

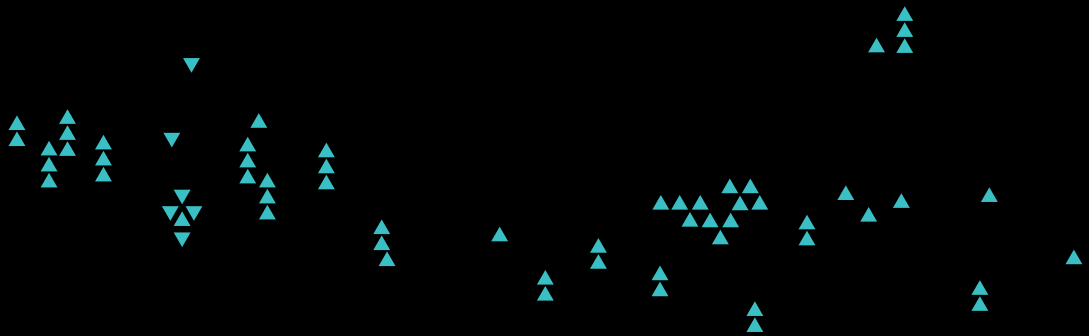


ICE ▲ AND
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2023



ICE ▲ AND
▲ FIRE
DOCS ●





CREATIVE DOCUMENTARY WORKSHOP

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ANNA HINTS

PARTICIPANT OF THE FIRST ICE AND FIRE DOCS

Ice and Fire Docs came into my life at just the right moment. I'd just embarked on a working-relationship with the producer Marianne Ostrat and it gave us a chance to get to know one another as well as to go deeper into our film project. Ice and Fire Docs gave us that safe space where we could ask all sorts of questions, look deeply into ourselves and explore our film idea at an unimaginable depth.

For me, the workshop participants were exactly the kind of creative community where I dared to show my vulnerability. This was the sort of group that encouraged openness on both sides. They were honest and released deep honesty in me too. This kind of safe space and supportive community is essential for a creative director, who otherwise can feel quite isolated. Not all workshops can provide such an open space but Ice and Fire Docs really managed to do this. It also taught me how to listen to my inner voice and chased away my inferiority complex. At the first session, one of the tutors said, "Anna and Marianne, this seems like a Sundance film!" This remark totally broadened our horizons. It injected us with an interior trust, that such a miracle could actually happen and our film could be premiered at the Sundance Festival. And so it was, just four years later. Ice and Fire Docs was also responsible



for conceiving our English language title "Smoke Sauna Sisterhood". All in all, you could say that Ice and Fire Docs is godmother to our film.



SMOKE SAUNA SISTERHOOD (2023)

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): SAVVUSANNA SÕSARAD

Director: Anna Hints

Producer: Marianne Ostrat / Alexandra Film

Length: 89'

World premiere: Sundance Film Festival 2023

Contact:

Director Anna Hints: annahints@gmail.com, IG: [annahints](https://www.instagram.com/annahints)

Alexandra Film: marianne@alexandrafilm.ee

World sales: Outlook Filmsales: welcome@outlook.com

Distributor in Benelux: Vedette Film: info@vedettefilm.com

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

In the darkness of a smoke sauna, women share their innermost secrets and intimate experiences, washing off the shame trapped in their bodies and regaining their strength through a sense of communion.



INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

ANNA HINTS

DIRECTOR

Anna Hints (b. 1982) is an Estonian film director with a background in contemporary art and experimental folk music. Having deep roots in the distinct culture of South Estonia, Anna's second home is in India. Anna's first feature documentary *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* premiered at Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Documentary Competition in 2023 winning the Directing Award. In April 2023 Anna received the Eurimages Audentia Award for the Best Female Director. *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* is to date selected to more than 50 film festivals across the world and sold to more than 32 territories. The film is nominated to LUX Audience Award, European Film Award in European Documentary category and Critics Choice Award in Best First Documentary Feature category. Anna is a singer in the electronic-folk trio EETER that collaborated with Icelandic composer Edvard Egilsson on the original score of *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood*.

MARIANNE OSTRAT

PRODUCER

Marianne Ostrat (b. 1983) is an Estonian film producer and founder of Alexandra Film producing both fiction and documentary films. After two fiction features both directed by Priit Pääsuke - *The End of the Chain* (Karlovy Vary FF, 2017) and *Kids of the Night* (winner of 3 and nominee of 7 Estonian Film & TV Awards, 2021) Marianne's first feature documentary as the delegate producer *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* (Estonia-France-Iceland) premiered at the Sundance Film Festival World Cinema Documentary Competition in 2023 with director Anna Hints winning the Directing Award. Since then *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* has become the most highly acclaimed feature documentary in the history of Estonian cinema.

LIST OF THE AWARDS:

Directing Award: World Cinema Documentary / Sundance Film Festival 2023

McBaine Documentary Feature Award / San Francisco International Film Festival 2023

Newsweek Psychologia Awards / Millennium Docs Against Gravity 2023

Special Mention The City of Poznań Freedom Award / Millenium Docs Against Gravity 2023

Eurimages Audentia Award 2023

Special Jury Mention International Documentary Feature / Guanajuato International Film Festival 2023

Best Film by a Female Director / Sofa Documental 2023

Special Mention / Riga IFF 2023

Special Mention / CinEast 2023

Best Film / All About Freedom Festival 2023

Outstanding Female-Led Feature Film / Cinéfest Sudbury IFF 2023

Victor Rabinowitz & Joanna Grant Award for Social Justice / Hamptons International Film Festival 2023

NOMINATIONS:

Nominee of European Film Awards - European Documentary

Nominee of LUX European Audience Film Award 2024

Nominee of Critics Choice Documentary Awards 2023 - Best First Documentary Feature

Longlisted for Cinema Eye Audience Choice Prize 2023

Longlisted for British Independent Film Awards 2023 - Best International Independent Film

IDFA SCREENINGS:**NOVEMBER 10**

10:00

TUSCHINSKI 1

NOVEMBER 11

21:30

RIALTO VU: ZAAL 4

NOVEMBER 14 FOLLOWED BY A TALK

21:00

TUSCHINSKI 1

NOVEMBER 15 FOLLOWED BY A Q&A

15:00

EYE: CINEMA 1

NOVEMBER 18

13:00

RIALTO DE PIIP: BOVENZAAL

EINARI PAAKKANEN

PARTICIPANT OF THE FIRST ICE AND FIRE DOCS

The most significant discovery I made through the Ice and Fire Docs workshop was how to identify the common bond that held the five protagonist's stories together and how I should vary each storyline to avoid repetition. I think both tutors helped us to confirm that the direction we had chosen was the right one. The tutor Mikael Opstrup helped us to recognise the principal points, such as what the story or the theme actually was, whereas Jesper Osmund planted some fruitful ideas in our minds about the structure and the goals towards which the protagonists' stories were leading. All in all, the atmosphere and the feedback from the participants and the tutors was very supportive and pleasant and it was easy to speak from the heart about the worries I had regarding the project - after all, nothing binds a group together so much as a sauna in the Estonian countryside. In addition, the schedule of Ice and Fire Docs was perfect with regard to our film, because after the first session I, my producer and DOP were able to test out the fresh ideas that had come to us before the start of the second session.



KARAOKE PARADISE (2022)

ORIGINAL TITLE (FIN): KARAOKEPARATIISI

Director: Einari Paakkanen

Producer: Marianne Mäkelä / napafilms

Length: 75'

World premiere: CPH:DOX 2022

Contact:

Rise and Shine World Sales: anja.dziersk@riseandshine-berlin.de

napafilms: marianne@napafilms.fi

LOGLINE:

When shy Finns pick up the microphone something extraordinary happens: singers come alive and show their true emotions. The stories of five people intertwine together opening a door to a hidden paradise, Finnish karaoke, where everyone is accepted and gets a round of applause.

SYNOPSIS:

Evi, Finland's most experienced karaoke hostess, is like an angel. Night after night she packs her karaoke equipment and drives hundreds of kilometres through the northern landscapes of Finland. On her way she meets people who grab the microphone and sing about their love and loss.

When Toni, the shyest guy in the world, sings, he catches everyone's eyes and becomes free. Kari searches for love and sings about it in his own karaoke car repair shop. Elina can hardly walk because of Parkinson's, but punk songs make her soul fly. Laura sings because talking is too painful.

Karaoke Paradise is a story about how Finns have found a unique and empowering way out of dark winters and the threat of loneliness. Karaoke is the best thing that ever happened to Finland!



INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

EINARI PAAKKANEN

DIRECTOR

Einari Paakkanen (b. 1980) is a Finnish director focusing on stories about human connection and communication with others. His films have been screened globally in festivals such as Krakow Film festival and Nordisk Panorama to mention a few. His first feature documentary My father from Sirius premiered in the Warsaw Film festival in 2016 and was broadcasted by Yle, SVT and Arte. Einari did MA in documentary directing at ESCAC in Barcelona.

MARIANNE MÄKELÄ

PRODUCER

Marianne Mäkelä is a producer specialising in creative documentaries. Mäkelä has gained experience of international Co-Productions and of national financing and distribution. Films produced by her have been broadcasted on BBC, ARTE, YLE, SVT and NRK. And they have been screened in many film festivals such as IDFA, Visions du Reel and Nordisk Panorama just to mention a few.

LIST OF THE AWARDS, NOMINATIONS:

Karaoke Paradise has attracted widespread interest internationally at numerous film festivals. The film has been screened at more than 35 festivals so far and has won numerous awards (including Best Film: Days of European Film Fest, DocsValencia, Special Mention: Artdocfest Latvia, Audience Award: DocsJalisco Mexico). The film's deeply human perspective on the importance of karaoke culture for people connects with audiences from all over the world. The film has been distributed in cinemas in Finland, Spain and Denmark and has been sold to Japan, Switzerland and Sweden. Karaoke Paradise was also shortlisted for the 2022 EFA European Film Awards and won the Jussi Award 2022 for the best Documentary Film in Finland.

STANDING IN MY POWER

ORIGINAL TITLE (FIN): OMASSA VOIMASSA

Director: Karoliina Gröndahl
Producer: Kirsi Mattila / Icebreaker Productions

Estimated length: 75'
Production stage: In post-production
Estimated release: early 2024
Contact: Kirsi Mattila, kirsi.mattila@icebreakers.fi

LOGLINE:

The childbirth experience can either give you power or take it away.

SYNOPSIS:

Standing in My Power dives into a contemporary childbirth culture in Finland seen from the perspective of two birth professionals - midwife Kirsi and doula, i.e. birth support person, Anna-Riitta - who both work to improve birth practices and empower birth givers.

Kirsi knows how the birth experience affects the whole life. She has gone through a traumatic birth for her first child, which broke her body limits. At the second birth she hired a doula, and the third birth at home was a dream come true. Professionally Kirsi has been straddling two worlds. After hiding her career as a home birth midwife at the regular labor ward, she is now ready to reveal her true colors and becomes a respected expert in all births. Doula Anna-Riitta thinks childbirth is a culmination of life, death and human sexuality. She strongly defends the people's right to self-determination and wants the birth culture to be safer for everyone.

INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

KAROLIINA GRÖNDAHL

DIRECTOR

Karoliina Gröndahl (b. 1984) holds an MA in documentary film directing from the DocNomads Joint Masters program. Skilled in conveying emotions through the moving image, Karoliina shoots most of her films herself.

Karoliina's latest short documentary *Every Tom, Dick and Urpo* (orig. *Ei nimi miestä pahenna*) premiered in September 2023 at the Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy where it received a New Wave award. The documentary feature *Standing in My Power*, part of Ice and Fire Docs workshop and DocPoint IMPACT training, will premiere in 2024.

Karoliina's first feature-length TV-documentary *Sentenced for Life* broadcast in 2016 at YLE. Karoliina is a board member of the Finnish Documentary Guild and an alumna of IDFAcademy 2022.



KIRSI MATTILA

PRODUCER

Kirsi Mattila has a licentiate degree in theater science from the University of Helsinki. She began her career in documentary filmmaking as director and scriptwriter in 1994. Her latest film, *Marzia, My Friend* (2015), is a documentary feature set in Afghanistan and Finland. It won the Best Human Rights Feature award at its international premiere in Galway Film Fleadh, and has subsequently won five other awards.

Since 2010 Kirsi Mattila has also worked as Icebreakers' producer in charge of producing TV programs and radio series for Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE. The first feature documentary she produced was Tiina Madisson's *The Beloved Daughter* (2020). Kirsi is currently producing Mohamed El Aboudi's documentary film *The Last Chapter* and Karoliina Gröndahl's documentary film *Standing in My Power*.



The film explores the personal, social and mythic levels of birth by entwining observational scenes together with protagonists' personal stories creating a larger picture of what childbirth means to a human being.



COACHING FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): COACHING TAVALISELE INIMESELE

Director & producer: Kaupo Kruusialuk / Flo Film

Estimated length: 80'

Production stage: In production

Estimated release: 2025

Contact: Kaupo Kruusialuk, kaupo.kruusialuk@gmail.com

LOGLINE:

Three people hunting for happiness with the help of a personal coach. Will they succeed?

SYNOPSIS:

Coaching for Ordinary People is a documentary that delves into the rising trend of life coaches, trainers, and consultants. Coaching, which has previously primarily been used in the business world, is becoming more and more popular among so-called ordinary people. The film chronicles the journeys of three individuals aspiring to realise their dreams through personal coaching.

Marketing Manager Pille desires to earn 20,000 euros a month. Physiotherapist Lii seeks to improve her boundary-setting skills, and Armin, while being mentored, dreams of becoming a coach himself. Will they succeed?

Coaching shapes the film's narrative, offering a lens through which the filmmaker examines society's quest for happiness. Why is there a growing number of consultants offering guidance, companionship, and business expertise? Is the future trending towards fewer deep friendships and increasing loneliness, with

INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

KAUPO KRUSIAUK

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Kaupo Kruusialuk graduated from the Baltic Film and Media School with a bachelor's degree in film directing, and from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre with a master's degree in theatre and film directing. Kaupo has directed several short films, one full-length feature film (*Sandra saab tööd*, 2021), and a few episodes of the project *Estonian Stories* for Estonian Public Broadcasting (*Murust*, *Teaduse nimel*, *Kütt*).

In his documentaries, Kaupo Kruusialuk has explored the chess player Jaan Ehvest (*Mängija*, 2008), actor and musician Peeter Volkonski (*Viimane vürst*, 2018), and musician and composer Maria Faust (*Machina Faust*, 2022). *Machina Faust* stands as Kaupo Kruusialuk's most acclaimed film. The Estonian Association of Film Journalists named it the best Estonian movie of 2022. Concurrently it was selected as the best Estonian documentary in 2022 at the Estonian Film and Television Awards gala. *Machina Faust* has been selected for the programme of CPH:DOX, Krakow Film Festival, Baltic Film Days, and New York Baltic Film Festival.



KATRE RATASSEPP

SALES & DISTRIBUTION

With over 20 years in marketing and communications, Katre Ratassepp has designed public relations campaigns for several music festivals and for musician solo projects, as well as for contemporary art exhibitions and feature and documentary films. At Flo Film, Katre Ratassepp oversees the distribution and promotion of documentaries, including *Machina Faust* (a 2022 film about musician and composer Maria Faust), *Anett* (about the recently-retired Estonian tennis player Anett Kontaveit, set for a 2024 premiere), and *Coaching for Ordinary People* (about individuals seeking happiness through coaching, to be premiered 2025).



this void being addressed by coaches? While they aid us in personal growth, they also operate from a financial incentive and play only a transient role in our lives.



THE PERFECT

Director: Laura Liventaal

Estimated length: 60'

Production stage: End of development

Estimated release: 2025

Contact: Laura Liventaal, laura.liventaal@gmail.com

LOGLINE:

A kaleidoscopic view into the lives of three ballerinas. Why do we hide our pain?

SYNOPSIS:

The Perfect is an intergenerational dialogue between the worlds of a child, a young professional and a mature teacher, connected by escapist devotion to ballet. Their individuality and life philosophy emerges despite the suppression of discipline, making room for mistakes, self expression and joy. Why are they causing so much pain to their bodies and what does that do to the soul?

The youngest dancer, an 11-year-old girl Pärlī, started to study at Tallinn Ballet School. She feels that dancing makes her happy and insists on becoming a ballerina. Unfortunately her separated parents are in conflict and go to court for Pärlī's custody. She is in the middle of this adults' battlefield and prefers to live in the magic world of ballet.

The second dancer is a 20-year-old professional ballerina Maarja who just started working at the Estonian National Opera. Maarja is a shy introvert who can only express herself freely through dancing. She has started an independent life and moved away from her parent's house. It

INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKER:

LAURA LIVENTAAL

DIRECTOR



Laura Liventaal (b. 1988) is a director and artist who works with the mediums of documentary film, sculpture, installation, performance, photography and video. She studied philosophy at Tallinn University (BA 2012, MA 2016), in 2020 she graduated from the Baltic Film and Media School with an experimental short documentary *How To Be Naked*, which premiered at the Black Nights Film Festival in Tallinn. From 2021 she is studying contemporary art MA at the Estonian Academy of Arts and 2022-2024 she is an exchange student in the fine arts department of ENSAD Paris. Liventaal has participated in exhibitions and festivals in Estonia, Finland, Sweden and France.

is her mother's dream she would become a ballerina and she was pressured to pursue the career. Throughout her school years she has only been surrounded by girls and now she is in an international troupe meeting the opposite sex. We see her growing from a girl to a young woman.

The third dancer Irina is a 58-year-old former ballerina who teaches ballet to adult beginners. This group is a colourful mix of people, some of them like to dress up as professional ballerinas. From her personal life we explore the relationship with her granddaughter and daughter who live and work at a horse farm- Irina has difficulties relating to their lifestyle. She has a restless artist's soul in an endless dialogue with her fragile body, she has danced her whole life and gave birth to four children.

The film explores the arc of life of a ballerina through three generations.



TOTEM

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): TOOTEM

Director & producer: Birgit Rosenberg / Door 2

Estimated length: 60'

Production stage: In post-production

Estimated release: Spring 2024

Contact: Birgit Rosenberg, birgit.rosenberg@gmail.com

LOGLINE:

A Soviet T34 tank stands as a monument on the Estonian-Russian border with the gun turned westward. The prospect of its removal ignites passionate opposition, revealing a tense and somewhat surreal story of humans, politics, propaganda and the irresistible magnetism of steel.

SYNOPSIS:

Totem is an infamous tank T34 that stands on a high stone pedestal on the Estonian bank of Narva river – a natural border between Estonia and Russia with the gun provocatively facing the West. The legend says that this is a place where Soviet troops crossed the river to “liberate” Estonia during the Second World War. Estonians call it an occupation.

Now, 30 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union and months after the start of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the Estonian government orders to remove the Soviet relic. This ignites a growing resistance. People gather to protect the tank and everything it symbolizes. Russian activists, polarized city government, political opportunists and many others are pursuing

INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKER:

BIRGIT ROSENBERG

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER



Birgit Rosenberg is a researcher, documentary filmmaker and producer. With a background in social sciences and anthropology, she is mostly interested in social and political issues and of places and events where they manifest. Before graduating from Baltic Film, Media and Arts School as a producer and director she worked for human rights and advocacy organizations in Estonia and abroad. Since 2012 she has created documentary series for Estonian Public Broadcasting, produced and directed two short documentaries and assisted various international projects with productions in Estonia and beyond. She also works as a researcher for Baltic, Media and Arts School.

their agendas, manifesting their commitments, desires and fears all in the name of a tank. But is it all that simple? Contemporary hybrid war is fought on multiple levels and locations and the unfolding drama on this small square on the distant edge of Europe provides a window into the complexities of our times. As the events unfold for the removal of the tank, the river calmly flows on as a reminder of a history that never ends.

Totem is a tense and somewhat absurd story about humans, politics, and the magnetic power of steel.



AS FAR AS IT TAKES

ORIGINAL TITLE (FIN): ÄÄRIMMÄN ÄÄRELLÄ

Director: Lauri Autere

Estimated length: 80'

Production stage: In development

Estimated release: 2027

Contact: Lauri Autere, lh.autere@gmail.com

LOGLINE:

After spending 10 years filming the rise and fall of the ultranationalist movement founded by my old childhood pal, I need to have a final reckoning with him and his new friends.

SYNOPSIS:

An old friendship has offered the director a vantage point into extremist nationalism. In front of his eyes, Lauri's childhood friend Tuukka became a genuine fascist ideologue. Today it seems though that steam is running out of Tuukka's outrageous party-political effort, and the self-identified radical racists are going to find themselves in a dead end.

After a years long journey in the position of observatory filmmaker, Lauri feels the growing need to at last take initiative in his hands. He embarks a serious effort to get rid of toxic cynicism and nihilism in his friend Tuukka and his new pals.

This confrontation opens a window for change. It's time for reckoning. What do these far-out men – many of them recent fathers – find in the mirror when it's finally placed in front of them? What does looking into it do,

INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKER:

LAURI AUTERE

DIRECTOR



Lauri Autere is a Finnish documentarist, director of photography and environmental activist born in Rovaniemi, based in Helsinki. In his work he has been occupied with themes of societal change, polarization and ecological crisis. His documentary short *The One Who Remembers More*, which takes us to the long lost land of Sompio, has traveled the world from Tromsø to Murmansk and Palestine. The feature film *111 góðir dagar* with Lauri's cinematography won the prize of best film in Faroe Islands 2021.

to all of us involved? The film unfolds into a profoundly personal study concerning the paths and the needs that bring young men into this harrowing ideology.



ONCE WE WERE HEROES

Director: Oliwia Tonteri

Producers: Aino Halonen, Jerem Tonteri / Kompot (FIN)

Co-producer: Kamil Skatkowski / Kalejdoskop Film (PL)

Estimated length: 85'

Production stage: In development

Estimated release: early 2025

Contact: Jerem Tonteri, jerem@kompot.fi

LOGLINE:

Polish family father and coal miner, Szczepan, is admired by everybody in his community. Now time is up, all coal mines in Europe will be closed, but is it possible to abolish the heroes?

SYNOPSIS:

Coal Miner Szczepan with his daughter and colleagues take us into the Polish mining region. As a little boy he decided to be a coal miner just like his father and grandfather did.

Everyday Szczepan goes to the dark underground with his friends. They share good and bad moments together like soldiers on the battlefield. Soon will be his last shift and after that his colleagues will tear down his clothes with knives and scissors, so he can't wear them anymore. For Szczepan the world that was once admired and respected has been cracked. All coal mines will be closed in Europe.

Szczepan's daughter is very close to him. She is starting journalism studies in Krakow. It signifies a new phase for both her and her family – the cycles of growth and change. Does she have to protect her community's traditional values and her father's profession in the new environment?

INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

OLIWIA TONTERI

DIRECTOR

Oliwia Tonteri is a Helsinki-based film screenwriter, director and producer who has directed award-winning documentaries (e.g. Best Film for Lilli at Fresh Film Fest, Karlovy Vary 2007). Tonteri graduated with a Master of Arts from Aalto University. Tonteri's first feature was *The Blackouts*, co-directed by Jerem Tonteri. It was awarded with a Grand Prix at Emigra Film Festival Warsaw in 2019. Tonteri has dual Finnish and Polish citizenship and in her work she often considers the importance of transnationalism. Her documentary film project *Once We Were Heroes*, has been selected to take part in a year long Ice and Fire Docs workshop and Baltic Sea Doc Forum 2023.



AINO HALONEN

PRODUCER

Aino Halonen (b. 1973) works as a producer mainly with short films and documentaries. She is based in Helsinki, Finland, but has also worked in Azerbaijan directing short documentaries and produced a Finnish-Zambian co-production. Her productions have been successful at many festivals. For example the short film *Cold Storage* was the most distributed Finnish short film and *Rekonstruktio* was awarded as the best Nordic short in Nordic International Film Festival 2021. Her latest production, feature film *Palimpsest* was premiered in Venice film festival 2022.



JEREM TONTERI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Jerem Tonteri graduated from Aalto University with a master's degree in art. He co-directed together with Oliwia Tonteri a feature documentary *The Blackouts* (2018) which won Grand Prix at Emigra Film Festival. He teaches filmmaking in two different schools. He is also the scriptwriter and film editor for the project *Once We Were Heroes*.





WHO AM I SMILING FOR? (2023)

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): *KELLELE MA NAERATAN?*

Director: Eeva Mägi
Producer: Kristofer Piir / Allfilm

Length: 60'
World premiere: 53rd Giffoni Film Festival
Contact: Kristofer Piir, kristofer@allfilm.ee
Looking for sales

LOGLINE

Who am I Smiling for? is a film about the love of a mother and her children - nothing can separate them, not even death.

SYNOPSIS

Mari has terminal cancer. That's on top of fighting for custody of her daughter. In the midst of this all stands Oliver, the ever-smiling 12-year-old son. Mari prepares him for her death, how to talk or even play football with her after she passes away. When that day comes, he continues to share his life with her - not even death can separate them. This is a film about a young boy coming of age and navigating his life in a time of profound and irreversible change, finding his own way to grieve.



INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

EEVA MÄGI

DIRECTOR

Eeva Mägi (b. 1987) is an Estonian writer-director based in Tallinn, who's active in the field of fiction films and documentaries. She graduated from Directing Documentaries at the Baltic Film and Media School in 2015. Since then, she has directed successful shorts such as *Lembri Uudu* (2017) that had its premiere at DOK Leipzig and has later participated in many festivals such as PÖFF Shorts, Go Short, Sarajevo among others; her hybrid short doc *The Weight of All the Beauty* (2019) was longlisted to the Oscars after winning Best Short Documentary at Melbourne IFF; or her latest short *3rd Octave F* (2022) that kicked off at Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, then won Best Estonian short at PÖFF Shorts and got acquired by Canal+ so far. Eeva received the Young Filmmaker's Award by the Estonian Cultural Endowment in 2018, then the DocPoint Tallinn Young Filmmaker Award in 2019. *Who am I Smiling For?* (2023) is her first long-form documentary.

KRISTOFER PIIR

PRODUCER

Kristofer Piir (b. 1991) is an Estonian producer based in Tallinn. He graduated from the Baltic Film and Media School in 2014 from Audiovisual Media. He joined Allfilm's production team in 2019 as a Service Line-Producer for international features and scripted TV-dramas, then started working closely with director Eeva Mägi in 2020. Apart from the present documentary, their first fiction short together called *3rd Octave F* (2022) premiered at Switzerland's Winterthur Kurzfilmtage and won Best National Short Film Award at PÖFF Shorts. The film's international sales is handled by Origine Films and Canal+ has acquired broadcasting rights.

LYNX MAN (2023)

ORIGINAL TITLE (FIN): ILVESKUISKAAJA

Director: Juha Suonpää
Producers: Pasi Hakkio, Niina Virtanen / Wacky Tie Films
Co-producers: Liis Nimik, Juha Suonpää

Length: 80'
World premiere: CPH:DOX 2023
Sales: Rise and Shine World Sales
Contact: Pasi Hakkio, pasi@wackytie.f

LOGLINE:

Where do you draw the line between man and animal?

SYNOPSIS:

Following divorce and a serious accident Hannu lives alone on his farm in the West of Finland. An environment home to all kinds of wildlife – including the Eurasian lynx, a wildcat until recently almost extinct. When Hannu finds a dead lynx by the side of the road, it is like meeting an old friend: he realises that the lynx who lived in the area during his childhood have returned. Filled with renewed vigour and lust for life, Hannu sets up trail cameras all over his land. Soon, 23 cameras are recording everything from moose to mice. Hannu starts to get to know the lynx personally, learning their habits and habitats, relationships and individual characteristics. The spirit of the lynx permeates deeper and deeper into Hannu's world as he becomes increasingly fascinated by theirs.



INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

JUHA SUONPÄÄ

DIRECTOR

Juha Suonpää (b. 1963) is an Adjunct Professor in Art, Environmental and Nature Photography, a photographer and filmmaker. Suonpää works as the principal lecturer of visual culture in the International Degree Programme in Media and Arts at Tampere University of Applied Sciences, and as a Senior Academy researcher in a research project of Finnish Academy. Suonpää has exhibited internationally and published documentary films, numerous academic monographs and articles and researched, for example, topics related to photography, visualising science and the construction of the identity of a place. Suonpää's earlier film *Wolfman* premiered at Visions Du Reel Film Festival in 2013.

PASI HAKKIO

PRODUCER

Pasi Hakkio (b.1986) is a Finnish Film Producer, who entered the film branch through a German company Bavaria Film. At the age of 24 he started his first production company and co-produced a German-Finnish children's movie *Snow Queen*, which was nominated twice for a German Grimme-Award. Later Hakkio worked as a producer at *Pohjola-filmi* and moved to *Wacky Tie Films* in 2018. Since then he has been working with documentaries and shorts balancing between film and media art.

MY FAMILY AND OTHER CLOWNS

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): MINU PERE JA MUUD KLOUNID

Director: Heilika Pikkov, Liina Särkinen
Producer: Ülo Pikkov / Silmviburlane

Length: 90'
Production stage: In production
Estimated release: 2024
Contact: Ülo Pikkov, info@silmviburlane.ee
Looking for sales

LOGLINE:

How to survive parenthood, when you have a lot to juggle?

SYNOPSIS:

A film about a married couple, Haide and Toomas, with three children living in a tiny one-bedroom apartment in the suburb of Tallinn. They could be an ordinary family, but there's a catch – the parents are famous clowns and one of the kids is autistic.

Haide and Toomas met over 25 years ago, while studying in comedy school in Denmark and have been building up their successful career as clowns Piip and Tuut, entertaining thousands of children while their own children have been growing up on their own. Older daughter Emma has had to play the role of mother, taking care of her younger sister Anni and also their autistic brother Siim, which has been too heavy a burden to bear.

Now Haide and Toomas have come to a breaking point, where they must decide whether they can keep their theatre or give up their dream and save the family. Can they have it all?

A film about love and parenthood, chasing a dream and making sacrifices. A story full of tears and laughter that resonates with every family.



INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

HEILIKA PIKKOV

DIRECTOR

Heilika Pikkov (1982) is a documentary filmmaker and internationally well-known curator and cultural manager. For 8 years she was the organiser and programmer of the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival's animation festival Animated Dreams. She has made several documentaries, including *Flowers from the Mount of Olives* (2013), which had great success in Estonian cinemas and had its international premiere at the Locarno FF, and *My Flesh and Blood* (2018), which won Best Short Film of the Year at the Estonian Film and Television Awards.

LIINA SÄRKINEN

DIRECTOR

Liina Särkinen (1980) has studied directing and producing in Tallinn and obtained MA Degree in TV history and production in London. While in London, she produced a short film *Spicy Dealings* and directed a documentary *Homelessness*. Since moving back to Estonia, she has directed two documentaries - *Why Don't I Leave?* (2017) and *Fuel for Life* (2020), both commissioned by Estonian Public Broadcasting and produced by Silmviburlane.

ÜLO PIKKOV

PRODUCER

Ülo Pikkov (1976) is an internationally renowned filmmaker, producer and film scholar. He studied animation at the Turku Arts Academy in Finland and since 1996 has directed several award-winning animation films. He works at the Estonian Academy of Arts as a Professor and Head of the Animation Department and is also the manager and producer for documentary and animation films in Silmviburlane.

MY PARTNERS

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): MINU KALLIMAD

Director: Eva Kübar

Producer: Andres Maimik / Moonwalker Film

Length: 90'

Production stage: In post-production

Estimated release: 2024

Contact: Andres Maimik, andres@kuukulgur.ee

Looking for sales

LOGLINE:

Polyamory, the love solution?

SYNOPSIS:

Kay and Beate, Germans in their 50s based in Berlin have opened their relationship to polyamory after 30 years of Christian marriage. Living in the centre of sexual liberty they at least seem to know how poly should work – parties in Berlin's swingers' clubs, visits to a poly therapist and several affairs happening all over Europe.

In Estonia it's a different story altogether. Due to the Soviet background it's much harder to break the stereotype while living in the backwoods of Europe. Meeting the sensual Berliner Kay becomes a relief for Estonian housewife Marianne but a never-ending burden for her husband who is hospitalised for an anxiety disorder. Riita and Taavi, a couple in their late 30s who are trying out polyamory go very enthusiastically by the book. They start off with a proper contract of dos and don'ts at the therapist.

In *My Partners* we observe the personal stories of several people living in polyamory. It's a challenging choice where coping with the lack of self-esteem and fighting with jealousy is just the tip of the iceberg.



INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

EVA KÜBAR

DIRECTOR

Eva Kübar (1981) is an Estonian filmmaker and film teacher. She has studied film directing in Baltic Film and Media School (BFM). Her graduation work, short film Three (Kolm) has earned several international prizes and travelled in a lot of festivals (Beijing Film Academy student film festival (China), 2ANNAS (Latvia), Le Cinema et la Mer (Morocco) etc). In addition to that Eva works as a film producer, casting director and 1st assistant director. Her first documentary Feathers and Glamour about chicken living in the urban environment was released 2023 and has been travelling in festivals in Estonia. At the moment Eva is working on two documentary projects - My Partners, a documentary about polyamory (post-production) and Hilda Ha, a short documentary about a single mother living off-grid life.

ANDRES MAIMIK

PRODUCER

Andres Maimik (1970) is an Estonian multi-talent in the filmmaking field. Has been working as a documentary filmmaker, scriptwriter, editor and producer and also as a copywriter, freelance journalist, film critic, actor and teacher. Currently he is working as a film and TV commercial director in Moonwalker Film. His documentaries and features have won several prizes in festivals. As a member of FIPRESCI he has been writing film critics and theoretical essays for the main newspapers and cultural journals of Estonia. In 1999 he was awarded a prize as a "Best Estonian Filmjournalist".

THAT'S HOW IT IS

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): HÄÄLTE JÕUD

Director: Vallo Toomla

Producer: Kaie-Ene Rääk / F-Seitse

Length: 82'

Production stage: In post-production

Estimated release: 2024

Contact: Kaie-Ene Rääk, kaie@fseitse.ee

Looking for sales

LOGLINE:

Six men, who open up through little joys and worries of everyday life.

SYNOPSIS:

The documentary feature *That's How It Is* by Vallo Toomla takes the audience into the world of six men, who open up through little joys and worries of everyday life. What does Meelis, the owner of a small town nursing home, dream about, or how does the former pig farmer Janek raise his four sons? How does forester Rein find a new spark in life in the game of darts, and farmer Eku in potato planting? Does septic tank servicer Kaido have any regrets in life, and how often does he bring flowers to his wife? Does hobby inventor Juss see God in the details, and what is the hydraulic mower transmission? These are glimpses into how men in midlife find meaning in life, accept life, and search for joy in life amid acceptance. As the well-known Estonian song goes, "We do not fear drowning, not falling into well, headlong we plunge into a creek, rush into a bear's lair." That's how it is.



INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKERS:

VALLO TOOMLA

DIRECTOR

Vallo Toomla (b. 1983) has studied theology at Tartu University and film directing at Baltic Film and Media School. He has been in versatile roles in front and behind the camera but is best known as a director. Vallo has directed five short films and one puppet animation. His first student work *Morbis* (2009) was selected for the International Student Festival *Sleepwalkers* at PÖFF and won the award of the Best Estonian Short Film. His debut feature film *Pretenders* (2016) had its international premiere at the San Sebastian International Film Festival. The film was selected to several international film festivals and won awards for best director and film. His debut documentary *Verba Dierum: a year with Marju Lepajõe* (2019) had an unexpected success in Estonian cinemas and got the annual award of the Estonian Cultural Endowment for the best documentary of the year 2019 and the state cultural award of Estonia 2020.

KAIE-ENE RÄÄK

PRODUCER

Kaie-Ene Rääk started her career in 1980 as a film editor. She has edited 22 feature films and more than 60 documentaries. In 1998 she established together with six other film professionals the film production company F- Seitse OÜ. As a film producer she started in 2002 with a feature project called *Somnambul* by Sulev Keedus. During these 19 years, she has produced five long feature films (all in international co-production as main producer) and 11 documentaries. Most of the films have received the annual award of the Estonian Cultural Endowment, and have been shown at several international film festivals e.g. Rotterdam, Seattle, Haifa, Göteborg, Karlovy Vary, Melbourne and won various prizes.

GOOD LUCK, MR PRESIDENT!

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): ÕNN KAASA, HR PRESIDENT!

Director & producer: Jaan Tootsen / Aadam ja pojad OÜ
Co-producer: Rain Tamm

Length: 90'

Production stage: In post-production

Estimated release: 2024

Contact: Jaan Tootsen, jaan.tootsen@gmail.com

Looking for sales

LOGLINE:

It is impossible to imprison the free spirit.

SYNOPSIS:

A man who reads piles of books, meets with the most influential people in the world and is an opinion leader in world politics, yet still feels at his best as a DJ spinning records in a nightclub. This is a president of a tiny country, who studied psychology at university. Someone who has always been more of a music lover and an intellectual rather than a career politician.

How to reconcile a youthful and sometimes untamable head of state with societal expectations? How do you deal with a situation when your private life is in the public's focus? How to be yourself and protect your mental health? What is the goal and content of all endeavours?

We get an energetic and humorous insight into a period that Toomas Hendrik Ilves has called one of the hardest times of his entire life. How is a head of state supposed to feel as he is torn between being a newly divorced dad who is struggling to find his daughter's sleeping bag for a field trip, and being a president who is just



INTRODUCTION TO THE FILMMAKER:

JAAN TOOTSEN

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

A journalist, film director and producer Jaan Tootsen was born on 14th of October 1975. He studied 1994-1995 in the Estonian Institute of Humanities and 1995-2000 in Tallinn Pedagogical Institute. He is a creator and a long time editor of the popular radio broadcast series called Night University. In 2012-2016 he worked as a cultural adviser to the President of the Republic of Estonia. His documentaries include films such as New World, Velosophers, Vello Salo. Everyday mysticism, Fred Jüssi. Beauty of being.

minutes away from meeting the United States Secretary of Defense. How to cope with private life in front of the public eye?



MIKAEL OPSTRUP

A specialist in international project development, trailer consultancy, co-productions, workshop planning & tutoring. Head of Studies at European Documentary Network, EDN (2011-19), creator and editor of EDNs Co-production Guide. Worked as expert, tutor or moderator for IDFA (Netherlands), Hot Docs (Canada), Nordisk Panorama (Denmark/Sweden), Institute of Documentary Film (Czech Republic), Baltic Sea Docs (Latvia), Docs Barcelona (Spain), In Docs (Indonesia), Dox Box (Syria/Germany) a.o.

Developed and headed a number of international workshops. Produced international documentaries for a couple of decades, latest as co-owner of Final Cut Productions in Copenhagen, Denmark (2002-09). Documentary Producer at The Danish Film Institute (1998-2002). Attended script writing at the Danish Film School (1988). Has worked for more than 50 documentary organisations & events all over the world. Author of the book 'THE UNCERTAINTY - A book about developing Character driven Documentary', 2021.



JESPER OSMUND, DFK

...is a Danish film editor, narrative consultant and tutor. He started his career in fiction, but became increasingly drawn to documentary films and as he puts it: "to edit without a script".

Today he has edited over 100 international documentaries: The Last Relic - World premiere HOT DOCS Toronto 2023, Nelly & Nadine - Berlinale Teddy Award 2022, No Burqas Behind Bars - International Emmy Award 2014. And award-winning films like: Only the Devil Lives Without Hope · Becoming Zlatan · Every Face Has A Name · Commander Arian · The Well · I Will Be Murdered · Big Boys Gone Bananas!*

He's often called upon as a story consultant, like on the Netflix-series: Nisman: The Prosecutor, The President and the Spy and award-winning films like Nothing but the Sun · Amazona · I Called Him Morgan. He's a valued mentor for emerging filmmakers (Ice and Fire Docs Estonia, DocMontevideo, EIDF Korea, IDFAcademy) and a regular tutor at pitching workshops (Below ZERO Norway, Thessaloniki IDF, DocLisboa, Baltic Forum, One World Media and FDC Colombia).



GITTE HANSEN

Gitte is independent film consultant in the international documentary field with focus on project development, production, financing and distribution of films with international potential. Gitte is currently a committed mentor for the co-production training-scheme Close-Up and Finnish AVEK's Talent Development Lab Kehittämö. In addition, she serves at various workshops such as IDFA Project Space and Documentary Campus, at institutes, schools and organisations as mentor, tutor, or consultant, and at festivals and pitching events as moderator such as CPH:DOX and Nordisk Panorama. She furthermore works with individual production companies with a background as executive producer of more than 20 international documentaries and series for First Hand Films, where she was deputy director and headed sales and acquisitions for many years. Gitte holds a Master of Film & Rhetoric from the University of Copenhagen.

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ICE AND FIRE DOCS

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FB: Ice and Fire Docs

ESTONIAN DOCUMENTARY GUILD



ICE AND FIRE DOCS

Ice and Fire Docs is a creative documentary workshop for Estonian and Finnish filmmakers with international ambitions. Throughout the workshop the participants work with different aspects of developing, producing, financing and distributing a feature length documentary film.

The workshop lasts for a year and consists of three parts. The first and second sessions focus on the development of narrative, visual aspects of storytelling and editing techniques. The last session has a focus on promotion and distribution.

Ice and Fire Docs took place for the first time in 2019. It was initiated by the Estonian Documentary Guild and the Estonian Film Institute and is now being organised in close cooperation with the Finnish Documentary Guild. The workshop is funded by the Estonian Film Institute, the Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture in Finland AVEK and Finnish Film Foundation.

ICE AND FIRE DOCS PROJECTS

2019/20:

2 Hours to Happiness
A Man's Pain
Celebrating Life
Good Luck, Mr. President!
Karaoke Paradise
My Partners
Smoke Sauna Sisterhood
The Engineer and The Butterfly

2021/22:

All my 100 Grandmothers
Clout Chasers
Lynx Man
My Family and Other Clowns
That's How It Is
Tip Rail
Who am I Smiling for?

2023:

As Far As It Takes
Coaching for Ordinary People
Once We Were Heroes
Running For the Wolves
Standing in My Power
The Perfect
Totem