

Thomas Seeberg Torjussen

JUNK MALE



Original title: *Ølhunden Berit*

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AWARDS

A Better Man was named Best International TV Series of the Year at the Cannes festival. The series also won the Youth Prize, voted for by French students, and Anders Baasmo received the award for Best Leading Performance.

Tom is a lonely man who blames feminism for everything that is wrong with society — and with his own life. By day he works in his mother's clothing store, and by night he spews venom and bile online. The worst of it is directed at the high-profile stand-up comedian Live, who eventually collapses under Tom's relentless harassment.

When hackers expose Tom's identity, he suddenly becomes the most hated man in the country. Forced to go into hiding, he shaves off his beard, dresses in women's clothes, and is reborn as Berit. In this new role, he encounters a warmth and empathy he has never experienced before.

It is a burlesque and entertaining journey in which we follow Tom from a simple larva, through a grotesque butterfly, to something resembling a human being.

We also meet Tom's neighbor Audun, an only seemingly modern father of young children, in a novel that plunges headfirst into debates about gender roles, loneliness, and masculine sexuality — and that gives a face to the thousands of anonymous haters we recognize from the dark corners of the internet and newspaper comment sections.

The novel is based on the TV-series *Ølhunden Berit* (*A Better Man*), written and directed by the author, so far sold to; Germany(ZDF), Denmark(DR), Sweden(SVT), Finland(YLE) and Iceland(RUV).

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Thomas is a Norwegian filmmaker, writer and director of series, feature films and theatre plays. His new series *A Better Man* won three awards in Cannes Series 2025, among them Best Series. His earlier series has also received many accolades, including an International Emmy nomination for *Koselig med peis*, the Rose d'Or, Prix Jeunesse and Kidscreen Awards for *Zombielars*, and a Rose Dór for the sci-fi series *Dome 16*. Torjussen has also received numerous Norwegian awards. *Junk Male* is his fiction debut.