





# A Quick Introduction to Estonian Animation



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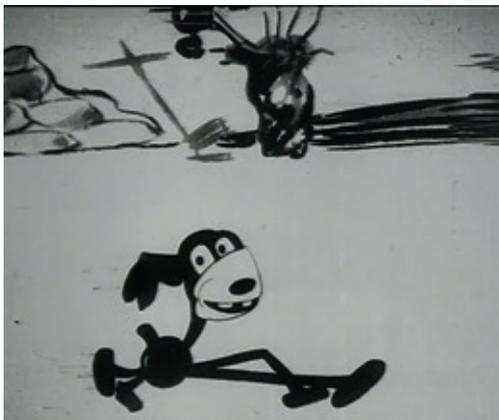
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# Introduction

By Aurelia Aasa

**A**nimation is not only about waking up puppets or drawn characters. It's about finding your peculiarity. Because where else, if not in animation, could you bring your most bizarre dreams into life? It seems that Estonians are particularly good at that. Absurdity, playfulness and dark humour are essential components of Estonian animation. Quite surprising, considering that in real life animators tend to be rather modest, or at least chilled out. Probably that's the universal paradox. Naturally, Estonian animation field has changed a lot throughout the years. Collapse of the Soviet Union, overall changes in animation techniques and new generations of animators have shaped today's animation landscape. Next to the grand-old-studios of Estonian animation – Nukufilm and Eesti Joonisfilm, there now stand 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 animations have great storytelling, high standard 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

**T**he animated film has played a significant cultural role in Estonia. While it might come as 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 throughout the world. 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 on roots more than twenty years later, along with the establishment of our first stop-motion studio Nukufilm (1957). A separate studio for drawn animation saw life in 1971. During that period, nature, folklore and philosophical metaphors were the defining motifs. And not only in animation, but in arts in general. It was the era of hidden



*Bonycrone*  
(dir. Heino Pars, 1977)

*Life Before Life*  
(dir. Rao Heidmets, 2016)



Heino Pars  
(1925 – 2014)

*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 those, who shaped that first wave of Estonian animation.

Priit Pärn, one of Estonia's most legendary animators, joined Joonisfilm in mid-seventies. Pärn changed the existing animation pattern with his rough pencil strokes and ironic depiction of domestic life. Nukufilm started to bloom with fresh energy in 1980s, when such grandmasters like Rao Heidmets, Mati Kütt, Kalju Kivi, Hardi Volmer and Riho Unt joined Nukufilm. 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 Palm d'Or. Quite big, or maybe even colossal thing for a small country like Estonia. Sad irony, of course, is that Heidmets wasn't able 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 CHALLENGES

Estonia's re-independence opened many doors and brought new faces to both studios. Ülo Pikkov, Priit Tender, Kaspar Jancis were some, who joined the animation world. Today, a main springboard for newcomers is the animation department in Estonian Academy of Arts. Since 1999, we've also had animation festival called Animated Dreams, which now figures under PÖFF Shorts. Nukufilm and Eesti Joonisfilm, the two cornerstones of Estonian film tradition, continue to be fruitful creative hubs. Next to short animations, both studios are now producing feature animations. In June 2018, Nukufilm

“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)



*Hell* (dir. Rein Raamat, 1983)



*Little Lily*  
(dir. Mati Kütt, 1995)



*Amalimbo* (dir. Juan Pablo Libossart, 2016)

released *Captain Morten and the Spider Queen* (dir. Kaspar Jancis). The adventurous stop motion feature film premiered at Animafest Zagreb and Annecy International Animation Film Festival. In Eesti Joonisfilm, Janno Põldma and Heiki Ernits have been behind the incredibly popular *Lotte From Gadgetville* since 2006. The newest sequel *Lotte and the Lost Dragons* is to be released in Spring 2019. In 2019 BOP! will also complete their very first feature film *Crazy Grandpa Cartoon: The Movie* (dir. Mikk Mägi, Oskar Lehemaa). In addition, a full feature animation *Raggie* (dir. Meelis Arulepp, Karsten Kiilerich) will be released in 2020. Produced by A Film Estonia and their Danish co-production partners, the film is based on a popular children's book by Eno Raud. So there's definitely something to look forward to.

However, animation industry, like every other sector, is going through changes. On one hand, Estonian author animation is still on demand and continuously successful internationally. On the other hand, the growing audiovisual advertising field is in the need for animators, furthermore 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, although it's not a piece of cake. 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 a lot of co-production with foreign animation studios, which is in general, a popular direction. Another commercial studio, Tolm is collaborating with design agencies and concentrates on motion-graphics animation. They've also won several design awards. Rather unique



© Eesti Joonisfilm



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)

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





© Eesti Joonistfilm

*Villa Antropoff*  
(dir. Kaspar Jancis, 2012)

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



aspect for an animation studio. So it's safe to say that animation landscape in Estonia is getting more colourful year by year. In-between, there are also one-man companies, which is a growing trend, and not only in animation sphere.

## IRONY IS THE BEST CURE

Speaking about trends, we must come back to social satire, which still has an essential role in Estonian animation. Aside from irony and absurdity, Estonian animation landscape is rather unpredictable. Different animation techniques, themes and characters blend together and stand side by side. Remarkable that hand-drawn animation is also very much alive in Estonia. Interestingly, younger animators are even more drawn to traditional methods, while older generation is fascinated by technology. Maybe that's how it goes. All in all, most animators still follow their own creative journey, so to say.

Croatian-based Estonian animator Chintis Lundgren and her partner Draško Ivezic have created universe for playful animal characters. Lundgren's most recent, *Manivald*, animated short about a 33-year old momma's boy, is currently cruising around festivals, including Sundance, Annecy and Zagreb. Estonian Academy of Arts graduate Sander Joon made a successful festival round with his Bachelor film *Velodrool* and is now continuing with sports theme. With his latest films, Ülo Pikkov has entered the world of animated documentaries. In his most recent *Letting Go*, viewers can get a glimpse of over-life-sized puppet, made entirely out of books. In 2015, Riho Unt won the Jury award at Annecy with *The Master* – puppet animation, an intriguing short story about human nature. These are just some examples

of Estonian short animations, which have seen life during recent years. Quite a diverse picture.

Considering Estonian animation's rich history and continuing success, it's intriguing that many animators have found the road to animation by coincidence. Who was looking for a short time job, who went to try some 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 a refreshment in the world which often tends to be overly organized.



© EKA



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

*Velodrool*  
(dir. Sander Joon,  
2015)

Kaspar Jancis



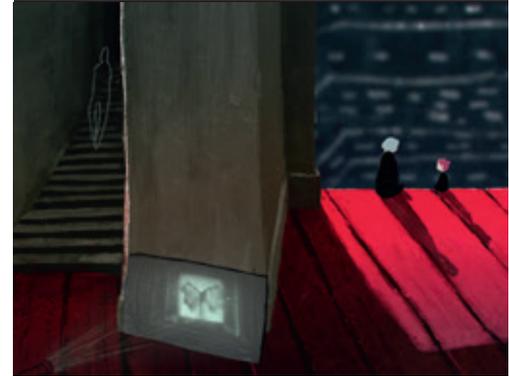
# Financing Opportunities In Estonia

## Estonian Film Institute

**T**he Estonian Film Institute (EFI) is a national foundation, financed mainly by the Ministry of Culture. EFI supports the development, production and distribution of films, promotes Estonian films, the 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 who owns or licenses the property rights of the authors of the audio-visual work. There are two rounds of applications each year.



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

*Teofrastus* (dir. Sergei Kibus, 2018)



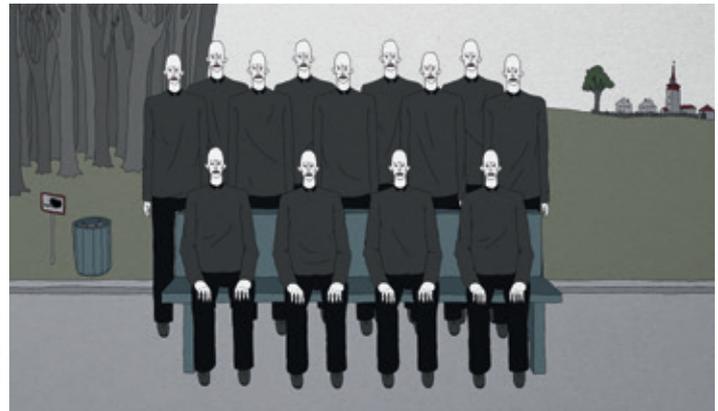


*Winter in the Rainforest*  
(dir. Anu-Laura Tuttelberg,  
2018)

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



© Eesti Joonisfilm



© 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 feature-length and short animation films. The recipient of development support must 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 feature-length and short animation films. The recipient of production support must spend at least 50% of the Estonian Film Institute support allocated for his or her film project on economic activity in Estonia.

Also, various **other categories** of support exist: distribution support, new media support, film-related research work and digitizing, 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 an international feature-length or short animation film project provided that the main producer of the film is not a legal entity registered in Estonia and that the Estonian co-producer owns property rights for the film that are proportional to his or her 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.

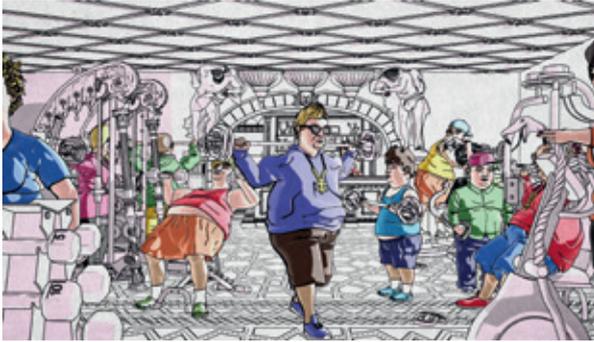
Support category	Amount
Script development for feature-length animation	Up to 10,000 € euros
Development of feature-length animation	Up to 30,000 euros
Production of feature-length animation	Up to 800,000 euros
Development of short animation	Up to 10,000 euros
Production of short animation	Up to 280,000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



Estonian  
Film  
Institute

**Contact:** Uus 3, Tallinn 10111, Estonia  
**phone:** +372 6276 060  
**e-mail:** film@filmi.ee | www.filmi.ee

*Fatcula*  
(dir. Martinus Daane Klemet, 2016)



© Eesti Joonisfilm



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



*Man Wanted* (Greece,  
Estonia, 2019). The  
short animation received  
minority co-production  
support from Estonian  
Film Institute.

# The Cultural Endowment of Estonia

**T**he Cultural Endowment of Estonia contributes to the variety and continuity of culture and sport. There are eight separate endowments that distribute the money appropriated to a specific area of culture. Decisions are made by the supervisory board of the Cultural Endowment on the basis of submitted applications and on its own initiative.

The Audiovisual Art Endowment aims to promote Estonian audiovisual culture by supporting the production of films, the organization of film events and 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 films made in an international cooperation.

## SUPPORT AMOUNTS FOR ANIMATION

**Domestic production** (including development) – up to 2,400 euros/minute but not exceeding 120,000 euros as a total benefit.

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

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

**Applicant:** Estonian co-producer



*Empty Space*  
(dir. Ülo Pikkov, 2016)



**EESTI KULTUURKAPITAL**

**Contact:** Suur-Karja 23, 10148 Tallinn, Estonia  
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**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)

# Film Estonia – produce your next animation with Estonians

**F**ilm Estonia is a financial 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 EUR, 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?

- full-length animation film
- short animation film with the length of at least 10 min
- animation series consisting of at least 13 episodes (minimum length of 5 minutes per episode)
- the post-production of all the above mentioned works

An application can be made for international production service or co-production. The level of support

is determined by amount of the Estonian production costs that are both eligible and directly spent on parties that are subject to Estonian taxation, multiplied by 20%, 25% or 30%.

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

- 30% if at least 2 creative employees are tax residents of Estonia;
- 25% if at least 1 creative employee is a tax resident of Estonia.

Production	Minimum rate of overall budget (€)	Minimum rate of eligible cost of Estonian production stage (€)		
		20%	25%	30%
The level of support				
Full-length animation film	2,000,000	100,000	200,000	300,000
Short 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 is a company registered in Estonia

**Recipient** 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. The term for the processing applications is up to 30 days.

Only post production	Minimum rate of overall budget (€)	Minimum rate of eligible cost of Estonian production stage (€)		
		20%	25%	30%
The level of support				
Full-length animation film	2,000,000	30,000	50,000	80,000
Short 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:** Estonian Film Institute  
 Uus 3, Tallinn 10111, Estonia  
**phone:** +372 627 60 60  
**e-mail:** commissioner@filmi.ee  
 filmestonia.eu



Photo: Shutterstock

*When You Least Expect It* a feature film made with the support of Tartu Film Fund by Kopli Kinokompanii.



Photo: Kopli Kinokompanii

# Tartu Film Fund

**T**artu Film Fund is a regional fund that functions as a cash rebate based in the City of Tartu in South of Estonia. The annual budget is 150,000 euros and financing is available for the production and post-production of animation films with a total length of at least 60 minutes.

Estonian production companies providing production services for international animation projects are eligible to apply for funding. Under the scheme, the cash rebate for a single project is 20% of eligible expenditure incurred in the Tartu area. This will be issued after the production is complete and project is audited.

The eligibility for funding will be assessed by a committee comprising an experienced film producer, representatives of Tartu City Government, the Tartu Centre for Creative Industries and the Estonian Film Institute.

Applying for a rebate is on an on-going basis.

You can find terms and conditions at [www.tartufilmfund.ee](http://www.tartufilmfund.ee)

**Contact:** Kalevi 13, Tartu 51010, Estonia

**e-mail:** [info@tartufilmfund.ee](mailto:info@tartufilmfund.ee) [www.tartufilmfund.ee](http://www.tartufilmfund.ee)

Photo: Shutterstock



*The Secret Society of Souptown*  
a feature film made with the support  
of Tartu Film Fund by Nafta Films.

Photo: Nafta Films



Photo: Visitestonia



Photo: Visitestonia





Photo: Visitestonia



# Viru Film Fund



estonia's first regional fund functions as a cash rebate based in the Eastern region of Estonia.

In 2018, the annual budget is around 100,000 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 20 – 25% 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 [filmestonia.ee](http://filmestonia.ee)

**Contact:** Kadri Jalonen

**phone:** +372 5174236 | **e-mail:** [kadri.jalonen@ivek.ee](mailto:kadri.jalonen@ivek.ee)

Photo: Visitestonia



Photo: Andres Teiss



*The Eternal Road* (2017) a feature film made with the support of Viru Film Fund by Estonia, Finland and Sweden.

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

Photo: Andres Teiss



Photo: Amrion



## 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. Currently A Film has started the production of its first feature film *Raggie*. The film is a co-production with A.Film Production in Denmark to be released in January 2020



*Raggie* – A Film Estonia, A.Film Production, to be released in 2020.



*Up and Away*  
 (dir. Karsten Kiilerich, 2018)



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

*The Incredible Story of the Giant Pear*  
(dir. Philip Einstein Lipski, Amalie Næsby Fick, Jørgen Lerdam, 2017)



## RECENT FILMOGRAPHY:

*The Incredible Story of the Giant Pear* (2017) – CGI feature film produced by Nordisk Film (DK), where A Film Estonia's team produced CGI animation.

*The Little Vampire* (2017) – German-Danish-Dutch CGI feature film where A Film Estonia's team produced CGI animation.

*The Red Turtle* (2016) – Oscar nominated feature film produced by Prima Linea Production (FRA), A Film Estonia's team produced clean-up and inbetweens.

## UPCOMING:

*The Overcoat* (2018) – A 27 minute animated Christmas film featuring the voice talents of Cillian Murphy and Alfred Molina. Co-produced with Irish Giant Animation. Directed by Sean Mullen and Meelis Arulepp.

*Up and Away* (2018) – CGI feature film produced by M&M Productions and A Film Production (DK), A Film Estonia produced over 20 minutes of animation

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

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

**BOP!**

**Contact:** Suur-Karja 4-14 Tallinn  
 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 commercial work and also independent animation films. Some noteworthy projects of late have been creating the animations and VR solutions for Estonian Museum of Natural History and producing the feature length puppet-animation *Crazy Grandpa: The Movie*.

**RECENT FILMOGRAPHY:**

*A Midsummer Dream* (2018) / 23 min drawn animation

**UPCOMING:**

*Crazy Grandpa Cartoon: The Movie* (2019)  
 90min / stop motion / directed by Mikk Mägi and Oskar Lehemaa

*Planet Way*  
 by BOP!



*Crazy Grandpa:  
 The Movie* by BOP!



## CHINTIS LUNDGREN ANIMATION STUDIO

**Contact:** Chintis Lundgreni Animatsioonistuudio  
chintis.lundgren@gmail.com ■ www.chintislundgren.com

Chintis Lundgreni Animatsioonistuudio is a one-person studio based in Tallinn, Estonia. 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.

### RECENT FILMOGRAPHY:

*Manivald* (2017) / 13 min

*Manivald Goes to Woolfywood* (2017) / 2 min

*#merrychristmas* (2015) / 1 min

*Life with Herman H. Rott* (2015) / 11 min

*Kingfisher* (2014) / 5 min

*Mysterious Swamp* (2013) / 3 min

### UPCOMING:

*Toomas Beneath the Valley of the Wild Wolves* (2019) / 15 min

*Manivald and the Absinthe Rabbits* / 13 x 11 min / TV-series



*Kingfisher* (dir. Chintis Lundgren, 2014)



*Manivald* (dir. Chintis Lundgren, 2017)



*Mysterious Swamp* (dir. Chintis Lundgren, 2013)

## 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:

*The Mystics* directed by Roland Seer



*Amalimbo*  
 (dir. Juan Pablo Libossart, 2016)

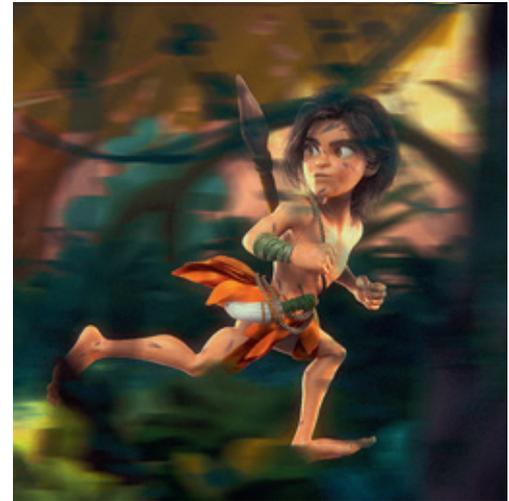
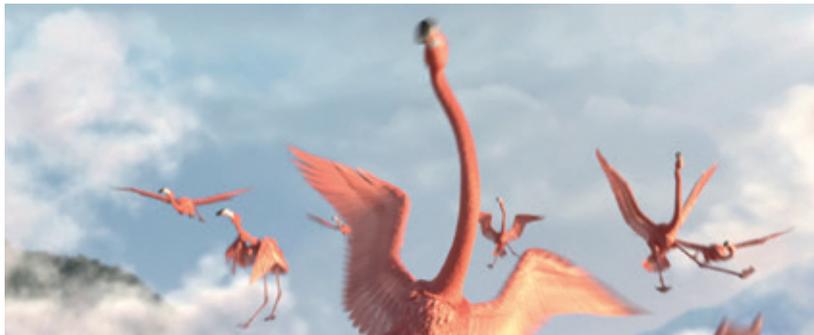
*Rehe Bread TVC* by  
 Fork Film Animation Studio



## FROST FX

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



Examples of work by Frost FX



## EESTI JOONISFILM

**Contact:** Kalev Tamm

Roo 9 Tallinn 10611

info@joonisfilm.ee | www.joonisfilm.ee

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 like the upcoming *Lotte and the Lost Dragons*.

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:

*Destined to be Dead* (2018) / 11 min  
directed by Francesco Rosso

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

*A Demonstration of Brilliance in Four Movements* (2018)  
15 min / directed by Morten Tšinakov, Lucija Mrzljak



© Eesti Joonisfilm

*Destined to be Dead* (dir. Francesco Rosso, 2018)

*Strawberry Eaters*  
(dir. Mattias Mälk, 2018)



© Eesti Joonisfilm



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

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

**UPCOMING:**

*Lotte And The Lost Dragons* (2019) / 78 min  
directed by Janno Põldma, Heiki Ernits

*Orpheus* (2019) / 13 min / directed by Priit Tender

*The Cosmonaut* (2019) / 9 min / directed by  
Kaspar Jancis

*13 Years in the House of Horror* / 11 min  
directed by Mattias Mälk

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



## NUKUFILM

**Contact:** Kerdi Kuusik-Oengo

Niine 11 Tallinn 10414

kerdi@nukufilm.ee | www.nukufilm.ee

Nukufilm is the oldest and largest stop motion 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 has put together an exhibition from the sets and puppets of past years and it travels around Europe to different animation festivals.

Nukufilm's latest feature *Captain Morten and the Spider Queen* is an Estonian-Irish-Belgian co-production directed by Kaspar Jancis and released in April 2018. In production there are several shorts directed by Girlin-Bassovskaja, Sergei Kibus and Rao Heidmets.

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.



*The Master* (dir. Riho Unt, 2015)

*Man Wanted* (dir. Irida Zhonga, 2019)



**RECENT FILMOGRAPHY:**

*Captain Morten and the Spider Queen* (2018)

80 min / directed by Kaspar Jancis

*Mary and the 7 Dwarfs* (2017) / 15 min

directed by Riho Unt

*Eternal Hunting Grounds* (2016)

18 min / directed by Elin Grimstad

*The Master* (2015) / 18 min

directed by Riho Unt

*Tick-Tack* (2015) / 10 min

directed by Ülo Pikkov

**UPCOMING:**

*Teofrastus* / 16 min

directed by Sergei Kibus

*About Love* / 10 min

directed by Girlin-Bassovskaja

*Volli* / 15 min/ directed by Rao Heidmets

*Man Wanted*/ directed by Irida Zhonga

*Draugen* / directed by Ragnar Neljandi

*The Wings* / directed by Riho Unt

*Made in Heaven* / directed by Mati Kütt



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

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



## RAO HEIDMETS FILMSTUDIO

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

Rao Heidmets Filmstudio was established in 1991. The company is dedicated to producing long and short films with puppets and actors. At the moment the company is working on a script for a new experimental film.

### RECENT FILMOGRAPHY: (all films directed by Rao Heidmets)

*The Egg* (2012) / 11 min

*Life Before Life* (2017) / 8 min

*Bison Touch* (2017) / 9 min



*Life Before Life*  
(dir. Rao Heidmets,  
2017)

## 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 will release *Roots*, a documentary by 6 female directors in 2018.

### RECENT FILMOGRAPHY:

*Letting Go* (2017) / 11 min / directed by Ülo Pikkov

### UPCOMING:

*Roots* (2018) / 102 min / a documentary with animated parts animations by Anu-Laura Tuttelberg.



*Zebra* (dir. Ülo Pikkov, 2015)

*Letting Go* (dir. Ülo Pikkov, 2017)



## 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 recognized for our creative and technical excellence delivered in a friendly and professional manner.

Examples of  
post-production  
works by Tallinn  
Postworks.



## TALLINN POSTWORKS



## TOLM STUUDIO

**Contact:** Joosep Volk  
Tatari 64 Tallinn 10134  
tolm@tolm.tv | www.tolm.tv

Tolm is a team of experienced motion designers and animators with the competence in producing both smaller and bigger international projects.

We cover the entire creative process from the very first idea to final delivery keeping a strong focus on design and storytelling. Our passion is to develop ideas and mix different techniques into fresh and compelling visuals that engage the audience.

We love working closely together with management, marketing departments, advertising and design agencies, TV channels or start-ups. Tolm is the go-to studio in Estonia if you expect high-end result and want a reliable partner.

Tolm has won many international awards, the biggest of them being Art Directors Club Europe 2015 Gold in Motion Design category.

TVC for  
Felix Ketchup  
by Tolm



TVC for Drako  
by Tolm



Commercial for  
Neste by Tolm



## B6 STUDIOS

**Contact:** Horret Kuus

info@b6studios.ee | www.b6studios.ee

B6 studios provides professional sound services for animations, feature films, commercials and games (sound design, editing and mixing, foley, custom music). The company is lead by Horret Kuus, an award-winning sound designer, who has more than 16 years of experience in the industry. His credits include sound design/sound editing for over 55 animated films, 17 feature films and 36 documentaries.

## FILM AUDIO

**Contact:** Hõbeda 3, 10125 Tallinn

info@filmaudio.ee | www.b6studios.ee

Film Audio studios offer a complete range of services for your audiovisual project from the location right up to the final mix. Our sound mixers and sound designers have impressive track records and create extraordinary aural experiences for your audiovisual media. In addition to catering to all your location recording and sound design needs, we also offer dubbing/ADR, Foley recording and audio restoration services.

## ORBITAL VOX

**Contact:** Uku Toomet  
C.R. Jakobsoni 14 Tallinn 101 26  
orbital@orbital.ee ■ www.orbital.ee

Orbital Vox is a fully fledged post-production studio with 4 audio and video suites along with a color grading studio. We've been in the business of commercials, dubbing and feature films for over 25 years. Our services range from VFX, color correction and compositing to sound recording, mixing, foley and digital cinema mastering. Our clients are advertising agencies and production companies, independent movie producers and major Hollywood studios.

## QUARTAL STUDIO

**Contact:** Mardi 1, 10145 Tallinn, Estonia  
info@quartalstudio.com ■ www.quartalstudio.com

Quartal Studio services include location sound recording, dialogue recording, sound editing, design and mixing for feature films, animations, TV and commercials. Quartal Studio also provides custom music, from orchestral to ambient to hip-hop. From location to post, we make it happen with a smile.

# PÖFF shorts

**(Black Nights Film Festival)**

**NOVEMBER 20-25, 2018**

**T**he FIAPF-accredited Black Nights Film Festival (PÖFF) has been home to the most important animated film showcase in the Baltics for almost 20 years.

With its annual 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. PÖFF Shorts joins together two internationally recognized programs: Sleepwalkers for live action short films and Animated Dreams for animation films – known as PÖFF Shorts since 2017. In 2017, the festival screened over 250 films from more than 45 countries.

PÖFF Shorts consists of several competition pro-

grammes judged by internationally recognized animation professionals. Alongside the international main and student competitions, the PÖFF Shorts National Competition is designed to promote the newest work by Estonian filmmakers.

In addition, PÖFF Shorts includes a selection of thematic guest programmes, international premieres, a retrospective of an Estonian animation director, and special events made to bring filmmakers and audiences together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Parallel to PÖFF Shorts, the industry event Baltic Preview takes place. It is a networking event for film professionals initiated and coordinated by the Estonian Short Film Centre ShortEST and Creative Gate. During the 2-day event, around 20 short films from the 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 May**





### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

- short or medium-length films (up to 45 minutes): fiction, documentary, experimental or VR; live-action or animation;
- premiered after the 1st of January 2017 (to be eligible for competitive programmes);
- presented in a HD video screening format (minimum 1920x1080px, Prores, DNxHD), DCP;
- in original language with English subtitles;
- films submitted to the student film competitions must be directed by a film, animation or media student.

Contact: PÖFF Shorts  
(Black Nights Film Festival)  
e-mail: [shorts@poff.ee](mailto:shorts@poff.ee) | [shorts.poff.ee](http://shorts.poff.ee)

# Estonian Academy of Arts

**E**stablished in 1914, the Estonian Academy of Arts 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 at the Estonian Academy of Arts in 2006 and since 2007 it has offered a two-year MA in Animation, taught in English. Currently there are students from 17 countries enrolled, hence the Animation Department is the perfect melting pot for animation lovers from all over the world.

The programme is taught by Professor Priit Pärn and Associate Professor Olga Pärn. The main goal of the programme is to successfully educate creators of animated films, providing them with theoretical knowledge and practical skills. The further aim is to contribute to the global development of animation as an art form.

In most of the world's animation schools, students are rarely taught the art of good storytelling. This is something that sets our programme apart. We place an emphasis on the story and teach Professor Pärn's unique methodology for creating film scripts. Studies are conducted in cooperation with several other higher education schools in Tallinn. For example, the students actively participate in lectures at the Baltic Film and Media School (BFM) and



Professor Priit Pärn with his students.



© EKA

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

*Once in the Fields of Boredom* (dir. Teele Strauss, 2017)



© EKA

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





© EKA

Tallinn University. Cooperation also takes place with the Estonian Animation Union and Estonia's larger animation studios. The instructors and lecturers of the programme are active artists and specialists whose work is regularly presented at international events.

Our student films have won more than 80 awards in international festivals. Former students of our MA program include the internationally recognized filmmakers Kristjan Holm, Martinus Daane Klemet, Anu Laura Tuttelberg, Edmunds Jansons (Latvia), Zane Oborenko (Latvia), Michael Frey (Switzerland), Lucija Mrzljak (Croatia), Teemu Hotti (Finland) and Heta Jääliinoja (Finland).

## The whole curriculum is taught in English

Read more at  
[www.artun.ee/masters/animation/](http://www.artun.ee/masters/animation/)



© EKA

*Muteum* (dir. Aggie Pak Yee Lee, 2017)

## BECOME A MASTER OF ANIMATION AT THE ESTONIAN ACADEMY OF ARTS

Estonian Academy of Arts is offering a 2-year Master of Arts in Animation to students interested in animation directing and filmmaking.

If you are an ambitious and determined artist, with the talent, motivation, and desire to create unique work, form new directions, and realize your career aspirations as an animation director, this course is ideal.

The course combines several disciplines, e.g. scriptwriting, directing, history of animation techniques and media theory. Students can choose the theme and technique of their films while the department supports and gives advice on their production.

The courses are taught by award-winning animation directors and artists Priit Pärn, Olga Pärn and other experienced professionals.



Photo by Olga Pärn

MA Animation students at Estonian Academy of Arts.

*Penelope* (dir. Heta Jääliinoja, 2017)



© EKA



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# Festival Highlights

**A**n overview of some of the more recent Estonian animations that have travelled the world and won various awards. Among many prestigious festivals, several of these films were also screened at Zagreb, Annecy, Ottawa, Clermont Ferrand, Venice and Sundance.



## CAPTAIN MORTEN AND THE SPIDER QUEEN

2018 / 78 min

**Director:** Kaspar Jancis

**Produced by:** Nukufilm (Estonia), Telegael (Ireland), Grid VFX (Belgium), Calon (Great Britain)



## MARY AND 7 DWARFS / 2017 / 13 min

**Director:** Riho Unt

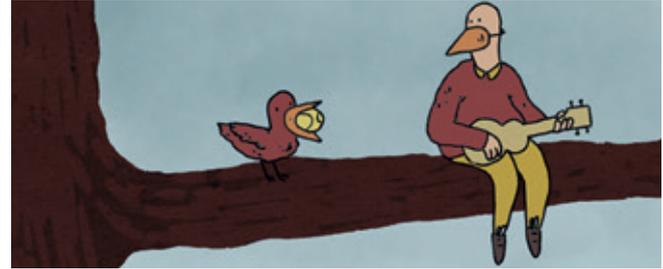
**Produced by:** Nukufilm



**MANIVALD / 2017 / 13 min**

**Director:** Chintis Lundgren

**Produced by:** Chintis Lundgreni Animatsioonistuudio (Estonia), Adriatic Animation (Croatia), NFB (Canada)



**A TABLE GAME / 2017 / 4 min**

**Director:** Nicolás Petelski Mesón / 2017

**Produced by:** Universitat Politècnica de Valencia (Spain), Estonian Academy of Arts (Estonia)



**LETTING GO / 2017 / 11 min**

**Director:** Ülo Pikkov

**Produced by:** Silmviburlane



**MUTEUM / 2017 / 5 min**

**Director:** Äggie Pak Yee Lee

**Produced by:** Estonian Academy of Arts



**ONCE IN THE FIELDS OF BOREDOM / 2017 / 6 min**

**Director:** Teele Strauss

**Produced by:** Estonian Academy of Arts



**BIRD FLU / 2016 / 10 min**

**Director:** Priit Tender

**Produced by:** Eesti Joonisfilm



**AMALIMBO / 2016 / 16 min**

**Director:** Juan Pablo Libossart **Produced by:** Fasad (Sweden), Fork Film (Estonia), Film Väst (Sweden)



**EMPTY SPACE / 2016 / 10 min**

**Director:** Ülo Pikkov

**Produced by:** Nukufilm



**PENELOPE / 2016 / 4 min**

**Director:** Heta Jääliinoja  
**Produced by:** Estonian Academy of Arts



**PIANO / 2015 / 8 min**

**Director:** Kaspar Jancis  
**Produced by:** Eesti Joonisfilm



**HOUSE OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS / 2015 / 11 min**

**Director:** Priit Tender  
**Produced by:** Eesti Joonisfilm



**THE MASTER / 2015 / 18 min**

**Director:** Riho Unt  
**Produced by:** Nukufilm

# Estonia 100 Celebrations

**O**n 24th February, 2018, one hundred years passed from the proclamation of Estonia as an independent, democratic republic.

In order to celebrate the anniversary, The Estonia 100 Film Programme was launched to bring numerous new works to movie theatres in 2018 and 2019. Within this programme, five feature films, two documentary films, a TV series and a full feature animation will be produced. The animated feature *Lotte and the Lost Dragons* is directed by Janno Põldma and Heiki Ernits and produced by Eesti Joonisfilm (Estonia) and Rija Films (Latvia). It is the third film in the series of Lotte films that children already know and love.

Additionally, a diverse programme of events will take place internationally, offering thousands of opportunities to celebrate around the world up until 2020. Numerous animation focuses have also been planned, which include programmes with current and historic Estonian animations. Some also include lectures and workshops by the internationally acclaimed Estonian animation artists as well as exhibitions.



- **International Animation Film Festival Anima in Brussels**  
Belgium / February 2018
- **Monstra - Lisbon Animation Film Festival**  
Portugal / March 2018
- **Tampere Film Festival**  
Finland / March 2018
- **GoEast Film Festival**  
Wiesbaden, Germany / April 2018
- **Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Films**  
Germany / April 2018
- **Krakow Film Festival**  
Poland / May 2018
- **Animafest Zagreb Croatia / June 2018**
- **Annecy International Animation Film Festival**  
France / June 2018
- **Helsinki International Film Festival**  
Finland / September 2018
- **International Animation Festival Hiroshima**  
*Japan / August 2018*

Special Estonian screenings and retrospective programmes can also be found at various other international events.

**Interested in celebrating with us?** Contact the Estonian Film Institute for further information on possible focus programmes.

**Estonian Film Institute**

Uus 3, Tallinn 10111, Estonia

Phone: +372 627 6060

E-mail: film@filmi.ee ■ www.filmi.ee

**Estonian Ministry of Culture**

Suur-Karja 23, 15076 Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372 628 2222

E-mail: min@kul.ee ■ www.kul.ee

**Creative Europe MEDIA Estonia**

Uus 3, Tallinn 10111, Estonia

Estonian Film Institute

Phone: +372 627 6065

E-mail: media@looveuroopa.ee

www.looveuroopa.ee

**Estonian Cultural Endowment**

Suur-Karja 23, 10148 Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372 699 9150

E-mail: kulka@kulka.ee ■ www.kulka.ee

**Estonian National Archive's  
Film Archive**

Ristiku 84, 10318 Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372 693 8613

E-mail: filmiarhiiv@ra.ee

www.filmi.arhiiv.ee

**Film Estonia**

Uus 3, Tallinn, 10111, Estonia

Phone: +372 627 6060

E-mail: commissioner@filmi.ee

www.filmestonia.eu

**Tartu Film Fund**

Kalevi 13, Tartu 51010, Estonia

E-mail: info@tartufilmfund.ee

www.tartufilmfund.ee

**Viru Film Fund**

Keskväljak 4, Jõhvi 41531, Estonia

E-mail: kadri.jalonen@ivek.ee

<http://filmestonia.eu/index.php/viru-film-fund/>

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS****Estonian Animation Union**

Roo 9, Tallinn 10611

Phone: +372 646 4299

E-mail: raoheidmets@hotmail.com

**Estonian Filmmakers Union**

Uus 3, 10111 Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372 646 4164

E-mail: kinoliit@kinoliit.ee ■ www.kinoliit.ee

**The Estonian Association of Film Journalists**

Narva mnt 11e, 10151 Tallinn, Estonia

E-mail: [tristan@sirp.ee](mailto:tristan@sirp.ee)

**Estonian Documentary Guild**

J. Vilmsi 53g, 10147 Tallinn, Estonia

E-mail: [est.documentary@gmail.com](mailto:est.documentary@gmail.com)

[www.dokfilm.ee](http://www.dokfilm.ee)

**Estonian Film Industry Cluster**

Evelin Penttilä

+372 5552 3500

[evelin@stellar.ee](mailto:evelin@stellar.ee)

<http://www.estonianclusters.ee/>

[estonian-clusters-2/film-industry-cluster/](http://www.estonianclusters.ee/estonian-clusters-2/film-industry-cluster/)

**INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVALS****Baltic Event**

Nurme 45, 11616 Tallinn, Estonia

Mob: +372 514 8134

E-mail: [balticevent@poff.ee](mailto:balticevent@poff.ee)

[be.poff.ee](http://be.poff.ee)

**Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival**

Telliskivi 60A, 10412 Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372 5620 8308

E-mail: [info@poff.ee](mailto:info@poff.ee)

[www.poff.ee](http://www.poff.ee)

**EDUCATION****Baltic Film, Media, Arts and Communication School**

Narva st. 27, 10120 Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372 6199 900

E-mail: [bfm@tlu.ee](mailto:bfm@tlu.ee) ■ [www.tlu.ee](http://www.tlu.ee)

**Estonian Academy of Arts**

Estonia pst 7, 10143, Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372 626 7301

E-mail: [artun@artun.ee](mailto:artun@artun.ee) ■ [www.artun.ee](http://www.artun.ee)



A series of 20 horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.





ESTONIA



Estonian  
Film  
Institute