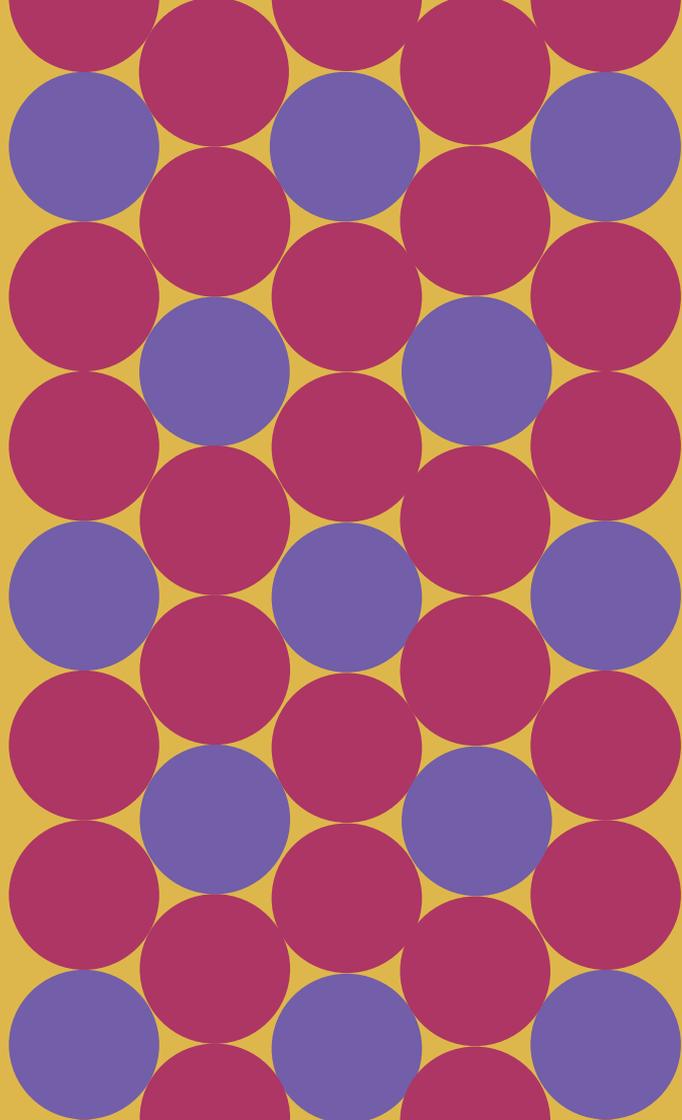


**Estonian
Documentaries
2023-2024**

**Eesti
dokumentaal-
filmid
2023-2024**



ESTONIAN DOCUMENTARIES 2023-2024

EESTI DOKUMENTAALFILMID 2023-2024



Estonian
Film
Institute

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2023

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Smoke Sauna Sisterhood

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

Director Anna Hints

is an Estonian film director with a background in contemporary art and experimental folk music. Her debut feature documentary *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* won the Directing Award at Sundance World Cinema Documentary Competition program in January 2023. It also brought Anna the prestigious Audentia Award that is given once a year to a female director by Eurimages. *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood* is the Estonian National Entry at 96th Academy Awards and nominated for LUX European Audience Film Award. The film won the European Film Award for Best Documentary. The film is sold to 32 territories worldwide, has screened at more than 60 film festivals worldwide, won 12 awards and received 4 Jury Special Mentions. Anna is a member of electronic-folk trio EETER that scored the feature documentary *The Wind Sculpted Land* (nomination in the Best Film Music category at the Estonian Film and TV Awards 2018). EETER also collaborated on *Smoke Sauna Sisterhood*.



Original title: Savvusanna sõsarad

Theme: women, healing, nature, heritage

Languages: Estonian, Seto, Võro

Director: Anna Hints

Screenwriter: Anna Hints

Cinematographer: Ants Tammik E.S.C.

Editors: Hendrik Mägar, Tushar Prakash, Qutaiba Barhamji,

Martin Männik, Anna Hints

Composers: Eðvarð Egilsson & Eeter

Producer: Marianne Ostrat

Co-producers: Juliette Cazanave, Hlín Jóhannesdóttir, Eero Talvistu †

Produced by: Alexandra Film (EE), Kepler 22 Productions (FR), Ursus Parvus (IS)

World Premiere: Sundance Film Festival, January 2023

Festivals: More than 60 festivals to date.

Selected Awards: European Documentary @ European Film Awards 2023, Directing Award: World Cinema Documentary @ Sundance Film Festival 2023, Eurimages Audentia Award 2023 for Best Female Director, Best Cinematography @ IDA Documentary Awards 2023

89 min • DCP • Flat 1.85 • 5.1

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Sundial

In the unstoppable circle of life, everyone has their task - plants and mushrooms, insects and animals... This diverse orchestra always finds its balance, rhythm and tone. Recognizing the distinctiveness of being human, this film looks at what are our possibilities to take part of that co-creation of nature. For nearly seven years of exploring the periphery countryside of Estonia, this journey brings to the foreground the daily rhythms of ordinary people, composing an analogue gospel of a microcosm, which has consciously or unconsciously rejected the central, arrogant doctrine of human exceptionality. What are the conditions for humans to participate in the humble orchestra of earth?



Director Liis Nimik

is a documentary filmmaker, fiction editor and lecturer. She has edited 4 feature films and worked together with the renowned director Veiko Õunpuu on two feature films – *Free Range* (2013) and *Roukli* (2015). She has also edited the widely distributed festival hit *In the Crosswind* (2014), being also one of the authors of the original idea. The recent documentary films she produced – *Lembri Uudu* (2017), *The Weight of All the Beauty* (2019) and *A Loss of Something Ever Felt* (2020) have all been international festival successes, having been premiered, shown and awarded in festivals like DocLeipzig, Sarajevo, HotDocs, Melbourne IFF, Jihlava and Black Nights. The Weight of all the Beauty participated in the Oscar competition for short docs in 2021. Liis believes chance, curiosity and humor are the three most important components of life and keeps researching film through this perspective. *Sundial* is her debut feature documentary as a director.

Original title: Päikeseaeg

Theme: creative documentary, mythology

Language: Estonian

Director: Liis Nimik

Screenwriter: Liis Nimik, Anti Naulainen

Cinematographer: Erik Põllumaa E.S.C.

Editor: Liis Nimik

Sound: Israel Bañuelos, M.P.S.E.

Producer: Edina Csüllög, Liis Nimik

Produced by: Klara Films

World Premiere: Visions du Réel International Film Festival Nyon, 2023

Festivals: HotDocs, Manaki Brothers Lima IFF, Finno-Ugric FF, Northern Lights FF, Nordic Film Days Lübeck PLONS! International Short Documentary FFF, Trieste FF

65 min • 16 mm • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

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The Last Relic

Aspirited 20-year-old Left Block activist navigates Russia's opaque political machine as he fights for change beside opposition groups and activists. Filmed over four years in the provincial city of Yekaterinburg, *The Last Relic* is a stark cinematic portrait of the absurdity of life in Russia where the majority dreams of restoring imperial glory and a handful of dissidents resist Putin's relentless march towards a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.



Director Marianna Kaat

Award-winning director and producer Marianna Kaat has produced and directed documentary series and TV shows for various broadcasters. Her main professional interest stays with the production of creative non-fiction films with strong focus on East-European subjects. Among others, her documentary credits include: *14 Cases* (2017), *Pit No 8* (2011), *The Last Phantoms* (2006). The most successful feature *Pit No 8* was filmed in East Ukraine Donetsk region before Russian full-scale invasion and has been screened at more than forty festivals and won a big number of awards. Marianna is also Associate Professor at Tallinn University for Baltic Film, Media and Arts School, where she teaches documentary history and practice.

Original title: Viimane reliikvia

Theme: human rights, putinism

Language: Russian

Director: Marianna Kaat

Screenwriter: Marianna Kaat

Cinematographer: Kacper Gzubak, PSC

Editor: Jesper Osmund, DFK

Composer: Lauri-Dag Tüür

Sound: Israel Bañuelos, M.P.S.E.

Producer: Marianna Kaat

Co-producers: Mette Cheng Munthe-Kaas, Tobin Auber

Produced by: Baltic Film Production (EE), Ten Thousand Images (NO)

World Premiere: Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, 2023

Festivals: Dok Leipzig, Bergen IFF, Tallinn Black Nights FF

106 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

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Neeme Järvi. Only Music Matters

Estonian conductor Neeme Järvi is the head of a musical dynasty revolutionizing the musical life of Estonia and beyond. Neeme is also one of the most recorded conductors or even musicians in the world. His name appears on the front cover of more than half a thousand audio records, in addition to a hundred other audio carriers, on which he is one of the many creators. "If you think small, you can't make big music." says Neeme Järvi about it. In addition to his international reach and being the chief conductor of several world orchestras, he also has a mission as a cultural ambassador.

The film follows the internationally recognized and popular Neeme Järvi in his activities of the last four years in Estonia as well as in Prague, Vienna, Glasgow and America. Neeme's nature is revealed by his family members and friends, as well as musicians who performed with him at concerts, Nicola Benedetti, Catriona Morison, Thomas Hampson, Joshua Bell, etc.



Director Erik Norkroos

(b. 1969) is an Estonian cinematographer, producer, editor and director. He graduated from Baltic Film, Media and Arts School as a cinematographer and has shot over 60 films since then - most of them documentaries. While specializing in film Norkroos also collaborates with different audio-visual artists mostly shooting and editing their videos. Erik has won prizes as a director with his short films *Birthday* (2011), *One Hot Summer Day* (2012) and *Pearls of the Black Sea* (2014). He is the founder and owner of the film production companies Rühm Pluss Null/Missing Pictures and Umberto Productions where he has been producing films for decades already.

Selected works: *Extempore. Freeing The Bind* (2023, co-author Heli Reimann), *Neeme Järvi – A True Kapellmeister* (2023), *Hell's Stokker* (2023, co-author Kullar Viimne)

Original title: Neeme Järvi. Muusika üle kõige

Theme: portrait, music, love

Language: Estonian, English

Director: Erik Norkroos

Screenwriter: Erik Norkroos

Cinematographers: Kullar Viimne, Erik Norkroos

Editors: Erik Norkroos, Kersti Miilen

Sound: Mart Kessel-Otsa

Producers: Erik Norkroos, Heidi Pruuli

Produced by: Umberto Productions

Domestic Premiere: July 2023

86 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

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YASMYN. Clarity for a Day or Two

YASMYN (Sinencia Jasmine Kass) is a dreamy yet enterprising artist with Dominican and Estonian roots. She was born and raised in a country where diversity is still a novelty. Her music is experimental, courageous and adventurous. She fights with her own perfectionism and perceptions of society. In her everyday life, Sinencia is a focused and active entrepreneur and artist, going through her early twenties and the challenges that this age usually brings - how to build a career in the music industry, earn money, and build relationships with people at work and at home. YASMYN's story brings up universal, age-old questions every person has to deal with through the prism of modern reality.

Director Anastasia Zazhitskaya

Anastasia's journey as a documentary director began in 2019. She passionately investigates the human condition and delicately captures the essence of characters. Taking the lead as a director, Anastasia is overseeing a range of projects in her portfolio. Among her noteworthy works are *YASMYN: Clarity for a Day or Two* (2023), *Herli – Shadow Works* (2021), *YASMYN – Illusions* (2020), and the poetic short documentary *YUZU* (2019). She is currently completing the post-production of another documentary feature *On Silver Heels* (2024).

Director Georgius Misjura

started his film career at Southampton Solent University in 2010 while learning Film studies; he graduated from the university with BA (Hons) and MA (Hons with distinction) degrees. Georgius lead several projects as a director, producer and editor, including works such as *Back to The Garden* (2013), *Herli – Shadow Works* (2021), the US miniseries pilot *Fight City* (2022), which has won the best TV Pilot awards at the Chelsea Film Festival (2022, New York) and the National Black Film Festival (2022, Houston). He is currently completing the post-production of documentary features *On Silver Heels* (2024) and *The Spiritual Warrior* (2024)

Original title: YASMYN. Selgus päevaks või kaheks
Theme: music, portrait, personal growth, relationship with oneself

Language: English, Estonian

Directors: Anastasia Zazhitskaya, Georgius Misjura

Screenwriters: Anastasia Zazhitskaya, Georgius Misjura

Cinematographers: Anastasia Zazhitskaya, Nikita Jegorov, Nikita Kurashov

Editors: Isam Muhammad, Georgius Misjura, Grete-Elisabeth Lauri, Lev Kovalenko, Victoria Villig

Composer: YASMYN

Sound: Iija Korjukin, Venla Rummukainen

Producers: Anastasia Zazhitskaya, Georgius Misjura, Roman Pototski

Co-producer: Margus Õunapuu

Produced by: Vita Pictura

Festivals: Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2023, Chelsea Film Festival 2023

78 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

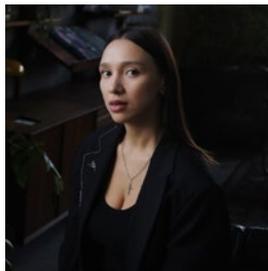
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Kihnu Marathon

Set on an island 7 kilometers long, Kihnu Marathon's 42,195 meters twist and turn through every nook and cranny of the place known as Europe's last matriarchy. Japanese marathoner Hiroyuki is here to race for peace, only to find himself hunted by a mysterious creature from the sea. In this 8mm docu-slasher with a dance music soundtrack, Hiroyuki runs like he's never run before. Will he make it back home to his children? What is everyone running from? And why is the creature after him? So, someone would milk his cows?



Director Ivar Murd

was born September 13, 1990, in Kohtla-Järve – a shale oil mining town in East Estonia. He has lived in Finland, Denmark and the United States. Graduated magna cum laude in 2013 from Fairleigh Dickinson University (Madison, NJ, USA), Department of Audiovisual Arts, majoring in Directing with a minor in Studio Arts. Winner of EFTA / Estonian Film & Television Awards 2022 for the tasteful experimental portrait *u.Q.* He is one of the organizers of the Estonian music festival Mägede Hääl and the CEO of Cinema Sõprus since 2020.

Original title: Kihnu maraton

Theme: experimental, mythological, sport, music

Languages: Estonian, Japanese

Director: Ivar Murd

Screenwriter: Ivar Murd

Editor: Ivar Murd

Composer: Ajukaja

Animation: Leander Meresaar

Sound: Markku Tiidumaa

Producer: Margus Õunapuu

Produced by: MÕ

Festivals: BEAST IFF 2023, Tampere Film Festival 2024

Awards: BEAST IFF 2023 - Winner of the Experimental EAST Jury Mention

11 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

Contact

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Arts of Survival Documentaries
are part of the European Capital
of Culture Tartu 2024 main programme

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Artists of Survival

As a student, the protagonist watches Emir Kusturica's film *Black Cat, White Cat*, about the wacky life of the Balkans, and suddenly realizes that he has already seen all this in his childhood in Võrumaa.

The film shows the creative approach to life that the people of Võrumaa have. Despite hardships and the complex landscape, for example climbing mountains barefoot, they always find bubbling joy in life and the wisdom of survival. This wonderful state of mind combines dung vapor and the mist of the Milky Way in the highest sense.



Director Jaan Tootsen

studied in the Estonian Humanitarian Institute and graduated from Tallinn University. He has worked at the Estonian Public Broadcasting and also as a cultural advisor for President Toomas Hendrik Ilves. Jaan has produced more than 600 radio shows and directed several documentaries such as *New World, Everyday Mysticism* (2018), *Fred Jüssi. The Beauty of Being* (2020) and *Rebel in Bow Tie* (2024).

Original title: Ellujäämise kunstnikud

Theme: culture, people, personal

Languages: Estonian, Võro, Seto

Director: Jaan Tootsen

Screenwriter: Jaan Tootsen

Cinematographer: Mait Mäekivi E.S.C.

Editor: Marta Pulk

Composer: Eva Eensaar

Sound: Tanel Kadalipp

Producer: Anneli Ahven

Co-producer: Jaan Tootsen

Produced by: Aadam ja pojad

To be released: 4 May 2024

15 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

Contact

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The Art of Looking

Two seemingly different groups of people - astrophysicists who try to understand the world by looking at it through telescopes and slime researchers who study the micro-world of the smallest organisms through their microscopes - come to surprisingly similar conclusions about the nature of things and show that the main drive of humanity may be our natural curiosity.



Director Andris Gauja

After his screenwriting studies, Andris Gauja has produced, written and directed documentaries including *Family Instinct* (2010) that received IDFA nomination, AFI-Docs Grand Prix and Cinema Eye Honors nomination. He has also directed narrative films, such as *Nothing Can Stop Us Now* (2019) that received nine nominations for the Latvian National Film Prize. Andris often dives into thought-provoking topics and is a founder of the Riverbed filmproduction company based in Riga, Latvia.

Original title: Vaatamise kunst

Theme: astronomy, nature, science

Languages: English, Estonian

Director: Andris Gauja

Screenwriter: Andris Gauja

Cinematographer: Toms Šķēle

Editor: Tambet Tasuja

Composer: Sven Grünberg

Sound: Markku Tiidumaa

Producer: Margus Ūunapuu

Co-producer: Andris Gauja

Produced by: Film Tower (EE), Riverbed (LV)

To be released: 4 May 2024

15 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

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Border Island

There is an Island on which the Russian world exists harmoniously. It does not wage war with anyone; it does not subject anyone. Like any harmony, it is on the brink of extinction. But once people fled there to escape from religious reforms in Russia and avoid the military mobilization. They hid on the island and disappeared from sight of the authorities. It stood for peace for Russians, which is the second meaning of the Russian word “mir”, the first being “the world”.



Director Viesturs Kairiņš

was born in 1971 in Riga. He graduated from the Latvian Academy of Culture as a theatre and film director. He has staged a number of theatre productions as well as operas, and currently he holds the position of artistic director of the Daile theatre in Riga. Aside from his work on the theatre stage, Viesturs Kairiņš has written and directed 5 fiction films and around 10 documentaries.

Filmography: *Romeo and Juliet* (2004), *Monument* (2004), *Loengrins from Varka Kru* (2009), *Pelican in the Desert* (2014), *The Invisible City* (2014), *Chronicles of Melanie* (2016), *The Sign Painter* (2020), *January* (2022)

Original title: Piiri saar

Theme: culture, social issues, society

Languages: Estonian, Russian

Director: Viesturs Kairiņš

Screenwriter: Viesturs Kairiņš

Cinematographers: Wojciech Staroń,
Tomek Pawlik

Editor: Viesturs Kairiņš

Sound: Mart Kessel-Otsa, Gert Mäll

Producers: Esko Rips, Olga Hartšuk

Co-producer: Guntis Trekeris

Produced by: Nafta Films (EE), Ego Media (LV)

To be released: 4 May 2024

12 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

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Hilda Ha. Off the Grid

The film portrays one year in the life of Hilda Ha, a wild and free German woman. She is not one to stand with a big poster at a Friday for Future. Instead, she saves the planet in a quiet way, living off-grid with her one-and-a-half-year-old child in Southern Estonia in a self-built tiny house with no water or electricity. Although it seems extreme, it's the most natural way of living for Hilda Ha, a conscious choice which gives her certain financial freedom – when there's no utility bills or bank loans there is also no need to work 9 to 5.

What is the price that she has to pay for this kind of simple life? And on the other hand, what are the compromises that she needs to make to function in our society? She still uses a car to drive to the nearby city and buys food from normal supermarkets because she is down to earth and sees no point in going too extreme. She just wants to build a happy life for her and her child.



Director Eva Kübar

is an Estonian filmmaker and film teacher. Her latest documentary, 28-minute Feathers or Glamour about city-dwelling chickens premiered in 2023. She has studied film directing in the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School. Her graduation work, the short film Three has earned several international prizes and travelled several festivals (Beijing Film Academy student film festival, China), 2ANNAS (Latvia), Le Cinema et la Mer (Morocco) etc). In addition to that Kübar works as a film producer, casting director and 1st assistant director. Kübar is also one of the founders of Kinomaja Film School in Tallinn where she teaches filmmaking to schoolchildren.

Original title: Hilda Ha. Võrgust väljas

Theme: arts of survival

Language: Estonian

Director: Eva Kübar

Screenwriter: Eva Kübar

Cinematographer: Aivo Rannik

Editor: Nele Aunap

Composer: Ann Reimann

Sound: Ann Reimann

Producer: Alvar Reinumägi

Produced by: McQueen

To be released: 4 May 2024

15 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

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The House

There is an apartment house situated in the neighbourhood of Annelinn in the outskirts of Tartu. The house contains a number of architectural identical apartments, with a small kitchen, bedroom, a worn-down balcony and a living room. All of them with the same sewerage, the same ceiling height and the same heating system. In short; the same physical conditions for building a meaningful human existence. In contrast to the physical similarities of the apartments, the house contains a wide range of lives, identities and dreams.



Director Carl Olsson

born 1984 in Sweden, lives in Copenhagen and graduated from The National Film School of Denmark in 2013. His graduation film *Blessed Be This Place* was Nominated for the Danish Academy Award, Robert 2014, and the prestigious Camerimage for its camerawork, has travelled to numerous festivals and won several international awards. His previous film from The Danish Film School, *Mr. Magdy, Room Number 17 Please*, won Special Mention at Stockholm IFF 2013. He also has degrees from Dramatiska Institutet and Nordens Folkhögskola Biskops Arnö in Stockholm, Sweden. Carl Olsson looks with a sharp and loving eye on the little human, exploring oddities in our systems and cultures, where we humans always seem to peep through the cracks in its systemic perfection.

Original title: Maja

Theme: apartment house, architecture

Languages: Estonian, Russian

Director: Carl Olsson

Screenwriter: Carl Olsson

Cinematographer: Mathias Docker Petersen

Editor: Carl Olsson

Composer: Ann Reimann

Sound: Ann Reimann

Producer: Ivo Felt

Co-producer: Antonio Russo Merenda

Produced by: Allfilm (EE), Ginestra Films (SE)

To be released: 4 May 2024

15 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

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A Perfect Day for Karakat

A documentary journey into the fascinating world of self-assembled, recycled, hybrid vehicles on the shores of Lake Peipus. A karakat is an unsinkable vehicle that every self-respecting resident of the Peipus shore assembles with his own hands. Originally intended to drive the owner to a fishing spot in the winter, today the karakat has become a unique “ice-taxi.” By observing several karakat-men’s routines, the short aims to portray a fascinating culture of coastal Russians, self-assembled hybrid vehicles and people’s creative approach to life.

Director Andrey Paounov

is a Bulgarian writer and director best known for his documentary feature films. His debut *Georgi and the Butterflies* won the Award for Best Mid-Length Documentary at IDFA (Amsterdam). His first feature *The Mosquito Problem and Other Stories* was included in the 46th International Critics' Week of the Cannes Film Festival 2007. *The Boy Who Was a King* (2011), Andrey's second full-length documentary, premiered at Toronto International Film Festival. It won the Best Documentary Feature Jury Award at the 2012 RiverRun International Film Festival. *Walking on Water*, following renowned artist Christo's Lake Iseo project, premiered at Locarno Festival 2018. In 2021, Andrey made his fiction debut with *January*, which received the Best Director Award at the 26th Sofia International Film Festival and Golden Rose National Film Festival Special Jury Prize.



Original title: Parim päev karakatile
Theme: landscapes, mindscapes
Language: Russian
Director: Andrey Paounov
Screenwriter: Andrey Paounov
Cinematographer: Ivan Chertov
Editor: Andrey Paounov
Composer: Märt-Matis Lill
Sound: Ekke Västriik
Producer: Riho Västriik
Co-producer: Elitza Katzarska
Produced by: Vesilind (EE), Chicken Milk Film Farm (BL)
To be released: 4 May 2024

17 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

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River and Cat

River and Cat is a dreamlike passage through the architecture of shapes created by light and shadow. It is a cinematographic attempt to find an invisible city that exists parallel in Tartu. A film about being eternity and perceptual memories. This is an attempt to capture Tartu through the eyes of a photographer.

The initial idea of the film was inspired by the work of the painter Imat Suumann, which inspired the author to focus on light. There was a desire to use film language to create similar states that Suumann's dark and mysterious paintings underline. During the work photographer Malev Toom and painter Peeter Krossmann joined the Suumann. These three artists are united by the theme of depicting urban space.

The film has two directions - vertical and horizontal. The vertical line represents looking at the artists as if from the low angle, relating to their works; the search for something spiritual and perhaps divine; and the horizontal direction is illustrated by the interludes of everyday life that occur during this journey.



Director Maria Aua

graduated from the documentary MA program of the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School (BFM) in 2016. During her university studies, *Maria's Sitting Tenant* won the BOB award (Best of BFM) for the best documentary (2016). Her graduation film *The Man from Samaria* won the best Estonian short film award at PÖFF's Sleepwalkers festival and participated in Makedox (Skopje), Let's Cee Film Festival (Vienna), World Film Festival (Tartu), Joutamaa Fest (Kotka, Finland). After the studies Maria made the documentary *Thread of Iron*, which premiered at the Docpoint Tallinn (2020). Before studying at BFM, Maria graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts BA in photography (2012) and furthered her studies as part of the Erasmus exchange at the Technological Institute of Athens. Maria's films are characterized by photographic cinematography, stillness and mixed soundscapes.

Original title: Jõgi ja kass
Theme: landscapes, mindscapes
Language: no dialogue
Director: Maria Aua
Screenwriter: Maria Aua
Cinematographer: Maria Aua
Editor: Maria Aua
Sound: Ekke Västriik
Producer: Riho Västriik
Produced by: Vesilind
To be released: 4 May 2024

15 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

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Sewing Machine

Sewing Machine is a film about the town of Pechory (Petseri) and its people, told through the life story of my great-grandmother. My great-grandmother's father, who was the deputy mayor of Pechory, was killed by the Bolsheviks because he refused to give the keys to the town monastery to the revolutionaries. A few months later, the armored trains of the Estonian War of Independence reached Pechory, and the town was liberated. One of the soldiers of the armored train, a Danish volunteer, had a film camera with him, and he recorded the oldest film footage of Pechory, and somewhere on that film is also my great-grandmother.



Director Ülo Pikkov

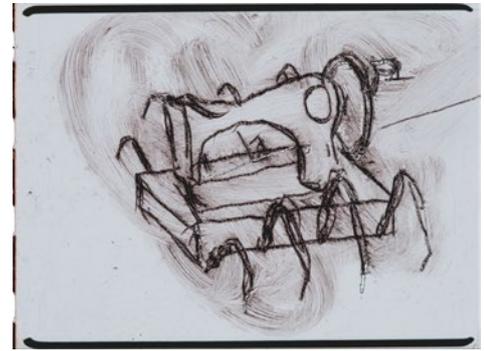
is an internationally renowned filmmaker, producer and film scholar. Pikkov studied animation at the Turku Arts Academy in Finland and since 1996 has directed several award-winning animation films. He has published articles on film and written fiction books for children and adults. In 2005 he graduated from the Institute of Law in University of Tartu, focusing on the media and author's rights. For 10 years Pikkov was the associate professor of the Animation Department in the Estonian Academy of Arts supporting new talents in the Estonian animation scene. Pikkov is the author of *Animasophy, Theoretical Writings on the Animated Film* (2011). In 2018 Pikkov got his doctoral degree at the Estonian Academy of Arts with thesis *Anti-Animation: Textures of Eastern European Animated Film* and today he works as a professor of animation at the same institution.

Original title: Õmblusmasin
Theme: history
Languages: Estonian, English
Director: Ülo Pikkov
Screenwriter: Ülo Pikkov
Cinematographer: Ülo Pikkov
Editor: Ülo Pikkov
Composer: Mari Kalkun
Sound: Horret Kuus
Producer: Ülo Pikkov
Produced by: Silmviburlane
To be released: 4 May 2024

17 min • DCP • 4:3 • 5.1

Contact

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2024

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Vertical Money

Vertical Money is a nature catastrophe film that made scandalous news even before its release in Estonia. Shot in more than 60 different places in Estonia the film opens the viewer to the current state of Estonian forests and shows how political decisions have affected the use of the common property. The film also offers solutions to move out of the deadlock of the debate and directs attention to the information that has been buried under the messages of controlled communication in the information noise of the forest war. The same kind of war that's being held across the globe.



Director Martti Helde

is a highly valued director for his daring ideas and innovative approach to the film language. His debut feature *In the Crosswind* premiered at the Toronto IFF in 2014, followed by more than 80 festivals, numerous critics' and audience awards, as well as theatrical release in several countries. Helde's second feature *Scandinavian Silence* made on micro budget premiered at the Shanghai and Karlovy Vary IFF in 2019 winning the Europa Cinemas Label prize. Since then Martti Helde has been working on the upcoming feature documentary *Vertical Money*, short documentary *Human Being* about Bobby Sagger, as well as been a creative director for the Estonian Pavilion at the World Expo Dubai 2020. In early development is also Helde's new feature drama *Silverwhite*.

Original title: Vara küps

Theme: history, environment, nature, politics

Language: Estonian

Director: Martti Helde

Screenwriters: Martti Helde,

Mattias Veermets, Pilleriin Raudam

Cinematographer: Mattias Veermets

Editor: Jaak Ollino Jr.

Composer: Sander Mölder

Sound: Janne Laine

Producer: Elina Litvinova

Produced by: Three Brothers

To be released: January 2024

86 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

Three Brothers

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That's How It Is

The documentary feature *That's How It Is* takes the audience into the world of men living in rural Estonia, showing us the simple joys and sorrows of their everyday life.

How does the former pig farmer Janek raise his four sons, or what does Meelis, the owner of a small town nursing home, dream about? How does forester Rein find a new spark in life in the game of darts, and farmer Eku in potato planting? Does septic tank servicer Kaido have any regrets in life, and how often does he bring flowers to his wife? Does hobby inventor Juss see God in the details, and what is the hydraulic mower transmission?

These are glimpses into how men in midlife find meaning in life, accept life, and search for joy in life amid acceptance.

This film offers a warm and soothing breath of humanity amongst the raging conflicts of the present-day complicated world.

Simplicity might be the key. Simple like a sauna or a song. That's just the way it is.



Director Vallo Toomla

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

Original title: Nii ta on
Theme: men, observational, rural living
Language: Estonian
Director: Vallo Toomla
Screenwriter: Vallo Toomla
Cinematographer: Erik Põllumaa E.S.C.
Editor: Kaie-Ene Rääk
Sound: Mart Kessel-Otsa, Harmo Kallaste
Producer: Kaie-Ene Rääk
Produced by: F-Seitse
To be released: March 2024

82 min • DCP • 2:1 • 5.1

Contact

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Art and the Cold War

Art and the Cold War is a story about the relationship between independent Soviet art and the West. It recalls a time when art was larger and more important than life itself. But also a time, the like of which Estonian art has never seen and most likely will never see again. On one side, there are independent Soviet artists who lack not only the output but also the finances to complete their works. On the other side, there is the tempting West whose ambassadors (in the literal sense) take active interest in the Soviet underground art market. Selling one's works to the West is a tricky business since the almighty KGB stands between the two mutually interested parties.

Nevertheless, an incredible quantity of mainly Estonian and Moscowian visual art is sold and taken across the border. This is facilitated mainly by Western diplomats, behind whose coordinated actions stands none other than the CIA.



Director Sandra Jõgeva

Artist, curator, and film director Sandra Jõgeva (b. 1976) studied organized painting at the Estonian Humanities Institute (BA 2000) and interdisciplinary arts (MA 2002) at the Estonian Academy of Arts. She also completed the pedagogy course at the Faculty of Education of the University of Tartu (2009) and residency at Gallery Grace Space in Brooklyn, New York (2007). Sandra has made numerous personal exhibitions, performances, videos, curatorial projects, and contributions to media publications, and conducted courses and workshops. She represents the restless and system-critical direction of the millennium. In 2009 she won the Betti Alver debut prize for the collection of short stories *Draamapunkt*. In 2018, her debut feature length documentary film *Love...* received the Cultural Endowment of Estonia and the EFTA Documentary Film of the Year award. Sandra Jõgeva has been a member of the Estonian Artists' Union since 2004.

Original title: Kunst ja külm sõda.

Theme: history, art, portrait

Languages: Estonian, Russian, English

Director: Sandra Jõgeva

Screenwriter: Sandra Jõgeva

Cinematographers: Aivo Rannik,

Elen Lotman E.S.C., Jako Krull,

Jaan Kristja Utno, Igor Ruus

Editors: Martti Sepp, Kadri Nikopensius

Sound: Sebastian Holst, Björn Norralt,

Igor Ruus, Aivo Rannik

Producer: Kristiina Davidjants

Co-producer: Anu Veermäe-Kaldra

Produced by: Maagiline Masin

To be released: May 2024

80 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1 stereo

Contact

Maagiline Masin

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Rebel in Bow Tie

A man who reads piles of books, meets with the most influential people in the world and is an opinion leader in world politics, yet still feels at his best as a DJ spinning records in a nightclub. This is a president of a tiny country, someone who has always been more of a music lover and an intellectual rather than a career politician. How to reconcile a special (in the best sense of the word), youthful and sometimes untamable head of state with societal expectations? We get an energetic and humorous insight into a period that Toomas Hendrik Ilves has called one of the hardest times of his entire life. How is a head of state supposed to feel as he is torn between being a newly divorced dad who is struggling to find his daughter's sleeping bag for a field trip and being a president who is just minutes away from meeting the United States Secretary of Defense. How to cope with private life in front of the public eye?



Director Jaan Tootsen

studied in the Estonian Humanitarian Institute and graduated from Tallinn University. He has worked at the Estonian Public Broadcasting and also as a cultural advisor for President Toomas Hendrik Ilves. Jaan has produced more than 600 radio shows and directed several documentaries including *New World* (2011), *Everyday Mysticism* (2018), *Fred Jüssi. The Beauty of Being* (2020). *Rebel in Bow Tie* is his fourth feature length documentary.

Original title: Õnn kaasa, hr President!

Theme: portrait, human relations, music, politics

Languages: Estonian, English

Director: Jaan Tootsen

Screenwriter: Jaan Tootsen

Cinematographers: Kullar Viimne, Erik Norkroos, Jaan Tootsen, Joosep Matjus etc.

Editor: Martin Männik

Composer: Vaiko Eplik

Sound: Harmo Kallaste

Producers: Jaan Tootsen, Rain Tamm, Eero Talvistut

Produced by: Aadam ja pojad

To be released: 2024

92 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

Contact

Aadam ja pojad

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Kelly – Someone Else's Dream

In this gripping tale of resilience, Kelly Sildaru rises as a record-breaking freestyle champion despite hailing from a mountain-less country. A devastating injury shatters her Olympic dreams, but her father, also her coach, pushes her to recover and return to the slopes. Navigating mental abuse and manipulation, she makes her most successful season. Breaking free, seizing control of her life, and rediscovering her love for the sport become her toughest challenges yet.



Director Leana Jalukse

is the writer of award-winning *Mother* (2016, IP at Tribeca, Best Feature at Kitzbühel, Best Estonian Feature at Tallinn Black Nights, Estonia's national entry for the Oscars, Best Screenplay nominee at Estonian Film and TV Awards), *Fire Lily* (2018, IP at Mannheim-Heidelberg), *Deserted* (2021, WP at Busan), and two short films. She is currently working on a number of series projects. Leana is a member of the Estonian Screenwriters' Guild and the Writers' Guild of Great Britain.

Director Helen Lõhmus

is Estonian producer, director and production designer. Starting her career in local television in 2004 and moving to international projects in 2011, starting with Walt Disney high school drama *After School* where she served as the production and costume designer. Lõhmus was a producer and production designer for Lao-France-Estonia co-production of *Dearest Sister*. The film won numerous awards and was the Academy Award candidate for Laos in 2017.

Original title: Kelly – kellegi teise unistus

Theme: sports documentary

Languages: Estonian, English

Directors: Helen Lõhmus, Leana Jalukse

Screenwriter: Leana Jalukse

Cinematographers: Mart Ratasepp E.S.C.,
William Mermoud

Editor: Mirjam Jegorov

Composer: Sten Sheripov

Sound: Dmitry Natalevich

Producers: Helen Lõhmus, Sten-Kristian Saluveer

Co-producer: David Lacote

Produced by: Oree Films (EE), PVS Company (FR)

To be released: 2024

90 min • DCP • 2.00:1 • 5.1

Contact

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Sales

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Andrea Hock

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My Partners

Extending the boundaries of monogamy and having more partners than one is gradually becoming the norm in the society. Is it egotistical to go for what you want?

After more than 30 years of marriage and two children Kay, a German man suggests to his partner to open up their marriage and start living in polyamory. It's a shock for her, but she decides to try and cope with the new situation.

Kay's new lover Marianne is raising two teenagers alone in the Estonian countryside. Meeting the sensual German becomes a relief for her and a never-ending burden for her husband who is hospitalized due to an anxiety disorder.

Riita and Taavi, a couple in their 30s see polyamory as a possible way to heat up the relationship again. They gather inspiration from tantric circles trying to cultivate the new culture of love.

In *My Partners*, we observe the personal stories of people living in polyamory. How does one reach the point where one partner is not enough, how do people set the boundaries and what are the problems that arise?

Director Eva Kübar

is an Estonian filmmaker and film teacher. Her latest documentary, 28-minute *Feathers or Glamour* about city-dwelling chickens premiered in 2023. She has studied film directing in the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School. Her graduation work, the short film *Three* has earned several international prizes and travelled several festivals (Beijing Film Academy student film festival, China), *2ANNAS* (Latvia), *Le Cinema et la Mer* (Morocco) etc). In addition to that Kübar works as a film producer, casting director and 1st assistant director. Kübar is also one of the founders of Kinomaja Film School in Tallinn where she teaches filmmaking to schoolchildren. *My Partners* is her first feature length documentary.

Original title: Armastuse asjatundjad

Theme: polyamory, relationships, sex, tantra

Languages: Estonian, English, German

Director: Eva Kübar

Screenwriter: Eva Kübar

Cinematographers: Aivo Rannik, Markus Orav

Editor: Martin Männik

Composer: Indrek Soe

Sound: Indrek Soe

Producers: Andres Maimik, Edina Csüllög

Produced by: Moonwalker Film

To be released: 2024

100 min • 1:1.778 • 5.1

Contact

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On Silver Heels

After a twelve-year break from the Estonian Women's National Hockey Team activities, amateur hockey players decided to revive the team. They aim to realize their shared dream - participation in the IIHF Women's World Hockey Championship in Division III 2022 in Serbia.

In forming a national team, managers, players, and coaches face a severe challenge: they strive to break the vicious cycle of social stereotypes and financial difficulties that women's hockey faces. In addition to the sports, the film also touches on the personal lives of hockey players. Those who aspire to play for the national team must show fortitude and overcome tricky obstacles. Despite the challenges, the dream of representing Estonia and the natural need for belonging and purpose keep them moving forward.



Director Anastassia Zazhitskaya

Her journey as a documentary director began in 2019. She passionately investigates the human condition and delicately captures the essence of characters.

Filmography: *YASMYN: Clarity for a Day or Two* (2023), *Herli – Shadow Works* (2021), *YASMYN – Illusions* (2020), and the poetic short documentary *YUZU* (2019). *On Silver Heels* is her second feature documentary.

Director Margus Õunapuu

has extensive filmography as a producer. *On Silver Heels* is his debut feature film as a director. One of Margus Õunapuu's most recent projects as a producer is the music documentary film *u.Q.*, which received an official selection in the competition program at Tallinn Black Nights, Film Festival and SoundTrack Cologne, and won the award for the best music film at the Eurofilmfest DEF29 2022 in Prague. Margus Õunapuu has completed and is an alumnus of EURODOC 2005 and the EAVE 2008 program.

Original title: Hõbekontsadel

Theme: sports, women's ice hockey

Languages: Estonian, Russian,

Latvian, English

Screenwriters: Anastassia Zazhitskaya,

Margus Õunapuu

Directors: Anastassia Zazhitskaya,

Margus Õunapuu

Cinematographer: Aleksei Kulikov

Editors: Georgius Misjura,

Grete-Elisabeth Lauri, Lev Kovalenko

Producer: Karolina Lahti

Produced by: Vita Pictura, Film Tower

To be released: 2024

90 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

Contact

Vita Pictura

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Fire Speaks

After Guatemalan genocide and years of repression, Mayan root knowledge about the sacred calendar and traditional fire ceremony were hidden underground. Englishman Mark studied it from the Mayan elders and is now a bridge for Mayan cosmovision. He shares his belief that all ancient knowledge is one and when we reconnect with it, we weave the world into unity.



Director Kairi Kivirähk

graduated from Baltic Film, Media and Arts School and in addition studied Religion Anthropology (MA) in Tartu University. Kairi has been working in film field as an actress, writer, editor, producer, director and casting manager. She has directed five short films previously and has also published a book about Mayan calendar. *Fire Speaks* is her first feature length documentary as a director and scriptwriter.

Original title: Fire Speaks

Theme: Maya civilization, history, traditions

Languages: English, Spanish

Director: Kairi Kivirähk

Co-director: Sarine Arslanjan

Screenwriter: Kairi Kivirähk

Cinematographers: Taavi Arus, Niels Gramsen

Editor: Niels Gramsen

Composer: Richard Emanuel

Sound: Jacob Jimenez, Richard Emanuel

Producer: Anu Veermäe-Kaldra

Produced by: Menufilmid

To be released: August 2024

70 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

Menufilmid

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Anett

Anett Kontaveit is one of the most well-known and loved athletes in Estonia. She has been at the top of one of the world's most competitive fields, being the second-best tennis player worldwide.

In this film, one can gain a glimpse into the life Anett Kontaveit used to live for many years: training, trips, competitions, hotels, and the endless repetition of it all. Intense struggles and strong emotions during competitions – definitely. But also, a huge amount of work, routine and the loneliness that comes with it. How do you motivate yourself? What does the athlete want and how much effort are they making to live up to the expectations of others?

The filming period coincides with the time when Anett decided to retire from tennis. It is a unique opportunity to see the end of a powerful journey and the beginning of a new one.



Director Kaupo Kruusiauk

graduated from the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School with a Bachelor's degree in film directing, and from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre with a Master's degree in theatre and film directing. He has directed several short films, one full-length feature film (*Sandra Gets a Job*, 2021), and a few episodes of the project Estonian Stories for Estonian Public Broadcasting. In his documentaries, Kaupo Kruusiauk has explored the chess player Jaan Ehilvest (*The Player*, 2008), actor and musician Peeter Volkonski (*The Last Prince*, 2018), and musician and composer Maria Faust (*Machina Faust*, 2022). The Estonian Association of Film Journalists named *Machina Faust* the Best Estonian Movie of 2022. Concurrently it was selected as the Best Estonian Documentary in 2022 at the Estonian Film and Television Awards gala. *Machina Faust* has been selected for the programme of CPH:DOX, Krakow FF, Baltic Film Film Festival in New York and others.

Original title: Anett
Theme: sports, portrait
Languages: Estonian, English
Director: Kaupo Kruusiauk
Screenwriter: Kaupo Kruusiauk
Cinematographers: Aivo Rannik, Kaupo Kruusiauk
Editor: Roland Abel
Sound: Mart Kessel-Otsa, Harmo Kallaste
Producer: Kaupo Kruusiauk
Produced by: Flo Film
To be released: September 2024

80 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

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The Man from The Hill

Kalju is wounded. He fell in love. He got married. He had a daughter. Then his heart was broken. Time has passed but the pain remains. Hard work cannot drive away the pain of a love lost. Now he talks honestly, from the heart.



Director Kullar Viimne

is an Estonian documentary filmmaker. He studied at the Tallinn University Baltic Film, Media and Arts School in 2004–2011 and continued his studies at FAMU (Czech Republic) and at IAD (Belgium). He has made 13 documentary films as a director and worked with over 40 documentary films and series as a cinematographer. He is a member of the Estonian Filmmakers' Union and The Estonian Documentary Guild.
Selected filmography: *A Breath* (2011), *How I Saved Africa* (2014), *Hell's Stoker* (2023)

Original title: Mees mää otsast

Theme: perseverance, sacrifice, survival, overcoming adversity

Language: Estonian

Director: Kullar Viimne

Screenwriters: Kullar Viimne, Erik Norkroos

Cinematographer: Kullar Viimne

Editors: Erik Norkroos, Mirjam Jegorov

Sound: Mart Kessel-Otsa

Producer: Erik Norkroos

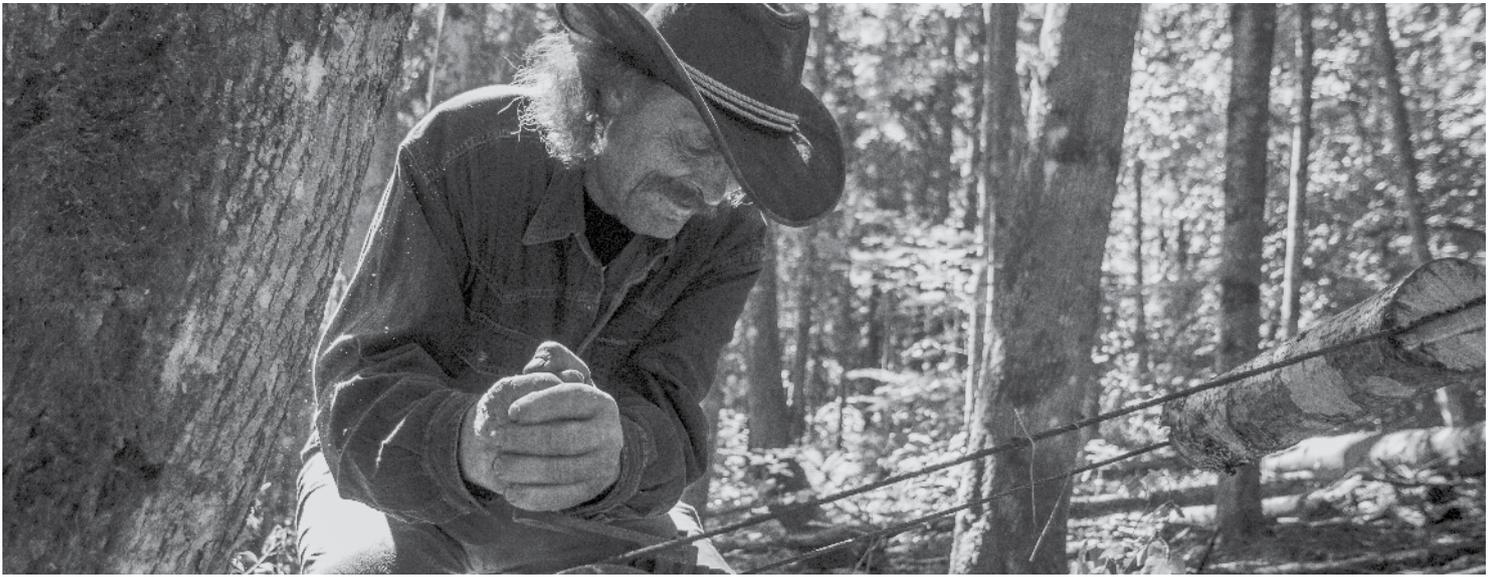
Produced by: Rühm Pluss Null

To be released: Fall 2024

75 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

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Velikije Luki. The Band that Cracked the Soviet Union.

The Soviet punk band Velikije Luki battles with the KGB and the police to avoid being thrown into prison or a mental institution due to their appearance or illegal concert activities. At the same time, in Washington, the White House is occupied by a veteran Hollywood cowboy, Ronald Reagan, whose main goal is to consign the Soviet Union to the dustbin of history. He adeptly leverages the international political and economic situation to find ways to bleed the Soviet Union dry. When a chance mishap involving the band's frontman Ivo leads to a split in the Estonian Communist Party, the entire Communist Party leading the Soviet Union begins to crumble from within. Reagan's actions and the Party's uncertainty lead to a loosening of the Kremlin's iron grip, which in turn triggers a wave of independence movements in the constituent republics and the eventual collapse of the empire of evil.



Director Indrek Spungin

Screenwriter and director Indrek Spungin (b. 1983) studied theology and ethnology at the University of Tartu (BA 2009) and continued in the same master's program until 2013. In 2016, he participated in the screenwriting course at the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School. Spungin has worked as a culture critic at ERR's cultural portal and Postimees, been active in the organization of the electronic dance music festival Patareiv and the interdisciplinary art and music festival Kultuuritolm. He has also appeared in several music, art and performance art projects and played some film roles. In cooperation with Taavi Arus, they completed two punk-themed documentaries that attracted attention in 2018: *Pets and Berlin* and *More Than Life. Velikije Luki. The Band that Cracked the Soviet Union* is his first feature length documentary.

Original title: Velikije Luki. Bänd, mis murdis Nõukogude Liidu

Theme: history, punk music

Language: Estonian

Director: Indrek Spungin

Screenwriters: Indrek Spungin, Ivo Uukkivi

Cinematographer: Sten-Johan Lill E.S.C.

Editor: Taavi Aavik

Sound: Taavi Aavik

Producer: Anu Veermäe-Kaldra

Produced by: Menufilmid

To be released: November 2024

70 min • DCP • 3:4 • Stereo

Contact

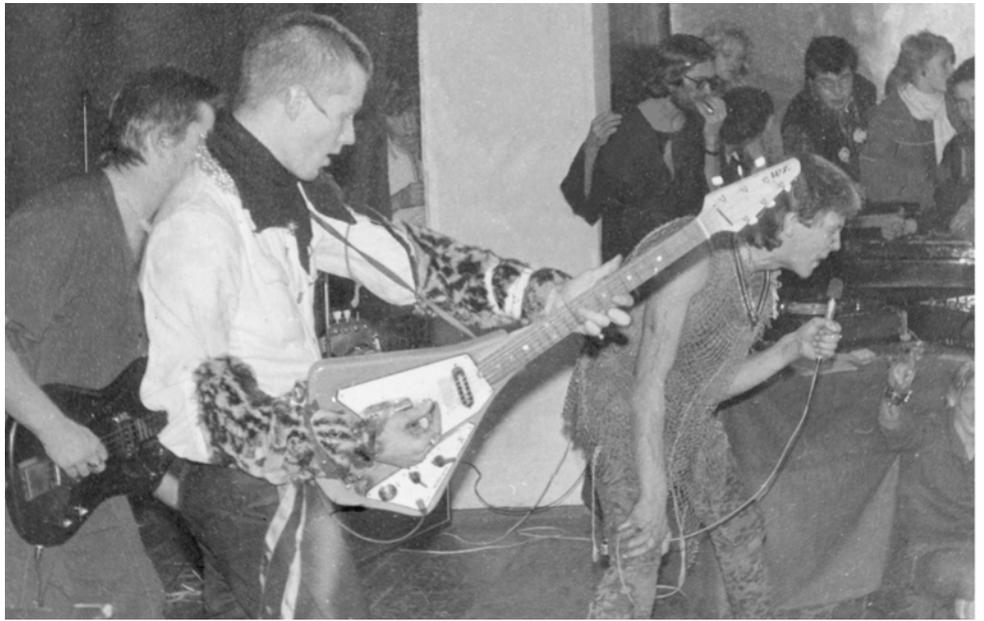
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Tallinn is Burning

Tallinn is Burning is a story about the youth that lived in Soviet Estonia who despite of the iron curtain and the efforts of Moscow, discover punk music and start to demolish the Soviet power through it.

Tallinn is Burning tells the story of the birth of a subculture, its heyday and impact in a country where it theoretically should not have existed at all. It's a story about the youth that lived in Soviet Estonia who despite of the iron curtain and the efforts of Moscow, discover punk music and start to demolish the Soviet power through it.



Director Kristiina Davidjants

studied at the Estonian Institute of Humanities and graduated from Tallinn University as a documentary filmmaker in 2001. She has been a documentary director and producer, published film reviews in newspapers, and directed several award-winning advertising films.

Original title: Tallinn põleb

Theme: history, music, portrait

Languages: Estonian, Finnish

Director: Kristiina Davidjants

Screenwriter: Kristiina Davidjants

Cinematographers: Taavi Arus, Aivo Rannik

Editors: Moonika Põdersalu,

Kristiina Davidjants

Sound: Indrek Soe, Björn Norralt, Antti Mäss

Producers: Anu Veermäe-Kaldra,

Kristiina Davidjants

Produced by: Maagiline Masin

To be released: Fall 2024

85 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1 and stereo

Contact

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Totem

Totem is an infamous Soviet tank T34 that stands on a high stone pedestal on the Estonian bank of Narva river, a natural border between Estonia and Russia with the gun provocatively facing westward. The legend says that this is a place where Soviet troops crossed the river to “liberate” Estonia during the Second World War. Estonians call it an occupation. As Estonian government orders to remove the Soviet relict, local Russians gather to protect the monument and everything it symbolizes.

Totem is a collective portrait of the tank activists, a polarized city government, political opportunists pursuing their truths and agendas in the shadow of the tank. The film follows the events and characters over one summer, telling a tense and current story of common people and big politics, histories and present, of hybrid wars and identity politics and the irresistible magnetism of steel power which still decides the direction of times and lives.



Director Birgit Rosenberg

is an independent director, producer and researcher interested in social and political issues. She has studied directing and production in Baltic Film, Media and Arts School (MA), visual and cultural anthropology (MA) and sociology and political science (BA). In parallel to filmmaking, she has worked for variety of human rights, advocacy and research organizations in Estonia and abroad. Since 2012 she has created documentary series for Estonian Public Broadcasting, produced and directed 2 short documentaries and assisted various international projects with productions in Estonia and beyond. She also works as a researcher for Baltic Film, Media and Arts School.

Original title: Tootem

Theme: politics, history, culture, monuments

Languages: Russian, Estonian

Director: Birgit Rosenberg

Screenwriter: Birgit Rosenberg

Cinematographers: Aivo Rannik,

Nele Aunap, Ivo Panasjuk

Editor: Andres Hallik

Sound: Indrek Soe

Producer: Birgit Rosenberg

Produced by: Door 2 Productions

To be released: 2024

60 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

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door2.ee



Skype Story

A documentary about the unlikely story behind the birth of SKYPE, a true modern era phenomenon a few billion people have a personal relationship with. Selling Skype, buying it back and re-selling it again is a story which could be from a detective novel. A story full of contrasts – from Soviet era apartment blocks to Silicon Valley.

From primitive homemade computer games to private jets. From wild parties to complicated lawsuits. 2003. Two Scandinavian investors and their Estonian tech team overcome big odds to create Skype that turns to become one of the greatest IT success stories of the 21st century.

2005. A party celebrating the \$2.6 billion sale of Skype to eBay. The Estonians – just turned multimillionaires – shock the extremely formal eBay brass leaping, fully clothed, into the swimming pool.

Our story isn't so much about Skype as a technological and business triumph (probably at the end of its Road of Fame by now anyway) but the total underdogs who were able to make something like that happen.



Director Kiur Aarma

born on 25 June 1975 in Tallinn, Estonia. Kiur Aarma has graduated Music High School in Tallinn (1993) and Tartu University (1997; BA in semiotics and cultural theory). From 2006 studies scriptwriting at Baltic Film, Media and Arts School master class. Has worked as host for several talk-shows 1997–2007. He is one of the founders of production company RUUT (Eetriüksus), in which he has produced numerous TV-programs and several documentaries.

Original title: Skype
Theme: current history, technology, start-up
Director: Kiur Aarma
Screenwriter: Kiur Aarma
Editor: Mirjam Jegorov
Sound: Horret Kuus
Animation art director: Urmas Viik
Animation artist: Priit Tender
Producer: Margus Üunapuu
Co-Producer: Esko Rips
Produced by: Film Tower
Co-Producer: Nafta Films
To be released: 2024

59 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

Contact

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Puuluup - Rock'n'roll with Talharpas

Two middle-aged men, one an anthropologist and the other a painter by training, decide to start a band with talharpas. Somewhat unexpectedly, their work achieves first local and then international fame. Thanks to the archaic wooden instrument played with a bow, their most rock'n'roll period of their lives begins.



Director Taavi Arus

Director and cinematographer Taavi Arus was born on 11 March 1978 in Viljandi. He started his creative career in 2006 as an artist's assistant on the film *Magnus*, and has since worked as a cinematographer and director of documentary films, created numerous music videos for bands Psychoterror, St. Chetaersburg, Kago, Pastacas, Cirkli, Indrek Spungin, Anu Taul, Junk Riot, Puuluup, Djerro, Cätlin Mägi, The Winter Sounds, etc. In 2018, in collaboration with Indrek Spungin, they produced two high-profile documentaries on the punk music theme – *Pets and Berlin* and *More than Life*.

Original title: Puuluup - rock-n-roll Hiiu kanneldega

Theme: music documentary

Languages: Estonian, English

Director: Taavi Arus

Screenwriters: Taavi Arus, Andris Feldmanis, Livia Ulman

Cinematographer: Taavi Arus, Frank-Leander Sapego

Editor: Mattias Naan

Composer: Puuluup

Sound: Indrek Soe

Producer: Madis Tüür

Produced by: Münchhausen Films

To be released: 2024

84 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

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Citizen of Sun

The singer Tarmo Urb who acted like a rock star, collided with the Soviet system, because the regime did not allow him to conquer the world's stages, but at the same time did not let him go. The collision of the two "big" lasted for almost ten years.

The brothers Tarmo and Toomas Urb are musicians whose phenomenon in Estonia in the 1980s is hard to overestimate. Performing romantic ballads accompanied by a guitar, they could bring a full house to any concert hall. The brothers were compared to the duo Simon & Garfunkel.

Tarmo realized that his talent could not be fully realized in the Soviet Union and decided to find an opportunity to leave. However, it was not customary to leave the Soviet Union, such a desire alone was treated as betrayal of the homeland. After denial of the state to permit Urb to move to Italy to his wife, he became defiant and obsessed with getting away at all costs.

The documentary film *Citizen of Sun* reveals the oppressive nature of the Soviet Union and the functioning of repressive organs through many testimonies and documents.



Director Riho Västrik

Producer and director Riho Västrik has a BA in History and Journalism from Tartu University and MA in Film Arts from Baltic Film, Media and Arts School. His big interest in mountaineering was the first reason to consider filmmaking - the beauty of the mountains and human sufferings yearned for recording. Since 2003, Riho has been attracted to the Siberia and Far North. He has produced and co-produced a number of documentaries with Latvian, Lithuanian, Russian, German, French and Finnish filmmakers. Several of them have received international awards and recognitions. Currently, Riho is a professor in the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School in Tallinn and co-owner of the production company Vesilind.

Original title: Päikesee kodanik
Theme: brotherhood, disobedience, totalitarianism, freedom
Languages: Estonian, Finnish, English
Director: Riho Västrik
Screenwriter: Riho Västrik
Cinematographer: Mattias Veermets
Editors: Riho Västrik, Lauri Laasik
Composer: Arian Levin
Sound: Ekke Västrik
Producer: Riho Västrik
Produced by: Vesilind
To be released: 2024

90 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

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A Place Like Home

Ready to “go all the way”, 16-year-old Kriš starts climate strikes in Estonia with their friend Kertu but soon becomes disillusioned with youth activism. Preferring a more radical approach but finding no allies, Kriš embarks on a solitary backpacking journey. The two friends end up taking different paths to saving the world: one spearheading a lawsuit against construction of a new oil shale plant, another delving deep into themselves to understand what it means to be human. Intimate and political interweave as the two friends navigate their diverging paths and coming of age in the era of cascading crises.



Director Kadriann Kibus

is a documentary filmmaker and producer. She runs her production company Rebel Frame, which focuses on documentary and animated film production. She has been involved with a number of documentaries either as a director, producer or editor, has produced and directed short films and written screenplays. In 2019–2022, she was one of the organizers of the Estonian-Finnish Ice and Fire Docs creative documentary training program created by the Estonian Documentary Guild and the Estonian Film Institute. She holds a BA in Electronic Media (2003) and an MA in Social and Cultural Anthropology (2019). Kadriann is a member of the Estonian Filmmakers Union, the Estonian Documentary Guild, and the Estonian Animation Union.

Original title: Koduigatsus

Theme: Coming of age, climate crisis, youth activism, LGBTQ+, introspection

Languages: Estonian, English

Director: Kadriann Kibus

Screenwriter: Kadriann Kibus

Cinematographer: Nele Aunap

Editor: Jette Keedus

Producer: Kadriann Kibus

Produced by: Rebel Frame

To be released: 2024 / 2025

90 min • DCP • 1.90:1 • 5.1

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My Family and Other Clowns

How to survive parenthood, when you have a lot to juggle? *My Family and Other Clowns* is a film about married couple, Haide and Toomas, with three children living in a tiny one-bedroom apartment in the suburb of Tallinn. They could be a perfectly ordinary family, but there's a catch – the parents in this family are famous clowns and one of the kids is autistic.

Haide and Toomas met over 25 years ago, while they were studying in comedy school in Denmark and have been building up their successful career in Estonia and abroad as clowns Piip and Tuut, entertaining thousands of children while their own children have been growing up on their own. Their older daughter Emma has had to play the role of mother, taking care of her younger sister Anni and also their autistic brother Siim, which has been too heavy a burden to bear. Anni really wants her parents to have a normal job, so that she could have a pet. Their brother Siim lives in his own world full of Marvel films and Legos. Haide and Toomas have been juggling family and stage lives, but now they have come to a breaking point, where they must decide whether they can keep their theatre or give up their dream and save the family. Can they have it all?

A film about love and parenthood, chasing a dream and making sacrifices.

Director Heilika Pikkov

is a documentary filmmaker and internationally well-known curator and cultural manager. She has made several documentaries, including *Flowers from the Mount of Olives* (2013), which had great success in Estonian cinemas and had its International Premiere at the Locarno FF, and *My Flesh and Blood* (2018), which won Best Short Film of the Year at the Estonian Film and Television Awards.

Director Liina Särkinen

has studied directing and producing in Tallinn and obtained a MA Degree in TV history and production in London. While in London, she also worked as a guest lecturer in Westminster University and as a manager in an immersive cinema company Secret Cinema. Since moving back to Estonia, she has directed two documentaries - *Why Don't I Leave?* (2017) and *Fuel for Life* (2020), both commissioned by Estonian Public Broadcasting.



Original title: Minu pere ja muud klounid

Theme: family issues, arts and culture, personal view

Languages: Estonian, English, Chinese, Finnish

Directors: Heilika Pikkov, Liina Särkinen

Screenwriters: Heilika Pikkov, Liina Särkinen

Cinematographers: Taavi Arus, Heilika Pikkov

Editor: Madli Lääne-Metsalu

Producer: Ülo Pikkov

Produced by: Silmviburlane

To be released: 2024/2025

90 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

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