

ICE ▲ AND
▲ FIRE
DO ● CS

2025



CREATIVE DOCUMENTARY WORKSHOP

TESTIMONIALS	4
BEAUTIFUL STUPID THING	8
BORDERLINE	10
GOD IS TANGO	12
HOW WE DIE	14
MY SHIT LIFE	16
THE RUNAWAY BRAIN	18
THE STORY OF THE WILD ROSE	20
COMING SOON	22
TUTORS	27
CONTACTS	30
PREVIOUS PROJECTS	31

JUHA SUONPÄÄ

PARTICIPANT OF THE SECOND ICE AND FIRE DOCS

Taking part in the Ice and Fire Docs was a truly transformative experience for me as a filmmaker. The process challenged me to look at my material and my story with fresh eyes, and to push beyond familiar ways of thinking.

What impressed me most was the inspiring, supportive atmosphere: the tutors and peers created a safe but demanding environment where I gained the confidence to rediscover my familiar subject matter and to understand what really resonates with others. This was crucial, because a film is never only the director's interpretation – it is also a piece of art that comes fully alive only in dialogue with its audience.

The development process itself was particularly enriching because of the hybrid encounter between experienced filmmakers and younger voices. This mix generated a creative energy where new perspectives could flourish alongside tested wisdom. Looking back, I am certain that Lynx Man would not have become the widely resonant, award-winning film it is today without the unique encouragement, openness, and vision of the Ice and Fire Docs process.



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. 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 Réel 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.



LYNX MAN (2023)

ORIGINAL TITLE (FIN): ILVESKUUSKAAJA

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, info@riseandshine-berlin.de
Contact: Pasi Hakkio, pasi@wackytie.fi

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

Where do you draw the line between man and animal?

In his attempt to save lynx from extinction, Hannu finds himself becoming one.

AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS:

Lynx Man has received multiple awards, including the Main Prize at CINEMAMBIENTE, a Special Mention at Nordic:DOX during CPH:DOX, Best Feature Documentary at GZDOC, Best Director at the Ulsan Ulju Mountain Film Festival, and the 'Alpine Camera in Gold' at Mountainfilm Graz. The film has also been screened at more than 20 film festivals, reaching audiences worldwide at events such as CPH:DOX, Hot Docs, DOK.fest München, and Nordisk Panorama.

JAAN TOOTSEN

PARTICIPANT OF THE FIRST ICE AND FIRE DOCS

Ice and Fire Docs workshop has a truly unique creative environment. One of its steady guiding figures has been Mikael Opstrup from Denmark — an experienced producer who, with warmth and kindness yet firm resolve, has helped steer the “documentary vessel” through the often treacherous seas of filmmaking.

Our session was also joined by editor Jesper Osmund, a highly regarded editor with extensive international experience. With great sensitivity, he was able to draw out the uniqueness and strengths of each project, encouraging filmmakers to preserve and develop their distinct qualities.

Together, the two tutors created a broader framework — that of world cinema — where, ideally, every film from the workshop might eventually find its place. They challenged us to consider how each work, with all its imperfections and merits, could survive in such a demanding arena.

The atmosphere of the workshop was warm, supportive, and highly creative. Equally valuable was the feedback we received from fellow participants — in our case, both from Estonia and Finland — which enriched the process and strengthened our film.



JAAN TOOTSEN

DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER

Jaan Tootsen (b. 1975) is an award-winning Estonian filmmaker who has forged an acclaimed career with distinctive documentaries that beautifully encapsulate the personal, often hidden, human experience within a rich socio-political context. Tootsen debuted with *The New World* (2011), a vivid exploration of the urban anarchist-hipster community in Estonia's capital. His latest work, *Rebel with a Bow Tie*, is a distinctly non-political, wry observation of the most eccentric and consequential politician-you-probably-never-have-heard-of, Estonia's President Toomas Hendrik Ilves. Tootsen's non-conformist vision reveals the myriad fractures in the dynamic relationship between individuality and community, and marks him out as the latest of Estonia's “New Wave” filmmakers to invigorate global audiences through their bold, distinctive approach to cinematic storytelling.



REBEL WITH A BOW TIE (2024)

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): KIKILIPSUGA MÄSSAJA

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

Length: 94'

World premiere: Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2024

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

SHORT SYNOPSIS:

A documentary filmmaker who spent five years making a film about the hippies of the New World district in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, suddenly finds himself working at the President's Office.

The trickster observes life in the castle.

CINEMA RUN:

Over 25,000 people have experienced *Rebel with a Bow Tie* in cinemas.

BEAUTIFUL STUPID THING

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): KURADI ILUS ASI

PREVIOUS WORKING TITLE: THREADS OF MY ANCESTORS

Director: Carlos E. Lesmes

Producer: Merili Laur / Tin Can

Length: 93'

Production stage: In post-production

Estimated premiere: 2026

Contact: Merili Laur, laurmerili@gmail.com

LOGLINE:

After living apart for over 13 years Angela and Carlos, mother and son, reunite when she migrates from Colombia to Estonia. What begins as a playful documentary search for an imagined ancestor, becomes a journey into the pains of the past and the possibilities of the future.

SYNOPSIS:

Angela is moving from Colombia to Estonia. At age 62, she uprooted herself and decided to start a new life on the other side of the world, closer to her children. Carlos has been living in Estonia for 13 years. He ran away from Colombia, and now the wound that drove his family apart is coming together with his mother, Angela.

While Angela adjusts to Estonia and deals with the migration process, Carlos is making a film about roots, and Angela becomes a part of it. Together they imagine that they have an Estonian ancestor to justify them being in Estonia. They start playing games so they can exist together.

Angela does not talk about the wound, neither does Carlos. They share that silence. But the wound demands attention and the games crumble. The distance between Angela and

CARLOS E. LESMES

DIRECTOR

Carlos E. Lesmes is a Colombian film director currently based in Estonia. Graduated from Universidad Nacional de Colombia in 2010, and from the MA in Baltic Film and Arts School in 2014, Carlos has been an active member of the Estonian film community. Currently, Carlos is in the last year of his PHD at Tallinn University, where he also teaches documentary filmmaking.

His film work varies in style and genres, from science fiction and dance to experimental and narrative dramas, always carrying raw emotions and energy and has been screened in festivals around the world like Fantasia Film Festival, Black Nights Film Festival and Bogoshorts.

His first Documentary feature A Loss of Something Ever felt premiered in Hot docs in 2020 and received the Best Documentary film Award at the Estonian Film and Television Awards in 2021.

MERILI LAUR

PRODUCER

Merili Laur is an emerging film producer based in Tallinn, Estonia. She graduated with a BA in film production in 2022 from the Baltic Film and Media School of Tallinn University. Her student films have been selected to Black Nights Film Festival and several foreign festivals. She has worked on different local and foreign features, as a line producer and production manager. Currently she is working on her first feature documentary as producer and developing two short films. She is an alumni of the Producers LINK 2025 and Baltic Women in Film program 2024-2025. Merili is inspired by people with their unique stories and how they relate to the surrounding world and environment.

Carlos must be addressed – the pain and hurt that drove the family apart: Andres' murder. Angela's first son and Carlos' older brother.

This is a film about the complex reality of family relationships. It's a tale of a mother and a son trying to rebuild their relationship through imagination.



BORDERLINE

Directors: Ville Seppänen, Johan Huimerind
Producer: Johan Huimerind / Dokfilm OÜ

Length: 90'
Production stage: In development
Estimated premiere: 2028
Contact: Johan Huimerind, johan.huimerind@gmail.com

LOGLINE:

As violent crises return to Europe's edge, Borderline follows locals who cross and question the visible and invisible borders shaping their lives.

SYNOPSIS:

In the deep woods, wastelands and post-industrial towns of Estonia and Finland, locals have generations of experience surviving border conflicts between great powers. Borderline takes the spectator on an absurd journey to the in-between worlds. The film travels to Karelia for a mushroom tea and to Setomaa for an ether ceremony, and tells how to protect oneself from the sirens of the forest. In the borderlands, the main characters live on many kinds of borders, refusing to let norms decide who they are.

Borderline searches for spiritual experiences, altered states of mind, and moments of contact with otherworldly beings. What lies on the other side? Can one travel from one world to another, from one reality to the next? The film moves between the concrete and the symbolic, showing how borders shape our lives in today's world. From the periphery, one can sometimes see more clearly into the core.

VILLE SEPPÄNEN DIRECTOR



Ville Seppänen has worked as a scenographer in theatres across Europe for years. Borderline is his first feature-length documentary. He is happy with this border crossing and feels at home in liminal spaces. Seppänen has made three short documentary films: Coq Au Vin, screened at Pärnu Film Festival, Happy Independence Day, screened at Tampere International Film Festival, and Happy Fucking New Year, screened at Premieres Regards festival. Seppänen's artmaking is characterized by exploration of boundaries.

JOHAN HUIMERIND DIRECTOR & PRODUCER



Johan Huimerind (b. 1991) is a diverse filmmaker with a background in photography, filmmaking, and production. A relatively young talent in the industry, he has directed, produced, and shot a variety of documentary shorts. Currently, Johan is working on his feature-length debut, Laskumine Orgu, as well as his television debut, Maarjamaa Salatoimikud. In addition to his creative work, Johan has contributed to the Pärnu Film Festival as an organizer. He holds a Master's degree in Documentary Filmmaking from University of Tallinn (2022). His projects have spanned Estonia, Germany, and New York, where he combines his passion for storytelling with a strong visual language.



GOD IS TANGO

Director: Annika Grof

Producer: Joon Tervakari / Tarasow Films

Co-producer: Marianna Kaat / Baltic Film Production

Length: 100'

Production stage: In development and filming

Estimated premiere: 2027

Contact: Joon Tervakari, joon@tarasow.org

SYNOPSIS:

A film about Argentine tango as a path to relief in the midst of turmoil. Tangueros around the world try to cope with feelings of shock, anger and fear. Tango helps them to believe that the future exists. Regardless of religion or culture, the tangueros create an invisible bond with each other. They are united by the power of music, movement and the deepest message of tango: accept, listen and communicate. But will it ever be possible to dance again with a former partner who has become an enemy? Does tango give a man what even the gods have failed to do; a chance to connect with those left on the other side of the border?

ANNIKA GROF

DIRECTOR

Annika Grof is a Swedish-born Finnish screenwriter and film director. She has also worked as a developer, dramatist and funding expert in film, tv and commercial productions since 2006. Annika has created and conceptualised successful series for the Finnish audience and has also directed three theatrical films in addition to other artistic work. As a filmmaker, Annika works with fiction and non-fiction films. Her latest film works are a timeless epoch drama *There Will Be Spring* (2020), that got its international premiere at Midnight Sun Film Festival in June 2021, and an edgy and popping collage documentary *The Other Voice* (2022). One of her best known films is *Within Limits* (2009) that has become a classic of Finnish documentary films.



JOON TERVAKARI

PRODUCER

Joon Tervakari is a Finnish film producer and founder of Tarasow Films (2007). With a background spanning television, film, commercials and art, he has worked both as an editor and a producer. In 2012, he was nominated for the Finnish Film Award for Best Editing. His broad experience and deep understanding of the production process have taken him from artistic documentaries and fine art projects to narrative films. Today, he focuses mainly on producing feature films.



MARIANNA KAAT

CO-PRODUCER

Marianna Kaat is an award-winning filmmaker and producer based in Tallinn, Estonia, with over three decades in the industry. She is the founder of Baltic Film Production (BFP), an independent production company specializing in internationally recognized documentaries. Her films have won accolades at DOK Leipzig, Karlovy Vary, IDFF Artdocfest Riga, and Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, among others.



HOW WE DIE

Director: Rabbe Sandström

Producer: Isabella Karhu / Danish Bear Productions Oy

Length: 90'

Production stage: In development

Estimated premiere: 2027

Contact: Isabella Karhu, isabella@danishbear.com

LOGLINE:

Could it be safe to die?

SYNOPSIS:

How We Die is an intimate documentary that takes us, together with fresh hospice volunteers, to the banks at the end of the river of life, where they encounter and help the dying.

After four months of initial training, the volunteers move on to take shifts in the ward of the terminally ill. The first steps are exciting; death understandably carries a tremendous weight - how to approach, interact, and be with the patients without doing something inappropriate? The importance of listening and being present is emphasized as the volunteers try to find clues for their next actions, or no actions for that matter.

Secretly the volunteers want to find something for themselves, something that would ease the heavy feeling of being a human in this life. As they spend time with patients from all ages and walks of life, helping where needed, the volunteers are touched, and they open up about their most intimate thoughts and yearnings. And why is death easy for someone and very difficult

RABBE SANDSTRÖM

DIRECTOR



Rabbe Sandström (b. 1983) is a promising new filmmaker with years of experience working as an editor on audiovisual projects of many lengths, styles and forms such as documentaries, tv-series, short films and video art. He holds a documentary MA from Baltic Film, Media and Arts School from which he graduated in 2020. His medium length (56min) graduation film *Samarbeit* that he shot, edited and directed was premiered in DocPoint(2020).

He is well versed in many styles of audiovisual projects and roles, but creative documentaries and especially observational documentaries are his passion, and he draws inspiration from filmmakers such as Nicolas Philibert and Kazuhiro Soda. He is also a member of the Finnish Documentary Guild since 2020.

Alongside of his filmic endeavours he has practiced zen for nearly two decades in lay and monastic settings and is now interested in using his experiences in film in regards to both existential themes and transmission of a presence.

ISABELLA KARHU

PRODUCER



Isabella Karhu (b. 1988) is an award-winning filmmaker who has studied filmmaking at the LAB Institute of Design and Fine Arts, from where she graduated in 2014. She co-founded the creative documentary-oriented production company Danish Bear Productions in 2015. At Danish Bear, our aim is to produce high- quality creative films with strong artistic values. We are passionate about cinema.

Isabella is an alumna of Emerging Producers (2024), DocPoint Impact (2001), DocForward (2020), and Rotterdam Lab (2017). She has also been a member of the Finnish Documentary Guild since 2014. In her free time she reads, crafts, and plays video games. She is also a mother of two children and one dog.

for somebody else? And what kind of corrective measures could be done before it's time to go? Could it be safe to die?



MY SHIT LIFE

Director: Tuija Halttunen
Producer: Oona Saari / Illume Oy

Length: 85'
Production stage: In late development
Estimated premiere: 2026
Contact: Oona Saari, oona.saari@illume.fi

LOGLINE:

The fall of a toilet hero

SYNOPSIS:

A celebrated toilet hero faces criminal charges that destroy her life's work of building toilets in Zambia. She must face the cost of her idealism and mission to save the world.

TUIJA HALTTUNEN

DIRECTOR

A Finnish filmmaker with 30 years of experience in the film industry, Tuija Halttunen's latest feature documentary, *How to Kill a Cloud* (2021), was a festival success, winning an award, among others, at the Locarno Film Festival. The film was the first Finnish documentary ever to be sold to VICE Media for global distribution and has reached over a million viewers. The film continues to travel, with ongoing negotiations to be part of exhibitions at two European museums in 2025. In total, she has written and directed twenty documentaries and a comedy TV series. Beyond filmmaking, she has served as a teacher in a film school and a lecturer and jury member at international film festivals. Halttunen worked as a regional artist at TAIKE Finland for five years, making film art more accessible by organizing events in cinemas and school tours about films and filmmaking. She organized versatile learning events for professional filmmakers. Halttunen's films are character-driven, often exploring themes of the complexity of life choices, moral choices, and ecological issues.



OONA SAARI

PRODUCER

Producer Oona Saari has been working at production company Illume Oy since 2018. She serves as the company's CEO and full-time producer. Since becoming a producer in 2022, she has produced two documentaries: *Strangers in the Dark* (2023), shown in over 30 film festivals and *I smell a mouse* (2024). Now her first feature-length documentary *Rebellion for life* (2025) is in production. Additionally, she has worked as a production manager/assistant producer on nine feature-length documentaries. In 2022, she was selected for the Eurodoc training program with the project *Cello* and participated in the IDFAcademy training that same year. In 2024 she was part of the Young Nordic Producers Club in Cannes.



THE RUNAWAY BRAIN

ORIGINAL TITLE (FIN): AIVO KARKAAVA PÄÄSTÄ

Director: Sanna Liinamaa

Producer: Jorma Kaulanen / Kajo Productions Ltd

Length: 70'

Production stage: In development

Estimated premiere: June 2027

Contact: Jorma Kaulanen, jorma@kajoproductions.fi

LOGLINE:

It doesn't make Nikke's desire any easier when his Brain escapes to look for a new body—and love.

SYNOPSIS:

Runaway Brain combines documentary footage with animation, where Nikke's Brain jumps out of his skull and sets off on an adventure through a drawn world. It is a world Nikke intuitively creates each day, like a visual diary, using comic-like drawings filled with sharp humour, serious thoughts, and strong emotions.

Nikke's drawings reflect reality in a unique way, shaped in part by his experience of living with Down syndrome. The characters and scenes are often absurd, leaving plenty of room for interpretation. Speech bubbles ask questions: 'Who do I want to become? How do I deal with depression? Why do I need to draw?'

Animation is the way to follow Brain's journey through joy, desires, and the darkness of depression before returning to the light.

Nikke photographs his drawings and shares them on Facebook, where he refers to himself by the alias "downninsyndroma-human." His posts

SANNA LIINAMAA

DIRECTOR

Sanna Liinamaa is a Finnish documentary filmmaker with over 20 years of experience in creative documentary and experimental storytelling. She has directed a dozen creative documentary films, in which the main characters often live on the margins or belong to a minority in some way.

Her latest film, *Skeleton Dance* (2024), combines animation, butō dance, and documentary narrative, and premiered at Dance Camera West in Hollywood.

Liinamaa holds an MA in Film Editing from Aalto University and has also studied cultural anthropology, journalism, and natural sciences.



JORMA KAULANEN

PRODUCER

Jorma Kaulanen (b. 1982) is a Helsinki-based producer and founder of Kajo Productions Ltd. Originally from Finnish Lapland, he holds a Master of Arts from Aalto University, with a focus on film production and sound design.

Kaulanen's work spans documentary and fiction films, animation, television, and audio drama, often exploring human-centered themes and inclusive storytelling. He has collaborated with neurodivergent creators, young people, and artists from marginalized communities, crafting projects that combine artistic ambition with social relevance.

His recent productions include *Good Night Dinosaur* (2024), *Taylor Swift, My World* (2024), and *Pari iisii droppii* (2025). He received the Jussi Award for Best Sound Design for *The Woodcutter Story* (2023), and his work has been featured at Cannes, Nordisk Panorama, and other international festivals.



receive a handful of likes from a small circle of friends. This has been his routine for years. Now, something is changing: Nikke has been invited to exhibit his work at the Outsider Art Festival.

Nikke's drawings offer the audience gentle ways to reflect on themselves and the world around them.



THE STORY OF THE WILD ROSE

Directors: Liis Nimik, Kristen Aigro
Producer: Liis Nimik / Klara Films

Length: 88'
Production stage: In development
Estimated premiere: 2027
Contact: Liis Nimik, liis@klarafilms.ee

LOGLINE:

A Mexican telenovela takes Estonia by storm in 1993 and reaches viewership records that remain unchallenged to this day. Portraying the absurdity of the times through the eyes of a 10-year-old girl and her everyday life, a lively journey full of humour, hardships, and endless personal desires will take us from collectivism to individualism.

SYNOPSIS:

The Story of the Wild Rose is a return to a unique moment in time when two very different worlds collided in Estonia in 1993. After Estonia's National Television accidentally acquired a soap opera, no one could have predicted the telenovela craze that followed. The streets were empty, people gathered around televisions in homes, factories and offices for half an hour of escapism from their grey and dreary realities in the poor and difficult years of rebuilding a country. It brought people together, ignited endless discussions on topics that had not been explored before; it even changed the way children and adults spoke. Mixing archives with re-enactments, a 10-year-old girl relives the collective euphoria and its stark social contrast.

KRISTEN AIGRO

DIRECTOR

Director Kristen Aigro (b. 1993) holds a BA in Audiovisual Media from the Baltic Film and Media School (BFM) of Tallinn University. During her studies, Kristen directed two short documentaries, one short fiction film, and produced a further three short films. Prior to her film studies, Kristen studied History and Philosophy at the University of Tartu and had a more than a decade-long career working for various international non-profit organizations.



LIIS NIMIK

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Liis Nimik (b. 1979) is an Estonian filmmaker, editor, lecturer, and researcher whose work moves between the borders of fiction and documentary. Her debut feature Sundial (2023) premiered at Visions du Réel and Hot Docs, winning several awards for its quiet intensity. As an editor, she has shaped some of Estonia's most celebrated arthouse films, including Free Range (2013) and Roukli (2015).

The recent films she produced through her company Klara Films – Lembri Uudu (2017), The Weight of All the Beauty (2019), A Loss of Something Ever Felt (2020), and two co-productions, Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway (2019) and Lynxman (2023) – have all been international festival successes, having been premiered, screened and awarded at festivals like DOK Leipzig, Sarajevo, Hot Docs, Melbourne IFF, Ji.hlava, Visions du Réel, CPH:DOX, Fantasia, and many more. With a deep sensitivity to both form and feeling, she has taught editing for over a decade at the Baltic Film School and abroad. A member of the European Film Academy, she is currently exploring film editing as artistic research.



Our main character witnesses the absurdity of the times and begins to understand that she too is entitled to pursue her very own personal dreams and desires.



COACHING FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): COACHING TAVALISELE INIMESELE

Director & producer: Kaupo Kruusiau / Flo Film

Length: 90'

Production stage: In post-production

Estimated release: Spring 2026

Contact: Katre Ratassepp (sales and distribution), katre@fiofilm.ee

Looking for broadcasters, sales, distributors, festivals

LOGLINE:

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

SYNOPSIS:

Coaching for Ordinary People follows three individuals striving to fulfill their dreams through coaching.

Pille aspires to earn €20,000 a month, Lii seeks to strengthen her personal boundaries, and Armin hopes to become a coach himself. The film explores how coaching shapes lives while reflecting society's pursuit of happiness. Do coaches truly guide us—or simply fill a temporary void in an increasingly lonely world?



KAUPO KRUUSIAUK

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Kaupo Kruusiau 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 Kruusiau has explored the chess player Jaan Ehilvest (Mängija, 2008), actor and musician Peeter Volkonski (Viimane vürst, 2018), musician and composer Maria Faust (Machina Faust, 2022) and top-ranked tennis player Anett Kontaveit (Anett, 2024). Machina Faust stands as Kaupo Kruusiau'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.

MY FAMILY AND OTHER CLOWNS

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): MINU PERE JA MUUD KLOUNID

Directors: Heilika Pikkov, Liina Särkinen

Producer: Ülo Pikkov / Silmviburlane

Length: 83'

To be released: September 2025

Contact: Ülo Pikkov, info@silmviburlane.ee

Looking for broadcasters, sales, distributors, festivals

LOGLINE:

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

SYNOPSIS:

Actors Haide and Toomas are a beloved clown duo, Piip and Tuut, who have won the hearts of families in Estonia and abroad over the past 25 years. They have their own theatre and a loyal fanbase—but also three children who grow up mostly without them.

Their eldest daughter Emma follows in their footsteps, balancing her passion for theatre with caring for her younger siblings. Siim, who is autistic, loves films and Legos but needs constant support. Youngest daughter Anni just wishes her parents had normal jobs—and that she could have a pet.

As Haide and Toomas juggle life on stage and at home, guilt and exhaustion begin to grow. How do you build a future for your children, keep your theatre alive, and stay together?

A heartfelt story of love, sacrifice, and the everyday circus of family life.



HEILIKA PIKKOV DIRECTOR

Heilika Pikkov is a documentary filmmaker and manager of cultural programmes. Together with Ülo Pikkov she runs a production company Silmviburlane in Tallinn, Estonia which focuses on documentary, animation and animated documentaries. Her first feature documentary Flowers from the Mount of Olives (2013) premiered at the Locarno FF and had great success in Estonian cinemas. Her short documentary My Flesh and Blood (2018) won the Best Short Film of the Year at the Estonian Film and Television Awards.

LIINA SÄRKINEN DIRECTOR

Liina Särkinen has studied directing and producing in Tallinn and obtained a 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 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, supporting new talent in the Estonian animation scene. He is the manager and producer for documentary and animation films at Silmviburlane. Ülo is a member of the Estonian Filmmakers Association, Estonian Documentary Guild, Estonian Animation Union and the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

ST. BARBARA'S CHILDREN

Director: Oliwia Tonteri
Producers: Aino Halonen, Jerem Tonteri / Kompot
Co-producer: Kamil Skatkowski / Kalejdoskop Film

Length: 80'
Production stage: Late development
Estimated release: 2027
Contact: Jerem Tonteri, jerem@kompot.fi
Looking for broadcasters, sales, distributors, festivals



LOGLINE:

A film director clinging to a romanticized Poland searches for the mining heroes of her childhood.

SYNOPSIS:

Director Oliwia had a happy childhood in Poland, where coal miners were national heroes. After moving to Finland at age 8 in 1987, socialist Poland remained frozen in her romantic childhood memories where the truth was different.

Thirty years later, Oliwia returns to look for her childhood heroes. She wants to explore the Silesian coal mining region. Climate change and Europe's green transition are forcing mines to close, and coal miners must find a new direction for their lives.

Three experienced coal miners show the shrinking mining towns that young people are leaving behind. Former workplaces are turned into museums and mining orchestras play their final notes. The whole culture is disappearing.

Oliwia's own experience of immigration parallels the miners' situation. Both have lost the culture that used to define their identity and they are moving toward accepting change.

OLIWIA TONTERI DIRECTOR

Oliwia Tonteri is a Polish-born Finnish film director living in Helsinki. She has directed several films since 2004, which have been successful at film festivals. For example, Lilli (2006) won the best film award at Karlovy Vary, and her latest feature documentary, Blackouts (2018), co-directed with Jerem Tonteri, won the Grand Prix at the Emigra Film Festival. Currently, she has a feature documentary St. Barbara's Children in development.

AINO HALONEN PRODUCER

Aino Halonen works as a producer primarily with short films and documentaries. She lives in Helsinki, but has also worked in Azerbaijan directing short documentaries and produced a Finnish-Zambian feature documentary. Her latest production, the feature film Palimpsest had its premiere at the Venice Film Festival in 2022 and its Finnish premiere at the Midnight Sun Film Festival in summer 2023.

JEREM TONTERI EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Jerem Tonteri graduated with a Master of Arts from Aalto University, majoring in film editing with screenwriting and documentary film as his electives. He has worked as a freelance editor on both drama and documentary films. Tonteri co-directed the feature documentary Blackouts (2018) with Oliwia Tonteri, which won the Grand Prix at the Emigra Film Festival. Currently, he runs the production company Kompot and teaches filmmaking.

THE PERFECT

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): TÄIUSLIKUD

Director: Laura Liventaal
Producer: Hõbe Ilus / Sui

Length: 90'
Production stage: In post-production
Estimated release: January 2026
Contact: Hõbe Ilus, ilus.hobe@gmail.com
Looking for broadcasters, sales, distributors, festivals

LOGLINE:

The journey of becoming a woman behind the scenes of extreme self-control. Why do we hide our pain?

SYNOPSIS:

A little girl is in the middle of her parents' battle for custody and is losing the ability to cry. A young woman has always done what her mother expects of her until her mother's dreams become her own. A mature lady has constructed a charismatic persona but lost herself along the way. The three of them try to escape into the magical masochism of ballet.

"The Perfect" is a kaleidoscopic journey of becoming a woman in an environment of extreme self-control. It weaves together the realities and dreams of ballerinas from three generations. The central theme of the film is hiding one's pain, and through the characters, its different facets are unraveled. From the effect of strict discipline on both body and psyche to the dynamics of the mother-daughter relationship, and the journey of womanhood. What remains if you keep correcting your reflection?



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 studied in the fine arts department of ENSAD Paris. Liventaal has participated in exhibitions and festivals across Europe.

HÕBE ILUS PRODUCER

Hõbe Ilus is an Estonian documentary producer and director. In 2018, she completed a Master's in Documentary at the Baltic Film and Media School (Estonia). Hõbe has participated in several international workshops and masterclasses, including Masterclass Interdoc, Ex Oriente Film, and the 10-month documentary arts program UnionDocs Collaborative Studio 2020 (New York). Her works have been screened at many festivals, including the Atlanta Film Festival and Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. Her co-directed and co-produced film Wedding Officiant was named Best Short Documentary at the Oslo Film Festival (2020). She currently lives in Estonia, where she runs the film and media production company Sui.

TOTEM

ORIGINAL TITLE (EST): TOOTEM

Director & producer: Birgit Rosenberg / Uks Kaks productions

Length: 65'

Production stage: In post-production

Estimated release: December 2025

Contact: Birgit Rosenberg, films@door2.ee

Looking for broadcasters, sales, distributors, festivals

LOGLINE:

At the edge of Europe, on the Estonian–Russian border, a Soviet-era tank monument becomes a weapon in a contemporary battle over identity, history, and political allegiance between communities.

SYNOPSIS:

On the Estonian–Russian border, a Soviet-era WWII tank monument embodies two irreconcilable truths: for Russians it tells a Soviet story of liberation and triumph, while for Estonians it recalls occupation and loss. Russia's war in Ukraine reopens these wounds, and when the government decides to remove the tank, the monument itself becomes a symbolic weapon in an escalating identity-driven conflict. Totem explores how history, nostalgia, and trauma are revived and reshaped by present-day politics and propaganda. Through a collective portrait of people divided by memory and allegiance, the film shows how history is not only remembered but weaponized—turning monuments into battlefields and humans into agents in a modern hybrid warfare.



BIRGIT ROSENBERG

DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

Birgit Rosenberg is a researcher, documentary filmmaker and producer with a background in political science and anthropology. Uks Kaks productions previous works include documentary series for Estonian Public Broadcasting, short documentary films as both director and producer and contributions to international projects.



© Farah Fricke

MIKAEL OPSTRUP

A specialist in international project development, trailer consultancy, co-productions, workshop planning and tutoring. Head of Studies at European Documentary Network, EDN [2011–19], and creator/editor of EDN's 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], DocsBarcelona [Spain], In Docs [Indonesia], Dox Box [Syria/Germany] a.o. Developed and led numerous international workshops.

Produced international documentaries for decades, most recently as co-owner of Final Cut Productions, Copenhagen [2002–09]. Documentary Producer at the Danish Film Institute [1998–2002]. Attended script writing at the Danish Film School [1988]. Has collaborated with more than 50 documentary organisations and events worldwide. Author of *The Uncertainty – A Book about Developing Character-Driven Documentary* [2021].



DIANA EL JEIROUDI

An award winning documentary filmmaker, editor and advocate. Diana El Jeiroudi's films encapsulate socio-political tensions extending well over time, as in her recent *Republic of Silence* [Venice 2021]. Over the years Diana supported filmmakers both as a producer in *No Nation Films* (CEO and Producer) as well as through *DOX BOX*, which she co-founded and managed as a film festival in Syria and later as a support organisation in Berlin before she handed it over to focus on her career as a film director and mentor.



ANNE FABINI

Anne Fabini has been editing notable feature films and documentaries since 1999. *No Other Land* by a Palestinian-Israeli collective won the Oscar for Best Documentary Feature in 2025. *Writing With Fire* [2022] by R. Thomas and S. Gosh and *Of Fathers and Sons* [2019] by Syrian director Talal Derki won an Academy Award® nomination. In 2022, the Colombian documentary *Alis* by C. Weiskopf and N. van Hemelryck won a Crystal Bear at Berlin International Film Festival. Of the films she edited throughout the years, four documentaries and three feature films premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. Jennifer Fox's *The Tale* went on to earn Emmy and Golden Globe nominations.



WOJCIECH STARON

Cinematographer and director. Winner of the Silver Bear at the 61st Berlinale for the cinematography of *El Premio* by P. Markovitch. His directorial debut *Siberian Lesson* [1998] was awarded at Krakow FF, IDFA and Cinéma du Réel. *Argentine Lesson* [2011] won prizes at Cinema Eye Honors, Krakow FF, DOK Leipzig and Camerimage; *Brothers* [2015] won *Semaine de la Critique* in Locarno; *Passion According to Agnieszka* [2025] received the Golden Hobbyhorse at Krakow FF.

As cinematographer, he collaborated with K. Krauze & J. Kos-Krauze on *Plac Zbawiciela* [Golden Frog Polish Competition, Camerimage 2006] and *Papusza* [Manaki Brothers Bronze Camera 2013]; with L. Pakalnia on *Dawn* [PSC Award 2018]; with L. Duda on *Entangled* [Cinematography Award Krakow] and *Fledglings* [PSC Award 2023]; with J. Sadkowski on *Don Juan* [IDFA Grand Prix 2015] and *Bitter Love* [CPH:DOX 2020]; with D. Lerman on *Refugiado* [Directors' Fortnight, Cannes 2014]; with M. Mubarak on *Autobiography* [Venice Orizzonti 2022]; with V. Kairis on *January* [Tribeca Best International Feature 2022]; and with L. Achour on *Red Path* [Locarno, Camerimage 2024].

Professor at the Polish National Film School in Łódź.



© Maroussia
Dubreuil

SALOMÉ JASHI

Salomé Jashi [Tbilisi, 1981] is a documentary filmmaker from Georgia. Salomé Jashi's *Taming the Garden* [2021] premiered at Sundance and Berlinale Forum and was nominated for the European Film Awards. Her earlier work *The Dazzling Light of Sunset* [2016] was awarded at Visions du Réel. Her mid-length *Bakhmaro* [2011] was nominated for the Asia Pacific Screen Awards. Her producing work *How the Room Felt* [2021] premiered at IDFA's main competition. The body of her work including features and shorts was celebrated at BAMPFA in a series of screenings and talks in 2023.

She is chairperson and co-founder of Documentary Association Georgia (DOCA Georgia). She produces her films through Sakdoc Film. She tutors and gives talks on documentary filmmaking internationally.

Salomé Jashi is the recipient of Berlin Art Prize [2024] and European Cultural Award KAIROS Prize [2024]. She was a fellow of DAAD Artists-in-Berlin Program [2020].



JOANNA SOLECKA

Joanna Solecka is a seasoned Film Marketing Strategist and Awards Consultant with over 20 years of experience in the film marketing field, based in Warsaw, Poland. She is a co-owner of an international film marketing agency Alphapanda, where she specializes in strategies and award campaigns that elevate films to critical acclaim.

Additionally, Joanna consults for renowned film institutions including Creative Europe MEDIA and the Polish Film Institute. She is a global lecturer and mentor at film labs and training programs such as the Doha Film Institute, First Cut Lab, Eurodoc, Circle Women Doc Accelerator, and EAVE.

Joanna is a member of the European Film Academy and serves on the Advisory Boards of the Documentary Association of Europe and Circle Women Doc Accelerator, where she contributes to advancing the documentary film sector and supporting female filmmakers.

ORGANISERS

HEILIKA PIKKOV

ORGANISER OF ICE AND FIRE DOCS
ESTONIAN DOCUMENTARY GUILD
heilika@silmviburlane.ee

KRISTIINA IILANE

COORDINATOR OF ICE AND FIRE DOCS
ESTONIAN DOCUMENTARY GUILD
kristiinaiilane@gmail.com

SANNA KULTANEN

ORGANISER OF ICE AND FIRE DOCS
THE FINNISH DOCUMENTARY GUILD
info@dokumenttikilta.fi

VIOLA SALU

DOCUMENTARY FILM COMMISSIONER
ESTONIAN FILM INSTITUTE
viola@filmi.ee

ICE AND FIRE DOCS

Contact: iafd@dokfilm.ee
dokfilm.ee/en/ice-and-fire-docs-eng
FB: Ice and Fire Docs

ESTONIAN DOCUMENTARY GUILD



DOKUMENTTIKILTA



PREVIOUS PROJECTS

2019/20:

2 Hours to Happiness
Celebrating Life
Karaoke Paradise
My Partners
Rebel with a Bow Tie
Smoke Sauna Sisterhood
The Engineer and The Butterfly
Torn

2021/22:

All my 100 Grandmothers
Hard to Break
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
Running For the Wolves
St. Barbara's Children
The Labour of Pain and Joy
The Perfect
Totem

2025:

Beautiful Stupid Thing
Borderline
God is Tango
How We Die
My Shit Life
The Runaway Brain
The Story of the Wild Rose

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 Cultural Endowment of Estonia, the Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture in Finland AVEK and Finnish Film Foundation..



