

MEN WHO SWIM TOGETHER



MEN WHO SWIM TOGETHER is a humorous and poignant look at a group of middle aged underachievers who have found unlikely success as members of Sweden's all male synchronised swimming team. What began as a weekly escape from the daily grind of work and family responsibilities, soon evolved into a more serious commitment. Inspired by classical Esther Williams' techniques from the 1950s, this group of train drivers and meat buyers, of archivists and teachers soon became passionate exponents of the sport. Now, the team has been unexpectedly invited to next years Male World Synchronised Swimming Championships in Milan, and between now and April 2009 they will need to prepare a winning 12 minute routine that will be marked on artistic and technical ability.

This a character based story. We get to know some of the members of the team intimately, as they carry out their daily lives, and we share with them their stresses, their worries and their inner thoughts. During the year, over half of the team will turn 40. It is an age when most typically take stock and ask themselves what they have actually achieved in their lives.

Like many other Swedish men, these swimmers are part of the new wave of liberal fathers spending as much time at home with their young children as their partners. However in their heart of hearts there is nonetheless a frustration that their careers never truly took off. Many of the men are often caught wondering aloud - how did life become as it did? Is this how I expected it to be? It is a time to realise that life really is passing one by, and a time to wonder whether it is too late to change, or whether it is not so bad after all.

As a member of the team, the filmmaker already has the confidence and the access that will allow for the low level mid-life crisis that they are all experiencing to come to the fore. The ultimate success of the film will depend on the tone in which the story is told. The aim will be to convey a sense of both comedy and also one of a soft sad melancholia as we see the sight of twelve slightly overweight Swedish fathers entering the pool to perform the traditionally elegant sport of synchronized swimming.