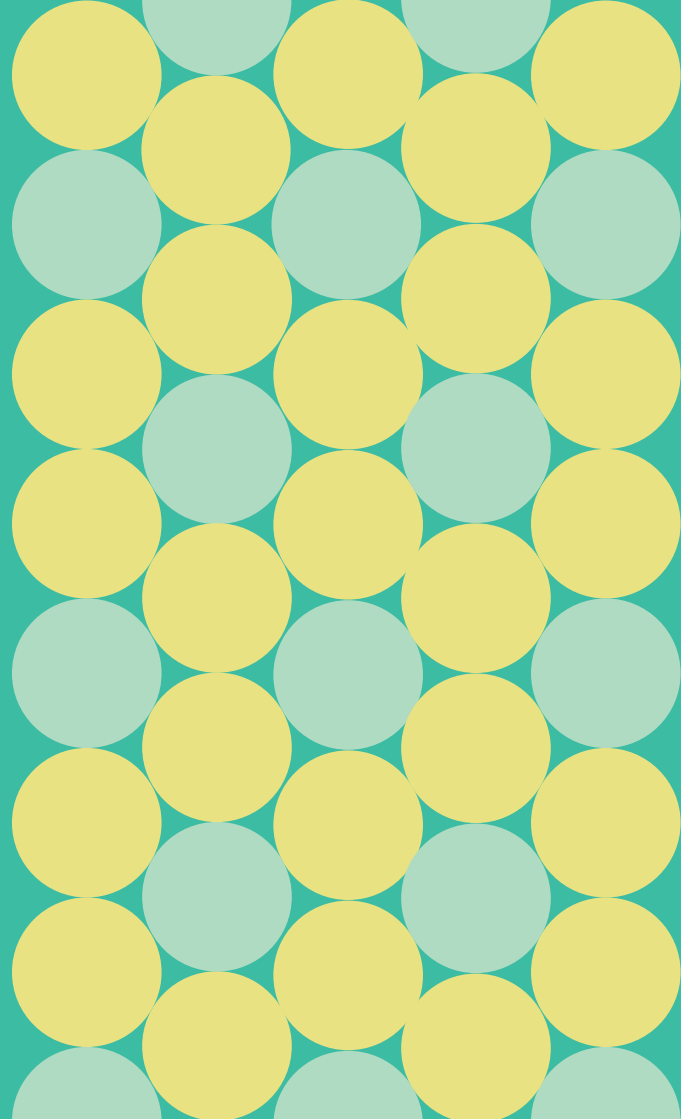


Estonian Shorts and Animations 2023-2024

**Eesti lühi- ja
animafilmid
2023-2024**



**ESTONIAN
SHORTS AND
ANIMATIONS
2023-2024**

EESTI LÜHI- JA
ANIMAFILMID
2023-2024



Estonian
Film
Institute

Editorial staff: Eda Koppel, Mirjam Mikk, Peep Pedmanson
Design and layout: Aragon Disain
All photos courtesy of production companies

Estonian Film Institute
Tallinn 2024
ISSN 2806-2876

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The Island

After travelling around the world, Nina and Mathieu arrive on an island to spend midsummer with friends. As time passes and the island's nature slowly begins to assert itself they become confronted with the emptiness of their desires.



Director Julien Pujol

was born in 1990 in Lausanne, Switzerland. He has been living and working between Paris and Tallinn for the past twelve years. In 2017, he completed his first short film *Atlantis*, about migration and time in Namibia. In 2023, he completed *The Island*, a medium length film, presented at the Locarno Film Festival. He is currently working on his first feature.

Original/Estonian title: The Island / Saar

Genre: drama

Language: english

Director: Julien Pujol

Screenwriter: Julien Pujol

Cinematographer: Hampus Nordenson

Production Designer: Kersti Pohlak

Editor: Laura Rius Aran

Composer: Vasco Cesaretti

Sound: Senjan Jansen

Main cast: Nina Aboutajedyne, Mathieu Perotto, Ingmar Jõela, Jessica Luostarinen, El Mehdi Largo, Luna, Karjakainen

Producers: Julien Pujol and Nicolas Tiry

Co-producers: Hampus Nordenson, Kersti Pohlak, Edouard Chassaing, Romain Chassaing, Chloe Servel

Produced by: The Film Partnership (EE), Solab Films (FR), Cats and Dogs (FR), Silverway Paris (FR), Parent (UK), Team B (SE)

World premiere: Locarno Film Festival, August 2023

Festivals: Solothurner Filmtag, Kino Athens

39 min • DCP • 1.85:1 • 5.1

Contact

The Film Partnership
studio@film-partnership.com



Keyhole

As young Anastassia matures and begins making decisions for herself, the wishes of her passionate mother are left behind. Amongst such disagreements, a more serious issue rises to change everything. The story shines a light on two distant memories of the same traumatic experience, and one family's journey through a loving relationship to an unexpected tragedy, with the hope that they must create for themselves to guide them forward through grief.



Director Juri Krutii

is a screenwriter/director from Estonia. Influenced by film theory and cinema of immersion, he strives to create culturally relevant and visually compelling work that establishes a dialogue with the viewer. His Screen Academy of Scotland graduation short film *Eudaimonia* (2018) premiered at Glasgow Short Film Festival in 2018 as a part of National Competition, and since then has traveled through various festivals around the UK and US. *Keyhole* is Juri's debut short, starting its festival circuit with a premiere at PÖFF Shorts in November 2023. Passionate for everything film - Juri contributes as an assistant director on various narrative and commercial projects across the world.

Original title: Lukuauk

Genre: drama

Language: Estonian

Director: Juri Krutii

Screenwriter: Juri Krutii

Cinematographer: Malgorzata Rabczuk

Production Designer: Viktorija Martjanova

Editor: Jaak Ollino

Composer: Erki Pärnoja

Sound: Indrek Soe

Main cast: Magdalena Haab, Katariina Tamm, Anti Kobin

Producer: Mika Pajunen

Produced by: Baron Noir, Pensive Pictures

World premiere: PÖFF Shorts, November 2023

Festivals: New York ISFF

20 min • 16 mm • DCP • 1.66:1 • 5.1

Contact

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Skin of a Mandarin

A sensitive story about ingrained traditions and grief follows a young woman Anna, who wants to say goodbye to her mother by dressing the body for the funeral. But this act is prohibited by the funeral home rules. The film delicately explores a world in which bureaucracy, differing worldviews and divergent social norms are overcome by the empathy between strangers struggling within a complex situation.



Director Jaanika Arum

graduated from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre as an actress. She also holds a Master's degree in Contemporary Art. She has collaborated with different international and local artists for video and room installations as well as performances. At the moment, Jaanika Arum is developing her feature film *Beyond the Visible Flowers*.

Original title: Puudutus
Genre: drama
Language: Estonian
Director: Jaanika Arum
Screenwriter: Jaanika Arum
Cinematographer: Ugnius Tuleikis
Production Designer: Allan Appelberg
Editor: Kaie-Ene Rääk
Composer: Sofia Zaitseva
Sound: Mart Kessel-Otsa
Main cast: Martina Georgina, Mari Abel
Producer: Tiina Savi
Produced by: Kartuliõis
World premiere: PÖFF Shorts 2023

18 min • HD • 16:9 • 5.1

Contact

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The Nightingale

Autumn 1944 in Tallinn, Estonia; German forces retreat as the Russian army settles in. Young soldier Aleksei is sent from the frontline to work in a prison filled with Estonian political prisoners.

While doing his rounds at night Aleksei is stirred by the beautiful voice of Saale, an Estonian girl singing to the prisoners from the other side of the prison walls. He learns that the Russian military police plans on capturing Saale; Aleksei must risk his own safety to warn her before it is too late.



Director Leeni Linna

is a director and writer from Estonia and alumna of New York Film Academy. She has written and directed shorts, documentaries, commercials and worked at Vice Media in New York on the Emmy nominated *Woman with Gloria Steinem* series. Leeni has experience filming in extreme locations, including a war zone in Afghanistan for her feature documentary, *Blood Type*. Her documentary background has made her well-rounded as a filmmaker and provided unique insight into her commercial work. Leeni has made her mark on the industry as a female director who dares to explore masculine themes and create powerful character driven narratives. Her gift for spearheading a highly cinematic aesthetic with delicate moving stories has become her signature style. In 2018, Leeni was awarded with the prestigious Matthew Modine Masters Scholarship.

Original title: Ööbik
Genre: drama
Language: Estonian
Director: Leeni Linna
Screenwriters: Leeni Linna, Anti Naulainen
Cinematographer: Juss Saska
Production Designer: Elisabet Merete Leppoja
Editor: Andres Hallik
Composer: Ardo Ran Varres
Sound: Markus Andreas
Main cast: Yaroslav Kucherenko, Kärt Tammjärv
Producer: Sander Lebreht
Co-producer: Maie Rosmann
Produced by: Allfilm, Tandem Film
World premiere: PÖFF Shorts, November 2023

22 min • DCP • 1.85 • 5.1

Contact

Allfilm
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The Weight of Light

The film walks the line between fiction and documentary, focusing on a community of female ragpickers who try to find their place in the world amidst garbage, scorching heat and forced marriages. The main character is Surya, a teenage ragpicker, who is being forced into an arranged union by her father as a way to provide her a better life.

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: Pimeala
Genre: drama, experimental
Language: hindi
Director: Anna Hints
Screenwriters: Anna Hints, Tushar Prakash
Cinematographer: Karan Thapliyal
Production Designer: Tiya Teipal
Editor: Marion Koppel
Composer: Ann Reimann
Sound: Gabriel Solis
Main cast: Umaiza, Pushpendra Singh, Payal, Bebo Chouhan
Producers: Evelin Penttilä, Johanna Maria Paulson
Co-producers: Emilie Dubois, Anaïs Bertrand, Pascaline Saillant, Tanvi Gandhi
Produced by: Stellar Film (EE), Insolence Productions (FR)
To be released: 2024

20 min • 2K, 2.39:1 • DCP • 5.1 & STEREO

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Jungle Law

Three teenagers meet while hanging out by the sea. They begin to seduce and challenge, dominate and obey each other. The playful provocation leads to humiliation, and inexperienced youngsters are overtaken by instincts beyond their control. No one is brave enough to set their own boundaries and stop the downward spiral. Who is the victim? Who is to blame?



Director Madli Lääne

is an Estonian film director, writer and editor. She holds a MFA in Film and Media Production from the University of Texas at Austin, USA (2017). Her films have screened and won at various festivals such as Uppsala SFF (Best Children's Film), Leeds IFF (ScreenDance Competition winner), Busan ISFF (Special Mention of the Jury), In The Palace (Best Experimental Film) etc. Madli's film *Dear Passengers* (2022) premiered at Palm Springs ShortFest and was awarded as the Best Short at EFTA - Estonian national film industry awards. Her upcoming short drama *Jungle Law* received an award at European Short Pitch Works-in-Progress and was presented at Cannes Court Métrage Focus WIP.

Original title: Ääremängijad
Genre: drama, coming-of-age
Language: Estonian
Director: Madli Lääne
Screenwriter: Madli Lääne
Cinematographer: Ants Tammik
Production Designer: Ketlin Kasar
Editors: Patrick Antonjuk, Madli Lääne, Szilvia Ruzsev
Main cast: Aleksandra Saar, Rasmus Roopõld, Tristan Ruusmaa
Producer: Marianne Ostrat
Produced by: Alexandra Film
To be released: 2024

18 min • DCP • 2.40:1 • 5.1

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Arrhythmia

Miia has come to visit her grandparents over the weekend. A quarrel between the 80-year-olds in the morning wakes her up. When Miia arrives to the first floor, her grandfather sits huffy in the kitchen and her grandmother has sat down in the other room, feeling unwell. Suddenly Miia's grandfather, showing early signs of dementia, does not make it to the bathroom, defecating himself. Miia must clean him up in their small sauna. Barely ready dressing him, Miia's grandmother appears to be ill and vomits everywhere in the kitchen. Miia tries her best to simply get through the day that has gone out of rhythm, every now and then finding out that sometimes laughter might be the best medicine.

Director Maria Reinup

is an Estonian director and scriptwriter. She graduated from the Pelgulinna Art High School in 2007 and the Baltic Film, Media and Arts School in 2013. She is currently finishing her master's degree in working with actors at the Estonian Music and Theatre Academy. In 2012-2018, she was the Artistic Director of Haapsalu Horror and Fantasy Film Festival. She served nearly a decade as a Senior Programmer for the Black Nights Film Festival and in 2018-2019 she was the Artistic Director of What the Fest!?! in New York. Over the recent years she has worked on various feature films, most notably as a Second Unit Director for Fox Searchlight film *Tolkien*. Her short films and music videos have been to film festivals around the world and won multiple awards. Maria is working on her third documentary and on her first feature film.

Original title: Arütmia
Genre: drama
Language: Estonian
Director: Maria Reinup
Screenwriter: Maria Reinup
Cinematographer: Sten-Johan Lill E.S.C.
Production Designer: Katrin Sipelgas
Editor: Moonika Põdersalu
Sound: Kauri Lemberg
Main cast: Teele Pärn, Andres Lepik, Helle Laas
Producer: Maarjo Masing
Produced by: Tandem Films
To be released: 2024/2025

23 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

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What Would You Take?

Home. Your home. Your place. Your memories. Your belongings. In the blink of an eye, it's gone.

Stories of twelve people from Ukraine who suddenly had to leave their home, taking only the bare essentials and a cherished belonging that speaks to their life.



Director Heilika Pikkov

is a documentary filmmaker and internationally well-known curator and cultural manager from Estonia. She studied film and television directing at Tallinn University and spent a semester at the University of Central Lancashire, UK. She has directed several documentaries, including *Flowers from the Mount of Olives* (2013), which had a great success in Estonian cinemas and had its international premiere at Locarno FF, and *My Flesh and Blood* (2018), which won Best Short Film of the Year at the Estonian Film and Television Awards.

Original title: Mille Sina võtaksid?

Genre: experimental

Languages: Ukrainian, English, Russian

Director: Heilika Pikkov

Screenwriter: Heilika Pikkov

Cinematographers: Kaupo Kikkas,
Heilika Pikkov

Photos: Kaupo Kikkas

Animation: Sander Joon

Editor: Heilika Pikkov

Composer: Maarja Nuut

Sound: Markku Tiidumaa

Producer: Ülo Pikkov

Produced by: Silmviburlane

World premiere: NY Baltic Film Festival,
November 2023

23 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

Contact

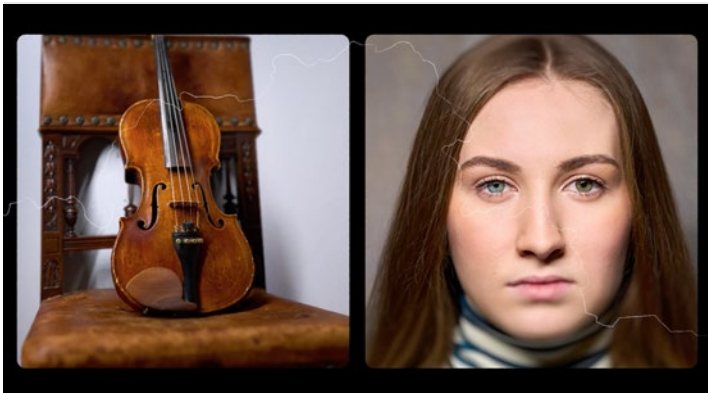
Silmviburlane

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Antipolis

Every idiot knows the earth is flat. Except, that's not true. The earth is a solid-matter bubble. This is the tale of a place within that hollow world.
This is the story of Antipolis.

Director Kaspar Jancis

born on May 8, 1975 in Tallinn. Since childhood, he has been interested in drawing comic strips and writing stories and made his first animated film during his school years. He has been part of the creative core of several rock groups, written song lyrics and melodies. He enrolled at the Tallinn Pedagogical University in 1996. In 1997, he transferred to the Turku Arts and Media School in Finland to study animation under the guidance of Priit Pärn. With his films, Kaspar has won several awards including Cartoon d'Or in 2010. He has completed several shorts and one feature-length animation.

Filmography: *Weitzenberg street* (2003), *Frank and Wendy* (2005), *Marathon* (2006), *The Very Last Cigarette* (2007), *Crocodile* (2009), *Villa Antropoff* (2011), *Piano* (2015), *Captain Morten and the Spider Queen* (2018), *Cosmonaut* (2019)



Original title: Antipolis
Language: no dialogue
Director: Kaspar Jancis
Screenwriter: Kaspar Jancis
Cinematographer: Ragnar Neljandi
Production Designer: Kaspar Jancis
Animators: Triin Sarapik-Kivi, Marili Sokk
Editors: Kaspar Jancis, Ragnar Neljandi
Composer: Kaspar Jancis
Sound: Pierre Yves Drapeau
Technique: stop motion
Producer: Kerdi Dengo
Produced by: Nukufilm

World premiere: Animist Tallinn IAFF, August 2023

Festivals and awards: ALTER-NATIVE ISFF – The Prize of the Ministry of Culture, PRIMANIMA World Festival of First Animations – Special Mention for the Best Story, Tirana IFF – Best Animated Short, Contryside Animafest – Special Mention, Ottawa IAFF, Fredrikstad, Animatou, ANIMATEKA, London IAFF among others

26 min • DCP • 1.86:1 • 5.1

Contact

Nukufilm
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The Mystery of Missing Socks

Little Pille goes to find her father's missing socks under the bed, to a fantastical world of forgotten things. There she finds that dad's socks have laid an egg! Now Pille must protect the socks from danger until the tiny egg can hatch.



Director Oskar Lehemaa

is a live action and animation director from Estonia. His horror short film *Bad Hair* was selected to over 50 festivals, including Sundance, and won prizes at Fantasia, Scream Fest, Fantastic Fest, among others. In 2019, Oskar co-wrote and co-directed the feature length stop motion animation *The Old Man Movie*, which has played over 30 festivals worldwide. Oskar studied audiovisual media at the Baltic Film and Media School and has directed commercials in Estonia since 2010.

Original title: Kadunud sokid
Language: Estonian
Director: Oskar Lehemaa
Screenwriter: Oskar Lehemaa (based on a short story by Andrus Kivirähk)
Cinematographer: Raivo Möllits
Production Designer: Ivika Luisk
Animators: Märt Kivi, Egert Kesa, Triin Sarapik-Kivi
Composer: Rihards Zalupe
Sound: Matis Rei
Technique: stop motion
Producer: Kristel Töldsepp
Produced by: A Film Estonia
World premiere: February 9, 2023
Festivals and awards: Schingel IFF – Best International Animated Short, PÖFF Shorts – Best Children's Animation, Seoul Int. Children FF - Grand Prize Animation, Chicago Int. FF – Children Jury 2nd Prize, Hollywood Music Awards – nominee in short animation category among others

20 min • DCP • 1.85:1 • 5.1

Contact

A Film Estonia
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 afilm.ee



Photo That Came to Life

It is Peter's first summer in the countryside! All seems to be going well until the innkeeper's dead grandfather tries to eat him.



Director Mikk Mägi

was born on July 5, 1987 in Tallinn. In 2014, he graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts with a degree in animation. In 2011, he founded the animation studio BOP!. He is the co-writer/co-director of the feature animation *The Old Man Movie* which was released in 2019.

Original title: Pilt, mis õõsel liigutas

Language: Estonian

Director: Mikk Mägi

Screenwriter: Mikk Mägi

(based on a short story by Andrus Kivirähk)

Production Designer: Sander Joon

Animator: Henri Kaido Veermäe, Siim Raud, Sander Joon, Erik Heinsalu, Teresa Baroet, Margo Busch

Editor: Mikk Mägi

Composers: Rasmus Lill, Sten-Olle Moldau

Sound: Joonas Taimla

Technique: 3D

Producer: Kristel Tõldsepp

Produced by: A Film Estonia

World premiere: February 9, 2023

Festivals and awards: Frederikstad Animation Festival – Best Young Audience Film, SCHLINGEL IFF, Sapporo ISFF

13 min • DCP • 1.85:1 • 5.1

Contact

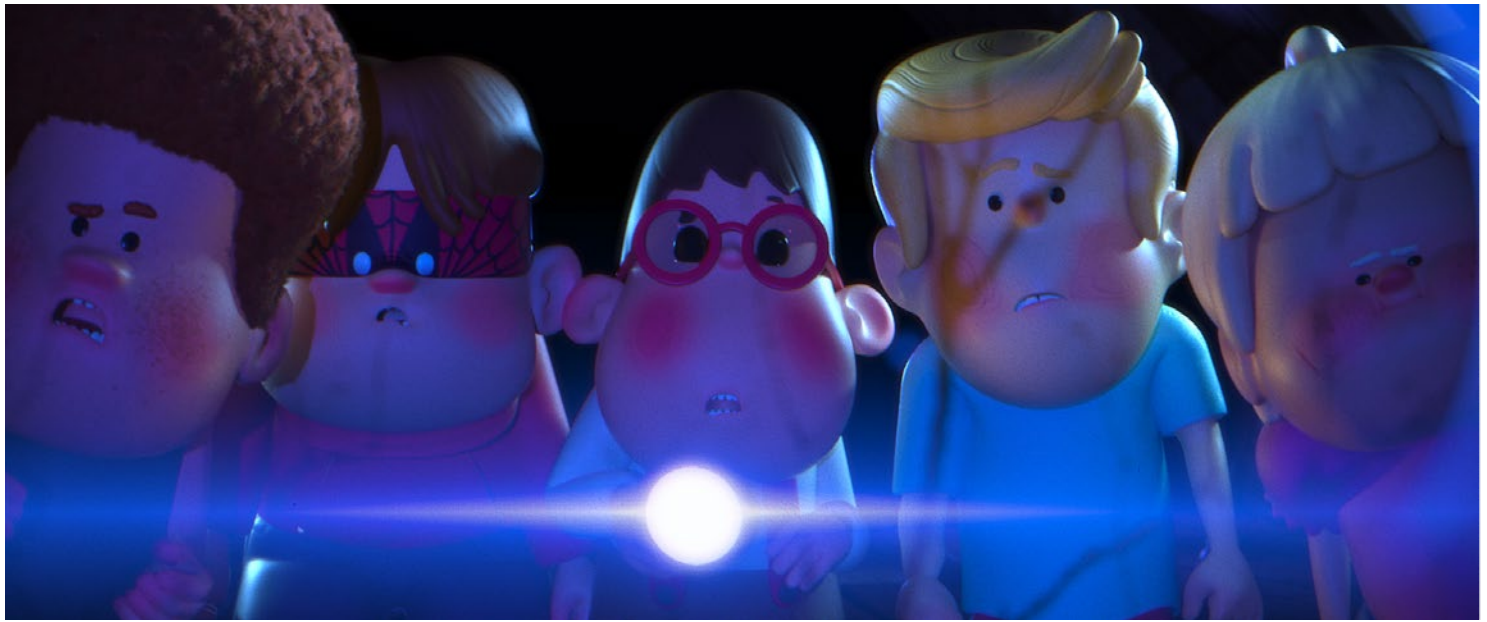
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Miisufy

Digital pet cat Miisu gets tired of her owner and starts to revolt. Inspired by Tamagotchi, Miisufy observes the world through the eyes of digital pets.



Director Liisi Grünberg

has worked as an animator on numerous films and advertisements. She has a background in illustration. Besides publishing dozens of comic books, her work has made it to newspapers, magazines and the renowned comics magazine *Kuš*.

Original title: Miisufy

Language: English

Director: Liisi Grünberg

Screenwriter: Aurelia Aasa

Animators: Hleb Kuftseryn, Liisi Grünberg

Background Artist: Nina Ovsová

Editor: Liisi Grünberg

Composer: Aigar Vals

Sound: Martin Kikas, Aigar Vals

Technique: 2D, 3D

Producer: Aurelia Aasa

Produced by: AAA Creative

World premiere: Helsinki IFF – Love & Anarchy,
September 2023

Festivals: Sundace IFF, Clermont-Ferrand IFF, AFI
Fest, Riga IFF, Fredrikstad AF, PÖFF Shorts
among others

10 min • DCP • 16:9 • 5.1

Contact

AAA Creative

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Casablanca

Two lonely souls, Paul and Mary, meet behind mug factory's assembly line and fall in love. However, the seemingly innocent clay mugs have their own vision of their relationship. By manipulating powerful messages and attractive advertising images mugs take the right to decide the fate of the characters themselves.



Director Riho Unt

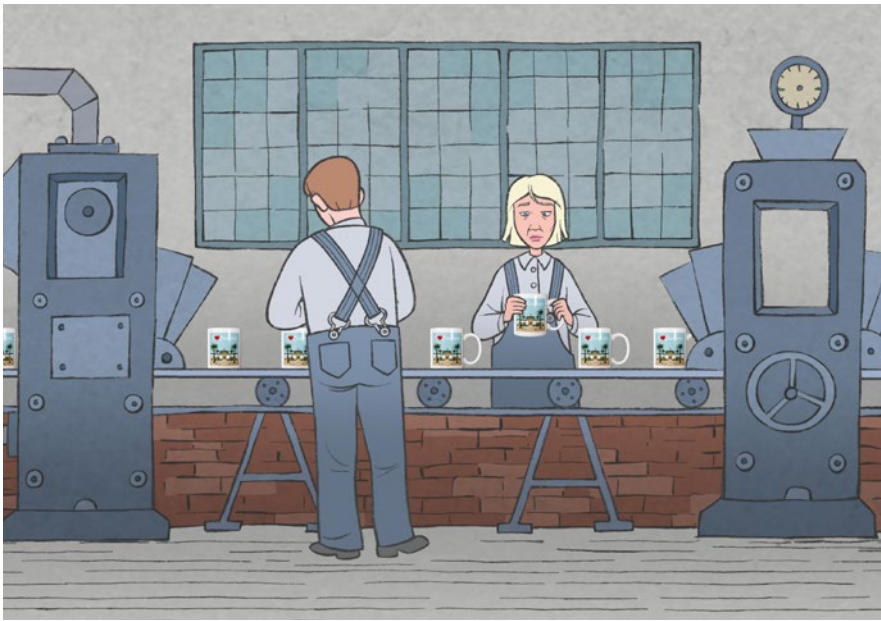
(1956) graduated from the Estonian State Institute of Arts in 1982 as a Set Designer. Over the years, he has made more than 30 animated films. His films have won numerous awards and travelled to major animation festivals. His short animation *The Master* won the Jury Award at Annecy Film Festival in 2015. He has taught animation in the universities in Estonia and abroad, given master classes, and has regularly been a member of film festival juries. He has worked as a director and production designer in Tallinnfilm, Nukufilm, and as a freelancer, as well as created illustrations and children's books.

Original title: Casablanca
Language: no dialogue
Director: Riho Unt
Screenwriter: Riho Unt
Production Designer: Riho Unt
Animator: Meelis Arulepp
Composer: Tiit Kikas
Sound: Horret Kuus
Technique: 2D
Producer: Kristel Töldsepp
Produced by: A Film Estonia
To be released: March 2024

10 min • DCP • 1.85:1 • 5.1

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The Shadow of Dawn

Dawn is gathering medicinal herbs in the forest when the Woodcutter in love with her appears offering her his hand and his heart. Dawn makes fun of him. Shortly after Dawn is attacked by Servants of a mysterious Beast, who kidnaps the girl. Dawn manages to cut loose her shadow whose quest is to find help and to solve the mystery.



Director Olga Stalev

got her degree in animation at the Estonian Academy of Arts and since then she connected her life with stop motion. She has been working on major Estonian puppet animations such as *Capten Morten and the Spider Queen*, *Teofrastus* etc. She teaches puppet animation in the Estonian Academy of Arts. *The Shadow of Dawn* is Olga's debut as a director.

Original title: Eha Vari
Language: Estonian
Director: Olga Stalev
Screenwriters: Olga Stalev, Ott Kilusk
Cinematographer: Urmas Jõemees
Production Designer: Triin Paumer
Animator: Olga Stalev
Editor: Urmas Jõemees
Composer: Mari Kalkun
Sound: Tanel Kadalipp
Technique: stop motion
Producer: Edina Csüllög
Produced by: Hvitolg
To be released: 2024

15 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

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Tuljak

“The worst thing is not that the world is unfree, but that people have unlearned their liberty.”
- Milan Kundera



Director Riho Unt

graduated from the Estonian State Institute of Arts in 1982 as a Set Designer. Over the years, he has made more than 30 animated films. His films have won numerous awards and travelled to major animation festivals. His short animation *The Master* won the Jury Award at Annecy Film Festival in 2015. He has taught animation in the universities in Estonia and abroad, given master classes, and has regularly been a member of film festival juries. He has worked as a director and production designer in Tallinnfilm, Nukufilm, and as a freelancer, as well as created illustrations and children's books.

Original title: Tuljak

Language: no dialogue

Director: Riho Unt

Screenwriter: Riho Unt

Cinematographer: Urmas Jõemees

Production Designer: Riho Unt

Animator: Nina Ovsová

Editor: Urmas Jõemees

Composer: Tiit Kikas

Sound: Tiina Andreas

Technique: stop motion

Producer: Kadriann Kibus

Produced by: Saturn Film

To be released: 2024

10 min • DCP • 1.85:1 • 5.1

Contact

Saturn Film

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Luna Rossa

Luna Rossa is exciting, funny, absurd and tragic. It is also the first animated film in the Baltics to use MoCap technology. We can say it is a film about love. A love, which blinds, because the focus becomes narrow. There is a need to prove yourself, to do something not everyone can do. And to actually go through with it. A film about the world we live in. A world where a trace remains from every action. Someone is keeping an eye on us all the time, someone is tracing our footsteps. The watcher has taken this right, because it is for our own good. To prevent the worst. It's probably right. But often, and as in our film, they are one step behind, examining events which have already taken place. Another important topic of the film is directly connected to security – the security check at a designated area at the airport. The difference between the two themes is important: if the eyes of the cameras watching us everywhere help us understand how the explosion happened, then the security check must prevent it. Sometimes.



Director Priit Pärn

has worked as an art director and director of animated films since 1976. Has been active as a caricaturist and illustrator since the end of the 1960's. As a freelancer graphic artist, he has had over 30 solo exhibitions in various European countries. Pärn has made 19 animated films (including an animated feature) as director, scriptwriter and art director. He has received more than 80 awards from world top festivals. Pärn has received eight lifetime achievement awards.

Director Olga Pärn

graduated from the graphic arts department at the Belarusian State Academy of Arts in 2000. Worked as an art director and animator in the animation department at Belarusfilm Studio in 1996–2003. Completed a course in film directing at the La Poudriere animation school in France from 2003 to 2005. Lives and works in Estonia since 2006. She has made 6 animated films together with Priit Pärn as co-director and co-art director at Eesti Joonisfilm Studio.

Original title: Luna Rossa

Language: no dialogue

Directors: Priit Pärn, Olga Pärn

Screenwriter: Priit Pärn

Artists: Priit Pärn, Olga Pärn

Layout artist: Priit Pärn

Actors: Tanel Saar, Karolin Jürise, Ago Soots

Direction of Artists: Priit Pärn

Animators: Priit Pärn, Aili Allas, Tarmo Vaarmets, Remi Juillet

Motion Capture Operator, 3D Technical Animator: Vesse Veering

Motion Capture Assistant: Mattias Mälk

Background Artists: Priit pärn, Olga Pärn

3D Background Artist: Vesse Veering

Editors: Priit Pärn, Olga Pärn

Composer: Vincenzo de Crescenzo

Sound Designer: Olivier Calvert

Producers: Kalev Tamm, Emmanuel-Alain Raynal, Pierre Baussaron

Technique: MoCap, 3D and 2D drawn animation

Produced by: Eesti Joonisfilm (EE), Miyu Productions (FR)

To be released: 2024

24 min • DCP • 1.85:1 • 5.1

Contact

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facebook.com/Joonisfilm



Top 10 Things to See

Something big and dark is approaching the coastal old town. A storm?
A gigantic cruise ship with tourists eager to rush through the sightseeing tour. So much to see — so little time!

Wonderful old town with ten wonders. A local guide will help you along the way. Get your checklist ready, fasten your sandal strap and be careful of narrow cobbled streets.



Director Mihkel Reha

was born in 1988 in Põltsamaa. Graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in 2015 with the film *Les Nuits Magiques*, while already working in Riga at the animation studio Atom Art. Has participated in the production of *Jacob*, *Mimmi and the Talking Dogs*, *My Favorite War* (in studio Tritone) among others. *Top 10 Things to See*, produced by Eesti Joonisfilm is his debut as a director.

Original title: 10 ainulaadset paika, mida kindlasti külastada

Language: no dialogue

Director: Mihkel Reha

Screenwriter: Mihkel Reha

Production Designer: Mihkel Reha

Animators: Tarmo Vaarmets, Marje Ale

Editor: Mihkel Reha

Sound: Horret Kuus

Technique: traditional animation

Producer: Kalev Tamm

Produced by: Eesti Joonisfilm

To be released: 2024

12 min • DCP • 1.85:1 • 5.1

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On Weary Wings Go by

On *Weary Wings Go by* continues the story of nature and porcelain animals that started in a tropical jungle in *Winter in the Rainforest*. The porcelain creatures who were hunting, eating and enjoying the pleasures of life in the lush warm nature are now faced with a Nordic winter. On the lifeless windy landscape they must adjust to the new season and hide from cold winter. Only a small porcelain girl is left alone standing in the snowfall on the snowy landscape with nowhere to go.



Director Anu-Laura Tuttelberg

graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in 2013 with a MA degree in Animation and is specialized in stop motion animation. Her graduation film *Fly Mill* screened at numerous festivals around the world and won 20 prizes. Anu-Laura's first film after graduation *On the Other Side of the Woods* premiered in June 2014 at Annecy International Animation Festival, has screened at more than 85 festivals and won over 12 awards. *Winter in the Rainforest* - first film from Anu-Laura's nature trilogy - premiered in 2019 at Annecy, has screened at more than 90 festivals, won more than 13 festival prizes and the Annual Award of Estonian Cultural Endowment. Anu-Laura also works as the production designer for animated films by other directors. In 2022, she won the Estonian Film and TV Award for Best Production Design for *Til We Meet Again* by Ülo Pikkov. *On Weary Wings Go by* is the second film in her nature trilogy.

Original title: Linnud Iäinud
Language: no dialogue
Director: Anu-Laura Tuttelberg
Screenwriter: Anu-Laura Tuttelberg
Cinematographers: Anu-Laura Tuttelberg, Francesco Rosso
Production Designer: Anu-Laura Tuttelberg
Key animator: Anu-Laura Tuttelberg
Editors: Silviya Vilkaitė, Daniel Irabien Peniche
Composer: Maarja Nuut
Sound: Olga Bulygo
Technique: stop motion
Producer: Marianne Ostrat
Co-producer: Agnė Adomėnė
Produced by: Fork Film (EE), ART SHOT (LT)
To be released: 2024

9 min • DCP • 4:3 • 5.1

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Where do the Grown-Ups Come From?

While traveling through the turning points of her existence, an 80-year old lady is looking for the last chance – access to yet one more new page in her life book. She is opening doors into her past, examining objects that had once triggered her to take a completely different path.

The lady ends up in her nursery where a wind-up chicken had been left behind.



Director Mari Kivi

(1984) has studied animation in the Estonian Academy of Arts where she received her BA *cum laude*. Before that she studied painting and painting's restauration in Tartu Pallas University of Applied Sciences. After graduation from the Estonian Academy of Arts, she continued working at the school's animation department as project manager. She is also the manager of the Animist Tallinn Animation Film Festival. Her current film is her first independent author film after graduation.

Filmography: *Contact* (2018), *Food Chain* (2018)

Original title: Kust tulevad täiskasvanud?
(working title)

Language: no dialogue

Director: Mari Kivi

Screenwriter: Mari Kivi

Cinematographers: Ragnar Neljandi,
Raivo Möllits

Production Designer: Mari Kivi

Animators: Triin Sarapik-Kivi, Marili Sökk

Editors: Mari Kivi, Ragnar Neljandi

Technique: stop motion

Producer: Kerdi Oengo

Produced by: Nukufilm

To be released: 2024

12 min • DCP • 1:1.86 • 5.1

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The Little Other

When the old trixters go, the new ones must be born. In our film two babies are about to be born. One of them is bound to be a regular kid. The other is destined to be a trickster. There's the rub - how to determine which is which, since the birth of identical twins in itself is a trick performed by Nature!

Nobody is aware of what is about to happen next - the existence of old rules have unani- mously been abolished. The new ones are yet to be established.

It is said that when somewhere a trickster is born, all the emergency flashers on the cars turn themselves on.



Director Andres Tenusaar

(1977) has studied art. Since 2000, he has been working as an animator and director. He has also made films and music for films as well as video for theatre/dance pieces and made VJ animations.

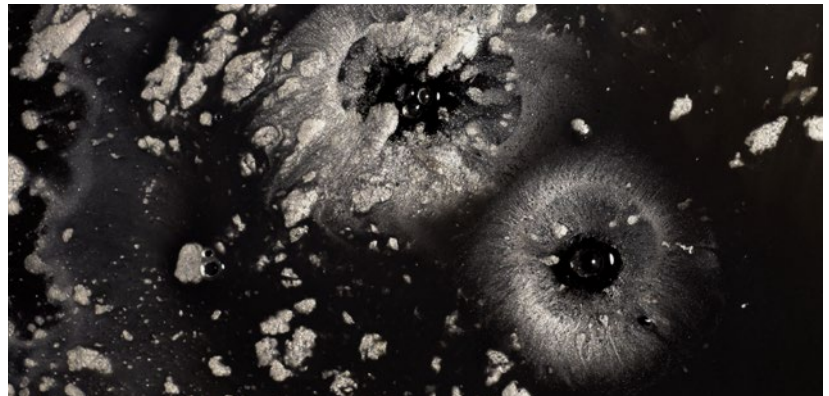
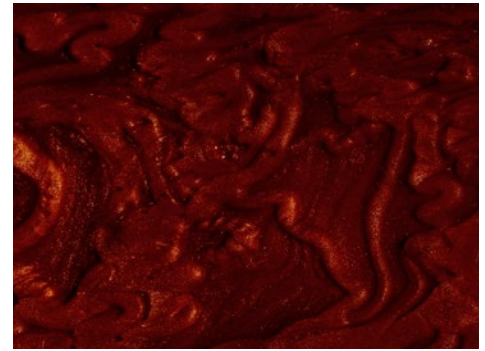
Selected filmography: *Dance Macabre* (2020), *Miriam's Hen's Dream* (2016), *The Master* (2015), *Wedding Game* (2015), *The Triangle Affair* (2012), *Miriam's Picnic* (2007), *The Scarecrow* (2007), *The Stories of Jippos Happy the Hippo* (2002)

Original title: Väike teine
Language: no dialogue
Director: Andres Tenusaar
Screenwriter: Andres Tenusaar
Cinematographer: Ragnar Neljandi
Production Designer: Eike Eplik
Animators: Triin Sarapik-Kivi, Marili Sökk
Editors: Andres Tenusaar
Composer: Eeter - Anna Hints, Ann Reimann, Marja-Liisa Plats
Sound: Horret Kuus
Technique: stop motion
Producer: Kerdi Oengo
Produced by: Nukufilm
To be released: 2024

12 min • DCP • 1:1.86 • 5.1

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Yummy

Julia works as a dog food tester. However, after a breakup, dog food will never taste the same.



Director Martinus Klemet

has studied fine arts (BA) and animation (MA) at the Estonian Academy of Arts where he currently works as a tutor. His films *In the Air* (2009), *Fatcula* (2016) and *Face Recognition* (2021) have screened at numerous international festivals including Fredrikstad, Odense, Bogotá, Calgary, Sitges and many more. Besides films, he has directed music videos, commercials and infomercials. *Yummy* is his seventh professional short as a director.

Original title: Yummy
Language: no dialogue
Director: Martinus Klemet
Screenwriter: Martinus Klemet
Artist: Martinus Klemet
Animators: Katarina Skott, Rebeka Kruus, Jelizaveta Mušnikova, Erik Jelle, Hleb Kuftseryn
Editor: Martinus Klemet
Composer: Ardo Ran Varres
Sound: Ardo Ran Varres, Martinus Klemet, Matis Rei
Technique: digital drawn animation
Producer: Aurelia Aasa
Produced by: AAA Creative
To be released: 2024

8 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

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Winter in March

The film is based on a true story of a young Russian couple from St. Petersburg, Kirill and Dasha. When the Russian invasion of Ukraine starts, they feel guilt and sorrow for the war they totally do not support. While Dasha finds strength to protest, Kirill withdraws into himself, falling deeper and deeper into depression. Realizing they no longer have a place in Russia, they decide to move to Georgia. The journey, taking place in metaphysical rather than a real space, is full of metaphors of the war. The train passes along the Russian-Ukrainian border, allowing the couple to observe some grim images. Meanwhile, their fellow travelers don't seem to notice anything strange. Dasha and Kirill's biggest fear is that of being separated at the border. As Russian citizens, they are not welcome in Georgia. After nerve-racking events at the border, they are finally allowed in the country. However, the trials have led to the detachment of the couple, which eventually ends in their separation.



Director Natalia Mirzoyan

(1982) is an animation director and artist based in Estonia, born in Yerevan, Armenia. Natalia has been active as an animation director since 2005. Her previous films *Chinti* (2012), *Five Minutes to Sea* (2018) and *Merry Grandmas* (2020) were selected to festivals such as Berlinale, Annecy, and Zagreb, and won numerous prizes. In 2022, together with Italian publisher Caissa Italia, she published the book *Cinque minuti* (Five Minutes) based on the film *Five Minutes to Sea*. The book was a finalist of the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2022.

Original title/Estonian title: Winter in March / Lumi saadab meid

Languages: Russian, Armenian, Georgian

Director: Natalia Mirzoyan

Screenwriter: Natalia Mirzoyan

Cinematographer: Sander Põldsaar

Production Designer: Natalia Mirzoyan

Animators: Natalia Mirzoyan, Rebeka Kruus

Composer: Sander Põldsaar

Technique: stop motion, digital embroidery

Producer: Armine Harutyunyan

Co-producer: Kadriann Kibus

Produced by: ArtStep-studio (AM),

Rebel Frame (EE)

To be released: 2024/2025

15 min • DCP • 1.85:1 • 5.1

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Idyl

There are good things and important things in life. And there are vital things. If you want to survive, don't let comfort drown out your instincts: you have to fight for your life long before the war reaches your backyard. And when the war is already in the yard, drawing the curtains won't help, and it may happen that the healthiest advice comes from where you wouldn't expect it - for example, from a parrot with life experience.



Director Rao Heidmets

was born in 1956 in Pärnu, Estonia. He graduated from the Tallinn Technical University, faculty of electro-energetics. After finishing university in 1982 he changed careers and went to work in animation at the Tallinnfilm studios. He started as an animator and from 1983 onwards became a film director. He has made more than 20 films that have travelled to festivals around the world and most of them have won prizes. He has also been a member of more than 20 International film festival juries. Currently he's also teaching animation at the Estonian Academy of the Arts and other higher education schools. He has also made several workshops for students and children around the world. He held his first personal exhibition of graphics and drawings in 1986 and has continued exhibiting his art and video installations.

Selected filmography: *Papa Carlo Theatre* (Grand Prix in Cinanima Int. Fest. 1988; Nominated Palm D'Or Cannes Fest. 1989), *Inherent Obligations* (Grand Prix in Fredrikstad Int. Fest. Norway 2008; Grand Prix in OTTAWA Int. Festival Canada 2009)

Original title: Idüll

Language: no dialogue

Director: Rao Heidmets

Screenwriter: Rao Heidmets

Cinematographer: Urmas Jõemees

Production Designer: Marge Martin

Animators: Henri Veermäe, Siim Raud,
Pauline Heidmets

Editor: Eva Toome

Technique: Live action, puppet animation,
clay animation, computer animation

Producer: Rao Heidmets

Produced by: Rao Heidmetsa Filmistuudio

To be released: 2024

12 min • DCP • 2.39:1 • 5.1

Contact

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Schrödinger

In a small apartment, a cat named Schrödinger leads a carefree life with her human. Whilst all Schrödinger knows is this home, visions of fantastic creatures and strange landscapes visit the cat in her sleep. The cat's realities shatter when one day her safe environment collapses. The friendly apartment becomes a prison, fear and confusion flood over the cat. What comes next when there is no way out? An intimate story of friendship, otherness, and realities that lie beyond.



Director Sergei Kibus

(1987) is an Estonian animation director, writer, and cinematographer, co-owner and artistic director of the production company Rebel Frame. Previously, Sergei has worked as an animation director and cinematographer in Nukufilm and as a freelancer having made a number of award winning animated short films. In 2019, Sergei received the upcoming young talent award for his short stop-motion animation *Teofrastus* at Zlin Film Festival.

Teofrastus has travelled to more than 40 festivals and has won 15 awards worldwide, including at Animateka, Special mention at Ottawa IAF etc.

Original title: Schrödinger

Language: no dialogue

Director: Sergei Kibus

Screenwriter: Sergei Kibus

Cinematographers: Sergei Kibus, Urmas Jõemees

Production Designers: Sergei Kibus, Ida Lepparu

Animators: Ida Lepparu, Teresa Baroet,

Nina Ovsová, Pablo Martínez Ballarín

Editor: Sergei Kibus

Technique: oil painting animation, 2.5D

Producer: Kadriann Kibus

Produced by: Rebel Frame

To be released: 2024/2025

18 min • DCP • 1.90:1 • 5.1

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International Short Film and Animation Festival PÖFF Shorts

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