THE FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION

The Finnish Film Foundation supports and promotes the Finnish film industry by allocating public funding for professional film production, exhibition and distribution. It is also responsible for the festival distribution and international promotion of Finnish films.

Founded in 1969, the Finnish Film Foundation operates under the Ministry of Education and Culture. It receives its budget from lottery and pools funds allocated for promoting cinema and hands out around EUR 25 million annually.

The Finnish Film Foundation is the main financer of film production in Finland. It provides production support for feature, documentary, short and animation films as well as television series. The Foundation also funds international co-productions with a Finnish co-production partner.

ses.fi/en

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Founded in 1969, The Finnish Film Foundation celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.
**Crossing Tracks**

Hannu is a cross country skier, being trained by his father who is a professional skiing coach. His father's goal is to coach Hannu to the top level in Finland, and there is hope that he will even be in a future Olympic team. Their whole relationship is based on skiing. What will happen if Hannu is not successful and especially if his interest towards in the sport fades?

**Director:** Otso Alanko  
**Script:** Otso Alanko  
**Cinematography:** Otso Alanko  
**Editing:** Matti Näränen  
**Music:** Veera Lummi  
**Cast:** Hannu Haapamäki, Heikki Haapamäki  
**Producer:** Liisa Karpo  
**Production company:** napafilms

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**Calling Mother**

Calling Mother is about the moments when you just have to call your mum. It is a compilation of phone calls made by different people to their mothers. Film follows the lifespan of a human being from youth to adulthood, a child changing from a dependent to a caretaker. Phone calls are connected by images of an old telephone center and a story of a young mother who doesn’t have a mother to call to.

Calling Mother is an experimental documentary about a relationship that is intimate, painful and often a bit ridiculous. We are now developing an international series of short documentaries shot around the globe on the same topic. Each film will paint a picture of a mother's love and support for her children.

**Director:** Marianne Mäkelä, Heli Pekkonen  
**Script:** Marianne Mäkelä, Heli Pekkonen  
**Cinematography:** Heli Pekkonen  
**Editing:** Leo Suonikko  
**Music:** Kaapo Huttunen  
**Cast:** Anneli Sandhu, Sami Sandhu  
**Producer:** Niina Virtanen  
**Production company:** Zone2 Pictures

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**A Communist's Daughter**

A Communist's Daughter is a documentary film about director Jani Peltola's grandmother Eila, who lived in the Crimea in the 1930s as a refugee. Later in Finland in the 60s, she grew wealthier with the nation. The documentary is built on family film archives, showcasing the story of a nation and a family, secret memories and common traumas. The film shows how close the major and minor events of history are to each other, and how people and societies can change.

**Director:** Jani Peltola  
**Script:** Jani Peltola  
**Cinematography:** Jarmo Kiuru  
**Editing:** Tuomas Oittinen  
**Producer:** Pertti Veijalainen  
**Production company:** Illume

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**27 First Years**

27 First Years is a short documentary written and directed by Jussi Sandhu about his mother Anneli and his brother Sami. It's a story about the role of a mother when a 27-year-old, severely disabled son moves away from home. The aging mother has to learn how to live alone for the first time in her life, since all of her children are grown up and husband passed away.

Shot over a span of six years, 27 First Years deals with themes of independency, caregiving and motherhood. Despite its heavy story about a severely disabled man’s mother letting her loved ones go, it’s first and foremost an empowering documentary about love and the importance of the support of one’s family. The film was in competition for Best Nordic Short Film at Nordisk Panorama 2018.

**Director:** Jussi Sandhu  
**Script:** Jussi Sandhu  
**Cinematography:** Salla Lehtikangas, Ville Hakonen  
**Editing:** Pakka Lehtikangas  
**Music:** Tommi Mäki  
**Cast:** Anneli Sandhu, Sami Sandhu  
**Producer:** Niina Virtanen  
**Production company:** Wacky Tia Films
Dreams of the Blind
Sokeiden unet
26 min • January 2019

People who have once lost their eyesight have the possibility of regaining it when entering into a dream state. The movie aims to create a simulation of this visionary realm of experience, seeking to take a step into the unknown. What follows is an unusual voyage to inner space — into that still-unmapped twilight territory known to us as the psyche.

Dreams of the Blind is founded on interviews with people concerning their own dream experiences after losing their eyesight, and on scientific research made on the topic. With striking visuals crafted by acclaimed Russian director Aleksandr Sokurov’s long-time cinematographer, Aleksandr Burov, Dreams of the Blind is recommended for adventurous moviegoers.

Director: Mies Mikkonen
Script: Mies Mikkonen
Cinematography: Aleksandr Burov
Editing: Mies Mikkonen
Cast: Lars Svedberg, Tommi Eronen, Frank Boyle, Sanna Pahlkonen, Kai Eerola, Anja Kuusma, Joona Vainio, Oskari Rittola
Producers: Klaus Heydemann, Marja Rittola
Production company: Inland Film Company

All Inclusive
10 min • Spring 2019

All Inclusive is about Kalervo, a bullied, downtrodden white-collar man whom nobody takes seriously, and how he receives an unexpected gift from Annukka. A gift which Kalervo soon realizes has the power to change his life. The bill is due, and payback never tasted sweeter.

Kalervo has felt powerless all his life, unable to fight back, until Annukka—a woman who loves him—gives Kalervo a life altering gift. Like with many of director Nikki’s works, All Inclusive can be interpreted in many ways, but at the core it’s a film about power, love and change. If you could right the wrongs in your life, would you, and would you stop there?

Director: Teemu Nikki
Script: Teemu Nikki
Cinematography: Jarmo Kauru
Editing: Teemu Nikki
Production design: Santtu Toivola
Costume design: Ninni Lahtinen
Producer: Jani Piros
Production company: It’s Alive Films

Ashes
Askan
17 min • 2018

Laura, 52, is wheelchair-bound. She has just lost her 20 years younger brother who was very dear to her. She quarrels with her family regarding his funeral. To honour his wish, she decides to arrange a different kind of a funeral: to scatter his ashes at sea. This triggers a series of events. With her assistant Anna, she steals the ashes from the urn at the crematorium.

Ashes is a film about loyalty, and about facing and dealing with the loss of a dear one. It is a comedy, or one might say “a feel-good film” about grief.

Director: Ville Tanttu
Script: Kristofer Möller
Cinematography: Theofanis Kavvadas
Editing: Anssi Kömi, Ville Tanttu
Music: Anastasios Strikos
Cast: Hellen Willberg, Stella Laine, Laila Björkström, Göran Schuman
Producer: Mete Sasioglu, Ville Tanttu
Production company: Studio Luma

Baby with a Playlist
12 min • January 2019

Young fathers tell how they try to achieve contact with their unborn child. As it is impossible to have any visual connection, the only thing left is everything audible. Since talking to the belly feels quite awkward, playing carefully selected music might feel a bit less awkward. Carefully curated playlist is the best way to tell something about yourself as a father, and also as a human being.

“I don’t know any other way of telling about myself, other than through my record collection.” In the film seven men share their thoughts about the confusion they experience during pregnancy. The visual style emphasizes their surreal mindscape. A serious talk about the music you play for a fetus might sound goofy, but it tells more about fathers trying their best to be involved from the start.

Director: Juho Luukkainen
Script: Juho Luukkainen
Animation: Jan Andersson
Producer: Patrik Sigmundt
Production company: Kaiho Republic

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Production company: It’s Alive Films

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Producer: Mete Sasioglu, Ville Tanttu
Production company: Studio Luma

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Animation: Jan Andersson
Producer: Patrik Sigmundt
Production company: Kaiho Republic
**A Chamber Play**

Ett kammarspel  
20 min • 2018

The psychoanalyst Helena receives a new patient, Alice. But the story Alice is telling gets uncomfortably close to Helena’s own life.

A Chamber Play is a tale of possessive love and psychological manipulation. A Bergmanesque drama taking the form of a suspense thriller, the film balances on the fine line between the tragic and the comical. The script (by writer-director-editor-composer Viktor Granö) was one of the winners in the Kortfilm 2018 competition, arranged by the Finnish Film Foundation, Yle and Svenska kulturfundet.

**Director:** Viktor Granö  
**Script:** Viktor Granö  
**Cinematography:** Jonatan Sundström  
**Editing:** Teemu Nikki  
**Cast:** Stina Rautelin, Emelie Wallberg, Pekka Strang, Andrea Björklöven  
**Producer:** Viktor Granö  
**Production company:** It’s Alive Films

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**Cleaning Woman**

Slivoja  
16 min • 2018

When author Katarina Ohtola decides on a change, the services of a publisher, a reporter and a cleaning woman are called for.

With Cleaning Woman, director Nikki wanted to examine the concept of “artist” – who wants to be an artist, and how to become one? The filming began without a complete script and the story emerged through the process. In the end the story of Cleaning Woman became richer than intended. It may be viewed as a comedy about jealousy, about being an artist, or simply about the dread of a blank page.

**Director:** Teemu Nikki  
**Script:** Teemu Nikki  
**Cinematography:** Sari Aaltonen  
**Editing:** Teemu Nikki  
**Cast:** Elina Knhiilti, Tommi Eronen, Pihla Penttinen  
**Producer:** Jani Pösö  
**Production company:** It’s Alive Films

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**Close to Me**

Iholle  
18 min • 2019

Aila is looking for a lost cat when she meets Simo, a young man of few words. Simo tells her that he has seen the cat and they continue the search together. They are both longing for love and eventually the day turns into a night, that reveals unexpected and possessive side of Simo.

The film explores two important matters, codependency and social exclusion, through a story about two lonely souls coming together. The main character, Aila, is a codependent and unemployed young woman living in Helsinki’s suburbs. She is in risk of being socially excluded and she desperately attempts to be normal like working people usually are.

**Director:** Joonas Rutanen  
**Script:** Joonas Rutanen  
**Cinematography:** Päivi Kettunen  
**Editing:** Mervi Junkkonen  
**Music:** Miika Colliander  
**Producers:** Kai Nordberg, Kaarle Aho  
**Production company:** Making Movies

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**From Matti with Love**

Rakkaudella, Matti  
18 min • 2018

It’s midsummer in a Finnish small town of Imatra near the Russian border. Matti, a lonely 54-year old man, meets Masha, a Russian transwoman. When the glittering night falls, Matti has to face the consequences of his fake life.

From Matti with Love is a shameless dramedy about sexual identity, taking place in a Finnish small town near the Russian border, on a summer night. Estonian star Rain Tolk and Petteri Pennilä, one of the bravest actors in Finland, play two lonely hearts who have to deal with shame, loneliness, fragility and forgiveness in a surprising situation.

**Director:** Jarno Lindemark  
**Script:** Jarno Lindemark  
**Cinematography:** Jaree Hälkäinen  
**Editing:** Eero Tammi  
**Cast:** Petteri Pennilä, Rain Tolk, Sampo Sarkola, Tarja Heinula, Otso Kangasaho  
**Producers:** Patrik Sigmundt, Eero Tammi  
**Production company:** Kahlo Republic Co-production company: Ragdoll Film Productions
Short films

Human Flesh
20 min • Autumn 2019

Human Flesh is an experimental short film. Despite its analytical edge and unconventional structure it is a rather humorous account on the capacity signs have to express meaning. The film aims at exposing the complexities language, images, sounds and gestures pose in our attempt to express or represent pretty much anything... be it an emotion, a thought or even a simple form.

Human Flesh is set in a studio, a white non-space, where the concept of scale and spatial co-ordinates is lost. The materiality of its subjects is levelled and their capacity to generate meaning is equalised; be it flesh, plastic, metal or just pixels. In the end, a font has the same expressive potential as a glass of lemonade or an actor twisting its face.


How to Approach a Giant Hole
22 min • 2018

A big sinkhole emerges in a small town ahead of the local elections. Masoud, a local politician in the midst of his election campaign, picks up his brother from a mental health clinic.

The narrative in the film is not traditionally straightforward. In the film, the scenes make a whole with glimpses from a night and give us a small feeling of what it is to be alive in the year 2000 and something. The mystical hole in the small city symbolizes different things. Fear of the future, hopelessness, emptiness and confusion. In the end it, is a story of two brothers trying to connect after being apart for some time.


Homebound
Kotimatka
19 min • February 2019

Homebound is a survival story set in one of the world’s biggest refugee camps. A bus waiting to forcefully return refugees to their country of origin.

One of the passengers, Xidig, 8, is exited to go home, but his brother Salim, 12, knows that a war-torn and dangerous place is no one’s homeland.


Ha Ha Ha
9 min • January 2019

At the Factory, laughter is produced, canned and shipped into the world in precisely measured, temperate doses. It lacks something, though: freedom and authenticity. One woman is unable to laugh according to the norms. She accidentally releases a reckless laughter breaking all the Factory rules. Soon realizes she is leading a revolution for freedom and joy, against pomposity.

Ha Ha Ha is a silent film landed in the 21st century, an odd relative of the films of Jacques Tati. It uses images, movement, and dance as its narrative methods. Director Samuli Valkama and choreographer Jyrki Karttunen have designed it a funny, absurd story about accidentally born genuine joy.


How to Approach a Giant Hole

Hurst man närmar sig ett stort hål
22 min • 2018

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Short films

I’m Listening
Kuuntelen
12 min • February 2019

In the last hours of the night, Mirja, a Night Radio host, gets a call on the air from Aija, who tells of a possible end of the world. Eventually this unexpected call sets the wheels in motion, starting to break Mirja’s cramped bubble in a way she never would have expected.

I’m Listening is a drama about courage and choices, told through a dialogue between two women, in an absurd style and with humour. The visual style brings forth a whole new level of narration, as all the characters are set in the same room physically, without them actually being there. The main point is that whatever the location may be, the themes stay the same, universal and relatable.

Director: Katja Korhonen Script: Katja Korhonen
Huttunen Editing: Magdalena Spilik Music: Teemu Leikkala
Cast: Marjaana Maijala, Takauma
Production company: Takauma

Match
Matchen
15 min • 2018

Two middle-aged women on a tennis court. One experienced, the other one not so much. One hour match. The psychological game starts. How to respond to that? Keeping your calm? There are moments where breathing does not fix things. Match is a film about indirect and direct aggression and how to finally express suppressed feelings.

Director Pia Andell: “I started competing in tennis after a break that lasted decades. What surprised me was the the psychological game that was on from the get-go, and sometimes the bending of rules to one’s own advantage. I wanted to make a film about it, and had just the actors for it: Milka Ahlroth and Nina Hukkinen – good players, great actors.”

Director: Pia Andell Script: Pia Andell
Cinematography: Antti Raussuvori
Editing: Antony Bentley Music: Timo Hietala
Cast: Nina Hukkinen, Milka Ahlroth, Max Brenner, Marc Gassot
Producer: Pia Andell
Production company: Of Course My Films

Mother and Milk
Äiti ja maito
10 min • 2019

Mother and Milk describes the mental process of becoming a parent – imagined as a catastrophe film. When the baby is born, the new mother has to give up the life she knew. A flood of breast milk covers everything – her home, work, friends, relationship and a good night’s sleep. Only after realizing that she is a part of the eternal chain of generations, Mother is able to accept the situation and start living her new life in the family.

The style of the film is absurd and exaggerated and it uses animation to its full potential. In addition to traditional short film distribution, the aim is to reach audiences that wouldn’t normally watch short films. In Finland, the main distributor is Vauva Magazine, the biggest Baby Media in Finland. There is also a plan to use the film in co-operation with the public health care provider.

Director: Ami Lindholm Script: Ami Lindholm
Storyboard: JP Saari Animator: Sanni Lahtinen
Sound: Jari Lahto
Producer: Ami Lindholm
Production company: Paperihattu

One-off Incident
Yksittäistapaus
11 x 12 min (estimated) • Summer 2019

One-off Incident is a collection of short films to disclose and deconstruct the invisible exercise of power towards women, in private lives as well as in the society. For the project Tuffi Films asked 15 women to make films based on their own experiences and observations.

The eleven short films describe the situation and power structure still very much present in our society. The project has won Best Project Award in Nordic co-production and finance market 2018 in Haugesund and Best Pitch Award in Finnish Film Affair 2018. The project includes a feature film titled Meteo.

Directors: Reetta Aalto, Tine Alavi, Alli Haapasalo, Ulla Heikillö, Sonya Lindfors, Inari Niemi, Anna Paavilainen, Kirsiikki Saari, Aino Suni, Mia Tervo, Elli Toivioniemi, Jenni Toivioniemi
Script: Reetta Aalto, Maryan Abdulkarim, Alli Haapasalo, Sonya Lindfors, Inari Niemi, Raisa Omaheimo, Anna Paavilainen, Kirsiikki Saari, Saara Särö, Mia Tervo, Elli Toivioniemi, Jenni Toivioniemi
Cinematography: Päivi Kattunan, Jarno Kuru, Kerttu Hakkarainen, Päivi Kattunan, Jarno Kuru, Kerttu Hakkarainen
Producer: Elli Toivioniemi
Production company: Tuffi Films
### Silent as Murderers

*Hiljaa kuin murhaajat*

16 min • January 2019

Two friends are spending their last summer together, working as gardeners. They share a secret: in the night, they sneak into other people’s homes while the residents are sleeping.

Silent as Murderers is about a strange phase in the life of two close friends, and their unbalanced relationship. The short drama has some thriller elements and keeps falling forward without explaining itself too much. The story grew out of director’s frustrations and experiences – while the main character’s best friend is going forward in her life, she feels she’ll be left behind and forgotten.

**Director:** Lauri-Matti Parppei  
**Script:** Lauri-Matti Parppei  
**Cinematography:** Dmitri Okulov  
**Editing:** Dimitri Okulov  
**Music:** Lauri-Matti Parppei  
**Cast:** Maaria Nuoranne, Ella Lymi  
**Producer:** Ilona Tolmunen  
**Production company:** MADE

### The Stick

*Keppi*

12 min • January 2019

A little girl really wants a dog. Her father gives her one chance to get it. Will she succeed?

The Stick is director Teppo Airaksinen and screenwriter Melli Maikkula’s second collaboration since the short film The Ceiling which received a Special Mention at Cannes Film Festival 2017.

**Director:** Teppo Airaksinen  
**Script:** Melli Maikkula  
**Cinematography:** Aarne Tapola  
**Editing:** Jussi Rautaniemi  
**Cast:** Elina Patrakka, Juho Milonoff, Vilma Melasniemi  
**Producer:** John Lundsten  
**Production company:** TACK Films

### Still Lives

*Kiirehassä liikkumatoin*

6 min • 2018

Today, people are constantly busy. At the same time, we have never been as still: sitting down while working, while travelling, even when exercising at the gym. This contrast is the basic concept of Still Lives. The film uses the rough and naive look of folk art to help us to identify and sympathise with the characters, and, hopefully, to inspire tolerance in this time of hate speech and racism.

Still Lives is an experimental stop motion animation starring figures from the traditional folk art of various times and places. Accompanied by a soundtrack of narrators facing the pressures of modern life, statues, paintings and other items explore the theme of busy stillness from different points of view in seven separate scenes.

**Director:** Elli Vuorinen  
**Script:** Elli Vuorinen  
**Cinematography:** Aarne Tapola  
**Editing:** Elli Vuorinen  
**Cast:** Elina Patrakka, Juho Milonoff, Vilma Melasniemi  
**Producer:** Ilona Tolmunen  
**Production company:** TACK Films

### A Target

*Maalitaulu*

8 min • 2018

Arto is waiting for his wife and child in his car. As they return from the store they tell him that an unknown man harassed them. Arto decides to take the law into his own hands and plans to make a video to shame the man on social media.

A Target is a film about the social media age and about punishing someone by shaming. It does this by means of black comedy, tragedy and horror. It is a short black farce where social media ammunition replaces six-shooters and a shopping mall parking lot replaces Main Street.

**Director:** Antti Heikki Pesonen  
**Script:** Antti Heikki Pesonen  
**Cinematography:** Aarne Tapola  
**Editing:** Hanna Kuivimäki  
**Music:** Antti Pousta  
**Cast:** Hannes Suominen, Max Ovaska, Krote Salminen, Iida-Maria Heinonen, Milena Argillander  
**Producer:** Mika Haavisto  
**Production company:** Tekele Productions  
**Sales:** Magnetfilm
**Two Bodies on a Beach**

Kaksi ruumista rannalla  
19 min • January 2019

A woman wakes up on a beach tied in a plastic press wearing only underwear and high heels. “Not again”, she sighs and decides to track down the enemy and strike back. She gets a companion from an older woman who has been pushed to the borders of society.

During their journey through classical cinematic landscapes these nameless women from different generations struggle to connect and understand each other’s perspectives while their passion for men and male attention gets in away.

**Director**: Anna Paavilainen  **Script**: Anna Paavilainen, Laura Birn  **Cinematography**: Jarmo Kiuru  **Editing**: Tuuli Alanäär  **Music**: Kasperi Laine  **Cast**: Laura Birn, Rea Maaranen, Lauri Majala, Tommi Korpela  **Producers**: Misha Jaari, Mark Lwoff  **Production company**: Bufo
Tampere Film Festival
Tampere Film Festival, ranked among the most important short film festivals in the world, brings together over 30,000 film enthusiasts and professionals. At the heart of the programme are the International and National Short Film Competitions.

In March / Tampere, Finland / tamperefilmfestival.fi / office@tamperefilmfestival.fi

Cut To The Chase – Love & Anarchy Shorts
Cut to the Chase – L&A Shorts is a short film sidebar of the Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy offering new European cinema with a national and Nordic focus.

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