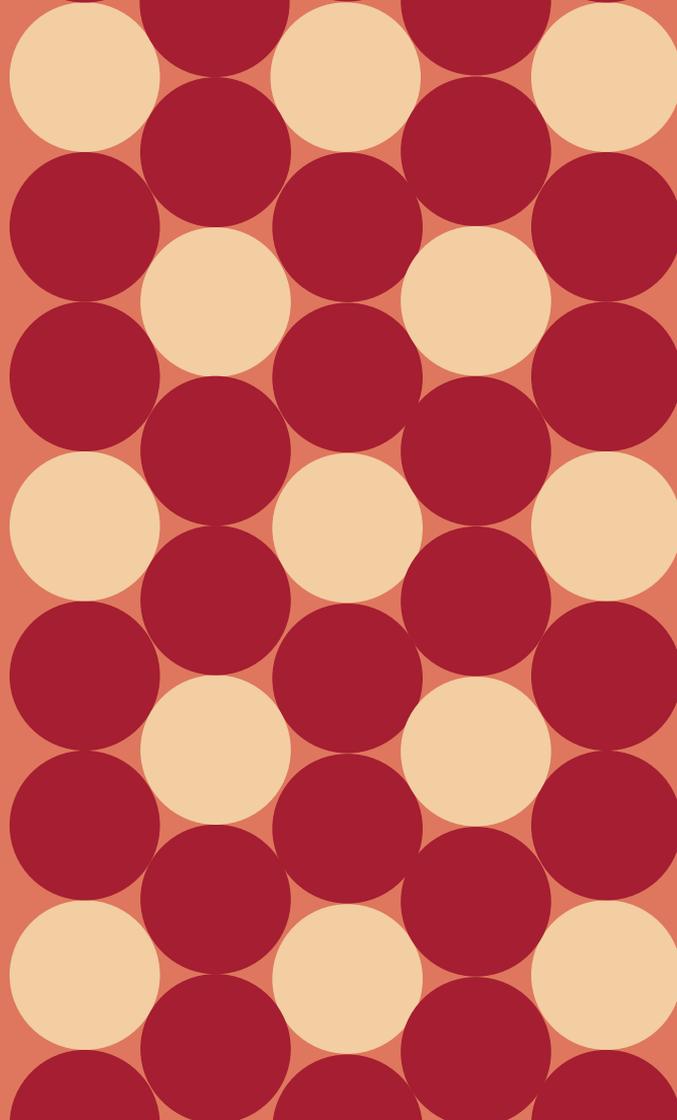


**Estonian  
Feature Films  
2023-2024**

**Eesti  
mängufilmid  
2023-2024**





**ESTONIAN  
FEATURE FILMS  
2023-2024**

EESTI  
MÄNGUFILMID  
2023-2024



Estonian  
Film  
Institute

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# The Invisible Fight

**T**he *Invisible Fight* is a kung-fu comedy set in an Orthodox monastery in the Soviet Union during the 1970s. The film's protagonist Rafael, a car mechanic turned hooligan, is in the army on guard duty when the border falls under attack from Chinese kung fu warriors. It's like a revelation to Rafael - flying long-haired hippie Chinese, black-clad kung fu aces, Black Sabbath blasting from their portable stereo. All that is forbidden in the Soviet Union.

Back home, Rafael wants to become an equally cool kung fu ace. He finds an opportunity to do so in a monastery, a place which for him is an equally rebellious and forbidden world in the Soviet Union, where long-haired, black-clad monks do their fighting. But the monk's fight is invisible - he who is more humble wins. Rafael's road to achieving the almighty power of humility is long and winding, his struggle is full of comedy, temptation, faith and love, but most of all, joy.



## Director Rainer Sarnet

Rainer Sarnet is a film director who mainly writes his own scripts, often basing them on literature. Sarnet who is passionate about Rainer Werner Fassbinder and Orthodox mysticism, has in addition to filmmaking also directed plays in the theater, based on texts by Przybyszewski and Jelinek, among others, and considers reading one of his favorite activities. *The Invisible Fight* is his third feature film with Homeless Bob Production, after *The Idiot* (2011) and *November* (2017). "Art is a poetic way to describe human psychology," Sarnet has said.

**Selected films:** *The Invisible Fight* (2023, Locarno IFF Official Competition), *November* (2017, Tribeca IFF Official Competition), *The Idiot* (2011, Busan IFF Official Competition).

**Original title:** Nähtamatu võitlus

**Genre:** kung fu comedy

**Language:** Estonian

**Director:** Rainer Sarnet

**Screenwriter:** Rainer Sarnet

**Cinematographer:** Mart Taniel E.S.C.

**Production Designer:** Jaagup Roomet

**Editor:** Jussi Rautaniemi

**Sound:** Janne Laine

**Main cast:** Ursel Tiik, Kaarel Pogga, Ester Kuntu, Indrek Sammul

**Producer:** Katrin Kissa

**Co-producers:** Amanda Livanou, Alise Gelze, Helen Vinogradov

**Produced by:** Homeless Bob Production (EE),

White Picture (LV), Neda Film (GR)

**World premiere:** Locarno International Film Festival, Concorso Internazionale, August 2023

**Festivals:** Fantastic Fest, Sitges IFFF, Love and Anarchy IFF, Montreal Festival du Nouveau Cinema, CinEast, Warsaw IFF, Riga IFF, SXSW Sidney, Monster Fest, La Roché sur Yon IFF, The Imagine Film Festival, Thessaloniki IFF, Cottbus FF, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, Les Arcs FF, Göteborg FF

115 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

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# Dark Paradise

**A**fter her daddy's death, Karmen commits an atrocious act against her half-brother and must now face the dark void of the universe, which can only be filled with love.

A "poignant tale about Millennials" that follows a 27-year-old woman called Karmen. She discovers that her recently buried father was actually wallowing in debt and her whole life has been a one big lie. When Karmen's life free of responsibility starts to collapse, she takes out her feelings on her brother Viktor by disfiguring his face. At the center of the film is a hedonistic lifestyle and the nihilistic search for love and intimacy.



## Director Triin Ruumet

is one of the most interesting new generation directors in Estonia. A diverse, unconventional and brazen director, her strength lies in her personal and somewhat irreverent approach to her subject matter. She did a bachelor's in Audiovisual Media from 2009-2011 and a Master's in Film Directing from 2011-2012 at the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School. Her student films participated and were lauded at dozens of festivals.

In 2016, Triin Ruumet finished her debut feature *The Days that Confused*, a look back at the thug culture of Estonia in the 90's. The film had the premiere at Karlovy Vary IFF East of the West programme and won Jury's Special Prize.

Triin is striking in her stubborn anarchism and boldness. Her view of her characters' emotional lives seems considerably more lenient and understanding than many male directors'.

**Original title:** Tume paradiis

**Genre:** drama

**Language:** Estonian

**Director:** Triin Ruumet

**Screenwriters:** Triin Ruumet, Andris Feldmanis, Livia Ulman

**Cinematographer:** Erik Põllumaa, E.S.C.

**Production Designer:** Matis Mäesalu

**Editor:** Jaak Ollino Jr.

**Main cast:** Rea Lest, Jörgen Liik, Reimo Sagor, Juhan Ulfsak, Liisa Saaremäel, Steffi Pähn

**Producer:** Elina Litvinova

**Co-producer:** Jeremy Forni

**Produced by:** Three Brothers (EE), Chevaldeuxtrois (FR)

**Domestic premiere:** September 2023

**Festivals:** Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival

110 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

### Contact

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### Sales

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# Free Money

**F**ree Money is an ensemble movie that tells three interconnected stories about money. Part satire, part fast-paced comedy, part drama – loosely based on the real-life events during the crypto and investment craze of the last few years where every taxi driver is an investment expert, money has no price and everything can only go in one direction – up. But what happens when the crisis hits?



## Director Rain Rannu

Rain Rannu is an Estonian film director and producer. As a filmmaker, he is most interested in different subcultures that are governed by some strange inner logic. His previous films as writer-director are start-up-comedy *Chasing Unicorns* and AI-themed sci-fi adventure *Child Machine*. Together with producer Tõnu Hiie laid, Rain is a founder of indie movie company Tallifornia that produces and finances narrative feature films from talented filmmakers from Estonia and elsewhere.

**Original title:** Vaba raha

**Genre:** comedy, drama

**Languages:** Estonian, English

**Director:** Rain Rannu

**Screenwriter:** Rain Rannu

**Cinematographer:** Ants Tammik

**Production Designers:** Urmet Piiling, Tõnu Hiie laid

**Editors:** Rain Rannu, Moonika Põdersalu

**Composer:** Bert On Beats

**Sound:** Markus Andreas, Aleksandra Koel

**Main cast:** Miklós Bányai, Märt Pius, Steffi Pähn, Ivo Uukkivi,

Amanda Hermine Künnapas, Einar Kuusk

**Producers:** Tõnu Hiie laid, Rain Rannu

**Produced by:** Tallifornia

**Domestic premiere:** September 2023

114 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

## Contact

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# Totally Boss

**13**-year-old Oliver and Sass make a nose-shaped glasses holder in shop class, which attracts the interest of a mysterious major investor. At the same time, Oliver's recently laid off father is struggling to find a new job. The boys are too young to run their business themselves, so Oliver hatches a plan to kill two birds with one stone: they hire Oliver's dad to run their business, also saving his parents' rocky marriage! The trick is that Oliver's father doesn't know that he works for his son and son's friend Sass. A fast-paced duplicitous game unfolds and starts to escalate when the boys find out what their mysterious investor is really up to.



## Director Ingomar Vihmar

graduated from the Tallinn Conservatory Department of Performing Arts in 1992. He worked at the Ugala Theatre from 1991–2002 as an actor and stage director. From 1992–2001 he was also a lecturer at the Viljandi Cultural College and from 2006–2015 he directed for the stage of the Estonian Drama Theatre. Since 2015, Ingomar has been the artistic director of the Endla Theatre. He has directed for most stages in Estonia, brought more than fifty productions to the stage, and received several commendations for his work. *Totally Boss* is his first feature film.

**Original title:** Tähtsad ninad

**Genre:** family comedy

**Language:** Estonian

**Director:** Ingomar Vihmar

**Screenwriters:** Martin Algus, Tom Abrams, James Nathan, Dave Weber

**Cinematographer:** Heiko Sikka E.S.C.

**Production Designer:** Anneli Arusaar

**Editor:** Moonika Põdersalu

**Composer:** Leslie Laasner

**Sound:** Matis Rei

**Main cast:** Ruben Tolk, Mattias Naan, Robert Alexander Peets, Saara Pius, Mait Malmsten, Kleer Maibaum

**Producers:** Esko Rips, Diana Mikita

**Produced by:** Nafta Films

**Domestic premiere:** October 2023

**Festivals:** Just Film Youth and Children's Film Festival, November 2023

87 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

### Contact

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# Mo Mamma

**M**other (Karin) and daughter (Mari) are facing the demise of Mamma, Karin's mother and Mari's grandmother. They both release their pain on each other, but in unconditional love, everything is allowed. On the backdrop of mother and daughter seeking closeness and mutual understanding, there are bits of archive footage of Mamma, showing her peaceful healthy everyday life. *Mo Mamma* is a bitter-sweet homage to Mamma, full of feminine absurd.

## Director Eeva Mägi

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



**Original title:** Mo Mamma  
**Genre:** drama, experimental  
**Language:** Estonian  
**Director:** Eeva Mägi  
**Screenwriter:** Eeva Mägi  
**Cinematographer:** Sten-Johan Lill E.S.C.  
**Production Designer:** Allan Appelberg  
**Editor:** Sten-Johan Lill  
**Composer:** Alessandro Malcangi  
**Sound:** Gabriel Solis  
**Main cast:** Helena Lotman, Eva Koldits  
**Producers:** Marju Lepp, Sten-Johan Lill, Manfred Vainokivi, Eeva Mägi  
**Produced by:** Filmivabrik, Kinosaurus Film  
**World premiere:** Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, November 2023 (First Feature Competition, Special Jury Prize)

70 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

## Contact

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# 8 Views of Lake Biwa

**O**n the shimmering shores of Europe's otherworldly edge, two teenage girls, Hanake and her best friend are discussing their first love interest while gazing out at yachts sailing to Kyoto. They whisper prayers and poems, the language of their longings. But the magic is fading in their isolated fishing village as they come to terms with a recent disaster, with some indulging in acts of erotic art, some in spiritual spells. It becomes clear that intimacy alone won't help them process their loss.

In a deeply visceral tale, acclaimed Estonian director Marko Raat explores themes of love, illuminating the lives of a community who still believe that they are connected to the universe.



## Director Marko Raat

is Estonian writer-director, active in the fields of arthouse fiction film and documentaries since 1999. He has a vast background in theatre directing, TV productions and in fine art. His latest feature length documentary *Funeral Diaries* premiered at Dok.Fest Munich and was the opening film at DocPoint Tallinn. His most recent short film *A Chairman's Tale* had its debut at the 56th International Art Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia. His last feature length fiction film, *The Snow Queen* (2010), was developed within SOURCES2, KVIFF WIP and premiered at Montréal World Film Festival.

**Original title:** Biwa järve 8 nägu  
**Genre:** coming of age, drama, avant-garde  
**Language:** Estonian  
**Director:** Marko Raat  
**Screenwriter:** Marko Raat  
**Cinematographer:** Sten-Johan Lill E.S.C.  
**Production Designer:** Kristina Lõuk  
**Editor:** Jaak Ollino Jr  
**Composer:** Jakob Juhkam  
**Sound:** Karri Niinivaara  
**Main cast:** Elina Masing, Tiina Tauraitte, Jan Uuspõld, Hendrik Toompere  
**Producers:** Ivo Felt, Dora Nedeczky  
**Co-producers:** Mark Lwoff, Misha Jaari  
**Produced by:** Allfilm (EE), Bufo (FI)  
**World premiere:** International Film Festival Rotterdam, January 2024

120 min • DCP • 1.85:1 • 5.1

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# The Missile

**F**innish Lapland, 1984. Niina, is a single mother of two children. After an absurd jumble of events, Niina ends up as an archiver in the local newspaper. Niina hears an enormous bang from the sky – the radio says that the Soviet Union has shot a missile across the Finnish border to Inari: soon the whole village is filled with reporters from all over the world. Niina knows the area and its people, so she is drawn into the investigation of the missile incident and the threat of nuclear war. Niina meets Kai, a fighter pilot who knows secrets about the missile, and a relationship between the two develops. As Niina obsesses about the missile's truth, she confronts the truth about her own boundaries. Niina is looking for serenity in a violent world and when she finally detaches from her ex-husband, the truth about the missile is brought to daylight.

## Director Miia Tervo

Award-winning director Miia Tervo grew up in Lapland. Her short films *The Seal* (2006), *The Little Snow Animal* (2009), *Santra and the Talking Trees* (2013), *Clumsy Little Acts of Tenderness* (2015) have all made several rounds at film festivals worldwide including IDFA. *The Little Snow Animal* also received an EFA nomination. Tervo's debut feature film *Aurora* (2019) was a critical and box-office success. It received its world premiere as the opening film for Göteborg Film Festival. It was also selected to South by Southwest (SXSW) and Edinburgh IFF where *Aurora* won Best International Feature award. It also received the following Jussi Awards – the Finnish Oscars: Best Film, Best Director, Best Screenplay, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actress, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Costume Design. *The Missile* is her second feature film.



**Original title:** Ohjus

**Genre:** Dramedy

**Languages:** Finnish, English

**Director:** Miia Tervo

**Screenwriter:** Miia Tervo

**Cinematographer:** Meelis Veeremets, E.S.C.

**Production Designer:** Heather Loeffler

**Editor:** Antti Reikko

**Sound:** Micke Nyström

**Main cast:** Oona Airola, Pyry Kähkönen, Hannu-Pekka Björkman, Tommi Korpela

**Producers:** Kaisla Viitala, Daniel Kuitunen

**Co-producers:** Johanna Maria Paulson, Evelin Penttilä

**Produced by:** Elokuvyhtiö Komeetta (FI), Stellar Film (EE)

**World premiere:** January 2024, Göteborg Film Festival

109 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

## Contact

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# Life & Love

In 1933, a young woman leaves her rural home to chase her dream of becoming a writer in the city. She takes a job as a maid for a middle-aged printing house owner, who quickly starts pursuing her romantically. They marry, but his passionate declarations of love soon turn cold. As political tensions rise in the country, their love story unfolds in a divided society, revealing toxic behaviours and power games that start innocently but lead to dire consequences.



## Director Helen Takkin

is an established short format director from Estonia. She's worked with top commercial clients worldwide, won awards, and embraces diverse genres to craft meaningful heart-warming stories. *Life and Love* is her first full length feature film.

**Selected filmography:** *How We Wake Up* (short film, 2020), *Descent* (short film, 2020), *Talk to Her* (short film, 2019), *Elo* (short film, 2015)

**Original title:** Elu ja armastus

**Genre:** drama

**Language:** Estonian

**Director:** Helen Takkin

**Screenwriters:** Martin Alguus, Helen Takkin

**Cinematographer:** Alvar Kõue E.S.C.

**Production Designer:** Kamilla Kase

**Editor:** Sander-Kalle Somma

**Music:** Mick Pedaja

**Sound design:** Horret Kuus

**Main cast:** Karolin Jürise, Mait Malmsten,

Loviise Kapper, Ursel Tilk

**Producers:** Kristian Taska, Adeele Tähemaa,

Tanel Tatter, Veiko Esken

**Produced by:** Taska Film, Apollo Film Productions

**To be released:** February 2024

118 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

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# Alien 2 or the Return of Valdis in 19 Episodes

**V**illage tough guy was abducted by aliens. Now he's back. Watch out, woke pussies!



## Director Rasmus Merivoo

is one of the most unique Estonian filmmakers in recent times. His film school short *Alien – saving Valdis in 11 chapters* became an instant cult classic because of its bold and original storytelling. After a long period of different projects Rasmus returned to writing and directing with his second feature *Kratt* that was released in 2020 and screened at Fantasia, BIFAN, Cottbus etc. and now back to his roots with *Alien 2*.

**Original title:** Tulnukas II ehk Valdise tagasitulek 19 osas

**Genre:** comedy, romantic tragedy

**Language:** Estonian

**Director:** Rasmus Merivoo

**Screenwriter:** Rasmus Merivoo

**Cinematographer:** Jako Krull

**Production Designer:** Krete Tarkmees

**Editors:** Rasmus Merivoo, Kristin Kalamees

**Sound:** Markus Andreas, Jevgeni Berežovski

**Main cast:** Märt Avandi, Ott Sepp, Vallo Kirs, Liisa Pulk, Kaia Skoblov, Indrek Ojari, Ago Anderson, Indrek Taalma, Tõnn Lamp, Marek Tammets, Kaido Veermäe, Merle Jääger

**Producers:** Tõnu Hiie laid, Rain Rannu

**Produced by:** Tallifornia

**To be released:** 2024

100 min • DCPv1.85:1 • 5.1

## Contact

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# One-dimensional Man

**R**aul's father Viktor, a Soviet-era Estonian militia officer, shaped his son with communist ideology. Raul was raised in a violent and pathological attitude of the despotic father, blindly driven by the ideology. Ideology, that destroyed the family and brought spiritual mutilation to Raul. Now, when Viktor is old, Raul takes care of him. Raul followed in his father's footsteps, and being a convinced communist, joined a spy ring. But unlike his father, he didn't achieve big success and high rank. For years he is a "small fish", who just forwards the secret information. One day Raul learns from his superior, that an agent from their ring, was discovered and put in jail. During 24 hours Raul should disappear. The same day Raul runs into a brutal fight scene on the street. The victim is a young Chinese woman Yu-Xiao. Trying to help her, Raul accidentally kills one of the men. He takes the woman home, cleans her wounds, changes torn clothes. Next morning Raul is ready to leave, Yu-Xiao begs him not to leave her alone and to take her with him. They start their journey together. Raul's plan is to reach China.



## Director Andres Puustusmaa

Andres Puustusmaa is an Estonian director and former actor. In 1994 he graduated from The Drama School of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre and started working in Estonian Drama Theatre. In 2002, he moved to Moscow to study directing at the High Courses for scriptwriters and Film Directors (VGIK). As a director, Andres Puustusmaa has made films in different genres, but he always adds a unique artistic sensibility and deep knowledge of motivations behind human actions. His latest author film *Your Honor!* was selected to Shanghai IFF, Warsaw IFF, Rome Film Fest and others.

**Selected filmography:** *18-14* (2007), *Red Pearl of Love* (2008), *Red Mercury* (2011), *Green Cats* (2017), *Your Honor!* (2019)

**Original title:** Ühemõõtmeline mees

**Genre:** drama

**Languages:** Estonian, English, Chinese, Russian

**Director:** Andres Puustusmaa

**Screenwriter:** Andres Puustusmaa

**Cinematographer:** Mait Mäekivi E.S.C.

**Production Designer:** Ervin Õunapuu

**Editor:** Mihhail Tkats

**Sound:** Indrek Soe

**Main cast:** Juhan Ulfsak, Yang Ge

**Producer:** Katerina Monastyrskaya

**Produced by:** Leo Films

**To be released:** 2024

105 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

## Contact

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# Lioness

**H**elena is a paramedic, a professional caretaker. However, in her private life she seems to be unable to properly care for her family and remains unaware that she has emotionally abandoned her daughter Stefi a long time ago.

This autumn, the smart but self-destructive 15-year-old Stefi turns into every mother's nightmare. She stops going to school, doesn't come home at night and gets involved with a violent youth gang. Helena spends her days in fear and her nights waiting and searching for her daughter.

When Stefi ends up in the hospital due to a severe overdose, Helena prepares a desperate, even insane plan. She intends to secretly imprison Stefi in the family's old cottage and keep her there until the situation gets better.

But things don't go as planned. An unexpected chain of events throw Helena into a state of shock. There – trapped at the delicate boundary between reality and madness, expectations and hopes, her motherly love gets an entirely new meaning.



## Director Liina Triškina-Vanhatalo

Liina Triškina-Vanhatalo (born 1976) studied humanities in Estonian Institute of Humanities (University of Tallinn) and started her film studies in 1998 at the European Film College in Denmark, followed by Film and Audiovisual School of Catalonia (ESCAC) in Barcelona. Since then, she has worked on tens of documentaries, as director and editor. She has also taught editing in Baltic Film, Media and Arts School. Parallel to documentaries she started to work as a script-continuity for fiction features. Working closely with fiction scripts she ended up writing her own first script *Bog* on 2013 (based on Andrei Ivanov's novel *Ash*). In 2016 she completed her second screenplay; a social drama *Take it or Leave it* that she also directed as her debut feature film. The film premiered in October 2018 in Warsaw IFF and was also selected as Estonian submission for Academy Award (Best International Feature Film) and was a nominee for best screenplay at Estonian Film and Television awards 2019. *Lioness* is her second full length feature film.

**Original title:** Emalõvi

**Genre:** psychological thriller

**Language:** Estonian

**Director:** Liina Triškina-Vanhatalo

**Screenwriter:** Liina Triškina-Vanhatalo

**Cinematographer:** Erik Põllumaa E. S. G.

**Production Designer:** Laura Dishlere

**Editor:** Moonika Põdersalu

**Composer:** Nils Kacirek

**Sound:** Seppo Vanhatalo

**Main cast:** Katariina Unt, Teele Piibemänn

**Producer:** Ivo Felt

**Co-producers:** Sebastian Weyland, Guntis Trekteris

**Produced by:** Allfilm (EE), Heimathafen Film (DE), Ego Media (LV)

**To be released:** 2024

100 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

## Contact

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# The Black Hole

A black hole appears mysteriously in a lilac bush of a tower block district. A sinister-looking comet shines in the sky, and certain events start to unfold, calling the inhabitants' dreams of a better life into question. Especially when facing aliens, a giant spider and an Austrian in breeches. Three comically absurd tales interweave in *The Black Hole*, making a point about the essence of modern life when people are in moral decline and have lost the ability to connect with each other.



## Director Moonika Siimets

Moonika Siimets is an internationally acclaimed Estonian female director and scriptwriter. She graduated from Tallinn University Baltic Film, Media and Arts School and attended Judith Weston's scriptwriting and directing master classes in LA. Her filmography includes award-winning documentaries, TV series, short films and feature films such as *Is It You?* (2013 Stockholm FF), *The Last Romeo* (2013 Tel Aviv ISFF), *The Little Comrade* (Busan IFF 2018, Busan Bank Award, Lübeck 2018, Camerimage 2018, Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival 2018, Palm Springs 2019), *Two Hours to Happiness* (2022, DocPoint). *The Black Hole* is her second feature film.

**Original title:** Must auk  
**Genre:** comedy, drama, romance  
**Language:** Estonian  
**Director:** Moonika Siimets  
**Screenwriter:** Moonika Siimets  
**Cinematographer:** Ivar Taim, E. S. C.  
**Production Designer:** Kari Kankaanpää  
**Editor:** Joonas Louhivuori  
**Composer:** Ann Reimann  
**Sound:** Matis Rei  
**Main cast:** Ursel Tilk, Rea Lest, Eva Koldits, Liina Tennesaar  
**Producer:** Riina Sildos  
**Co-producers:** Emilia Haukka, Jussi Rantamäki  
**Produced by:** Amrion Production (EE), Aamu Film Company (FI)  
**To be released:** 2024

98 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

## Contact

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# The Shadow

**J**uhan Liiv, a struggling poet and an unlikely detective, solves gruesome murder cases in Estonia, the Wild West of the crumbling Russian Empire in the 1890s. Investigations take him to miserable dwellings of the local Estonian peasants, luxurious castles of German nobility that have sworn allegiance to the Czar, and to the depths of ancient forests where witchcraft is still practiced. Juhan is fighting crime and his own inner demons. He is considered mad and pronounced crazy. But by standing for justice and truth, at the end of the day, he is the sanest of them all.



## Director Jaak Kilmi

graduated from Tallinn University, majoring in film directing. He has (co-) directed and produced a string of successful short films, a number of documentary films and feature films. His films have been awarded internationally and have enjoyed successful theater runs in Estonia. He has lectured film history and directing at the University of Tallinn and Estonian Academy of Arts.

**Original title:** Vari  
**Genre:** crime thriller  
**Language:** Estonian  
**Director:** Jaak Kilmi  
**Screenwriter:** Indrek Hargla  
**Cinematographer:** Mihel Soe E.S.C.  
**Production Designer:** Karoliina Kull  
**Editor:** Jaak Ollino  
**Composer:** Ardo Ran Varres  
**Sound:** Tanel Paats  
**Main cast:** Pääru Oja, Kersti Heinloo, Rain Simmul, Karol Kuntsel, Alice Siil, Peeter Tammearu  
**Producers:** Kristian Taska, Tanel Tatter, Veiko Esken, Armin Karu  
**Co-producer:** Tuuli Roosma  
**Produced by:** Taska Film, Apollo Film Productions, HansaFilm  
**Co-produced by:** Reede  
**To be released:** 2024

90 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

### Contact

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 Kristian Taska  
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 www.taska.ee



# Frank

As a result of another fight with his abusive father, Paul (13) runs away to stay with his uncle in an unfamiliar town. Paul finds companions in a local youth gang led by one troublemaker Jasper (14), sending Paul to a downward spiral. As Paul meets an odd disabled man Frank, a peculiar friendship starts to develop between the two, one which Paul is reluctant to admit to the gang. Their friendship turns into the driving force to an almost tragic conflict between two broken boys from similar families.



## Director Tõnis Pill

was born in Tallinn. He graduated from Tallinn University's Baltic Film, Media and Arts School (BFM) with a degree in film directing. Additionally, he has furthered his education in various directing and screenwriting workshops, including those led by Judith Westons, Jeremy Kagan, Ian Sellar, Linda Aronson, and others.

Pill has directed short films such as *Counterpoint* (2016), *Recover Connection* (2017), *Homebound* (2017) and *Blue* (2020). Several of his films have won awards both in Estonia and at international festivals. Currently he is in post-production with his debut feature film, *Frank*. In his creative work, Pill strives to create a realistic world that viewers should not doubt in its authenticity, but he always seeks to add a distinctive twist or detail that makes this realistic world convincingly unbelievable.

**Original title:** Frank  
**Genre:** drama  
**Language:** Estonian  
**Director:** Tõnis Pill  
**Screenwriter:** Tõnis Pill  
**Cinematographer:** Peter Kollanyi  
**Production Designer:** Kaia Tungal  
**Editor:** Moonika Põdersalu  
**Composer:** Markus Robam  
**Sound:** Aleksandra Koel  
**Main cast:** Derek Leheste, Oskar Seeman, Tõru Kannimäe  
**Producer:** Ivo Felt  
**Co-producers:** Rain Rannu, Alvar Kõue, Henri Savitski  
**Produced by:** Allfilm, Tallifornia, High Voltage  
**To be released:** 2024

110 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

### Contact

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 Ivo Felt  
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 ivo@allfilm.ee  
 www.allfilm.ee



# Rolling Papers

**R**olling Papers is a film that follows Estonian youth as they figure out life in their twenties, dealing with uncertainties and searching for purpose.



## Director Meel Paliale

comes from Tallinn, Estonia. He has been making short films since he was in elementary school. In 2022, he graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts, earning a degree in photography. His first feature *Tree of Eternal Love* (2022) was invited to Just Film FF, Cottbus, Helsinki IFF and many others. *Rolling Papers* is Meel's second feature film.

**Original title:** Pikad paberid  
**Genre:** coming-of-age, comedy, drama  
**Language:** Estonian  
**Director:** Meel Paliale  
**Screenwriter:** Meel Paliale  
**Story by:** Meel Paliale & Urmet Piiling  
**Cinematographer:** Markus Mikk  
**Production Designer:** Jasmin Kulagina  
**Editor:** Meel Paliale  
**Sound:** Joonas Taimla  
**Main cast:** Mihkel Kuusk, Karl Birnbaum, Maria Helena Seppik, Edgar Vunsh  
**Producers:** Rain Rannu, Tõnu Hiie laid, Urmet Piiling  
**Produced by:** Tallifornia  
**To be released:** 2024

90 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

## Contact

Tallifornia  
 Tõnu Hiie laid  
 tinamount@tallifornia.com  
 tallifornia.com



# Two of Me

**T**win filmmakers are making a movie about twin filmmakers who are trying to make a movie about twins.



## Directors Raul and Romet Esko

Twin brothers Raul and Romet Esko have been dreaming of making movies ever since their mom bought them a video camera. Their film school short film *Struck by Lightning* won the National Competition of Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival (PÖFF Shorts) in November 2020, took home the Audience Award. *Two of Me* is their first full length feature film.

**Original title:** Mind on kaks

**Genre:** coming-of-age, comedy

**Language:** English

**Directors:** Raul Esko, Romet Esko

**Screenwriters:** Raul Esko, Romet Esko

**Cinematographer:** Toomas Tatar

**Production Designer:** Paul Henrich Daude

**Editors:** Raul Esko, Romet Esko, Victoria Villig

**Sound:** Kaspar Kosk

**Main cast:** Raul Esko, Romet Esko, Priit Pius, Märt Pius, Amanda Hermiine Künnapas, Mirtel Pohla, Rain Tolk, Reimo Sagor, Reket, Lil Till

**Producers:** Rain Rannu, Tõnu Hiie laid, Kirill Volkov

**Produced by:** Tallifornia

**To be released:** 2024

100 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

### Contact

Tallifornia

Tõnu Hiie laid

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tallifornia.com



# Infinite Summer

Three friends, Mia, Grete and Sarah, are spending a summer together at a holiday beach house when they meet a guy who calls himself Dr Mindfulness and sells his own meditation app. Although Dr Mindfulness speaks and performs like a complete charlatan, his app and devices deliver surprisingly a mind-bending experience.

Detectives Jack and Katrin are also on the case, but they suspect much darker forces behind the app.



## Director Miguel Llansó

Based in Tallinn since 2017, Miguel Llansó studied philosophy and cinema before leaving on his many adventures. A big fan of experimental-punk-weird music and films, his international recognition came when he started filming in Ethiopia. Sundance, Rotterdam, Locarno, Sitges, Fantasia, Buenos Aires, Los Angeles and many other film festivals have shown selections of his works. *Crumbs* and *Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway* have been distributed in different territories and platforms such as the Criterion Channel, Arrow Films or Amazon Prime among others.

**Original title:** Infinite Summer

**Genre:** sci-fi, thriller

**Languages:** English, Estonian

**Director:** Miguel Llansó

**Screenwriter:** Miguel Llansó

**Cinematographer:** Israel Seoane

**Production Designers:** Anita Kremm, Liisamari Viik

**Editor:** Velasco Broca

**Sound:** Quino Piñero

**Main cast:** Teele Kaljuvee-O'Brock, Johanna Aurelia Rosin, Hannah Gross, Katariina Unt, Steve Vanoni, Ciaron Davies, Ivo Uukkivi, Sissi Nylia Benita

**Producers:** Tõnu Hiie laid, Rain Rannu, Miguel Llansó

**Co-Producer:** Allison Rose Carter, Jon Read

**Produced by:** Tallifornia

**To be released:** 2024

90 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

## Contact

Tallifornia

Tõnu Hiie laid

tinamount@tallifornia.com

tallifornia.com



# Aurora

**A**urora, the daughter of a religious leader, enters into a secret extramarital affair that challenges her life arrangements. She tries to please everyone, but when it's time for a lavish wedding anniversary celebration, an uninvited guest arrives. Secrets begin to reveal themselves at the wrong time and in the wrong place.

How to find yourself and find your way back home when all the bridges have been burned?



## Director Rain Tolk

Actor, screenwriter and director Rain Tolk was born on in 1977 in Tallinn. In 2007, he starred in *Autumn Ball* (dir. Veiko Õunpuu) that was the first Estonian film to reach the competition programme of the Venice Film Festival and also won the main prize in the Orizzonti programme. Together with Andres Maimik, Tolk has directed three feature-length feature films – *186 Kilometres* (2007), *Farts of Fury* (2011) and *Douchebags* (2012). He has also made several documentaries.



## Director Andres Maimik

is a documentary, feature and commercial film director, screenwriter and essayist, born in 1970 in Tallinn. He is partner at the company Kuukulgur Film. Maimik has taught documentary filmmaking at the Estonian Academy of Arts and Tallinn University. In his works the comedy mixed with the tragedy on the contemporary human condition has attracted younger audience to his works. He has co-directed several feature films, including *186 Kilometres* (2007), *Farts of Fury* (2011), *Douchebags* (2012), *Cherry Tobacco* (2014) and *The Man Who Looks Like Me* (2017).

**Original title:** Aurora

**Genre:** dramedy

**Language:** Estonian

**Directors:** Rain Tolk, Andres Maimik

**Screenwriters:** Rain Tolk, Andres Maimik

**Cinematographer:** Heiko Sikka E. S.G.

**Production Designer:** Anneli Arusaar

**Editor:** Patrik Antonjuk

**Composer:** Sten Sheripov

**Sound:** Horret Kuus

**Main cast:** Maarja Johanna Mägi, Ott Kartau, Jürgen Liik, Kersti Heinloo, Indrek Taalmaa, Sten Zupping, Rea Lest-Liik, Karin Rask, Margus Jaanovits, Marit Meri, Simeoni Sundja

**Producer:** Madis Tüür

**Produced by:** Kuukulgur Film

**To be released:** 2024/2025

100 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

## Contact

Kuukulgur Film

Madis Tüür

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madis@kuukulgur.ee

www.kuukulgur.ee



# The Swedish Torpedo

1939. Europe is on the brink of war. Sally, a 30-year-old single mom, wants to swim. Far. She dreams of being the first European woman to cross the English Channel. But no one in her family understands her. Especially not her mother, who urges Sally to take responsibility as a mother and stop the swimming-foolishness. The only person who shares Sally's dream is her 7-year-old son Lars, whom she shares with Henry, a married sports journalist. Trying to live up to other people's expectations, Sally feels increasingly suffocated and decides to pursue her dream. She, Henry, and Lars travel to England to go through with the swim, but shortly before it is scheduled, the guests at their hotel are replaced by soldiers. Henry wants to call it off, but Sally stands her ground and dives into the sea, cheered on by the soldiers and Lars. Swimming in the open and icy sea for 15 hours, Sally became the first Scandinavian to cross the channel



## Director Frida Kempff

is a Swedish director and scriptwriter educated at Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts. Her feature fictional debut *Knocking* (2021), premiered at Sundance and the documentary *Winter Boy* (2015) premiered at Vision du Reel and was nominated for Best Nordic Doc at Göteborg Film Festival. Several of her short films have been screened and awarded at the main festivals, including Cannes, Telluride, IDFA, Palm Springs, and London IFF.

**Original title:** Den Svenska Torpeden

**Genre:** drama

**Languages:** Swedish, Danish, English

**Director:** Frida Kempff

**Screenwriters:** Frida Kempff, Marietta von Hauswolff von Baumgarten

**Cinematographer:** Hannes Krantz

**Production Designer:** Elle Furudahl

**Editor:** Julie Naas

**Composer:** Martin Dirkov

**Sound:** Pietu Korhonen

**Main cast:** Josefin Neldén, Mikkel Boe Følsgaard, Arthur Sörbring, Lisa Carlehed

**Producers:** Erik Andersson, David Herdies

**Co-producers:** Riina Sildos, Elina Litvinova (EE), Sebastian Schelenz (BE), Kalus Heydemann (FI)

**Produced by:** Memento Film (SE), Amrion (EE), Inland Film Company (FI) and Velvet Films (BE)

**To be released:** 2024

120 min / DCP / 1.85:1 / 5.1

## Contact

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riina@amrion.ee

Three Brothers

Elina Litvinova

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# Never Alone

As the shadow of the Second World War spreads over Central Europe, many Jews flee Hitler's tyranny, seeking sanctuary in distant lands. Some find themselves in Finland, hoping for a fresh start, but the tides of war pull Finland into an alliance with Nazi Germany. Suddenly, the safe haven is not so safe anymore. Amidst the rising tensions and palpable fear, a beacon of hope emerges.

Abraham Stiller, a prominent member of the Jewish community in Helsinki and a philanthropist, stands tall. With a vibrant personality, booming voice, and an unwavering commitment to protecting the Jewish asylum seekers, he constantly reassures them: "This is Finland, not Germany." But when Jewish refugees are abruptly torn from their families and dispatched to labor camps near the German forces in Northern Finland, Stiller's resolve is put to the test.

Determined to uncover the truth and save those under his care, Stiller approaches Arno Antoni, the newly appointed Chief of the State Police. Instead of finding an ally, Stiller is met with a chilling threat that not only endangers the refugees but the entire Finnish Jewish community. In a treacherous game of politics and loyalties, Stiller balances on a razor's edge, navigating personal emotions and cold strategy. *Never Alone* is a story of resilience, defiance, and an unyielding pledge to safeguard one's kin in the face of unimaginable adversity.



## Director Klaus Härö

Klaus Härö is one of Finland's most established film directors. His previous film *The Fencer* was nominated for the Golden Globe, and several of his films have been selected to represent Finland at the Academy Awards. He is also the winner of the Berlinale Crystal Bear award and the prestigious Ingmar Bergman Award, the winner of which was chosen by Ingmar Bergman himself.

**Original title:** Ei koskaan yksin – Nie Allein

**Genre:** drama

**Languages:** Finnish, Swedish, German, English, Hebrew

**Director:** Klaus Härö

**Screenwriters:** Jimmy Karlsson, Klaus Härö

**Cinematographer:** Robert Nordström

**Production Designer:** Jaagup Roomet

**Editor:** Tambet Tasuja

**Composer:** Jacob Mühlrad

**Main cast:** Ville Virtanen, Nina Hukkinen, Rony Herman, Naemi Latzer, Kari Hietalahti, Hannu-Pekka Björkman

**Producer:** Ilkka Matila

**Co-producers:** Kristian Taska, Peter Krupenin, Loredana Rehekampff, Josef Brandmaier

**Produced by:** MRP Matila Röhr Productions (FI), Taska Film (EE), HOBAB (SE), Samsara Filmproduktion (AT), Penned Pictures (DE)

**To be released:** 2024

90 min / DCP / 2.39:1 / 5.1

## Contact

MRP Matila Röhr Productions

Ilkka Matila

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ilkka.matila@matilarohr.com

matilarohr.com



**English Titles**

8 Views of Lake Biwa	16
Alien 2 or the Return of Valdis in 19 Episodes	22
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Black Hole, the	28
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Elu ja armastus	20
Emalõvi	26
Frank	32
Infinite Summer	38
Mind on kaks	36
Mo Mamma	14
Must auk	28
Nähtamatu võitlus	6
Ohjus	18
Pikad paberid	34
Tähtsad ninad	12
Tulnukas II ehk Valdise tagasitulek 19 osas	22
Tume paradiis	8
Ühemõõtmeline mees	24
Vaba raha	10
Vari	30

## Directors

Esko, Raul  
 Esko, Romet  
 Härö, Klaus  
 Kempff, Frida  
 Kilmi, Jaak  
 Llansó, Miguel  
 Mägi, Eeva  
 Maimik, Andres  
 Merivoo, Rasmus  
 Paliale, Meel  
 Pill, Tõnis  
 Puustusmaa, Andres  
 Raat, Marko  
 Rannu, Rain  
 Ruumet, Triin  
 Sarnet, Rainer  
 Siimets, Moonika  
 Takkin, Helen  
 Tervo, Miia  
 Tolk, Rain  
 Triškina-Vanhatalo, Liina  
 Vihmar, Ingomar

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 24  
 16  
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 26  
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## Production Companies

Aamu Film Company (FI)  
 Allfilm  
 Amrion Production  
 Apollo Film Productions  
 Bufo (FI)  
 Chevaldeuxtrois (FR)  
 Ego Media (LV)  
 Elokvayhtiö Komeetta (FI)  
 Filmivabrik  
 HansaFilm  
 Heimathafen Film (DE)  
 High Voltage  
 HOBAB (SE)  
 Homeless Bob Production  
 Inland Film Company (FI)  
 Kinosaurus Film  
 Kuukulgur Film  
 Leo Films  
 Momento Film (SE)  
 MRP Matila Röhr Productions (FI)  
 Nafta Films  
 Neda Film (GR)  
 Penned Pictures (DE)  
 Reede  
 Samsara Filmproduktion (AT)

28  
 16, 26, 32  
 28, 42  
 20, 30  
 16  
 8  
 26  
 18  
 14  
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 32  
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 42  
 14  
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 42  
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 12  
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 30  
 44

Stellar Film  
 Tallifornia  
 Taska Film  
 Three Brothers  
 Velvet Films (BE)  
 White Picture (LV)

18  
 10, 22, 32, 34, 36, 38  
 20, 30, 44  
 8  
 42  
 6

## Production Companies

### Allfilm

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allfilm.ee

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### Filmivabrik

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## Distributors

### A-One Film Estonia

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### Acme Film

katre.valgma@acmefilm.ee

### Adastra Cinema

kliiv@adastracinema.com

### BestFilm

kino@bestfilm.eu

### Bigsales

silver.aberut@gmail.com

### Estinfilm

info@estinfilm.ee

### Estonian Theatrical Distribution / Hea Film

info@filmdistribution.ee

### Filmstop Inspiration

filmstop.inspiration@gmail.com

### Garsu Pasaulio Irasai (GPI)

info@gpi.lt

### KP Distribution

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### Otaku

veeberartur@gmail.com

### Unlimited Media

erkki@unlimitedmedia.ee

## Professional Organisations

### **Estonian Animation Association**

info@animaliit.ee  
animaliit.ee

### **The Estonian Association of Film Journalists**

andreiliimets@gmail.com

### **Estonian Documentary Guild**

est.documentary@gmail.com  
dokfilm.ee

### **Estonian Film Directors Guild**

filmilavastajad@gmail.com

### **Estonian Film Industry Cluster**

filmiklaster@gmail.com  
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### **Estonian Filmmakers' Union**

kinoliit@kinoliit.ee  
kinoliit.ee

### **Estonian Screenwriters' Guild**

info@stsenaristid.ee  
stsenaristid.ee

### **Estonian Society of Cinematographers ESC**

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## Financing and Archives

### **Estonian Ministry of Culture**

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### **Estonian Film Institute**

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### **Creative Europe MEDIA Desk Estonia**

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### **Estonian Cultural Endowment**

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### **Estonian National Archive's Film Archive**

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## Film Schools

### **Baltic Film, Media and Arts School**

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### **Estonian Academy of Arts**

animation@artun.ee  
artun.ee/animation

## Film Funds

### Film Estonia

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 filmestonia.eu

### Film Fund of Estonian Islands

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 minusaaremaa.ee/en/projects/  
 film-fund-estonian-islands

### Tartu Film Fund

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### Viru Film Fund

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 piia.tamm@ivek.ee  
 vff.ee

### Pärnu County Film Fund

pol@pol.parnumaa.ee  
 parnumaa.ee/en/film-fund/

## International film festivals

### Animist Tallinn

animist@animistfestival.eu  
 animistfestival.eu

### Industry@Tallinn & Baltic Event

+372 514 8134  
 balticevent@poff.ee  
 industry.poff.ee

### Docpoint Tallinn

info@docpoint.ee  
 docpoint.ee

### Haapsalu Horror and Fantasy Film festival

+372 5620 8308  
 info@poff.ee  
 hoff.ee

### International Short Film and Animation Festival PÖFF

Shorts  
 +372 5620 8308  
 shorts@poff.ee  
 shorts.poff.ee

### Matsalu International Nature Film Festival

+372 551 0910  
 matsalufilm@gmail.com  
 matsalufilm.ee

### Pärnu International Documentary and Anthropology Film Festival

+372 502 4947  
 festival@chaplin.ee  
 chaplin.ee

### Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival

+372 5620 8308  
 poff@poff.ee / poff.ee

### Tartu Love Film Festival TARTUFF

+372 552 5258  
 info@poff.ee  
 tartuff.ee

### Youth and Children's Film Festival Just Film

+372 5620 8308  
 justfilm@poff.ee  
 justfilm.ee

## Basic facts on Estonia

**Population:** 1.33 mln

**Capital:** Tallinn

**Cinema admissions in 2023:** 2.82 mln

**Box office in 2023:** 20.96 mln €

**Admissions per capita in 2023:** 2.12

**Share of domestic films in 2023:** 20.1%

**Average ticket price in 2023:** 7,45 €

## Domestic feature films 2019-2023

**2019:** Lotte and the Lost Dragons  
 • Self-Made Cameraman • Class Reunion 3 • Men • Truth and Justice • Scandinavian Silence • Your Honor • Maria's Paradise • Chasing Unicorns • Old Man Cartoon • The Chuck Band Show • Highway to Hell  
 • Jesus Shows You the Way to the Highway

**2020:** Where the Heart Is • Helene  
 • Raggle • Things We Don't Talk About • The Salmons. 25 Years Later

• Rain • The Last Ones • Dawn of War  
 • Goodbye Soviet Union • Erna at War  
 • Conference • Krat t • On the Water  
 • Undergods • Christmas in the Jungle

**2021:** Firebird • Estonian Funeral  
 • Compartment No 6 • Kids of the Night Sandra Gets a Job • Quicksand  
 • Captain Volkonogov Escaped  
 • Deserted • Tree of Eternal Love  
 • Songs for a Fox • Hunting Season

**2022:** The Bog • Melchior the Apothecary • Tree of Eternal Love  
 • The Sleeping Beast • The Sixth Secret • Minsk • Deserted • Melchior the Apothecary. The Ghost • Kalev  
 • Hit Big • Lovable • Reply to a Letter from Helga • Child Machine  
 • Call of God. Tribute to Kim Ki-duk  
 • Driving Mum • Erik Stoneheart

**2023:** Fools of Fame • Stairway to Heaven • A Greyhound of a Girl  
 • Poop, Spring and the Others  
 • Melchior the Apothecary. The Executioner's Daughter  
 • Last Sentinel • Free Money  
 • The Vacationers • Faulty Brides  
 • Dark Paradise • Totally Boss  
 • Invisible Fight • Mo Mamma

### CINEMA TOP 2023

Original title	Admissions	Box Office	Country of Origin
Barbie	150,406	1,132,979 €	US / GB
The Vacationers	107,095	772,090 €	EE
Oppenheimer	106,785	883,359 €	US / GB
Faulty Brides	93,713	677,474 €	EE
Super Mario Bros. The Movie	78,162	539,220 €	US / JP
Melchior the Apothecary. The Executioner's Daughter	77,951	565,451 €	EE
Elemental	59,255	381,202 €	US
Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie	54,173	377,185 €	US / CA
Fast X	52,236	419,263 €	US / JP / CH
Trolls Band Together	49,569	342,153 €	US







Estonian  
Film  
Institute