHOOT WITH MEM - NY

STEINUNN (V.O.)

I am a fashion designer. I honestly think that a certain kind of grief helps you move into a new era of your life. Alexander helped us do this.

PALLI (V.O.)

One of the first things that we learned when we heard that Alexander was handicapped was that most parents divorce. The doctor that took care of Alexander he said "don't forget yourselves" that was really one of the best advises we got. It became clear to us that we had to keep our own profession going and keep on working on our own dreams. Because if we are happy he lives through us, we make his life. We define his environment. We make it happy or we make it unpleasant. If we are arguing and dissatisfied with our own life it's not going to be a good home for a child.

10 INT. HOME - LIVING ROOM - ROCKY THE DOG WALKS BY TV

STEINUNN (V.O.)

You learn how to be humble when you have a disabled child.

11 INT. HOME - PALLI AND ALEXANDER BATHROOM

STEINUNN (V.O.)

Palli has been extremely humble about his son.

12 INT. HOME - PALLI GETS ALEXANDER READY FOR SCHOOL

PALLI (V.O.)

The doctors here at first thought he had a genetic disorder called Noonan Syndrome.

(MORE)

PALLI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

There wasn't a total agreement if that was the case. A year later they had another genetic syndrome definition - I think it was called Mookapolishsaccharindosis or something like that. Sounds like a song from Mary Poppins. But they also disputed that. It's more important to help him as he is rather than finding the correct name for it. And at present time he is undiagnosed.

STEINUNN (V.O.)

I traveled a lot and the fact that Palli took care of Alexander all this time along with my mother is beautiful.

13 EXT. PALLI AND ALEXANDER GOING TO SCHOOL/WORK

STEINUNN (V.O.)

Palli made a decision that I should go and work on what I did the best. And I helped him do what he did the best. It's made us stronger because today we both have our own companies.

14 INT. ALEXANDER & TOY PARROT - CAR

STEINUNN (V.O.)

Alexander is in a beautiful class at Oskjuhlíoarskoli with wonderful teachers.

15 INT. PALLI & ALEXANDER ENTER OSKJUHLÍOARSKOLI

STEINUNN (V.O.)

The class has been the same since they came to school at the age of six.

16 INT. ALEXANDER AND CLASSMATES IN CLOAKROOM.

STEINUNN (V.O.)

These children really got to know each other very well. Gudlauger is Alexander's classmate.

(MORE)

STEINUNN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

They formed a very special bond at the beginning. What I find the most interesting about their (laughs) relationship is that two little boys that cannot speak properly really know how to communicate and be friends.

17 INT. SIGRIDUR TEACHES ALEXANDER'S CLASS

SIGRIDUR (V.O.)

My name is Sigridur. I am a special teacher in Oskjuhlíóarskóli and I've been Alexander's teacher for five years. He's a lovely boy. Alexander and the children in his class they are eleven years old. But many of them are a little bit like four or five years old children. And four or five years old children they are lovely.

18 INT. OLLIE TEACHES MUSIC CLASS - DRIP A DRIP DROP SONG

SIGRIDUR (V.O.)

Alexander's best friend in the class is Gudlauger. Sometimes Gudlauger is not very kind to others in the class but he is always very kind to Alexander.

OLLIE

Icelandic??????????

19 EXT. ALEXANDER'S CLASS WALK - CAT

STEINUNN (V.O.)

I believe that if you want to make children independent you have to break the bond between a mother and child and let them experience the world on their own. My son has found his own self. Alexander has a life at school that we're not involved in and when we go to the school he just says "goodbye - go away". I like that and I think it's because you're not over protective.

(MORE)

STEINUNN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
And you're not trying to umm take
so much care of him that it buries
his own will.

PIANO MUSIC
STARTS

20 EXT. STEINUNN'S MOM AND ALEXANDER TO THE CAR

STEINUNN (V.O.)
My parents are Alexander's second
parents. I never forget the day I
brought Alexander to my mother. He
was four months old. I saw my son
in my mother's arm I knew I had
found the person that I could
completely trust Alexander with.

PIANO MUSIC ENDS

21 INT. STEINUNN'S PARENTS HOUSE - PANCAKES

STEINUNN (V.O.)
Alexander still today, at eleven
years old, goes to my parent's
house five days a week. My mother
has been with me to doctor's
appointments, picked him up at
school, to a parent meeting instead
of me because I was somewhere in
Europe or America. They have
driven Alexander to physical
therapy since he was three years
old.

SUGAR BOWL

STEINUNN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Alexander really has parents there
that are as strong as we are. That
is Alexander's relationship to my
parents.

SUGAR BOWL DOWN ON TABLE

MUSIC STARTS

STEINUNN (CONT'D)

I don't think Palli and I could have ever done if it weren't for my parents.

22 INT. ARCHITECT'S OFFICE

COMPUTER SCREEN DISPLAYS DRAWING

PALLI (V.O.)

You have to distance yourself, a little bit, from his handicappedness. Because you can never fix it and you could get sucked into it forever, and just become the parent of the handicapped child. In our case we would both be totally unsatisfied with that role.

23 INT. PHYSIOTHERAPY

PALLI (V.O.)

At first it was, of course, very difficult, to rearrange your time and rearrange your thinking to take care of this new child which was handicapped and quite sick and going to the doctors and having operations. Learning all kinds of terminology - about all kinds of institutions and all kinds of doctors that we didn't even know existed and that was on top of the shock of not having a healthy child. Course it's a - it's a thing to go through.

STEINUNN (V.O.)

I did something I regret very much.

24 EXT. ALEXANDER UNDER TREE IN WIND TREE

STEINUNN (V.O.)

Palli and I weren't agreeing on a lot of things in the beginning about how to deal with Alexander - I was home with him.

(MORE)

STEINUNN (V.O.) (CONT'D)

At one point I lost it - hit Palli and it was the first time ever in my life I had ever hit a person.

25 INT. STEINUNN IN MIRROR - WEDDING DAY - FLASH FORWARD

STEINUNN (V.O.)

I called a friend of mine up and said "I need help because I can't deal with this anymore because I'm exploding from dealing with all of this."

26 INT. STEINUNN AND PALLI DANCING - WEDDING DAY - FLASH FORWARD

STEINUNN (V.O.)

And she helped me find a therapist. She has helped me tremendously dealing with the anger, dealing with the grief. You realize many years later the process of this is about time.

27 INT. GIRL FLOATING IN POOL - SAFAMYARSKOLI

STEINUNN (V.O.)

When it came time to choose school for Alexander I went and spoke to state advisors about the choices we had. There were three choices: Regular school, Oskjuhlioarskoli and Safamyarskoli. The advisor suggested Safamyarskoli.

28 INT. GYDA IN POOL WITH USTA

STEINUNN (V.O.)

I first went there. It is a school for profoundly disabled children.

GYDA (V.O.)

My name is Gyda. I am a teacher's aide at Safamyarskoli. We have more disabled children here at this school. The children at Oskjuhlioarskoli they are capable of doing many other things than our children can. We specialize in very disabled children. Usta.

(MORE)

GYDA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

She is like this very calm girl but very very disabled. She has a very great personality and I love her - so much. Usta changes when she gets in the water, she gets so surprised - in a very good way. All of them love it. It's like they are floating on a cloud.

29 INT. GYDA AND THE TEACHERS TO THE KIDS IN THE POOL

GYDA (V.O.)

What I like about Usta is her smile and her laugh. It's like so intimate. I just love being with her because she's always happy.

30 INT. GYDA CARRIES USTA TO THE BLUE GURNEY TO SHOWER.

GYDA (V.O.)

There are not that many people that wants to be around those kids and are actually like a little bit afraid of them. They are so pure. They don't have a single evilness in them. They are not polluted or corrupted by the reality.

31 INT. GYDA MASSAGES USTA

MUSIC STARTS

GYDA (V.O.)

The massage. The main purpose with it is - because they don't use their feet or hands. We are actually just letting them get used to be touched. And they are so vulnerable to it. They are not used to like being - just stroked. Most of the kids really, really like it and they get so relaxed. And usually they fall asleep.

MUSIC ENDS

SAFAMYARSKOLI
MUSIC CLASS
MONTAGE

SOPHIA (V.O.)
My name is Sophia.

32 INT. SOPHIA MUSIC CLASS - ANIKKA IN MUSIC CRADLE

SOPHIA (V.O.)
I am a music therapist in Safamyarskoli. Anikka loves lying there in the cradle and feel these vibrations on her body. She's blind. Is not able to move any part of her body. When I sing to the children I improvise. It's very good to sing their names. Sing "Hello Anikka. Anikka is lying in the cradle today. She is smiling. She is singing." We don't know of course what words they understand. Usually they react to their name. I think it gives her more sense of me being close to her. It could also give her more sense of herself.

STEINUNN (V.O.)
As a mother I was heartbroken when I came out. I had never seen a school like that. I didn't know that in Iceland that kind of school actually existed.

33 INT. ALEXANDER AT THE SWIMMING POOL

STEINUNN (V.O.)
I had heard that normal schools took in physically disabled and mentally disabled children and they would give special care in order to go to a normal school. That was my dream. I didn't realize that my dream was what I wanted, not what was good for Alexander. We both had a hard time facing the fact that Alexander was not going to go to a normal school.

34 INT. ALEXANDER IN CHANGING ROOM

PALLI (V.O.)
Alexander was in a very good pre-school.
(MORE)

PALLI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

We were very worried when that ended when he was five and he had to start his regular school.

35 INT. OSKJUHLIOARSKOLI - ALEXANDER'S CLASSROOM

PALLI (V.O.)

At that time many specialists suggested that he would belong more in Safamyarskoli, the one for the more handicapped. But somehow we always thought he would develop. We demanded that he would be put in Oskjuhlioarskoli. It was very clear that if he would go to Safamyarskoli there wouldn't be anything that he could copy or emulate or be inspired by.

36 INT. OSKJUHLIOARSKOLI - OUTSIDE MUSIC CLASS ROOM

PALLI (V.O.)

There would be nothing to really challenge him by the actions of others. Where as in Oskjuhlioarskoli that's certainly the case because he is more handicapped than most of the people.

37 INT. SIGRIDUR AT BLACKBOARD TEACHING CLASS - SPEECH THERAPIST

PIANO MUSIC OVER

38 INT. OLLI TEACHING MUSIC CLASS

39 EXT. STEINUNN AT THE SUMMER HOUSE

STEINUNN

I want to get those berries up there!

PALLI (V.O.)

There's no blueprint. We don't know how far he will come. What he will learn. For me that was the longest thing to get over.

(MORE)

PALLI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Not to expect him to learn all what I know. To go to the schools I went too. Not being able to teach him the things that I know. It was a very difficult thing for a parent to drop all expectations of your child. You just have to let them go. You don't expect anything. You just are very thankful for every day you have and every little miracles that you actually see.

40 INT. ALEXANDER OPENS DOOR FOR ROCKY THE DOG

PALLI (V.O.)

He taught you just to live in the moment and live in the second and live for every smile and every pleasure that comes out of it.

41 INT. STEINUNN AND ALEXANDER IN KITCHEN PLAYING

PALLI (V.O.)

We can hang out for days and time just melts. His kind of state is emotional state - its fluid emotional state and he doesn't really have any expectations either.

42 EXT. STEINUNN, ALEXANDER & ROCKY AT DOOR OF SUMMERHOUSE

PALLI (V.O.)

It was a hard thing to get accustomed too.

STEINUNN (V.O.)

In the beginning, after people realized that Alexander would be disabled, he was like four or five years old. We would bring him out in the wheelchair or the stroller. People would see him

43 EXT. ALEXANDER WITH DVD DISC HAT

STEINUNN (V.O.)

and I had a friend who came over and he started crying. I wasn't sure how to handle it.

(MORE)

STEINUNN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I had to help him. He was probably
dealing with a disabled person for
the first time.

44 EXT. ALEXANDER GODLAUGER AND THORA - WALKER IN CEMETERY

STEINUNN (V.O.)
You were so involved in taking care
of this child that you didn't have
time to actually nature your
friends. We lost some, they
couldn't deal with it. Some came
back, some didn't. You really
found the true ones and the true
ones stayed with you. I had a very
good friend. She helped me
tremendously. That is something I
will cherish for the rest of my
life. To have a friend like this
that will stick with you through
the hard times, through the good
times, through the miracle times.
Those are the friends that I really
cherish.

45 INT. ALEXANDER AT THE HAIRDRESSING SALON

PALLI (V.O.)
Alexander has always been light
mooded. As soon as he could move
and express himself he was smiling
and he was joyful. Totally
acceptant of his state even though
he's clearly going through pain.
He was always smiling, so at ease
in his state. It helped us a lot
because now when he's able to
express himself more he has more
humor. He has a full character.
It's all about interaction; it's
all about the spark that he creates
between one person and the other.
He's always looking for the funny
things. He thinks life is
entertaining. Everything's fun;
getting dressed is fun, eating is
fun. It's supposed to be fun for
him.

46 INT. GLOTTIS PARTY

STEINUNN (V.O.)

You learn so much about yourself by getting to know disability. The hope that I had for Alexander was that he would be able to go to a normal school that would play football to run around with other kids, that hope is gone. Today I take him as he is. I think that Alexander always will be special. You've learned to deal with Alexander the way he is today.

47 INT. ALEXANDER, EDDA & BRYNJAR IN KITCHEN

PALLI (V.O.)

He has his few words: his name, "Atta" which he gave himself because he can't pronounce Alexander. He can say "yes" and "no" and he makes it very clear if he wants to eat by using sign and goes towards things and point and say "Atta yes."

48 INT. ALEXANDER & BRYNJAR OUTSIDE BEDROOM - BAG ON HEAD

PALLI (V.O.)

For us that know him he makes himself quite clear. Sometimes it's a little complicated and you have to be patient with him and insist on better explanations but he's persistent enough that he will eventually get his point across.
(laughs)

49 INT. ALEXANDER WITH MUSIC THERAPIST AT PIANO

PIANO MUSIC
TRANSITION INTO
WINTER

REYKJAVIK TRAFFIC - NIGHT - SNOW

50 INT. PALLI & STEINUNN'S HOME - ALEXANDER WATCHES ROCKY IN SNOW

STEINUNN (V.O.)

We've talked about if he should go into a home later in life. We are so close to Alexander and Alexander is such a big part of us - it's become that we need Alexander also in our lives - because he gives so much emotional stability to us. If I would get sick and I wouldn't be able to take care of him the situation would change. Maybe it's being over protective but as of now Alexander will live with us.

51 INT. PALLI & STEINUNN'S HOME - STEINUNN READS ALEXANDER A BOOK

STEINUNN (V.O.)

Sometimes when you are just too tired I have felt like giving up. I don't think I would be a good mother if I didn't admit it.

52 INT. SUMMER HOUSE - BATHROOM SHOWER

STEINUNN

You always end up getting up and you always keep on going.

53 INT. PALLI & STEINUNN'S HOME - ALEXANDER LISTENS TO A MUSIC TOY

54 EXT. PALLI & STEINUNN AT THE CHURCH AT THINGVELLIR

55 INT. HOTEL LOBBY

Wedding guests meet and kiss

PALLI (V.O.)

The wedding. The wedding kinda happened. We've been talking about it for years. We finally found this time, in the middle of the winter, to do it, and invite all our friends.

(MORE)

PALLI (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Alexander was a little bit confused
at the wedding - he of course loved
meeting everyone.

56 INT. STEINUNN CHECKING THE DINING ROOM - STEINUNN AND EDDA
DRESS AND SPRUCE ALEXANDER

PALLI (V.O.)

Steinunn and I had been living
together for twenty years. We have
been talking about getting married
for a long time. We got engaged,
ten years ago, with rings, twice!
But it never seemed to have been
the right time or the right moment.
Now was the time.

57 INT. PALLI AND ALEXANDER WHEELCHAIR DOWN HALLWAY

PALLI (V.O.)

Alexander was to be our best man.
We had decided that he would wear a
tie.

58 INT. PALLI KNOTS ALEXANDER TIE

PALLI (V.O.)

So (laughs) it was (laughs) it was
a new experience for especially
him. He also has a fascination for
knots. And that knot was very
interesting. He wasn't going to
just look at it, he was going to
see if he could untie it almost
immediately.

59 EXT. PALLI AND ALEXANDER IN WHEELCHAIR INTO CHURCH

STEINUNN (V.O.)

For the first few years after
Alexander there was no way I was
going to have another child.

60 INT. PALLI, ALEXANDER AND EDDA INSIDE CHURCH

STEINUNN (V.O.)

There wasn't really talk about it.

61 INT. STEINUNN MAKEUP MIRROR

STEINUNN (V.O.)
The chances of me having another
child like Alexander; the doctor
gave us twenty five percent.

62 INT. PALLI AND ALEXANDER WITH TIE ACTION IN CHURCH

STEINUNN (V.O.)
In Down syndrome children the
chances of you having another Down
syndrome is one percent.

63 INT. STEINUNN MAKEUP MIRROR

STEINUNN (V.O.)
We've talked about it for a long
time to adopt a child.

64 INT. PRIEST ENTERS CHURCH

STEINUNN (V.O.)
We have applied for an adoption.

Palli adjusting Alexander's Tie

STEINUNN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
I think it would be very good for
Alexander to have a brother or a
sister. I think it'll be good for
all of us as a family to have one.

MUSIC STARTS

65 INT. WEDDING CEREMONY MONTAGE - MUSIC

Palli and Steinunn Kiss

PALLI (V.O.)
It was a magical time. All the
friends came. It lives in the
memory like a dream.

66 EXT. WIND BLOWS SNOW ACROSS ROAD - CAR DRIVES THROUGH

MUSIC ENDS

FADE TO BLACK

FADE FROM BALCK

STEINUNN (V.O.)

My greatest wish for Alexander is that after I'm gone he'll be as happy as he has been with me and Palli. Nothing will happen to him that will make him sad. He will actually stay happy as he is today for the rest of his life.

MUSIC STARTS

FADE TO END

CREDITS

67 END CREDITS

1) **Dedicated to**

Alexander, Páll & Steinunn

2) **With Deepest Gratitude to**

All the Children, Parents & Teachers at Öskjuhlíðarskóli, Safamýrarskóli & Lyngás Center for the Disabled

3) **Special Thanks to**

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Valgerður Jónsdóttir

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66

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 Erla Gunnarsdóttir
 Birna Björnsdóttir

Chris Ryan - Color Correct - Nice Shoes
 Tom Paul - Sound Re-Record Mixer - The Cottage
 Diana Hass - Titles Design

8) **Music by**

Slanga Langa
 Written & Performed by
 Ólafur B Ólafsson
 Everything Changed
 Written & Performed by
 Robert Aceto

Litli tónlistarmaðurinn
 Written by
 Freymóður Jóhannsson
 Performed by
 Vilhjálmur & Ellý Vilhjálms

Regnskógurinn
 Written & Performed by
 Ólafur B Ólafsson

Friðarreiturinn
 Written & Performed by
 Ólafur B Ólafsson

Bibi No Aozora
 Written by
 Ryuichi Sakamoto
 Performed by ???????

Við Gengum Tvö
 Written by
 Friðrik Jónsson
 Performed by Þuríður Guðmundsdóttir?????
 Seven Jumps
 Arranged by Henner Diederich
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Það haustar að
 Written & Performed by
 Ólafur B Ólafsson

Be my Baby Tonight
 Performed by Norah Jones
 Written by Bob Dylan

Óskastund
 Written by
 Aðalsteinn Ásberg Sigurðsson
 Performed by
 Valgerður Jónsdóttir

Alexander
 Written, Published & Performed by
 Glenn Patscha

9) **A Film by**

Martin Bell

10) **Produced by**

Martin Bell & Mary Ellen Mark

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