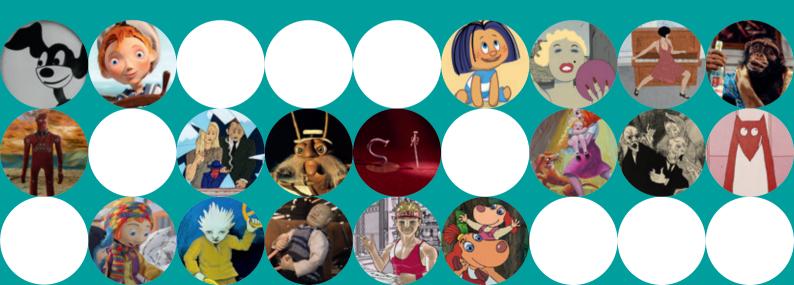
# **ESTONIAN ANIMATION**





# A Quick Introduction to Estonian Animation



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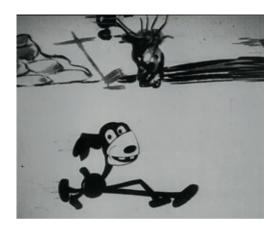
### Introduction

By Aurelia Aasa



nimation is not only about waking up puppets or drawn characters. It's about finding your peculiarity. Because where else, if not in animation, can you bring your most bizarre dreams into life? Absurdity, playfulness and dark humour have always been

essential components of Estonian animation. Naturally, the field of Estonian animation has changed a lot over the years. The collapse of the Soviet Union, overall changes in animation techniques, and new generations of animators have shaped todays' animation landscape. Next to the *grand-old-studios* of Estonian animation – Nukufilm and Eesti Joonisfilm, there now sit a number of new studios and one-man companies. Each one of them with their own goals – be it producing author films or cooperating with international studios on commercial projects. Estonian animation involves great storytelling, a high standard of craftsmanship, and that surreal glow that unites – a certain level of dreaminess, which keeps the viewer addicted to whatever's happening on the screen. We warmly invite you to learn more about our treasures! A small warning though – you might fall deeply in love with Estonian Animation.



The Adventures of Juku the Dog (dir. Voldemar Päts, 1931)

Athomic and Stouts (dir. Elbert Tuganov, 1970)



## Estonian Animation, more diverse than ever

By Aurelia Aasa

he animated film has played a significant cultural role in Estonia. While it might come as a surprise to many, Estonia's animation community ranks among the best in the world. Its films, which combine surrealist wit and Estonian folklore with childlike innocence, have won awards around the globe. Many companies with a more commercial approach have also emerged, excited to take a different course and actively collaborate internationally. Therefore, Estonian animation is currently more diverse than ever.

### **SHORT HISTORY BREAK**

Our first animated film, *The Adventures of Juku the Dog*, dates back to 1931. However, Estonian animation really started to put down roots more than twenty years later, along with the establishment of our first stop-motion studio Nukufilm (1957). A separate studio for drawn animation began life in 1971. During that period, nature, folklore and philosophical metaphors were the defining motifs. And not only in animation, but in the arts in general. It was the era of hidden





Heino Pars (1925 - 2014)

Hell (dir. Rein Raamat, 1983)

Bonycrone (dir. Heino Pars, 1977)

Theatre Papa Carlo (dir. Rao Heidmets, 1988)







Elbert Tuganov (1920 - 2007)

Ott Outerspace (dir. Elbert Tuganov, 1962)



meanings. And Elbert Tuganov, Heino Pars, and Rein Raamat were the ones who shaped that first wave of Estonian animation. Priit Pärn, one of Estonia's most legendary animators, joined Joonisfilm in the mid-seventies. Pärn changed the existing animation pattern with his rough pencil strokes and ironic depiction of domestic life. Nukufilm was infused with fresh energy in the 1980s, when authors such as Rao Heidmets, Mati Kütt, Kalju Kivi, Hardi Volmer and Riho Unt joined Nukufilm. It's worth knowing that Rao Heidmets' puppet animation Theatre Papa Carlo (1988) is the only Estonian film ever (at least so far), which has been nominated for the Palm d'Or. The sad irony, of course, was that Heidmets could not to go to Cannes because of the Soviet restrictions. Luckily such restrictions did not exist when Kaspar Jancis won the Cartoon d'Or for his animated short Crocodile in 2010, or when the Swedish-Estonian co-production Amalimbo competed in Venice and was later nominated for the Best Short Film award at the European Film Awards in 2016.

### **NEW ERA, NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

Estonia's re-independence opened many doors and brought new faces. Ülo Pikkov, Priit Tender, and Kaspar Jancis were some of those who joined the animation world. Today, an increasing number of more commercial co-production projects and service opportunities have evolved. A couple of smaller Estonian studios, like BOP! and Fork Film have found a way how to bounce between commercial animation and author films. One of the biggest studios, A Film Estonia, has taken a more commercial course and has an international portfolio. In addition to their own production, they do co-productions with foreign animation studios. Among other projects, they

"Estonia is a big little nation of animation. For a country of 1.4 million inhabitants, it has a long record of winning international animation festival awards and has many well-known and revered animators."

Heikki Jokinen



Is the Earth Round? (dir. Priit Pärn, 1977)



Empty Space (dir. Ülo Pikkov, 2016)



The Triangle (dir. Priit Pärn, 1982)

Little Lily (dir. Mati Kütt, 1995)



Piano (dir. Kaspar Jancis, 2016)



were behind Danish box-office hit *Checkered Ninja* (2019). Another commercial studio, Tolm, is collaborating with design agencies and concentrates on motion-graphics animation. They've also won several design awards. In-between, there are also one-man companies, so it's safe to say that the animation landscape in Estonia is getting more colourful every year. The main springboard for newcomers is the animation department in the Estonian Academy of Arts. Since 1999, we've also had an animation festival called Animated Dreams, which now has found a home at PÖFF Shorts. Since 2020, PÖFF Shorts is an Academy Award qualifying festival.

### **CREATIVE IN EVERY FIELD**

When it comes to artistic choices, social satire and irony still have an essential role in Estonian animation. Aside from that, the Estonian animation landscape is rather unpredictable. Different animation techniques, themes and characters, blend together and stand side by side. It is remarkable that hand-drawn animation is also very much alive in Estonia, honoured by the younger and older generation. Despite some similarities, most animators still follow their own creative journey, so to say.

Estonia has a long tradition of short films. Priit Pärn has created timeless film journeys and several of them are even more relevant today, more than 20 or 30 years after their making. For more than a decade, Priit has worked alongside Olga Pärn. Croatian-based Estonian animator Chintis Lundgren and her partner Draško Ivezić have created a playful universe, where clever foxes, drunk rabbits and hot gigolo wolves all get along. Estonian Academy of Art graduate Sander Joon puts a slightly surreal spin on everyday life, creating uniquely humorous journeys. While another EKA graduate,







On the left: Heiki Ernits and Janno Põldma. On the right: *Lotte and the Lost Dragons* (dir. Janno Põldma, Heiki Ernits, 2019)

Raggie (dir. Meelis Arulepp, Karsten Kiilerich, 2020)

Toomas Beneath the Valley of the Wild Wolves (dir. Chintis Lundgren, 2019)





The Master (dir. Riho Unt, 2015)

The Enchanted Island (dir. Riho Unt, Hardi Volmer, 1985)



Anu-Laura Tuttelberg, creates breathtaking worlds with porcelain dolls. Ülo Pikkov has entered the world of animated documentaries. His works often involve painful topics like deportation or loss. Kaspar Jancis, Priit Tender and Kristjan Holm tend to cover existentialist problems. Their work often includes love problems of various sorts. Yet they all have a different approach. While Tender works with both drawn animation and puppet film, Kaspar Jancis and Kristjan Holm have a distinct drawing style. Holm works with a minimalist line, while Jancis draws us into his bittersweet worlds. Riho Hunt, the man behind the much lauded film *The Master*, is the master of puppets.

Full-length animated films have made history in recent years. In 2018, Eesti Nukufilm released Captain Morten and the Spider Queen (2018) which travelled to festivals around the world. including Animafest Zagreb and Annecy. At Eesti Joonisfilm, Janno Põldma and Heiki Ernits have been behind the incredibly popular Lotte from Gadgetville since 2006. The newest seguel Lotte and the Lost Dragons (2019) premiered at 69th Berlin International Film Festival. Besides Berlinale, Lotte travelled to other notable festivals such as Shanghai, Warsaw, Cinekid and the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, 2019 saw another successful animated feature when BOP! Animation released the Old Man Cartoon Movie in September. The absurd puppet animation, which has grown out from YouTube sketches, became a hit at home and abroad, making it the most commercially successful puppet-film in Estonia. 2020 started with the premiere of Raggie – a Danish-Estonian co-production, based on the popular children's book by Eno Raud. The film gained more than 100,000 admissions domestically, making it one of the most successful Estonian children's films.

Considering Estonian animation's rich history and continuing success, it's intriguing that many animators have found the road to animation by coincidence. Some were looking for a short-term job, some came to try their luck. And stayed. For good. That still applies today. Maybe that's the pattern of success? May that be as it is, it's crucial that the tradition of author animations would continue, as this is a field truly full of surprises, dark jokes and wild dreams. Quite refreshing in a world which often tends to be overly organized.



Sounds Good (dir. Sander Joon, 2018)



Directors of Old Man Cartoon Movie, Mikk Mägi and Oskar Lehemaa at Anima Brussels in 2020, where they received the Audience Reward

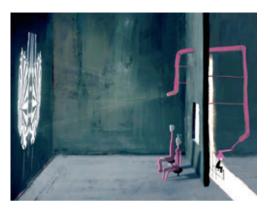
# Financing Opportunities In Estonia

### **Estonian Film Institute**

he Estonian Film Institute (EFI) is a national foundation, financed mainly by the Ministry of Culture. EFI supports the development of national film culture, production and distribution of films, promotes Estonian films, film industry and film heritage, and establishes and develops international contacts.

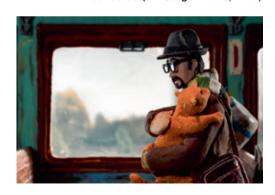
### SUPPORT FOR ANIMATION

The Estonian Film Institute allocates support for animation films of various lengths, at various stages. The applicant must be a legal entity registered in Estonia, whose principal activity is the production of films, and to whom the property rights of the authors of the audio-visual work are transferred or licensed. There are three rounds for applications each year.



Amalimbo (Sweden, Estonia, 2016). The short animation received minority co-production support from Estonian Film Institute.

Teofrastus (dir. Sergei Kibus, 2018)





Winter in the Rainforest (dir. Anu-Laura Tuttelberg, 2019)

A Demonstration of Brilliance in Four Movements (dir. Morten Tšinakov, Lucija Mrzljak, 2018)

Life 24 (dir. Kristjan Holm, 2019)





© Eesti Joonisfilm

**Script support** is allocated for the creation of a script for a feature-length animation film.

**Development support** is allocated for the development of a feature-length, short and low-budget animation film. The recipient of development support needs to spend at least 50% of the Estonian Film Institute support allocated for his or her film project on economic activity in Estonia.

**Production support** is allocated for the production of a feature-length and short animation film. The recipient of production support needs to spend at least 50% of the Estonian Film Institute support allocated for their film project on economic activity in Estonia

In addition, various **other categories** of support exist: distribution support, new media support, film-related research work and digitalizing, events and activities, further training and education.

#### LOOKING FOR A MINORITY CO-PRODUCER?

Minority co-production support is allocated to an Estonian producer for participation in a project of an international feature-length or short animation film; provided that the main producer of the film project is not a legal entity registered in Estonia, and that the Estonian co-producer owns property rights for the film that are proportional to their participation.

The recipient of minority co-production support has to spend 100% of the Estonian Film Institute support allocated for the film project on economic activity in Estonia.

Support category	Amount
Script development for feature-length animation	Up to 10,000 euros
Development of feature-length animation	Up to 30,000 euros
Production of feature-length animation	Up to 800,000 euros
Development of short animation	Up to 10,000 euros
Production of short animation	Up to 280,000 euros
Minority co-production (feature-length and short animation)	Pending on budget
Production of low-budget (short) animation	Up to 33,000 euros



Contact: Peep Pedmanson, Animation Film Commissioner Uus 3, Tallinn 10111, Estonia phone: +372 511 9132

e-mail: peep@filmi.ee ■ www.filmi.ee

Fatcula (dir. Martinus Daane Klemet, 2016)





Captain Morten and the Spider Queen (dir. Kaspar Jancis, 2018)



Man Wanted (Greece, Estonia, Serbia, Albania, 2020). The short animation received minority co-production support from Estonian Film Institute.

# The Cultural Endowment of Estonia

he Cultural Endowment of Estonia is a financing body that redistributes a percentage of alcohol, tobacco and gambling tax to support culture and sports. There are different endowments dedicated to literature, music, visual and applied arts, dramatic arts, architecture, audiovisual arts, folk culture, sports, and interdisciplinary projects. It is based on submitted applications and the funds are distributed by the appointed committees.

The Audiovisual Art Endowment aims to promote Estonian audiovisual culture by primarily supporting production of films, organization of film events, and support of other activities that strengthen the position of audiovisual art in Estonian culture.

For that purpose, various activities are supported – including the development and production of domestic films and international co-productions.

#### SUPPORT AMOUNTS FOR ANIMATION

**Domestic production** (including development) – up to 3000 euros per minute but not exceeding the total of 120,000 euros.

**Minority co-production** – up to 60,000 euros.

Deadlines: February 20th, May 20th, August 20th and November 20th

Applicant: Estonian co-producer



Orpheus (dir. Priit Tender, 2019)



Contact: Suur-Karja 23, 10148 Tallinn, Estonia

**phone:** +372 6999 150

e-mail: kulka@kulka.ee ■ www.kulka.ee



The Overcoat (dir. Sean Mullen, Meelis Arulepp, 2018)

Miriam by the Lake (dir. Riho Unt, Sergei Kibus, 2017)





Strawberry Eaters (dir. Mattias Mälk, 2018)

© Eesti Joonisfilm

# Film Estonia — produce your next animation with Estonians

ilm Estonia is a production incentive that was introduced in 2016 with the aim to encourage better cooperation between local and foreign film producers. With the annual budget of 2 million euros, the incentive also proudly supports the production of animation films, animation series and the post-production of the before mentioned works.

Which animation projects qualify?

- feature-length and short animation films with the length of at least 3 minutes
- animation series
- the post production of all the above mentioned works

An application can be made for international production services or co-production. The level of support is determined by the amount of the

Estonian production costs that are eligible and spent on parties that are subject to Estonian taxation.

Regardless of the support intensity proceeding from eligible costs of the Estonian production stage, the intensity of the support from the Estonian creative staff is:

- 30% if at least two creative employees are tax residents of Estonia;
- 25% if at least one creative employee is a tax resident of Estonia.

Production	Minimum rate of overall budget (€)	Minimum rate of eligible cost of Estonian production stage (€)		
The level of support		20%	25%	30%
Animation film	250,000	70,000	100,000	150,000
Animation series (the series in total)	500,000	70,000	100,000	150,000



**Applicant** is a person whose principal area of activity is the production of audiovisual works and that has a company registered in Estonia **Recepient** of support is a foreign company whose principal area of activity is the production of audiovisual works.

When to apply? There are no application deadlines and producers can apply at any time during the year.

**Processing of applications:** up to 30 calendar days

**Auditing of final report:** within 30 working days

**Payment:** directly to the recipient within 10 working days after approval of the final report

Only post production	Minimum rate of overall budget (€)	Minimum rate of eligible cost of Estonian production stage (€)		
The level of support		20%	25%	30%
Animation film	250,000	30,000	50,000	80,000
Animation series (the series in total)	500,000	30,000	50,000	80,000

Contact: Nele Paves, Film Commissioner Estonian Film Institute Uus 3, Tallinn 10111, Estonia phone: +372 627 60 60 e-mail: commissioner@filmi.ee filmestonia.eu



# Photo: Shutterstock



**Contact:** Tartu Centre for Creative Industries Kalevi 13, Tartu 51010, Estonia +372 552 5258 Info@tartufilmfund.ee

## **Tartu Film Fund**

artu Film Fund, administered by the Tartu Centre for Creative Industries, is a regional film fund with goals to increase both local and international interest in Tartu County as a production location, promote both shooting and post-production of local and international co-productions, establish new production service companies, and reinforce regional infrastructure for film.

It offers a cash rebate programme, which is granted to local or international film productions to cover a maximum of 20% of qualifying expenditure in Tartu County.

In case of an international co-production, the applicant has to be the Estonian co-producer with a mandate to apply for and receive funds, and to manage the execution of the production in Tartu County. All applications are required to bring elements of production or post-production to the region, involve an Estonian production partner and locally hire both crew and services. The cash rebate will be paid after the production is complete and the project has been audited. Applications for a rebate for feature films, TV drama, documentaries, shorts and animated films can be submitted on an on-going basis.

Tartu Film Fund is a member of Cine-Regio, a network of regional film funds in Europe.

General terms and conditions can be found at tartufilmfund.ee



Self Made Cameraman (2019), a feature film made with the support of Tartu Film Fund by Kopli Kinokompanii.



Erna at War (2020), a feature film made with the support of Tartu Film Fund by Nimbus Film & Nafta Films.



Photo: Heikki Leis

The Secret Society of Souptown (2015), a feature film made with the support of Tartu Film Fund by Nafta Films & Solar Films.





## Viru Film Fund

stonia's first regional fund functions as a cash rebate based in the Eastern region of Estonia. The annual budget is around 200,000 euros.

Viru Film Fund finances locally incurred costs for any audiovisual production, including animation films. The fund aims for maximum flexibility, with no minimum spending requirements and no artistic criteria imposed on applicants. Support intensity is 15 – 40% of costs incurred in Eastern region of Estonia. The fund is open to legal entities with established AV track record in professional audiovisual production, but no restrictions as per legal residency. There are no deadlines and projects will be handled on a first come, first served basis.

Find the Viru Film Fund regulations online at **virufilmfound.ee** or **vff.ee** 

Contact: Ida-Viru Enterprise Centre Keskväljak 4, 41531 Jõhvi, Ida-Virumaa, Estonia +372 5561 0512 Ipiia.tamm@ivek.ee





Music video, artist NUBLU, song *Für Oksana* in Kreenholm Factory, Narva.

Mihkel (2018), a feature film made with the support of Viru Film Fund by Amrion.





Photo: Andres Teiss



# Photo: Wonderful Voyage

Kuressaare castle park (above) and Panga cliff

# Film Fund of Estonian Islands

n support of professional filmmaking and -studies, Film Fund of Estonian Islands welcomes filmmakers to utilise their audiovisual creativity on the magical islands of Saare Country. The islands are well known for their untouched nature surrounded by the sea, with historical buildings, a unique culture and outlandish islanders – good reasons to be listed as a UNESCO biosphere reserve area.

The fund co-finances both Estonian and foreign audiovisual productions, production services and film studies. Applying for a cash rebate for locally incurred costs is on an on-going and first come, first served basis.

Established in 2019, the fund is managed by the Saaremaa Development Centre and funded by Saaremaa Municipality.

Find the Statutes of the Film Fund of Estonian Islands at www.minusaaremaa.ee/en/film-fund-of-estonian-islands

**Contact:** Saaremaa Development Centre +372 452 0570 **I** filmifond@sasak.ee



Pöide Church



Kiipsaare lighthouse, Harilaiu



Kuressaare Castle

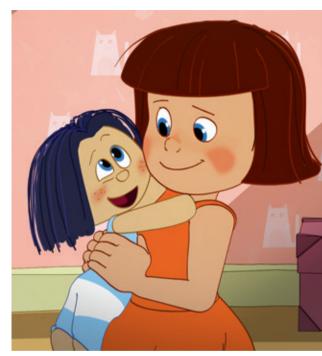
### A FILM ESTONIA

Contact: Kristel Tõldsepp ■ Toompuiestee 30 Tallinn 10149 kristel@afilm.ee ■ www.afilm.ee

A Film Estonia is an animation studio established in 1994. As a full production house, they produce 2D and 3D animation for feature length movies, broadcast TV, corporate clients and commercials. Over the years, they have offered animation services to more than 25 feature films and 15 TV series and over 250 commercials. The studio has worked for many major European and US studios over the years.

Since 2005 A Film Estonia has started to produce its own productions, there are currently 8 short films and a TV series of 6 x 4,5 min. in the portfolio. In 2020, A Film released their first feature film *Raggie*, which was a local box-office hit. The film is a co-production with A.Film Production in Denmark.





Raggie (dir. Meelis Arulepp, Karsten Kiilerich, 2020)



The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily (dir. Lorenzo Mattotti, 2019)

Checkered Ninja 2 (dir. Anders Matthesen, Thorbjørn Christoffersen, 2021)

Gorikaturist (dir. Raimo Jõerand, 2022)

### **RECENT FILMOGRAPHY**

**Raggie** (2020) – feature film co-produced with A Film Production (DK). Directed by Meelis Arulepp, Karsten Kiilerich

**Checkered Ninja** (2019) - CGI feature film produced by A.Film Production, Sudoku and Pop Up Production (DK), A Film Estonia produced over 20 minutes of animation.

**The Bears' Famous Invasion of Sicily** (2019) – 2D feature film produced by Prima Line Production (FRA), where A Film Estonia's team is producing clean-up and inbetweens.

### **UPCOMING**

**Checkered Ninja 2** (expected release 2021) - CGI feature film produced by A.Film Production, Sudoku and Pop Up Production (DK), A Film Estonia produced over 20 minutes of animation.

**Poop and Spring** (expected release 2020) – short film produced by A Film Estonia

**Gorikaturist** (expected release 2022) – documentary with animation, produced by Filmivabrik and A Film Estonia





### BOP!

**Contact**: Mustamäe tee 55, Tallinn 10620 bop@bop.ee ■ www.bop.ee

BOP! is a creative animation studio. Our strength is versatility. We can offer our clients the full animation package starting from generating ideas, scriptwriting and storyboarding to designing, modelling, animating and post-production. We are fluent in 3D, 2D and classical stop-motion animation. Also we do virtual reality projects and video mapping. Our inhouse team of 7 people consists of young and talented animators and prize winning directors. We work closely with several Estonian audio production studios and freelance animators and designers. BOP! studio does both – commercial work and independent films. In 2019, BOP! released its' first feature film *Old Man Cartoon Movie*, which was a local box-office hit and ranked as the fourth most-watched Estonian film in 2019.





Rehvivargad (dir. Sander Joon, 2021)

Old Man Cartoon Movie (dir. Mikk Mägi, Oskar Lehemaa, 2019)





### RECENT FILMOGRAPHY

**Old Man Cartoon Movie** (2019) / 90min / stop motion / directed by Mikk Mägi and Oskar Lehemaa

### **UPCOMING**

**Solstice** (2020) / 20 min / drawn animation / directed by Sander Joon, Mikk Mägi **Rehvivargad** (2021) / 15 min / mixed technique / directed by Sander Joon

Solistice (dir. Sander Joon, Mikk Mägi, 2020)



### **EESTI JOONISFILM**

Contact: Kalev Tamm Roo 9 Tallinn 10611

kalev@joonisfilm.ee ■ www.joonisfilm.ee ■ www.facebook.com/Joonisfilm

Eesti Joonisfilm is an animated film production company focused mainly on drawn animation, established in 1994. We make short films on a regular basis, many of which have brought international recognition to Estonian animated films. In addition to auteur films, we have produced animated series, TV specials for children and family feature films and done special effects for the live action features.

We have managed to successfully integrate the best traditions of Estonian art into animated film and to bring the most talented active artists into the process of film production. Our stories range from absurdly humorous to daringly experimental. Our skills include drawn animation, digital 2D and 3D animation, even drawn-on-film and sand animation.

### RECENT FILMOGRAPHY:

Cosmonaut (2019) / 12 min / directed by Kaspar Jancis Orpheus (2019) / 13 min / directed by Priit Tender Lotte and the Lost Dragons (2019) / 78 min / directed by Janno Põldma, Heiki Ernits / Eesti Joonisfilm (Estonia), Rija Films (Latvia) Destined to be Dead (2018) / 11 min / directed by Francesco Rosso

Strawberry Eaters (2018) / 15 min / directed by Mattias Mälk



Cosmonaut (dir. Kaspar Jancis, 2019)

Orpheus (dir. Priit Tender, 2019)



; ;

**Demonstration of Brilliance in Four Acts** (2018) / 15 min / directed by Morten Tšinakov, Lucija Mrzljak / Eesti Joonisfilm (Estonia), Adriatic Animation (Croatia)

#### **UPCOMING:**

**The Stork** / 2020 / 15 min / drawn animation / directed by Morten Tšinakov, Lucija Mrzljak

**Four Stones** / 2020 / 11 min / drawn animation / directed by Francesco Rosso

**Lord of the River** / 2020 / 18 min / drawn animation / directed by Artur Wyrzykowski / BH Artur Wyrzykowski (Poland), Eesti Joonisfilm (Estonia)

**Songs for a Fox** / 2020 / 100 min / special effects for live action feature / directed by Kristijonas Vildziunas / Studio Uljana Kim (Lithuania), Locomotive Productions (Latvia), Eesti Joonisfilm (Estonia) **The Clinic** / in development / 15 min / drawn animation / directed by Kaspar Jancis





The Stork (dir. Morten Tšinakov, Lucija Mrzljak, 2020)



Four Stones (dir. Fransesco Rosso, 2020)

Lotte and the Lost Dragons (dir. Janno Põldma, Heiki Ernits, 2019)

### **NUKUFILM**

Contact: Kerdi Kuusik-Oengo Niine 11 Tallinn 10414 kerdi@nukufilm.ee ■ www.nukufilm.ee

Nukufilm is the oldest and largest stopmotion studio in Northern Europe, established in 1957 and located in Tallinn, Estonia. Nukufilm has world-class facilities for stop-motion animation matched with an energetic team of more than 30 professionals.

Nukufilm is offering creative and production services to customers wanting to shoot stop-motion in a studio environment with a highly qualified multi-award-winning crew or those in need of fresh creative ideas from internationally recognized, award-winning filmmakers. The studio has cooperated with Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Irish, Belgian, Canadian, Russian, Japanese and British producers. Nukufilm's latest feature *Morten and the Spider Queen*, an Estonian-Irish-Belgian co-production directed by Kaspar Jancis travelled to numerous festivals including Annecy, Zagreb and Ottawa. Among other countries, the film had cinema distribution in France, Poland and South-Korea.

Besides animated films in all possible techniques Nukufilm fulfills also custom orders for different companies all over Europe, as museums, exhibitions, commercials and makes custom props for feature films.

### RECENT FILMOGRAPHY

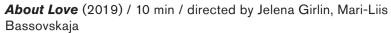
The Wings (2019) / 12 min / directed by Riho Unt



Captain Morten and the Spider Queen (dir. Kaspar Jancis, 2018)

Mary and 7 Dwarfs (dir. Riho Unt, 2017)





**Teofrastus** (2018) / 15 min / claymation / directed by Sergei Kibus

Captain Morten and the Spider Queen (2018) / 80 min / directed by Kaspar Jancis

Maria and the 7 Dwarfs (2017) / 16 min / directed by Riho Unt Eternal Hunting Grounds (2017) 16 min / directed by Elin Grimstad (co-produced with Medieoperatorne, Norway)

### **UPCOMING**

**A Most Exquisite Man** (2020) / 10 min / directed by Jonas Taul **Volli** (2021) / 10 min / directed by Rao Heidmets





About Love (dir. Jelena Girlin, Mari-Liis Bassovskaia, 2019)

A Most Exquisite Man (dir. Jonas Taul. 2020)





### **CHINTIS LUNDGREN ANIMATION STUDIO**

**Contact:** Chintis Lundgreni Animatsioonistuudio Moora 11. Tallinn 11625

chintis.lundgren@gmail.com ■ www.chintislundgren.com

Chintis Lundgreni Animatsioonistuudio is a one-person studio based between Tallinn, Estonia and Zagreb, Croatia. Founded in 2011, it has produced several artistic short films, a few music videos and some commissioned work, all directed by Chintis Lundgren. Chintis' films have screened at numerous international animation festivals including Sundance, Annecy, Zagreb, and Ottawa. Chintis Lundgreni Animatsioonistuudio frequently collaborates with Adriatic Animation, a company based in Croatia. Chintis Lundgreni Animatsioonistuudio is currently developing an animated TV-series *Manivald and the Absinthe Rabbits*.

### RECENT FILMOGRAPHY:

**Toomas Beneath the Valley of the Wild Wolves** (2019) / 18 min / drawn animation / directed by Chintis Lundgren **Manivald** (2017) / 13 min / drawn animation / directed by Chintis Lundgren

### **UPCOMING:**

Manivald and the Absinthe Rabbits / 10 x 25 min / TV-series



Manivald (dir. Chintis Lundgren, 2017)

Toomas Beneath the Valley of the Wild Wolves (dir. Chintis Lundgren, 2019)



## **FORK FILM**

Contact: Marianne Ostrat
marianne@forkfilm.com
www.forkfilm.com

Fork Film Animation Studio is specialized in stop-motion, 2D and classical hand-drawn animation. We create and produce high-quality commercials, corporate films and short form animated content with distinct character and unique visual language for all audiovisual platforms. We let our imagination run wild when working on animated films and music videos. Fork Film was founded in 2010 and its core team consists of director-animator Märt Kivi, cinematographer Ragnar Neljandi and producer Marianne Ostrat. Based in Tallinn, Estonia, we work with a reliable network of directors, designers, illustrators, animation craftsmen and other experienced film professionals. We are open to working with clients from all over the world.

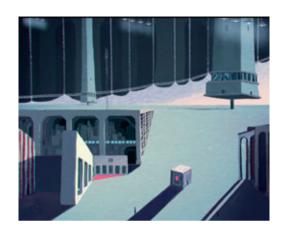
Fork Film Animation Studio is your partner for: stop-motion & cut-out animation, pixilation, 2D, classical hand-drawn animation, live-action, mixed animation and character design.

## **RECENT FILMOGRAPHY:**

**Amalimbo** (2016) / 15 min – a Swedish-Estonian co-production directed by Juan Pablo Libossart

## **UPCOMING:**

**On Weary Wings Go By** (2022) / 8 min / puppet film / directed by Anu-Laura Tuttelberg



Amalimbo (dir. Juan Pablo Libossart, 2016)



## **IMEPILT STUDIOS**

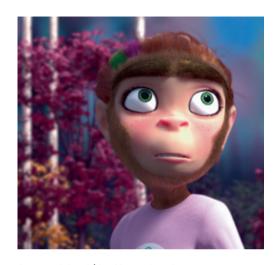
**Contact:** Almondi Esco +372 53 49 48 80

almondi@imepilt.com ■ www.imepilt.com

Imepilt Studios is an over the top content studio with world-class original creative and a global audience. Following their three word compass of Love Bold Progress the studio creates and scales engaging original intellectual property with a strong message and positive impact. In cooperation with the writers of Disney's *Mulan* live action film and top industry executives Imepilt's in-house creative team is currently working on an animated feature *Danger Island*.

## **UPCOMING:**

**Danger Island** / 2021 / 95 min / 3D animation / directed by Marita Liivak, Almondi Esco



Danger Island (dir. Marita Liivak, Almondi Esco, 2019)



## **KARABANA**

Contact: Kristjan Holm +372 553 5365

holm@karabana.com ■ www.karabana.com

Karabana is a scribble-filled wall behind animation director Kristjan Holm. The main activity is making shorts, gifs and animated content for museums. Trusted collaborators through the years have been sound designer Horret Kuus, composer Kaspar Jancis, Eesti Joonisfilm Studio and director/animator Heta Jäälinoja. The latest challenge is an undergoing experimental short *Epidemia* made with traditional drawing technique with using blue ballpoint pen. Premiere in 2021.

## RECENT FILMOGRAPHY:

**Life24** (2019) / 9 min / drawn animation / directed by Kristjan Holm **Full House** (2016) / 17 min / 16:9 / drawn animation / directed by Kristjan Holm

## **UPCOMING:**

**Epidemia** (2021) / 7 min / drawn animation / directed by Kristjan Holm



LIfe24 (dir. Kristjan Holm, 2019)



## **RAO HEIDMETS FILMSTUDIO**

Contact: Rao Heidmets
Müürivahe 31, Tallinn 10140
raoheidmets@hotmail.com

Rao Heidmets Filmstudio is an animation and production studio based in Tallinn, established in 1991. The company is dedicated to producing long and short films with puppets and actors.

## RECENT FILMOGRAPHY

**Life Before Life** (2017) / 8 min / directed by Rao Heidmets **Bison Touch** (2017) / 9 min / directed by Rao Heidmets

## **UPCOMING**

Code (2020) / 10 min / directed by Rao Heidmets, Pauline Heidmets





Life Before Life (dir. Rao Heidmets, 2017)

Code (dir. Rao Heidmets, Pauline Heidmets 2020)

## **SILMVIBURLANE**

Contact: Ülo Pikkov

info@silmviburlane.ee ■ www.silmviburlane.ee

Silmviburlane, founded in 2006 by Heilika and Ülo Pikkov, is a small and mobile film production company in Tallinn, which produces documentary and animation films. In 2017 Silmviburlane co-produced Estonian-Danish stop-motion animation *Letting Go*, which was one of the two winners of ANIDOX Residency with the support of the European Capital of Culture Aarhus. In the frame of Estonia 100 film programme Silmviburlane released *Roots*, a documentary with animated parts by 6 female directors. The latest production by Silmviburlane is the animated documentary *The Tortoise and the Hare*, which premiered at the 50th Tampere Film Festival.



Letting Go (dir. Ülo Pikkov, 2017)

The Tortoise and the Hare (dir. Ülo Pikkov, 2020)

## RECENT FILMOGRAPHY

**The Tortoise and the Hare** (2020) / 9 min / animated documentary / directed by Ülo Pikkov

**Roots** (2018) / 102 min / a collection of short documentaries with animated parts by Sander Joon and Anu-Laura Tuttelberg

**Letting Go** (2017) / 11 min / stop-motion animation / directed by Ülo Pikkov



## **FROST FX**

Contact: Marko Post
Tatari 28 Tallinn 10116
frostfx@frostfx.com ■ www.frostfx.ee

Frost FX is a 3D animation and visual effects studio based in Tallinn, Estonia. The company was established in 2008. Frost FX works mainly in feature films and commercials, and delivers VFX, 3D animated features and post-production services. The company is mainly known for its experience in fluid and fire simulations. Frost's team offers consultations, shoot supervision combined with creative solutions from commercials to corporate videos and feature films. The work of Frost FX as an independent studio has been featured by several international film festivals. Beyond film, Frost FX has earned various nominations and awards for many commercials.





Examples of work by Frost FX



## **TALLINN POSTWORKS**

Examples of post-production works by Tallinn Postworks.

Contact: +372 5656 3188 hello@postworks.ee ■ www.postworks.ee

Tallinn Postworks is a modern, full service post-production boutique, providing high quality DI, dailies, editing, colour correction and everything that concerns VFX, CGI and animation.

Our highly skilled team of specialists is focused more on quality than quantity and our superior quality colouring and editing studios guarantee a high-end result for all projects.

In addition to our technical work, we supervise on set and consult our clients with care and attention to get the best out of every project from editing movie trailers, providing services for TV spots to providing full post- production services for feature films.

We are known and recognised for our creative and technical excellence delivered in a friendly and professional manner.







## **TOLM STUUDIO**

Contact: Telliskivi 60a/2 Tallinn 10412 tolm@tolm.tv ■ www.tolm.tv

Tolm is a motion design studio led by director-designer-animators Joosep Volk and Maido Hollo. With their eye for detail and composition, love for abstract and uniquely stylized visuals, they enjoy working on brand films, title sequences, event trailers, commercials, and product presentations. With a strong focus on the fine balance between a clear and coherent message on one side, and compelling art direction and creative explorations on the other, they are well equipped to work with brands and companies across the world.

Tolm has won many international awards and is the only studio in Estonia to have won the Art Directors Club Europe gold award. And they have done it twice!

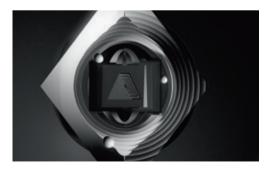


Animation for Sixfold by Tolm

TVC for Admiral Markets by Tolm



Title sequence for Estonian TV show OP by Tolm



## **AVP STUUDIO**

Contact: +372 5552 8907

info@avpstuudio.ee ■ www.avpstuudio.ee

Our audiovisual post-production studio provides language localization services and a range of media services. Localization: translation, subtitling, voice-over and theatrical dubbing. Media: mixing, editing and sound design. Stereo and 5.1. DCP, Blu-ray, DVD mastering, HD, conversions and rendering. Material adaptation for VOD platforms.

## **B6 STUDIOS**

Contact: Horret Kuus Niine 11, Tallinn 10414

info@b6studios.ee ■ www.b6studios.ee

With a combination of talent, experience and creativity, we will help you achieve your sonic goals. Sound services we provide include sound design, sound editing, foley, ADR, mixing. We work with films of all lengths and have experience in working on international co-productions in various foreign languages.



## **FILM AUDIO**

Contact: Hōbeda 3, 10125 Tallinn info@filmaudio.ee ■ www.filmaudio.ee

Film Audio studios offer a complete range of services for your audiovisual project from the location right up to the final mix. Our experienced, award-winning sound mixers and sound designers have impressive track records and they can create the most extraordinary aural experiences for your audiovisual media. We have been one of the major players in the dubbing/ADR scene for the past 20 years, our studio complex includes an on-site Foley stage and a fully equipped props room. We can also cater to all your location recording and sound design needs and have an excellent audio restoration studio, where an astonishing amount of Estonian feature film classics have already been restored for the National Archives of Estonia.



Contact: Lauri Laidna

Tatari 25, Tallinn, 10116 ■ +372 5556 9678

hello@flink.ee ■ lauri@flink.ee ■ www.flink.ee

Flink Studios offers a full range of audio and video post-production services in five studio rooms. These include voice-over casting and recording, sound design, mixing, video editing, color grading and motion graphics. Over 15 years of experience.





## **ORBITAL VOX**

**Contact:** Uku Toomet ■ C.R. Jakobsoni 14 Tallinn 10126 orbital@orbital.ee ■ www.orbital.ee

Orbital Vox is a fully-fledged post-production studio with 3 audio and 2 video suites along with a colour grading studio. We've been a reliable partner in the business of commercials, dubbing, feature films and TV series post with over 25 years of experience. Our services range from both pre- and post-production planning, online, VFX, colour correction and compositing to sound re-recording, mixing, foley and digital cinema mastering.

Whether your project is large or small, we will offer you a tailor-made approach and a full attention of our team of skilled specialists.





# **PÖFF** shorts

## (Black Nights Film Festival)

**ANNUALLY IN NOVEMBER** 

he FIAPF-accredited Black Nights Film Festival (PÖFF) has been home to the biggest animated film showcase in the Baltics for over 20 years.

With its short film and animation section PÖFF Shorts, the festival aims to screen the best animated and live action short films of all genres from cutting edge talents and bold visionaries across the world.

An Academy Awards, European Film Academy (EFA) and BAFTA-qualifying festival, PÖFF Shorts hosts several international competition programmes judged by recognised industry professionals. Alongside the international competitions for short films and animations, as well as their respective New Talents sections for

students, the PÖFF Shorts National Competition aims to promote the work of Estonian filmmakers and animators.

The festival programme also includes a selection of thematic screenings, retrospectives, international premieres and special events made to bring filmmakers and audiences together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Parallel to PÖFF Shorts, an industry event Baltic Preview takes place. It is a networking event for film professionals initiated and coordinated by the Estonian Short Film Centre ShortEST. During the two day event, around 20 short films from Baltic countries, both works in progress and films straight out of the oven, are exclusively showcased to international programmers, agents and distributors.

## Submissions open in March.









## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

- Short or half-length films (up to 45 minutes): fiction, documentary, experimental; live-action or animation.
- Completed after the 1st of January of the previous festival year (regarding competitive programmes). Estonian premiere preferable.
- Presented in HD video screening format (minimum 1920x1080px, Prores, DNxHD), DCP.
- Have English subtitles if they are not in English.
- Films submitted to the student film competitions must be directed by a film, animation or media student.

Contact: PÖFF Shorts (Black Nights Film Festival) shorts@poff.ee ■ shorts.poff.ee

## **Estonian Academy of Arts**



Established in 1914, the Estonian Academy of Arts (EKA) is the only public university in Estonia providing higher education in fine arts, design, architecture, media, visual studies, art culture, and conservation.

The Department of Animation was established in 2006, and since 2007 it has offered a two-year MA in Animation curricula. The main goal of the programme is to educate creators of animated films. The further aim is to contribute to the global development of animation as an art form.

EKA students' animations have won more than 125 awards at international animation and short film festivals.

## **BECOME A MASTER OF ANIMATION**

As our master students come from very different parts of the world and have different educational backgrounds, we try to encourage their individual approach to filmmaking. The films vary from narrative to more experimental. Most of the works are executed in traditional 2D or stop motion techniques. Recently we have started to offer more thorough CGI courses.

Upon completion of the Master of Animation programme, students have acquired in-depth theoretical and practical animation skills. The





A Table Game (dir. Nicolás Petelski Mesón, 2017)

Animation students together with their professors Priit Pärn and Olga Pärn.





Pura vida (dir. Nata Metlukh, 2018)

students can specialise in specific animation techniques and create individual projects. After graduation, the students are qualified to realise themselves as animated film creators, professionals in creative industries or teachers in their field. Students who have completed the Master's programme are also qualified to continue their studies and pursue a doctoral degree.

Subjects fall into three categories: compulsory, elective and optional. In a number of cases, students can choose the courses that are most suitable for them. Besides lectures, master classes, seminars, exhibitions, and joint projects all take place, and independent study plays an important role.

The teaching language of the Master of Animation is English. Duration of the programme is two years.

## The whole curriculum is taught in English

Read more at www.artun.ee/masters/animation/



Muteum (dir. Aggie Pak Yee Lee, 2017)

## **TEACHING STAFF**

The department was run by professor Priit Pärn and associate professor Olga Pärn for 13 years. From 2019, the new head of the Animation department is professor Priit Tender. Visiting lecturers include professionals in their respective fields: Kaspar Jancis (caricature), Sander Joon (TV-Paint animation), Kamila Kučíková (technical tendencies of contemporary animation), Märt-Matis Lill (sound design), Veiko Vaatmann (film history, film theory), Oliver Laas (perception mechanisms of visual media) and Timo Toots (interactive media). Internationally recognized animation artists regularly give workshops at EKA. Visiting artists have included Ruth Lingford (UK/US), Paul Bush (UK), Ksenia Okhapkina (RU) and Andrea Martignoni (IT/DE).

## www.artun.ee/animation





Gorilla in the Washing Machine (dir. Red Hung Huei Jen, 2019)

EKA

## Festival Highlights



n overview of some of the recent animated films that have travelled the world. Most of the films mentioned here travelled to more than 30 festivals and brought home several awards.



Directed by Janno Põldma and Heiki Ernits, produced by Eesti Joonisfilm (Estonia), Rija Films (Latvia) **Festivals:** Berlinale, Shanghai IFF, Warsaw IFF, Chicago International Children's FF, Cinekid, Stockholm Junior, Giffoni



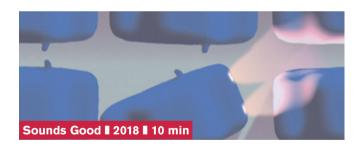
Directed by Chintis Lundgren, produced by Chintis Lundgreni Animatsioonistuudio (Estonia), Adriatic Animation (Croatia) and Miyu Productions (France) **Festivals:** Toronto, Ottawa, Dok Leipzig, Les Arcs



Directed by Kristjan Holm, produced by Krabana **Festivals:** Annecy, Animateka, PÖFF Shorts, goEast, Helsinki IFF



Directed by Sergei Kibus, produced by Nukufilm **Festivals:** Zlin, Shanghai, Ottawa, Best Children's Film Golden Gunnar at Fredrikstad Animation Festival



Directed by Sander Joon, produced by Estonian Academy of Arts, BOP!, Open Workshop Denmark

Festivals: Ottawa, Annecy, Edinburgh Short Film
Festival, Best Student Film Award from Fredrikstad,
Stuttgart and Kaboom



Directed by Anu-Laura Tuttelberg, produced by Nukufilm (Estonia), Estudio Carabas (Mexico), Art Shot VSI (Lithuania)

**Festivals:** Animafest Zagreb, Annecy, ANIMA Brussels



Directed by Kaspar Jancis, produced by Nukufilm (Estonia), Telegael (Ireland), Grid VFX (Belgium), Calon (Great Britain)

Festivals: Zagreb, Annecy, Ottawa, Animateka



Directed by Priit Tender, produced by Eesti Joonisfilm **Festivals:** Annecy, Ottawa, Fredrikstad, International Short Film Festival Berlin



Directed by Mari Kivi, Liis Kokk, produced by the Estonian Academy of Arts **Festivals:** Animateka, Filmfest Dresden, Stuttgart, Fredrikstad, IndieLisboa, Annecy, BAFTA Student Film Awards



Directed by Kaspar Jancis, produced by Eesti Joonisfilm **Festivals:** Animateka, ANIMA Brussels, Annecy



Directed by Mikk Mägi, Oskar Lehemaa, produced by BOP! and Apollo Film Productions

Festivals: ANIMA Brussels, Istanbul Film Festival,

Annecy



Directed by Meelis Arulepp, Karsten Kiilerich, produced by A Film Estonia and A. Film Production (Denmark)



Directed by Noam Sussman, produced by the Estonian Academy of Arts **Festivals:** Ottawa, Fredrikstad, KABOOM, Animateka, Stuttgart



Directed by Ülo Pikkov, produced by Silmviburlane **Festivals:** Docpoint Tallinn, Tampere

## **Estonian Film Institute**

Uus 3, Tallinn 10111, Estonia +372 627 6060 film@filmi.ee ■ www.filmi.ee

## **Estonian Ministry of Culture**

Suur-Karja 23, 15076 Tallinn, Estonia +372 628 2222 min@kul.ee ■ www.kul.ee

## **Creative Europe MEDIA Estonia**

Uus 3, Tallinn 10111, Estonia Estonian Film Institute +372 627 6065 media@looveuroopa.ee www.looveuroopa.ee

## **Estonian Cultural Endowment**

Suur-Karja 23, 10148 Tallinn, Estonia +372 699 9150 kulka@kulka.ee ■ www.kulka.ee

## Estonian National Archive's Film Archive

Ristiku 84, 10318 Tallinn, Estonia +372 693 8613 filmiarhiiv@ra.ee ■ www.filmi.arhiiv.ee

## **FILM FUNDS**

## Film Estonia

Uus 3, Tallinn 10111, Estonia +372 627 3141 commissioner@filmi.ee ■ www.filmestonia.eu

## Film Fund of Estonian Islands

Lossi 1a, Kuressaare 93815, Estonia +372 452 0570 filmifond@sasak.ee ■ www.saartefilmifond.ee

## **Tartu Film Fund**

Kalevi 13, Tartu 51010, Estonia +372 552 5258 info@tartufilmfund.ee ■ www.tartufilmfund.ee

## Viru Film Fund

Keskväljak 4, Jõhvi 41531, Estonia +372 5561 0512 piia.tamm@ivek.ee www.ivek.ee/en/programs/film-foundation

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS

## **Estonian Filmmakers' Union**

+372 646 4164 kinoliit@kinoliit.ee ■ www.kinoliit.ee

## The Estonian Association of Film Journalists

filmikriitik@filmikriitik.ee ■ www.filmikriitik.ee

## **Estonian Film Industry Cluster**

Kristel Tõldsepp +372 516 0399 filmiklaster@gmail.com ■ www.filmiklaster.ee

## **Estonian Screenwriters' Guild**

info@stsenaristid.ee ■ www.stsenaristid.ee

## **Estonian Animation Association**

+372 5664 6085 mari.kivi@artun.ee

## **INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS**

## **Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival**

+372 5620 8308 info@poff.ee ■ www.poff.ee

## PÖFF Shorts (Black Nights Film Festival)

shorts@poff.ee ■ shorts.poff.ee

## **Docpoint Tallinn**

info@docpoint.ee ■ www.docpoint.ee

## **EDUCATION**

## Baltic Film, Media, Arts and Communication School

Narva st. 27, 10120 Tallinn, Estonia bfm@tlu.ee ■ www.tlu.ee

## **Estonian Academy of Arts**

artun@artun.ee ■ www.artun.ee



