



SELECTION OF FINNISH SHORT FILMS FOR FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY



SFF

THE FINNISH
FILM FOUNDATION

PREFACE

It is a good time for Finnish movies. Director Juho Kuosmanen's drama about a boxer in the 1960s, *The Happiest Day in the Life of Olli Mäki*, won the Prize Un Certain Regard in Cannes Film Festival. The *Angry Birds* movie has made hundreds of millions around the world. Klaus Härö's drama *The Fencer* was a Golden Globe nominee. Hamy Ramezan's and Rungano Nyoni's *Listen* won Best Narrative Short at the Tribeca Film Festival. Selma Vilhunen *Do I Have to Take Care of Everything?* was nominated for the Best Live Action Short Film at the Academy Awards. And I am sure the list will grow in the near future. Rightfully so.

The Finnish film industry is experiencing a new golden era. The last time this many films were produced was between 1930s to the 1950s. This new peak means more opportunities for directors and of course to everybody in the Finnish film industry, not only in Finland but internationally as well. The change is huge from the days I moved from Helsinki to Los Angeles in 2002. That time the international film market seemed to be galaxies away from the Finns, now it is just a stone's throw away.

When the Finnish Film Foundation asked if I'd like to collaborate with them on this Blu-

"The Finnish film industry is experiencing a new golden era."

ray box, I was excited. I got to know many young Finnish directors and while I was interviewing them, I dove deep in to the colorful world of today's Finnish short movies. It was a great pleasure. I found our directors motivated and fearless to take challenges. The movies are bold, diverse, political, environmental, and multicultural. The stories don't

shy away from childhood, teenage issues, struggles to grow up, loss, death and grief. There is humor as well. The range goes from comedies to dramas and animations.

We hope this collection and the interviews will give you an idea who the new filmmakers from Finland are, what drives them, and why they choose to tell their stories.

them, and why they choose to tell their stories.

I am sure I will see more Finnish movies and hear more stories about Finnish film makers in Hollywood. I am happy and proud of this development. Our Nordic neighbors, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland, have made award winning movies for decades and they also have a longer tradition in Hollywood. We are slowly but surely catching up. Stay tuned!

Kirpi Uimonen
Los Angeles

The writer is part of Hollywood Foreign Press Associations that conducts the annual Golden Globe award in Los Angeles every January.



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PRODUCTION COMPANIES WHO PROVIDED THE FILMS FOR THIS SET:

Bufo, Camera Cagliostro, DoDream, Filmimaa, For Real Productions, It's Alive Films, Las Palmas Films, Made, Making Movies, Mediafactory Dakar, Mjölk Movies, MRP Matila Röhr Productions, Mutant Koala Pictures, Nordic Factory, Pebble, Pohjankonna, Pohjola-Filmi, Tuffi Films, Twisted Films

INTERVIEWS:

Kirpi Uimonen, HFPA (2015)
Miia Outinen, SES (2017)

MORE INFORMATION:

kati.nuora@ses.fi

BEHIND THE CURTAIN

(Verhon takana)



A subtly hilarious short film about a childhood trauma. The story of surviving a singing exam in a small town's school might bring back memories of some horrifying moments experienced as a kid, but it also shows how kind acts lead to more kindness, and how sometimes it is best to hide behind the curtain.

2013 | DRAMA, COMEDY | 7'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Teemu Nikki

SCRIPT: Teemu Nikki

PRODUCER: Teemu Nikki

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Jyrki Arnikari

COSTUME DESIGN: Tiina Kaukanen

MUSIC: Janne Huttunen

SOUND DESIGN: Sami Kiiski

EDITORS: Kerttu Jaatinen, Teemu Nikki

CAST: Valteri Koivumies, Olavi Niemi, Pekka Huotari

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [It's Alive Films Oy](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Euthanizer (feature) 2017

Fantasy (short) 2016

The Log (short) 2016

Lovemilla (feature) 2015

#lovemilla (TV Series) 2013-2014

Tits (short) 2014

Nymphs (TV series) 2013

Behind the Curtain (short) 2013

Simo Times Three (feature) 2012



TEEMU NIKKI

Screenwriter-director **Teemu Nikki** (b. 1975) is an eager karaoke singer. But it took a while before a pig farm boy from Sysmä got rid of his fear of singing in front of people.

"*Behind the Curtain* is an autobiographical story. I sang as poorly as this kid in the movie in primary school. I sang behind the curtain, because I was so scared to sing. My teacher gave me an F. And that created such an anxiety toward singing tests."

Five years ago he started to take singing lessons.

"I don't know how to sing now either, but the difference is that nowadays I don't care, I simply enjoy singing."

Making movies was easier for him. The youngest of five siblings got interested in filmmaking when a VHS player was brought to the house.

"Suddenly it was possible to watch movies again and again. And that was the magic that took me in. For me, it was exciting to order film elsewhere. In horror films I liked the art work. How everything was done by hand."

Nikki shot his first movie when his mother rented a video camera from a local store owner.

"I succeeded at editing two shots together and realized that this is how it works. It will become a movie when you put these in a row."

His history teacher got him a job as a runner in **Rauni Mollberg's** movie *Paratiisin lapset* in the mid 90s. After that, he applied for an internship

in a small production company that made commercials. First in Lahti, then in Jyväskylä. Then he moved to Helsinki.

"First I knocked on production company doors and asked if I can work for free. I am an old school filmmaker, I don't have any kind of film school education. I started from making coffee and assisting with lights, camera and then I started to do my own projects. I have done commercials, music videos, short films, TV shows and features."

He has written and directed the feature film *Simo Times Three*, the TV series *#lovemilla* and the movie based on it. He's also been one of the directors of TV show *w. Right* now he is writing a script for feature film.

"All my scripts have something in common, I am very much on the good side in everything."

He lives on the country side in Lohja and spends his free time gardening, exercising and watching movies.

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

ON YOUR LIPS

(Huulilla)



12-year-old Viljami doesn't want to go to an amusement park with his dad and his dad's new girlfriend Ulla. However, with Ulla's daughter Miia coming too, everything is suddenly more interesting. With a feeling of realness, *On Your Lips* tells a story about the confusion and excitement of early teen years.

2013 | DRAMA, YOUTH | 8'30

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Joonas Rutanen

SCREENPLAY: Joonas Rutanen

DOP: Matti Eerikäinen

EDITOR: Hanna Kuirinlahti

SET DESIGN: Sarah Bowen-Walsh

MUSIC: Miikka Colliander

SOUND DESIGN: Pietu Korhonen

CAST: Martti Pohto, Rosanna Liuski, Iikka Forss, Minna Puolanto

PRODUCERS: Kaarle Aho & Kai Nordberg

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Making Movies Oy](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

I love Anna (Short) 2016

On Your Lips (short) 2013

Orkesteri (short) 2010



JOONAS RUTANEN

Screenwriter-director **Joonas Rutanen** (b. 1981) delves into teenage lives in his movies.

"I believe I have a need to tell certain stories and when they have been told I can move on." His short, *On Your Lips*, is a second part of a series of four film. Its theme is becoming a teen and awakening sexuality.

"The boy takes a ride in an amusement park and sees his father kissing his new girlfriend. I thought the amusement park and the speed of the ride was symbolic. It tells about the confusion of divorce and the changes in a boy's life. There is no solid ground. Becoming a teen is unknown and confusing, filled with emotions you can't control."

Some of the topics come from Rutanen's own life experiences. His parents are divorced.

"That time many changes happened and it was an important time for me. Another was in the sixth and the seventh grade, when kids in Finland start smoking cigarettes and getting drunk for the first time. With no curfew, it also leads to a different level of interaction amongst boys and girls. It is a very interesting world."

His mother, a piano teacher, provided cultural upbringing to her three kids. Rutanen's brother is a jazz drummer and his sister is a dancer. He started to watch movies when he was a kid.

"I had a very liberal upbringing. I lived with my mother, who gave me a lot of freedom. I didn't have rules, but of course criminal activities weren't allowed. I believe you see this liberality in my movies."

He brings similar kind of freedom to his sets.

"The only way to reach something concrete and real with kids and teens is to let them be themselves."

Even though he sees his surroundings quite positive, he thinks life is a series of misfortunes and failures.

"But if you cannot accept them, you become bitter and sad."

Before he studied film he worked five years as a substitute teacher at a middle school in Järvenpää. He graduated from Turku Art Academy in 2011 and now lives in Helsinki. At the moment, he is writing a feature about teenagers. To keep his life in balance, he walks or runs in the forest.

"I need quiet and peace every now and then."

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

"Becoming a teen is unknown and confusing, filled with emotions you can't control."



FATIMA

Fatima is a sparkling and sweet portrayal of friendship that helps one through the difficulties. 9-year-old Fatima overhears her parents discussing divorce and she is devastated. When her best friend Milla realises that everything is not okay, she comes to help. Together the girls start to plot how they could make Fatima's parents fall in love again.

2013 | DRAMA, CHILDREN'S | 19'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Naima Mohamud

SCRIPT: Naima Mohamud

CAMERA: Matti Eerikäinen

EDITOR: Matti Näränen

SOUND: Olli Huhtanen

MUSIC: Panu Aaltio

PRODUCER: Markku Tuurna

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Filmimaa Oy](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Breaking the cycle (short) 2014

Fatima (TV short) 2013

14e (short) 2011



NAIMA MOHAMUD

When director **Naima Mohamud** (b. 1987) was a child, her best friend was her sister. Her short movie, *Fatima*, has some elements from their relationship.

“We never had fights. When my sister got a summer job and she started making money, she never went shopping without bringing something for me. Even though she doesn’t like reading, she read everything I wrote. It was helpful and very important to me. I had a person who believed in me and it boosted my self-esteem.”

Mohamud moved from Somalia to Finland when she was two years old. First to Mikkeli, then to Jyväskylä and now she lives in Helsinki. Her parents have been together over 40 years and they have ten children.

“They still love each other. I also believe in love. That people can be loyal, supportive, kind, helpful, loving and caring. I understand it sounds a bit naïve when our society seems to be cynical.”

As a kid she watched a lot of TV – behind her mother’s back because she didn’t want that to be a habit – especially the soap opera *The Bold and the Beautiful*.

“Little by little I started to understand that it is not real, that everything is made up. When I was ten, I saw *Titanic*. I simply was in awe. It was a powerful and touching movie. It was my first movie poster, and I had a huge crush on **Leonardo DiCaprio**. I remember seeing the name **James Cameron** and I was curious to know who that person was. I did research and that’s how I

discovered what a director does. Then I knew I wanted to be a director.”

She shot her first movie with her siblings when she was twelve.

“It was a horror movie and got too scary for me so I never finished it.”

At fourteen, she borrowed a book from the library about how to write a screenplay.

“I learned how movies are made. I wrote a screenplay for a short and filmed that with my schoolmates.”

After high school, she studied film for four years at London Metropolitan University and one semester in Los Angeles at USC. *Fatima* is her fourth short movie. She has also done a campaign video against bullying for Mannerheimin Lastensuojeluliitto.

“As a director I am very actor centered. I learned to navigate through feelings and moods as the second youngest in my family. I had to figure out how I could solve situations so others don’t get upset. I had to think constantly a lot in order to get what I wanted.”

She is now writing a movie about a teen girl who’s ex-convict biological father shows up in her life and changes everything.

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

TURNAROUND

(Kääntöpaikka)



Turnaround explores the difficult time when one is still a child but wishes to be more adult than they are. Sini, 12, has met a man on internet, and the man proposes a meeting. Even though their date starts as exciting and cool, it soon turns out to be something Sini is not yet ready for.

2015 | DRAMA, YOUTH | 9'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Aino Suni

SCRIPT: Aino Suni

PRODUCER: Ilona Tolmunen

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Ulla Simonen

DOP: Kerttu Hakkarainen

EDITOR: Jussi Sandhu

SOUND DESIGN: Jarkko Kela

MUSIC: Archive

SET DESIGNER: Fabian Nyberg

COSTUME DESIGNER: Liisa Pesonen

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Made](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Never Again (documentary) 2018

Next Level (short) 2015

Niin metsä vastaa (short) 2015

If I Ruled (documentary short) 2015

Turnaround (short) 2015

Whistle in the Dark (short) 2015

Propinquity (short) 2013

Sudenveistäjä (short) 2011

Sleep of reason (short) 2010

Korpin laulu (short) 2010

Niin paljon sinua halusin (short) 2010



AINO SUNI

When director-screenwriter **Aino Suni** (b. 1985) was a third grader she wanted to save animals so she became a vegan.

“All the unfairness of the world really affected me.”

Three years later her life changed even more.

“I had my first crush and kiss at summer camp. It was a very powerful experience but also a bit disappointing and I felt ashamed.”

At that same time her friend found an online chat room. She was curious and started to chat with an older man and later had a date with him. Suni’s short film *Turnaround*, where twelve-year-old Sini (**Alina Rökköläinen**) wants to prove she is not a child anymore, is inspired by that story.

“Being a teenager can be confusing. Growing from a girl to a woman and finding your sexuality, can be embarrassing. There is a lot of guilt, shame and judgment. I hope there would be less of that.”

Raised in Kerava, as the youngest of three children, she graduated with a Master’s degree in Film Screenwriting from University of Salford, UK, in 2014. Before that she graduated with a Bachelor in Media from Tampere University of Applied Sciences. Her dad is an engineer and business owner, her mom is a fine artist and an art teacher.

“I was a shy and quiet kid but I found self-confi-

dence through elementary school acting classes and high school film classes.”

She has filmed shorts like *Next Level*, *LunaChicks* and *Whistle in the Dark*. Currently she is filming a documentary called *Never again* about Finnish-Romany rap artist **Mercedes Bentso**. She is also writing a short story, *Light Sand* and a feature film *A Girl’s Room*. *Light Sand* portrays two women and their friendship at the Finnish Civil War prison camp in 1918. *A Girl’s Room* is a story about step sister’s friendship that becomes obsessive.

Besides making movies, she is one of the leaders of a film club for immigrant teenage girls. Suni’s life is not as black and white as it was when she was young.

“I see more grey tones and I don’t judge easily. But some things have stayed almost the same. I still try to be a vegan and I am still interested in environmental matters.”

She now lives in Helsinki with her two rescue cats, Sasha and Leni.

“In my downtime I dance ballet. It’s great because it requires all my focus, so I can’t be thinking of anything else then.”

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)



KEYS OF HEAVEN

(Paratiisin avaimet)

Two homeless brothers struggle in the war-torn Iran in 1984. They have left home and try to save money to get away from the war while still attending school. Keys of Heaven portrays one's of powerlessness in a society of war and the unfair sacrifices one might have to make.

2014 | DRAMA | 28'

LANGUAGE: Arabic

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Hamy Ramezan

SCRIPT: Ilmari Aho, Hamy Ramezan

PRODUCER: Cilla Werning

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Arsen Sarkisians

EDITOR: Hanna Kuirinlahti

SOUND DESIGN AND MUSIC: Toni Teivaala

ART DIRECTOR: Burak Yerlikaya

CAST: Salar Saeedi Ashtiyani, Yazdan Akhoondi, Shaghayeh Djodat, Muhammed Cangören

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [For Real Productions](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Unknown Refugee (Documentary) 2016

Listen (Short) 2014

Nordic Factory 2014

Keys of Heaven (Short) 2014

Over the Fence (Short) 2009



HAMY RAMEZAN

Extreme situations interest director-screenwriter **Hamy Ramezan** (b. 1979). It is in those circumstances that people behave differently than in everyday life.

"I am not judgmental. I understand a wide scale of human motivations. I am sure it comes from my past. I escaped the Iran–Iraq War with my parents and my sister after I finished the second grade in Teheran. We weren't allowed to leave the country so we had to forge our documents and change our identities to protect the relatives who stayed." They pretended they were on a pilgrimage journey to Istanbul and ended up in former Yugoslavia where they spent almost two years at different refugee camps. During those days Ramezan learned to tell stories. It became his tool for survival.

"Everyone was making up stories all the time. Our names were changed a couple of times. We were playing different roles in different situations. We memorized a fictitious story about our past and presented it as truth. Had we messed it up, they could have sent us back to Iran and we could have been hanged."

Ramezan came to Finland in the winter of 1989. "The arrival felt like a new start for life, full of hope. I remember it with much warmth. But integrating into a new society and getting a sense of my true identity had its challenges as well."

He started to write poems and stories as a teenager. "It became my release for the bad feelings, and afterwards I was able to fall asleep. I continued writing and started to act."

His father wished for his son to become a doctor, but storytelling was Ramezan's path. He studied film at the University for Creative Arts in Farnham, England. "After I started studying, it all

made sense. I had the best times of my life. Everything just started to fall into the right place."

He collaborated with co-director **Rungano Nyoni** on the short *Listen* (2014) which won Best Narrative Short at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2015. This recognition led the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to qualify *Listen* as an Oscar contender. It tells the story of a muslim woman at the police station in Copenhagen but the translator is unwilling to help her.

"It is a story of being an outsider and part of a minority group. I have had to translate things for my parents in various refugee camps. Some incomprehensible things that a child shouldn't even hear at that age."

Keys of Heaven deals with homeless brothers who struggle to survive in a war-stricken Iran in 1984. "The idea started when I was thinking about what I was taught in school in Iran. Together with my co-screenwriter **Ilmari Aho** I started scrutinizing the schoolbooks used in Iran. They haven't changed much after the Islamic Revolution."

Ramezan is now working on *B-Citizen*, a film about an Iraqi family who escaped war. The story depicts their experience at Finland's refugee center. Then he will shoot *The Motel of a Thousand Roses* which is based on his own experiences at refugee camps.

"I try to see what is essential, important and find beauty in things that are not so beautiful."

In his free time, he plays piano and watches silly movies. "When dealing with such heavy topics, one needs a balance."

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

DO I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING?

(Pitääkö mun kaikki hoitaa?)



A sunny weekend morning turns into chaos when the family is trying to make it in time to a wedding. The gift is lost, kids' dresses were forgotten in the washing machine and there are no cabs available. The mother of the family feels like she has to take care of everything. The Academy Award nominated comedy has a way of finding humour in everyday life and little details.

2011 | FICTION | 7'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Selma Vilhunen

SCRIPT: Kirsikka Saari

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Peter Flinckenberg

SOUND: Pietari Koskinen

EDITING: Selma Vilhunen

MUSIC: Tuomas Skopa

PRODUCER: Elli Toivoniemi

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Tuffi Films Oy](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Hobbyhorse Revolution (documentary), 2017

Little Wing (feature), 2016

The Girl and the Dogs (short), 2014

Song (documentary), 2014

Do I have to Take Care of Everything (short), 2012

Pony Girls (documentary), 2008

My Little Elephants (documentary short), 2003



SELMA VILHUNEN

For filmmaker **Selma Vilhunen** (b. 1976), comedy is observation. She found humor in everyday life early on as a teenager when she was living in Tampere and later in Espoo.

"I recently read a travel diary I wrote when I was younger. I had a tendency to turn matters into comedy already back then. One simply has to have antennas ready to discover those less noticed situations and pump them into something unique."

That skill brought her an Oscar nomination in 2014 and an invitation to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The Oscar nominated short, *Do I Have to Take Care of Everything*, written by **Kirsikka Saari**, is a comedy about a busy morning in a family and a mother who is trying to take care of everything by herself.

"I have been that kind of person who handled everything. Luckily I have learned to delegate things and I am able to balance work and family and enjoy free time. I am no longer so stressed out. It feels amazing."

Vilhunen has always loved films. Her mother, an artist, introduced cinema as an art form to her. They watched the Soviet and Russian filmmaker **Andrei Tarkovsky's** movies together.

"My mom sat me down on the sofa and explained their importance. But other kind of movies have influenced me as well, like the American film *Dances with Wolves*. I was the biggest fan of the long haired Indian warrior, "Wind In His Hair"."

She had other interest in her teenage years - music, dancing, acting - but her interest for cinema and photography continued to grow. She studied cinema at the Art Academy in Turku. In the beginning, she was a nervous young filmmaker. Now she knows that it takes a bit of time to get down to the essentials, to the core.

"To me, collaboration and atmosphere of the work environment are really important. I think they will affect the end result as well. Hierarchy is necessary, but it can be respectful."

Her first feature film, *Little Wing*, will be released in 2016 and her documentary about the subculture of hobbyhorse riding in 2017. She lives in Helsinki with her husband, a performing artist and producer **Lauri Kontula**, and their young daughter.

"My free time is pretty much cooking and playing with her. Sometimes I read novels or go jogging. As a family we go on bike trips to different places. Just to look around and wonder about things."

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

KAKARA



Hammarberg doesn't knock, he walks in. He doesn't ask for things, he commands them to be done. When he escorts his girlfriend to have an abortion, he gets irritated by a kid who doesn't seem to be scared of him. Hammarberg's emotions go from anger to caring, and he realizes that he needs to re-evaluate his own life.

2013 | DRAMA | 12'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Kimmo Yläkäs

SCRIPT: Kimmo Yläkäs

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Jarkko T. Laine

EDITING: Kimmo Kohtamäki

SOUND DESIGN: Janne Jankeri, Mika Niinimaa

SET DESIGN: Otso Linnanlaakso

MUSIC: Wiljami Salminen

CAST: Antti Luusuanemi, Sonja Vilkki, Rebecca Viitala, Krista Putkonen-Örn, Veli-Matti Karen

PRODUCER: Hannu Oksanen

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Mediafactory Dakar Oy](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Service with a smile (short) 2013

Kakara (short) 2013

Jono (documentary short) 2005

Poissa (short) 2004



KIMMO YLÄKÄS

Little moments are important for filmmaker **Kimmo Yläkäs** (b. 1978), native of Hamina, a town in the Kymeenlaakso region. In his short, *Kakara*, scary and ill-natured Hammaberg (**Antti Luusuaniemi**) drags his girlfriend to the hospital for an abortion. While sitting in the waiting room, he meets a young and lively girl (**Sonja Vilkki**) with a big secret. Eventually she changes his mind.

“Life is about little moments and if you can recognize such a moment, don’t be afraid to seize it. It can change your life.”

That has happened to him.

“As a teenager I loved sci-fi movies. When I saw *2001: Space Odyssey* by **Stanley Kubrick** I was dumbfounded. Then I realized that movies can be made in different ways.”

That inspired him to buy his first video camera with the money he made from a summer job. He started to shoot videos with his friends. After high school and the military service, he studied cinema at the Lahti University of Applied Sciences. He graduated in 2005 and has been writing, directing and editing movies, documentaries and commercials ever since.

“I am a patient and peaceful director. I try to give space to the actors and cinema photographers. When I have a good plan, it’s easy to adjust and listen to what others have to offer. I can discover so much more when I allow input from others.”

Kimmo’s life changed in tremendous way when he met his wife **Tanja** and when they had their

kids, **Viljami** and **Akseli**.

“My wife and of course my children have affected me a lot. After we had our boys I noticed they fixed something that I didn’t even know was broken. I had to take responsibility and take care of others.”

It also helped him to finish *Kakara*’s script.

“I had the first draft of *Kakara* in my desk drawer for a while, and one day I just happened to come across it. I read it, and realized what was working and what needs to be changed. This sounds like a cliché but I understood characters better after I became a father.”

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

“This sounds like a cliché but I understood characters better after I became a father.”



SIROCCO

Almost free of dialogue, Sirocco tells a powerful story of a young, shy woman, who finds an abandoned baby behind the dumpsters. She brings the baby home and finds solace and a human connection with the baby – a connection that fails with adults, especially when a promising possibility for a relationship turns into a nightmare.

2012 | DRAMA | 15'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Mikko Kuparinen

SCRIPT: Mikko Kuparinen, Mira Muikku, Elina Pohjola

PRODUCER: Elina Pohjola

CINEMATOGRAPHER: Juice Huhtala

EDITOR: Matti Näränen

SOUND DESIGN: Pekka Aikio

MAIN CAST: Eeva Putro, Tuukka Martiskainen

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Pohjola-Filmi Oy](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

2 Nights Till Morning (feature) 2015

Body Fat Index of Love (feature) 2012

Sirocco (short) 2012

Mobile Horror (TV movie) 2010

The Unknown Soldier (TV movie) 2009

Truth or Dare (short) 2008

Moving Day (short) 2007

Home Video (short) 2005



MIKKO KUPA- RINEN

Director **Mikko Kuparinen** (b.1979) had hesitations. He wasn't sure if **Tuuve Aro's** short novel, from her award-winning short story collection, would work as a movie.

"The language of storytelling was so literate that I wasn't sure if it would translate to a movie. Yet at the same time I was very intrigued by the story and its conflicted main character."

Sirocco is a story about a shy, lonely woman who finds an abandoned baby in the garbage. She takes the baby home and pretends it's hers.

"I noticed I cared about the character even though I didn't approve of what she was doing. Then a thought came up that since the source material is a very literate short story, why not transform that into a very cinematic short film with minimal dialogue. By following the main character's actions under pressure we eventually find out who she is."

Kuparinen has been interested in unfair stories since he was a kid. He went to see **The Empire of the Sun** three times with his dad.

"But I didn't know then that I would become a movie maker. It happened when I was graduating from high school. I was short of classes and I took an extra art class. There I saw an application guide to the University of Art and Design Helsinki. I applied three times and got in the last time. Meanwhile I studied a couple of years in Helsinki University majoring in theatre research and literature. I also studied video editing on my own and did some short films. I acted in an amateur theater group and did some writing and set designing."

Kuparinen's three last short films have all won main prizes at international film festivals. His feature debut came in 2012 with the rom-com *Body Fat Index of Love*. His English language feature debut *2 Nights till Morning* world premiered in competition at Montreal Film Festival 2015 where it won the prize of Best Director.

2 Nights till Morning is a story about a French woman and a Finnish man, who are both on a business trip in Vilna, Lithuania. They get stuck there because an ash storm from a volcano prevents planes from leaving. *2 Nights till Morning* stars French-Canadian **Marie Josée Croze** who won the best actress award in Cannes 2003.

"I am probably quite demanding and a pedant director. That can also be exhausting, as I keep pushing in every possible way. Sometimes I wish I was more communicative."

He spends his free time with his family, exercising and traveling.

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)



LISTEN

A muslim immigrant woman has arrived to a Danish police station. She's seeking help to get herself and her son away from her abusive husband. Unfortunately, she faces an unsupportive translator and police who can't understand the situation. Listen shows how helpless we are without a common language and how horrible acts can be a result of good intentions.

2014 | DRAMA | 13'

LANGUAGE: Arabic/Danish/English

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTORS: Hamy Ramezan, Rungano Nyoni

PRODUCER: Valeria Richter, Helene Granqvist

MAIN CAST: Amira Helene Larsen, Yusuf Kamal El-Ali, Zeinab Rahal, Nanna Bøttcher, Alexandre Willaume

SCRIPT: Hamy Ramezan, Rungano Nyoni

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Lars Vestergaard

EDITOR: Rikke Selin Lorentzen

SOUND: Thomas Jæger, Hamid "Bongo" Alamizadeh

MUSIC: Kristian Selin Eidnes Andersen

PRODUCTION DESIGN: Jacob Stig Olsson

PRODUCTION COMPANIES: Pebble, DoDream, [Nordic Factory](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Unknown Refugee (Documentary) 2016

Listen (Short) 2014

Nordic Factory 2014

Keys of Heaven (Short) 2014

Over the Fence (Short) 2009



**Hamy Ramezan's
interview
on page 11**





CLUMSY LITTLE ACTS OF TENDERNESS

(Pieniä kömpelöitä hellydenosoituksia)

A father struggles to connect with his pre-teen daughter after divorce. He tries his best, but heavy metal and carwashes aren't working. But when the daughter faces an important moment in a teenage girl's life and needs a parent, her father is ready to step up and show in little clumsy acts how much he truly cares for her.

2015 | DRAMA, COMEDY | 9'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Miia Tervo

PRODUCER: Mikko Tenhunen, Yrjö Nieminen

SCRIPT: Laura Immonen & Miia Tervo

CAMERA: Päivi Kettunen

EDITING: Antti Reikko

SOUND: Janne Laine

MUSIC: Johannes Wist

CAST: Kati Vainionpää, Hannu-Pekka Björkman, Pirjo Lonka, Pasi Siitonen, Miitta Sorvali

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Mjölk Movies](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Clumsy Little Acts of Tenderness (short) 2015

Santra and the Talking Trees (documentary) 2013

Little Snow Animal (short) 2009

The Seal (documentary short) 2005



MIIA TERVO

Director and writer **Miia Tervo** (b. 1980) says she tries not to get in the way of her art and just focus on what she's doing. "I don't really know what kind of director I am, I feel more like a maker" Tervo tells.

"I like when people respect each other. I like friendly communication, because we do this work every day, and honesty, reliability, passion, humility and being direct. I'm not sure if I know how to be all these things but I want to develop towards them. I like details and co-workers who are excited, fearless and happily crazy. Contrasts are one of my favourite things. I might be absent-minded and make weird choices but then again sometimes I can have clarity in my thinking. Even though I often hold on to schedules and routines in my work, sometimes I let myself wander and wonder, and sometimes I get lost when I'm wandering. But I suppose that is important as well."

"I'd love to be an inspiring and poetic twerk-director who knows how to listen and find new approaches yet still strongly stand behind my visions – I just don't know if I'm always like that. You should ask this from the people I work with," Tervo says.

Tervo comes from a lower middle-class family from Lapland. She grew up with her Karelian mother and step-father. "My parents are workers and our family had many typical Finnish "challenges" – alcoholism and mental health issues. But we had beautiful moments, too. My mother knows a lot about literature and my father about music and films. My many step-brothers and sisters have influenced my life a lot, too. For a long time, I thought that our family wasn't so good in many ways, but actually it was rather interesting and wise. Now that I'm older, I can appreciate that everything wasn't quite what you'd expect. As a child, it felt scary and I suppose that's why I'm so confused in a way as a person and try to understand the world and people through my art."

For her films, Tervo finds inspiration in many subjects and places. "Now I'm interested in twerking and comedy – both are hard. I get excited when I start to see or feel the film I'm making inside me.

I'm curious about people who are so passionate about something, people who live fully and freely and who are not constantly ashamed of something. People who love deeply and sometimes desperately, or people who are a little bit broken or weird. I'm inspired by the discussions with friends in the middle of the night, colours of the sky, Marilyn Monroe's mystic identity, Beyonce's strong way of being, Kate Bush's brilliance, love and learning to love, water, children's excited faces, the excited face of my husband, primitive sound of the bass, leotard, farming, plants, animals, skiing, ice swimming and the moment when you sort of give up – when you feel like everything goes so wrong that you can see more clearly when you stop expecting anything."

Clumsy Little Acts of Tenderness has its roots in Tervo's childhood memory. "My father used to take me to carwash when I was a kid, I suppose he wanted to get to know me and show his love that way. The memory was on its way for a long time and now it came out as this kind of film. I wanted to try fiction and comedy to see if it were fun – and it was. Everything went really well. I am very grateful to be able to work with so illuminating and interesting people."

At the moment, Tervo is writing a feature. "**Mahsa Malka** (from Dionysos Oy) will produce and **Laura Immonen** is helping me with dramaturgy. It will be a dark, romantic drama-comedy. I'd love to learn more about filmmaking as a writer and a director – I want to make films that someone truly wants to see. Films that give, films that make people remember their importance and core – and maybe let the viewer to have a break from their own fears and anxieties, laugh out loud, be light and full at the same time. That would be wonderful!"

Interview: Miia Outinen (Spring 2017)



THE PAPERS

(Tärkeitä papereita)

What happens when two opposite lifestyles clash? The Papers tells a story of two men who are complete opposites to each other, even though they live and work next to each other. One man loves order and precise schedules and the other man doesn't want to work hard and does what he pleases. The beautifully animated film reminds the viewers about the unpredictableness of life.

2013 | ANIMATION | 9'

LANGUAGE: No dialogue

SUBTITLES: -

DIRECTOR: Kalle Kotila

SCRIPT: Lassi Vierikko

CAMERA: Heikki Färm

EDITORS: Tita Jänkälä & Tuukka Kovasiipi

ANIMATION: Kalle Kotila, Jan Andersson, Janne Kukkonen, Samppa Kukkonen, Saku Soini & Mika Onnela

SOUND DESIGN: Kimmo Väänttinen

MUSIC: Sam Shingler

ACTORS: Lauri Warsta, Tapio Wilska

PRODUCER: Juho Harjula

PRODUCTION COMPANY: Las Palmas Films Oy

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

The Papers 2013





KALLE KOTILA

A year off in Germany gave **Kalle Kotila** (b. 1978) the possibility to concentrate on his short animation, *The Papers*. The idea for a screenplay came from a short story collection by Finnish singer-songwriter **Jarkko Martikainen**.

"I have always tried to turn my weaknesses to my strength. This time I wanted my characters to be 3D, but I didn't know how to do it. So I filmed my big head characters and I drew on top of them. Altogether, it took me two years to finish this project. I wasn't willing to let it go off my hands before I was satisfied."

The Papers takes a look at modern work routines. Two neighbors, extreme characters, work in the same open-plan office; one loves order and daily routines, the other is a carefree bohemian. "The story raises a question; can you control life or should it be taken easy. I hope people would think how this life is supposed to be lived and maybe they could meet halfway. I think both characters have good sides in themselves."

Kotila grew up in a small village near Oulu.

"I am from the countryside, but I am not from a typical farm family. We didn't have a barn, I have never even been to a barn, actually. I remember in the first grade, when a teacher asked who has been inside a barn, I was the only one who didn't raise their hand. I was actually afraid of cows."

He inherited his parent's interest for the arts.

"I had a lot of free time when I was a kid. I drew a lot as well as watched movies and TV shows and read comics."

He has been studying graphic designing, illustration and animation in Raahе and Turku. Now he works as a creative director at production company Anima Boutique.

"First I couldn't believe that I could do something creative as a profession. It all started from comics and illustrations and little by little it developed to animations."

Now he lives in Helsinki with his spouse.

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

"It took me two years to finish this project. I wasn't willing to let it go off my hands before I was satisfied."



ÁIGIN

The anime-style film Áigin is the first sami-spoken animated film ever made by a sami director. It tells a story of sami mythology and sami people, who were under constant attacks and raids a thousand years ago, until one hero decided to fight against the oppressors to protect his family.

2014 | ANIMATION, COMEDY | 10'

LANGUAGE: Sami

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Jouni West

SCRIPT: Jouni West

EDITING: Jouni West, Juuso Laatio

ANIMATION: Jouni West

SOUND: Janne Kariniemi

MUSIC: Rami Kaaresto

CAST: Mikkel Gaup, Sara Marit A. Gaup, Sverre Porsanger, Nils Utsi, Ánne Mággá Wigelius

PRODUCER: Jukka Vidgren

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Mutant Koala Pictures](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Áigin 2014





JOUNI WEST

Filmmaker **Jouni West's** (b. 1990) childhood was quite lonely even though he has seven siblings. Jouni, his father, who is a doctor, his mother – a priest – and his siblings lived far away from neighbors in the northernmost municipality in Finland, Utsjoki. Almost half of its population, little more than 600, is the indigenous Sámi people.

"My childhood home was an old renovated health center by Teno River. It is a beautiful and peaceful place. There weren't other people around so I spent a lot of time watching movies. I loved them and wanted to make them. I am not that great with people, but I know how to draw so I started to make animations. At the beginning my older sister, **Suvi**, helped me find the right connections."

His first animation, *Áigin*, is loosely based on Norwegian film maker **Nils Gaup's** successful Sámi language movie *Ofelaš (The Pathfinder, 1987)*. It was an Oscar nominee.

"My version is a parody, but I do respect the original one."

It took West more than two years to finish a 10-minute short film that tells an ancient story about Sameland. A thousand years ago it was a target for repeated plundering. Sámi people fled when they realized they were on the losing side. One day a young boy, *Áigin*, decides to fight a group of bandits. Still, his toughest opponent is his little sister.

"I wouldn't have *Áigin's* courage. I am not a good fighter, I just want everybody to get along. But like him, I do love my family and try always to do my best for them."

While working with his movie, he moved to a bigger city, Oulu.

"I am currently working with my new animation. It is a story about fishing. Making an animation is an enormous amount of work. I can't think about that when I start a new project. I just keep working till I am burned out. Then I take a break for a week."

His dream is to make a feature length animation.

"I also wish that in the future I own a house somewhere on the hills of the Lapland and no one knows I am there."

He studied media and film at the Sámi Education Institute and teaches children's workshops in film and animation. Sometimes he plays video games.

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

BABYBOX



Baro, a street musician and a father, is having a bad day. He gets told he's a bad parent, having his baby with him when he's working outside in the cold. He is told to leave his baby into an ominous Baby Box but despite being poor, Baro refuses to give away his baby. After the family's grandfather decides differently, an adventure behind the door of the mysterious Baby Box begins.

2015 | ANIMATION | 9'

LANGUAGE: No dialogue

SUBTITLES: -

DIRECTOR: Katariina Lillqvist

SCRIPT: Katariina Lillqvist

EDITING: Katariina Lillqvist, Patricia Ortiz Martinez

SET DESIGN: Patricia Ortiz Martinez

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Patricia Ortiz Martinez

ANIMATION: Alfons Mensdorff

SOUND DESIGN: Tero Malmberg

MUSIC: Kiureli Sammallahti and Amsterdam Klezmer Band

PRODUCERS: Onni Lillqvist, Tomás Grund and Viktor Mayer

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Elokuvaosuuskunta](#)

[Camera Cagliostro](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Radio Dolores (short) 2016

Baby Box (short) 2015

Faruza (short) 2011

Dauva them naa amengo them (documentary) 2008

The Butterfly of Ural (short) 2008

Dear Mr. Tarzan (documentary short) 2003

Song of the Gallows (short) 2002

The Romany Mirror (short) 2001

Xenia of St. Petersburg (short) 1999

The Country Doctor (short) 1996

The Maiden and the Soldier (short) 1995



KATARIINA LILLOVIST

Katariina Lillqvist (b. 1963) was a rebellious teen. She traveled by herself from her home city Tampere to France for the first time when she was fourteen. A year later she started to listen to punk and moved into a squat.

“Punk and new wave was an important era for me. It was a very creative time. That’s where I learned my work moral.”

She got accepted to study film editing at the Finnish Broadcasting Company’s vocational school in her early twenties.

“School compensated movie tickets and my teachers recommended students to watch movies. Those days I already watched a lot of animation. I was always very interested in animating and paid attention on how the stories were told. They were able to say so much in such a short period of time.”

Darker Czechoslovakian puppet animation genre started to interest her, like **Jan Švankmajer’s** and **Jiří Barta’s** productions. Parallel, her favorite theater director was a Polish puppet wizard **Tadeusz Kantor**.

“They inspired me and I applied to Damu, the Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague. I got a scholarship and moved to Prague during the last era of socialism in 1989.” Now she is an animation director and a screenwriter. *Baby Box* is her 17th animation. It’s a colorful but melancholic story about a street musician with a crying baby. The child’s grandfather disposes him to a babybox, a chute with a mysterious destination. Soon both, father and grandfather, go on a quest to find him.

“Czech Republic, just like Germany, Ukraine, Belarus and Poland actually really have these babyboxes. Parents can bring unwanted babies there without giving any information. There has been debates for and against it. This goodwill

program is a bit in the grey area. The babybox system is against the UN children’s rights statement, because the child loses his or hers right for their origin.”

It took about a year and a half and ten puppet artists to make *Baby Box*. In the team, there are professions like skeleton mechanics, latex artists and wig makers, not to forget the costumiers and film carpenters.

Lillqvist has also made many stories about Roma people during the years

“I have been active in Roma human rights movement since the 70s, when I heard I have Roma heritage from both sides of my family. One of the main attributes of the Roma community is an everlasting optimism. Though the circumstances are sometimes awful, people usually find ways to cope.”

Lillqvist is working now on a multinational project called *Radio Dolores*. It tells about Finnish volunteers who took part in the Spanish civil war in the 1930s. When not in the studio, she spends her free time at Prague Puppet Museum, developing it together with her film-cooperative Camera Cagliostro. The cooperative celebrates it’s 25th birthday next year, which is a high age for a film company.

“I hope something is left from my punk idealism also in our everyday company philosophy. Animation is for us a way of life, and we are not afraid to say our opinions either. ”

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)



THE WITCHING HOUR

(Juhannusyö)

The Witching Hour takes place in the most Finnish time and place: The nightless Midsummer Night in the Finnish wilds by lakes, meadows and forests. The Finnish people have many beliefs and traditions regarding the Midsummer Night, and The Witching Hour explores these mystical hours of bonfires and love spells through the eyes of Aino, who has become infatuated with a young man.

2014 | DRAMA, COMEDY | 16'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Miikka Leskinen

SCRIPT: Miikka Leskinen

PRODUCER: Alex Thiele

DOP: Sara Deane

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: Salla Kallio

EDITOR: Elias Väinämöinen

ANIMATION: Alfons Mensdorff

SOUND DESIGNER: Fabian Dudragne

COMPOSER: Sarah Warne

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [65 Wilding Films](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

The Witching Hour (Short) 2014

All in Good Time (Short) 2011

Small-Time Revolutionary (Short) 2010

Firewood (Short) 2007



MIIKKA LESKINEN

Visual elements combined with relatable characters are important for editor-director **Miikka Leskinen** (b. 1978). He graduated from the editor's program at United Kingdom's National Film and Television School in 2007.

"Editing and directing support each other. I enjoy them both. It's exciting to create and write stories and be on the set. It is equally wonderful to be in the editing room with a cup of coffee and wonder how to make it work. To me it is fascinating how I can reconsider the story and find new elements to it."

It's also practical to know how to do both.

"As an editor I work across documentary and fiction covering a range of genres while in my directing work I focus on fiction and mainly my own projects."

The Witching Hour is his fourth short as a director. It is a story about a Finnish Midsummer night colored by crime and superstition. Aino (**Niina Koponen**), the leading lady, has her eye on Perttu (**Pyry Nikkilä**) but over the course of the nightless night his true nature dispels her illusions.

"Midsummer party is very typical in Finnish culture but at the same time it is quite exotic and magical. It's a night you can combine realism and fantasy. Aino has a bit of a naïve, but intriguing wish. Her dream and reality don't match, but she doesn't get stuck in the bitterness and at the end of the film she is a stronger person and her future is more positive."

Leskinen started to make movies as a young teenager in his hometown Tampere. He lived there with his father, a judge, and mother, a nurse, and two older sisters.

"I shot my first horror movie, *Vacuum Cleaner Killer*, with my friends when I was 12 years old. Later on I watched international art house films, Asian films and **Pedro Almodovar's** films. The pivotal movie for me was the *Three Colors: Blue*. After I saw it I started to see films as something other than only blockbusters. I realized there were many ways of telling stories."

He continued his creative path at TYK art high school, in Tampere.

"It was inspiring to spend time with similar minded students, to make films, act and direct."

Moving to London in 1999 was a natural way for him to continue building his career. One of his landmarks is *Virunga*, a story about people who risk their lives to save the last of the world's mountain gorillas. The Emmy-winning, Oscar and Bafta -nominated feature documentary was produced by **Leonardo DiCaprio** and released globally by Netflix in 2014. He is currently editing the feature documentary *The Last Animals*, written by Oscar-winning **Mark Monroe** (*The Cove*) and produced by Oscar-winning **Laurie David** (*The Inconvenient Truth*). After that he is filming his first feature film, **Dear Darkness**.

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)



ALL HALLOWS WEEK

(Hiljainen viikko)

*Jussi Hiltunen explores the complicated emotions following a shooting incident in a small town in Northern Finland. The witnesses are faced with the feelings of loss, sorrow and guilt. Hiltunen has a talent in portraying the difficult feelings of guilt and forgiveness, and he has dealt with similar themes in his debut feature *Law of the Land* (2017).*

2011 | FICTION | 17'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Jussi Hiltunen

SCRIPT: Jussi Hiltunen

CAST: Antti Luusuaniemi, Rosa Salomaa, Niilo Syväoja, Sampo Sarkola, Markku Kögäs, Kylli Kögäs

CAMERA: J-P Passi

EDITING: Jussi Rautaniemi

PRODUCER: Kaarle Aho

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Making Movies Oy](#)

DIRECTOR'S SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Law of the Land (feature) 2017

Talvisydän (short) 2016

Perintö (short) 2015

All Halloween's Week (short) 2012

Rikoksen tiellä (short) 2010



JUSSI HILTUNEN

Director **Jussi Hiltunen** (b. 1984) witnessed a rare street shooting in his hometown, Rovaniemi. The event inspired him to film a short movie, *All Hallow's Week*.

"I wanted to make a film about two people who are brought together by this kind of unfortunate situation. I focused on their stories - sorrow and guilt - without blaming anybody. That doesn't help."

Besides *All Hallow's Week*, Hiltunen has shot two short movies, *The Legacy* and *Winterheart*, in his native city. There, when he was twelve, he used a film camera for the first time.

"When my father gave me a camera, I knew immediately I wanted to be a film maker."

His mom is a nurse and his deceased dad was a police officer who left the family, when Hiltunen was young. At the beginning he was also acting in his films. That didn't last long.

"My sister told me that I am not a very good actor. After that I concentrated on directing."

He has been studying media, but is a self-taught film maker. The **Coen** brother's movies *No Country for Old Men* and *Fargo* have influenced him. He is now filming his own crime story, his first feature length movie, an action western called *Law of the Land*, in Finland and Norway.

Hiltunen lives together with his girlfriend and their two young children and a cat.

"I wish my family will stay together and I can spend enough time with them. I also hope that my movie career goes well."

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

"I focused on their stories - sorrow and guilt - without blaming anybody. That doesn't help."



MERCY ALL THE WAY

(Säälistäjät)

Based on a real life comment about how school shootings could have been prevented if the shooters had just had some sex, Hauru's short film satirises this scenario. A group of women working in an unemployment office are sleeping with outcast young men in order to prevent future school shootings. But then something strictly forbidden happens: Mirja falls in love with one of these men. The result could be a disaster.

2014 | DRAMA, COMEDY | 30'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: Hannaleena Hauru

SCRIPT: Hannaleena Hauru, Tanja Heinänen

PRODUCER: Hannaleena Hauru, Jan-Niclas Jansson

DOP: Jan-Niclas Jansson

EDITOR: Jenny Tervakari

SOUND DESIGN: Cedric Le Doré

MUSIC: Aleksi Ranta, Lauri Wuolio

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Made](#)

DIRECTORS' SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Thick Lashes of Lauri Mäntyvaara (feature) 2017

Mercy All the Way (short) 2014

Whispering in a Friend's Mouth (short) 2010

Catching (short) 2009

If I Fall (short) 2007



HANNA- LEENA HAURU

Filmmaker **Hannaleena Hauru** (b. 1983) doesn't shy away from an interesting subject: Would the world be a better place if every man got sex? The short movie *Mercy All the Way* is inspired by the racy suggestion in journalist **Markus Määttä**'s column that a public shooting nightmare may have been prevented if the killer had gotten laid. Hauru wrote a screenplay based on just that, together with **Tanja Heinänen**.

"First, we were very nervous that people would get upset. Now, I am glad we did it because most people find it funny."

Hauru comes from a working class family. Her parents worked in the restaurant industry in Hyvinkää.

"I remember when I tried my friend's dad's video camera for the first time. That was the moment I got interested in filming, but for the longest time it was more like a hobby than a profession."

She graduated from ELO Helsinki Film School in 2011 where she studied scriptwriting and directing.

"My background is in theatre. Before Helsinki I studied audiovisual producing in Tampere, and at school I ended up taking a screenwriting class. Then I realized movies offer me more opportunities to create different kinds of worlds than theatre. After that I started to direct my own movies."

She has shot about 30 short films.

"At the beginning I was afraid of not being taken seriously, and focused of appearing to be intelligent through my films. Now I trust myself more and enjoy a lot if my story entertains an audience and makes them laugh."

She likes to laugh as well.

"As a kid I liked crazy comedies like *Man and the Naked Gun* and *Top Secret*. I still enjoy comedies. Now, I also watch lots of European art house cinema."

Justice, fairness and honesty are important themes for the filmmaker.

"I want to create a fair work environment for everyone."

She is currently working on her first feature movie, *Thick Lashes of Lauri Mäntyvaara*, which will be shot in summer 2016.

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

NIGHTSATAN AND THE LOOPS OF DOOM



Nightsatan and the Loops of Doom is a post-apocalyptic sci-fi thriller set in a wasteland that once was Karelia, a province in Eastern Finland. A trio of synthesizer warriors save a fierce woman from a cruel tyrant. The wonderfully strange film is filled with synth music, blood and violence, dystopian technology, and stunning visuality.

2013 | THRILLER, SCI-FI, ADVENTURE | 24'

LANGUAGE: Italian

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTOR: CHRZU

SCRIPT: CHRZU

PRODUCER: Jupe Louhelainen

MUSIC: Nightsatan

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Mikko Aromaa

DOP: Ville Muurinen

EDITING: Petri Erkkilä

SOUND DESIGNER: Juhana Virkkunen

VISUAL EFFECT SUPERVISOR: Sami Salo

ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK RELEASE: Svart Records, Solina Records, Twisted Films

CAST: Inhalator 2, Mazathoth, Wolf-Rami, Miska Kaukonen, Annika Sirén, Eljas Kokkonen

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Twisted Films](#)

DIRECTORS' SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Wormhole (short) 2016

The High Heel High (documentary short) 2013

Nightsatan and the Loops of Doom (short) 2013

Outro (documentary short) 2012

Curse of the Remote Island (short) 2008

English Lessons (short) 2008

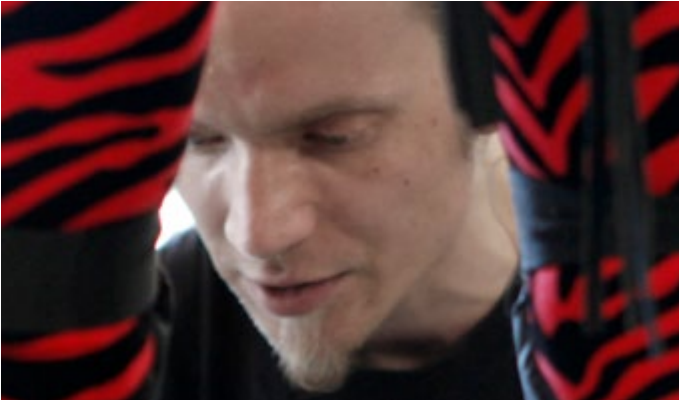
A Song in the Shower (short) 2006

(S)hitti (Short) 2004

Cinemare (Short) 2004

Silencer (Short) 2003

Treevil (Short) 2002



CHRZU

Drawing album covers for a band called Nightsatan lead writer-director **CHRZU** (b. 1977) to shoot the band's short movie. *Nightsatan and the Loops of Doom* is a futuristic story that takes place in the year 2034. Karelia has been reduced to deserts. A pack of synthesizer warriors known as Nightsatan are pursuing a damsel in distress, who has fled her captor into the dunes. They wander into the habitat of an unknown musician, who enslaves his victims for his programmed choir.

"It's a comic book style music fantasy. The band plays instrumental 80s post apocalyptic sci-fi movie music."

Music is close to CHRZU's (Christer Lindström) heart. He has played in several bands everything from punk to doom metal. Now he sings and plays a bedpan guitar in a blues meets heavy metal duo called Black Totem.

"I listen to all kinds of music. I believe that music affects your mood. In the winter, I tend to listen to darker and more aggressive music, in the spring time more mellow stuff."

When CHRZU was a young boy he wanted to become a comic book artist. He studied fine arts at adult education college in Anjalankoski after high school in Hanko. After that, he took a ten-week comic book course in Stockholm, Sweden. He drew comics till he was 25.

"Then I applied to an animation program at the Art Academy in Turku. The Estonian animation legend **Priit Pärn** was then the school's artistic director and teacher. He influenced my writing

a lot. I worked with animation, especially stop motion, for ten years. Before Nightsatan, which was my first live action film, I made one documentary."

CHRZU graduated in 2004. Nowadays he is a teacher in his old school. He is also developing a feature film about Nightsatan.

"With all the time-consuming challenges and stress that comes with the job, I have come to the conclusion that you can reach peace of mind by just living in the moment. Not worrying. That is key. My wife and I, we have an agreement that we don't work on Sundays. That is our quality time. We both love to cook and eat. We enjoy each other's company to the max and we make time for it."

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

"It's a comic book style music fantasy. The band plays instrumental 80s post-apocalyptic sci-fi movie music."



REUNION

(Tuolla puolen)

Reunion shows how facing death is never easy, but when it comes in the form of a kind young girl, music and dance, it can be more acceptable. Reunion is a story of redemption and the complicated bond between a brother who is soon to die and a sister who has already become familiar with death.

2015 | DRAMA | 15'

LANGUAGE: Finnish
SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTORS: Iddo Soskolne, Janne Reinikainen

SCRIPT: Iddo Soskolne, Janne Reinikainen

DOP: Teppo Högman

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: Otso Linnalaakso

COSTUME DESIGNER: Tiina Kaukanen

MAKE-UP DESIGNER: Riikka Virtanen

CHOREOGRAPHER: Reija Wäre

VFX: Lauri Ritari

EDITOR: Jussi Rautaniemi

SOUND DESIGNER: Svante Colerus

COMPOSERS: Pessi Levanto, Markku Kanerva

CAST: Selma af Schultén, Janne Reinikainen, Riitta Havukainen

PRODUCERS: Misha Jaari, Mark Lwoff

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [Bufo](#)

DIRECTORS' SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Iddo Soskolne:

Reunion (short) 2015

Janne Reinikainen:

The Office (Finnish version, TV series) 2017

Reunion (short) 2015

War & Peace (TV movie) 2006

The Joyboys Story (TV Movie) 1997



IDDO SOSKOLNE

Death inspired filmmaker **Iddo Soskolne** (b. 1975) to direct his first short film, *Reunion*. It is a fairy tale, based on true experience, about how Western culture deals with mortality. He co-directed his debut with **Janne Reinikainen**.

"It's a quite personal story. My wife and I lost our first child in 2003. She was only one day old. In Jewish culture the body is usually buried on the same day. After that there is an 'open house.' Family and friends get together and talk about the deceased. This can go on for seven days. Death is dealt with immediately, but it can also put a lot of pressure on the person who lost a loved one."

Soskolne and his wife moved from Jerusalem to Finland a few weeks after their baby's death. For the first two months, they stayed at her parents' place in Lieksa. Dealing with death in Finland was a completely different kind of experience.

"Everybody gave us space. We had time to mourn in peace and quiet. It helped us a lot. Death is common in Israel but it is still scary, and I used to keep my distance from it. The past twelve years, I have been thinking about it a lot. I hope next time when I lose a dear one, I am more prepared for it."

In high school, Soskolne was interested in science, physics and math. While in the army, from age 18 to 21, he got interested in movies. He studied film at the Sam Spiegel Film and Television School in Jerusalem and graduated as a cinematographer. Then he studied at the University of Art and Design in Helsinki. He has been working in both Israel and Finland. Now, he lives

with his wife and their two young daughters in Helsinki.

"I love cooking. I spend a lot of time with the girls. I have such a girly family. Even our dog is female. It is quite nice, in fact. I dream about finding my place in Finland, and finding peace and balance in my life.

He is currently writing a feature film about death. But does he believe that he will reunite with his loved ones one day?

"No. I don't believe in it. I don't know what happens after death."

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

"It's a quite personal story. My wife and I lost our first child in 2003. She was only one day old."

EMERGENCY CALLS

(Hätäkuutsu)

Based on real life emergency calls, this experimental documentary studies the relationship between the caller and the helper. With mostly set around the Estonia shipwreck, the calls showcase tragic or important moments in people's lives, be it death or new life.

2013 | DOCUMENTARY, EXPERIMENTAL | 15'

LANGUAGE: Finnish

SUBTITLES: English

DIRECTORS: Hannes Vartiainen, Pekka Veikkolainen

SCRIPT: Hannes Vartiainen, Pekka Veikkolainen

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Hannes Vartiainen, Pekka Veikkolainen

ANIMATION: Hannes Vartiainen, Pekka Veikkolainen

EDITING: Hannes Vartiainen, Pekka Veikkolainen

MUSIC: Joonatan Portaankorva

PRODUCERS: Hannes Vartiainen, Pekka Veikkolainen

PRODUCTION: Pohjankonna Oy

DIRECTORS' SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

The secret World of Moths (documentary short) 2016

Emergency Calls (documentary short) 2013

Gates of Life (short) 2012

The Death of an Insect (short) 2010

Hanasaari A (documentary short) 2009



HANNES VARTIAINEN & PEKKA VEIKKOLAINEN

"We have been making short documents together with **Pekka Veikkolainen** for 10 years now. *Emergency Calls* was our fourth film", Pohjankonna's **Hannes Vartiainen** tells. "We've known each other all the way from elementary school in Järvenpää, Pekka was in the same class with my brother and that's how we got to know each other."

Vartiainen went on to study fiction film directing and graduated in 2004. Veikkolainen studied graphic design in The School of Arts, Design and Architecture in Helsinki.

The duo founded their production company Pohjankonna Oy in 2008 while producing their first film together. "Our first film was *Hanasaari A*. We got interested in the destruction of this amazing old power plant from the 1950s, and we started filming and documenting it. After filming for 1,5 years, it seemed like it would be a good idea to make a film out of the footage, and we decided to produce it on our own as well", Vartiainen says.

"We always have a lot of ideas on the table", Veikkolainen tells. The idea for *Emergency Calls* came from a long-lasting fascination with the sinking of Estonia, a ferry on its way from Tallinn to Stockholm that sunk in a storm in 1994, leading to the death of 852 passengers. "The idea took its first steps while listening to the recordings of radio traffic from the rescue efforts related to the incident. I had been very interested in this incident as a teenager and we started to consider whether this subject would make a good film."

"The filmmaking process lasted for almost two years, as we had to negotiate with the officials about the rights to use the recordings of emergency phone calls, since they are usually confidential", Vartiainen notes. They decided to expand the film to cover emergency calls from a vast variety of emergencies: "We decided to focus on Finnish emergency calls, but we wanted a great variety of themes. First we thought we'd concentrate on emergencies without violence, but in the end we decided to include the cases of a school shooting and domestic violence as well", Vartiainen recalls.

At the moment, Pohjankonna's focus is in nature documentaries, their recent production being *The Secret World of Moths* (2016). Veikkolainen finds the making and researching for nature documents fascinating. He notes that it is important to find subject matters that are fascinating enough for you to want to spend a year or two working on it.

For the future, Pohjankonna has many ideas. One thing Vartiainen and Veikkolainen, and their partner from the gaming industry, **Janne Pulkkinen**, are now working on is a virtual reality project, which has been funded by Kone Foundation. They are utilizing the x-ray technology used by medical professionals and for example biologists. Vartiainen, Veikkolainen, and Pulkkinen are creating their own software for filmmaking and VR purposes.

"This new technology opens up many interesting possibilities", Vartiainen tells.

Interview: Miia Outinen (Spring 2017)



NOSTE

Short film Noste takes the viewers to an unforgettable dive into the world of underwater dance. This delicate and powerful dance evokes emotions by colours, flowing movement and the astonishing capabilities of a human body.

2014 | DANCE, UNDERWATER | 4'

LANGUAGE: No dialogue

SUBTITLES: -

DIRECTOR: Marko Röhr

SCRIPT: Etel Röhr

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Teemu Liakka

SOUND: Sami Sarhamaa

EDITING: Antti Mikkola

MUSIC: Vangelis

PRODUCER: Marko Röhr

PRODUCTION COMPANY: [MRP Matila Röhr Productions Oy](#)

DIRECTORS' SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Tale of a Lake (documentary) 2016

Noste (short) 2015

Underwater Iceland (documentary) 1997

Shipwrecks in the Baltic Sea (TV series documentary) 1996



MARKO RÖHR

In *Noste*, a beautiful underwater dance is performed by **Etel Röhr**, the daughter of a producer-director **Marko Röhr** (b. 1961). He's been working with underwater movies for almost 25 years.

"Etel has been free diving since she was a child, and she is a dancer. Even though she is very experienced I wanted her to know the philosophy of working under water better. So I recommended her to read **Kōbō Abe**'s book about the world in the future, where global warming causes the ocean to cover the whole planet."

For her diploma as a dancer, Etel wanted to create something unique. She took a challenge and rehearsed for the underwater dance for five months, first on the ground and then underwater.

"This was the most challenging project that I have done so far because it had to be aesthetically beautiful and look like one dance. The underwater dance requires holding your breath and keeping your eyes open, and at the same time it needs to look easy and comfortable."

They filmed it in one night at the local pool, Mäkelänrinne, in Helsinki. The goal was to make it look like she was dancing on a stage so they built a studio with black backdrops at the deeper end of pool.

"Free diving is very demanding. We shot about a minute and half at a time, overall four hours of diving time. After half an hour of being in the water, even in a stadium pool, it feels ice cold. When you do it for hours carbon dioxide starts

to collect in your body, and cause's an awful headache and nausea amongst other physical reactions."

Marko Röhr started to dive when he was nine. He was inspired by the movies and TV shows by French underwater researcher **Jacques Cousteau**. Then, in his twenties, he filmed his first movie. At the same time he studied at Helsinki School of Economics following a degree in entertainment law at Film Business School in Madrid. Later he studied at Documentary Campus in Leipzig, Germany.

"I realized that I can combine my two passions, diving and filmmaking. I specialized in the arctic areas. At the time, we didn't have anybody else doing that in Finland.

Nevertheless he is not immune to cold weather.

"Of course I feel cold. When winter comes I rub snow on to my hands, so they get used to the cold. I make sure I don't wear gloves in winter unless it's -20C."

Diving has taught him to be patient. That has been a useful skill when filming underwater and nature movies. The filming process can take years. Recently he has been producing a fairy tale film *Rolli And the Secret of All Time* and a documentary called *Tale of a Lake* with his production company MRP Matila Röhr Productions Oy. He has four children with his wife. They live in Raasepori. In his free time he free dives and plays tennis.

Interview: Kirpi Uimonen (Spring 2015)

MORE INFORMATION

KATI NUORA

Manager of International Promotion and Projects

kati.nuora@ses.fi

+358 (0) 9 6220 3020

OTTO SUURONEN

Advisor, short films

otto.suuronen@ses.fi

+358 (0) 9 6220 3019
