

# Dogme 95

**Dogme 95** was a film-making movement begun by the Danish film directors, Lars Von Trier, Thomas Vinterberg, Kristian Levring, and Søren Kragh-Jacobsen in 1995. Its goal was to 'purify' film-making and rescue it from 'bourgeois romanticism'. Its provocative manifesto was announced by von Trier at a conference in Paris held to celebrate 100 years of cinema and consider its second century. Central to the movement's conception of film-making was the VOW OF CHASTITY, which consists of 10 rules of production to combat predictable plots, superficial action and cosmetic technological trickery. The manifesto initially mimics the wording of François Truffaut's 1954 essay "Une certaine tendance du cinéma français" in *Cahiers du cinéma*.

## The Dogme 95 rules

1. Filming must be done on location.
2. Music must not be used unless it occurs within the scene being filmed.
3. The camera must be hand-held; filming must take place where the action takes place.
4. The film must be in colour. No special lighting.
5. Optical work and filters are forbidden.
6. No superficial action (no murders, weapons, etc.)
7. No temporal or geographical alienation.
8. No genre movies.
9. The aspect ratio must be 4:3, not widescreen.
10. The director must not be credited.

The 'dogmesecretariat' closed down in June 2002, stating that the manifesto had grown into a genre formula, which was never the intention (though, if they wish, filmmakers can now self-certify their films on the Dogme 95 website). It is hard to measure the long-term influence of Dogme 95. What is certain is that it encouraged an exciting return to radical, back-to-basics film-making and also helped legitimise low-budget, digital filmmaking as an acceptable part of contemporary film language and culture.

## 1 Read the passage and then decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false statements.

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. In 1995, a collective of American directors in L.A., including Lars von Trier and Thomas Vinterberg, established the rules contained in the passage above to govern the manner their films were to be shot. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Dogme 95 film-makers placed limitations upon themselves as inspiration.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. According to Dogme 95 rules sound editing in post production is banned.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. According to Dogme 95 rules film-making should be based on the traditional values of story, acting, and theme, and should exclude the use of elaborate special effects or technology.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Dogme 95 directors wanted to be dependent on commissions or huge Hollywood budgets.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The manifesto quoted a very important British director.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The manifesto is written in order to allow directors to produce commercial blockbusters and make money.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The motivation behind the vow of chastity was an attempt to produce a pure form of cinema.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. The 95 directors didn't like in-camera editing, that is to say, they didn't want to limit post-production editing.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. The 'dogmesecretariat' closed down in June 2002, denying that the manifesto had grown into a genre formula.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |