

The Egtved Girl

Film by: Cassian von Salomon

Produced by: ZDF Info/ Arte Germany/ Arte France

Length: 1x 52'

Year of Production: 2017

Format: HD

Short Synopsis

She was young, strong and very courageous, but she met an untimely demise in the summer of 1370 BC. Many were saddened by her death and devastated by the loss.

The film, *The Egtved Girl* shows piece by piece, with the help of the work from Danish scientists, how a great mystery of archaeology is solved. For the first time in the history of archaeology, scientists have successfully tracked the ways of a pre-historic being.

This documentary film is a spectacular time travel to a more or less unknown epoch of humanity - the Bronze Age. It answers the all of the questions this age and lifts the veil of mystery surrounding the girl from Egtved.

Long Synopsis

She was young, strong and very courageous. Her death plunged the people in deep mourning. This happened in the summer of 1370 BC.

Research has shown that the last 15 months in her life were filled with privation and for the first time in the history of archaeology, scientists are able to track the ways of a pre-historic human. It is a spectacular time travel to a more or less unknown epoch of humanity, the Bronze Age. The focus is on her: 16 to 18 years old, adored by her fellow countrymen, buried in Denmark - far away from her home.

The movie *The Egtved Girl* shows in details how, with the help of Danish scientists, a great archaeological mystery is solved. We trace the girl's trail through extensive re-enactments and experience how humans in the Bronze Age lived. We see how they nourished themselves, how they traded, how they made bronze and how they showed loved...

Our journey started in 1921 in the centre of Denmark, in Egtved. A farmer wanted to level out a hill on his field. He happened upon a coffin made from oak and quickly realized that he had stumbled

onto something special. He informed scientists in Copenhagen of his discovery and upon opening the coffin, the scientists were presented with the remains of a young woman. Her clothes, hair and teeth were still preserved. But what most fascinated the scientists was that the woman was dressed in a see-through striped skirt. It will take decades till the mystery of the Egtved-Girl can be disclosed.

In recent years, scientists in Copenhagen took a chance and started an extensive research. They began by extracting her hair and teeth and doing experiments on her clothes. They examined a container found in the grave; a container that was discovered to be holding the liquid and bones of a child. Like a puzzle, they put all the pieces together and made a surprising discovery: The wool of the clothes came from sheep that grazed in the Black Forest, around 900 kilometres away from Egtved.

The child, not her own, is around five years old and originated from the Black Forest, too. On her stomach was put a bronze disc with a sharp thorn. Never before has such a skirt or disc been found in a wooden casket.

Based on the hair and teeth, the scientist could decipher what happened in the last 15 months of her life: The girl hiked from the Black Forest to Denmark, stayed there for a couple of months, then hiked back home. After a short period, presumably in spring 1370, she headed back North. But why did she leave again after such a short time? The answer can be found in the epoch's trade relations: Bronze was bargained for amber, as both were precious. Marriages between South Germany and Denmark were arranged to strengthen the relationships between the clans.

But who was the girl? Why did she risk the dangerous path three times in the space of 15 months and why did she wear this skirt?

This film answers all these questions and more, while lifting the veil of mystery surrounding the girl from Egtved.