

A HÅVARD BUSTNES FILM



GOLDEN DAWN GIRLS

MEET THE WOMEN BEHIND THE EXTREME FAR-RIGHT MOVEMENT

UPNORTH FILM IN ASSOCIATION WITH HOUSE OF REAL AND NAPAFILMS PRESENTS GOLDEN DAWN GIRLS A FILM BY HÅVARD BUSTNES
PRODUCED BY NICK BROOMFIELD AND JONAS COLSTRUP EDITOR ANDERS TEIGEN, NFK CINEMATOGRAPHERS VIGGO KNUDSEN AND LARS SKRÉE SOUND HÅKON LAMMETUN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JESPER JACK AND LISA KARPO WITH HÅVARD BUSTNES BY LARS K. ANDERSEN PRODUCED BY CHRISTIAN FALCH AND HÅVARD BUSTNES DIRECTED BY HÅVARD BUSTNES

www.goldendawnfilm.com

GOLDEN DAWN GIRLS

Film study sheet / education guide / discussion guide

For viewers aged 14+

Educational kit author Thomas Wangsmo
Themes Society, philosophy/ethics, geography, history, individual/group, conflict/war, human rights, gender roles, cultural meetings/culture clashes, equal rights, media, upbringing/family, politics, religion, friendship/respect, society vs. the individual.

Film Facts

Writer & Director Håvard Bustnes
Genre / year Documentary / 2017
Length 1 hour 32 minutes
Language Norwegian, Greek
Producer Christian Falch, UpNorth Film, Norway

About the film

"What has happened to Greece?" wonders filmmaker Håvard Bustnes at the beginning of his documentary *Golden Dawn Girls*.

In recent years our impression of this country with sunny beaches and friendly people has been overshadowed by political ideologies, which are worryingly close to Nazism. Following the imprisonment of many of the most prominent members of the far right party Golden Dawn, the lead is taken by a daughter, a wife and a mother – all three so used to the media that they avoid any slip of the tongue during interviews.

While they regularly try to stop director Bustnes' interviews, whenever they move in a direction they do not want recorded, Bustnes still continues filming. The resulting material, including additional archive material, does not leave any doubt about the extreme political views of this party, and reveals an ever-wider gap between clear facts and political games. Even though it is frustrating that the women are so relentless in their ideas, the film indeed throws light on how the party can influence a society.

Trailer <https://vimeo.com/251444766>
Website <https://goldendawngirlsdoc.com/>

About the director

Håvard Bustnes (born 15 September 1973 in Oslo, Norway) is a Norwegian film director educated in directing for TV from Lillehammer University College in Norway. He has directed documentary films, which have been broadcast all over Europe and been featured at film festivals around the world.

Golden Dawn Girls (2017) has screened at some of the world's leading documentary film festivals, and has won the Human Award at the Human International Documentary Film Festival 2018.



Notes on the assignments

The following questions are based on the film and relate to the film's content, but for a number of the assignments further sources and research are needed. It is recommended to take notes during the film in order to be able to answer the questions. Most of the assignments do not have a clear answer, but are rather a basis for discussion of the important themes that the film deals with. Some of the questions only need a short answer, while others encourage longer responses based on further research. The assignments can be carried out individually or in groups after the film screening, but they should also be handed out before the screening, so the students know what to look for. At the end it is recommended to discuss the answers in a group, in order to share the different viewpoints about the film in the classroom.

Assignments before the film

The main subject of the film, the Golden Dawn party in Greece, is a political party, which was founded in 1980. During the past 10 years the party has grown substantially in size, and has become one of the biggest parties in Greece.

- **Golden Dawn - Wikipedia**
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Dawn_\(political_party\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Dawn_(political_party))
- **Golden Dawn Today**
www.movingdocs.org/what_is_the_future_of_greeces_neo_fascist_golden_dawn
- **Profile on Golden Dawn - BBC News**
www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24346993
- **Greece's debt crisis - Britannica**
www.britannica.com/place/Greece/Greeces-debt-crisis#ref1144649

1. What do you know about Greece? What is the country mainly famous for? How has the country changed in recent years? Write a short summary of Greece's long history, with a focus on the second half of the 20th century and the 21st century.
Greece - Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greece>
Greece - Britannica <https://www.britannica.com/place/Greece>
2. What is the Golden Dawn party? Write a short description of their origins and history, their political ideology and the controversy around the party and its members.
3. What is a political ideology? Describe the following ideologies: Nazism, Neo-Nazism, nationalism, populism, fascism.
4. What serious accusations have been raised against the ideology of Golden Dawn and why?
5. What were the societal, political and economic circumstances that laid the ground for the enormous growth of the party from 2009-2012?
6. What are the most important events, which have occurred for the Golden Dawn party since 2012? How has the growth of the party been since 2012?

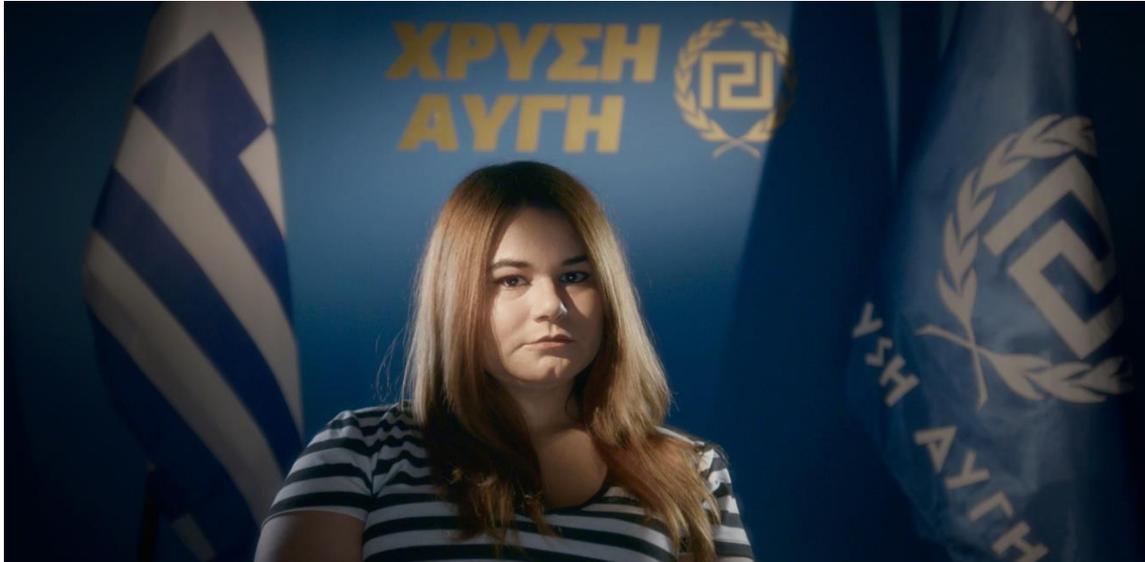


Assignments after the film

Describe in your own words what the film is about without looking at the film's official synopsis.

1. The film begins with an attempt to discuss the differences and the similarities between Nazism and Golden Dawn's version of nationalism. Why do you think the film begins with this discussion? Why do you think the protagonists of the film are so reluctant to talk about this?

2. How is Håvard Bustnes received the first time he takes part in a party meeting? Why do you think the party members react the way they do? How does the relation between Bustnes and the party members develop during the film – especially the relationship with the three main protagonists?
3. How would you describe the film’s three main protagonists Ourania, Eugenia (Jenny) and Dafni as persons? What are the similarities and the differences between the three women? What are their roles within the Golden Dawn party? How has their positions within the party changed during the past years and how did this change come about?



4. At some point Dafni describes democracy as ‘a beautiful lie’. What do you think she means with this? What is actually a democracy?
5. Golden Dawn is only one of several examples of extreme right parties, which have grown in popularity in the west during the last 15-20 years. What other examples exist of right extremist parties, who have gained a greater following in recent years?
Far-right politics - Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Far-right_politics
6. It can sometimes be difficult to differentiate right extremism from other right-wing variations of political ideologies such as nationalism and populism. As a follow up to the above question – which examples do you know of nationalist and populist parties with a support in the western world today? Can you describe and explain the rise of nationalism and populism in the west in the 21st century?

Nationalism - Britannica <https://www.britannica.com/topic/nationalism>
Nationalism - Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalism>
Populism - Britannica <https://www.britannica.com/topic/populism>
Populism - Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Populism>
The Populists - Time <http://time.com/time-person-of-the-year-populism/>
What is populism? - BBC News <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-43301423>
7. Nationalism has also grown in other parts of the world in this century. In which other countries and regions have we seen this development? Which events have led to the growth

of nationalism in these regions? What is problematic about this development?

8. What are we told about Golden Dawn's past in the film? What controversial events do we witness through archive footage that can shed a light on the ideological and ethical standpoint of the party? What has happened during these events? How does the party itself explain and defend these events?
9. Why have several members of Golden Dawn's management received a prison verdict? How has this affected their families and the party?
10. Which similarities do you see in the film between Golden Dawn and Nazism? Describe the similarities in the use of symbols, rhetoric, ideology, and other areas you might notice.
11. What are we told about Golden Dawn's view on Greek society and their political goals and vision for Greek society? What are, in Golden Dawn's opinion, the biggest problems in the society and how can these be solved? What do you think about the kind of politics that the party presents in the film?

Interview with the director: <http://www.nordiskfilmogtvfond.com/news/interview/hakon-bustnes-about-his-tug-of-war-with-the-golden-dawn-women>

12. *Golden Dawn Girls* is filmed over a period of 4 years. How did the filmmakers obtain this unique access to the party? What role did Norwegian black metal play in this? What were some of the dilemmas faced by the director in the making of the film? According to the director, what was important to show with this documentary?



13. What does the film tell us about the political climate in Greece? In your opinion how does the Greek parliament appear in the film?
14. How will you describe Golden Dawn's political actions, as we see them in the film?

15. The members of Golden Dawn use different rallying cries throughout the film. Some of these are: “Blood and honour”, “Greece belongs to the Greeks”, “Albanians, you will never be Greek”, “Communists, we will make soap out of you”, “To hell with the Jews”, “Shit on Kemal’s grave”, “Fatherland! Honour! Golden Dawn!”, “Trash! Traitors! Politicians!” What do these rallying cries say about the party in your opinion? How does this align with what the party members say about their own ideology? Do you know where some of these rallying cries are taken from?
16. Golden Dawn has, like most political parties today, their own web site and they promote themselves on social media, with for example their own YouTube channel. What role does the internet in general and social media in particular play in the growth of more extreme political parties and attitudes today? What role should the big players like Facebook, YouTube and similar companies take in the regulation of which kind of content it is possible to publish through their services? What can be the dangers connected to individuals and organisations publishing whatever they want online? What are the dangers in denying individuals and organisations the right to publish what they wish?
17. What do you think the filmmakers wish to communicate in one of the film’s last scenes, where the director confronts Ourania in a parking lot? What does he want her to say? Why do you think that Ourania is not willing to say what Bustnes wants?
18. What are in your opinion the most important themes in the film? What does the film say about the following themes: family, gender roles, loyalty, love, ethics, hatred, discrimination, respect, politics, ideology, religion, society, culture, human worth, individuality, group mentality, media?
19. What are, in your opinion, the greatest strengths and weaknesses of the film? Explain why.
20. What is the core of what the film tries to tell us? Read an analysis in your local press and try to write your own film review and interpretation on the basis of the above assignments.

If you do not have an analysis from your local press you can use the below articles:

- <http://montagemagazine.com/2018/01/humanising-the-spectacle-of-fascism-golden-dawn-girls/>
- www.screendaily.com/reviews/golden-dawn-girls-idfa-review/5124283.article
- <https://variety.com/2017/film/reviews/golden-dawn-girls-review-1202618957/>



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