

# **„Ice and Fire Docs“ is a creative documentary workshop for Estonian and Finnish filmmakers with international ambitions.**

Throughout the workshop the participants will work with different aspects of developing, producing, financing and distributing a feature length documentary film. Estonian and Finnish filmmakers are welcome to apply with a film project that is in development or in the production.

The creative director of the workshop is a well-known tutor Mikael Opstrup from Denmark. The second principal tutor is Jesper Osmund, an internationally renowned film editor and narrative consultant who has edited more than 100 documentaries.





# Standing in My Power

Original title (FIN): Omassa voimassa

Production company: Icebreaker Productions

Director: Karoliina Gröndahl

Producer: Kirsi Mattila

Estimated duration: 75'

Production stage: In post production

Estimated time of release: early 2024

Contact: Producer Kirsi Mattila, [kirsi.mattila@icebreakers.fi](mailto:kirsi.mattila@icebreakers.fi) ,+358405131829

## LOGLINE:

*The childbirth experience can either give you power or take it away.*

## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

The birth experience affects the whole life. Two Finnish birth experts, midwife Kirsi and doula, i.e. birth support person, Anna-Riitta, work to improve birth practices and empower birth givers. Observational yet strongly cinematic, Standing in My Power expresses the personal, social and mythic levels of birth.

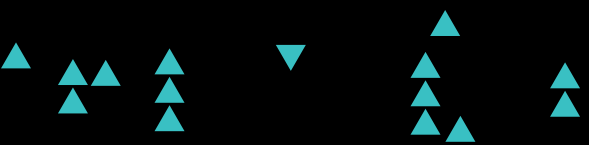


## LINK TO THE TRAILER:

<https://vimeo.com/824233326?share=copy>

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Short intro to the filmmakers:

**KAROLIINA GRÖNDAHL**

*DIRECTOR*

Karoliina Gröndahl (b. 1984) holds an MA in documentary film directing from the DocNomads Joint Masters program. Skilled in conveying emotions through the moving image, Karoliina shoots most of her films herself.



Karoliina's latest short documentary Every Tom, Dick and Urpo (orig. Ei nimi miestä pahenna) premiered in September 2023 at the Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy where it received a New Wave award. The documentary feature Standing in My Power, part of Ice and Fire Docs workshop and DocPoint IMPACT training, will premiere in 2024.

Karoliina's first feature-length television documentary Sentenced for Life broadcast in 2016 by the Finnish Broadcasting Company Yle. Karoliina is a board member of the Finnish Documentary Guild and an alumna of IDFAcademy 2022.

**KIRSI MATTILA**

*PRODUCER*

Kirsi Mattila has a licentiate degree in theater science from the University of Helsinki. She began her career in documentary filmmaking as director and scriptwriter in 1994. Her latest film, Marzia, My Friend (2015), is a documentary feature set in Afghanistan and Finland. It won the Best Human Rights Feature award at its international premiere in Galway Film Fleadh, and has subsequently won five other awards.



Since 2010 Kirsi Mattila has also worked as Icebreakers' producer in charge of producing TV programs and radio series for Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE.

The first feature documentary she produced was Tiina Madisson's The Beloved Daughter (2020). Kirsi is currently producing Mohamed El Aboudi's documentary film The Last Chapter and Karoliina Gröndahl's documentary film Standing in My Power.





# Coaching for Ordinary People

Original title (EST): Coaching tavalisele inimesele

Production company: Flo Film  
Director/producer: Kaupo Kruusiau

Estimated duration: 80'  
Production stage: In production  
Estimated time of release: 2025  
Contact: Director Kaupo Kruusiau, +372 509 6650, kaupo.kruusiau@gmail.com

## LOGLINE:

*Three people hunting for happiness with the help of a personal coach. Will they succeed?*

## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

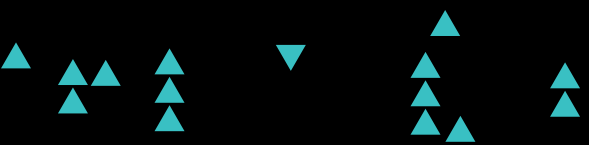
Coaching, which has been mainly used in the business world, is becoming increasingly more and more popular amongst so-called ordinary people. The film observes three people – Pille, Armin and Lii, who want to achieve their dreams with the help of a personal coach. Does coaching really work or life still takes its path?



## LINK TO THE TRAILER:

<https://vimeo.com/776952504/90db1a5146?share=copy>





Short intro to the filmmakers:

**KAUPO KRUUSIAUK**

*DIRECTOR*



Kaupo Kruusiauks has graduated from the Baltic Film and Media School with a bachelor's degree in film directing, and from the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre with a master's degree in theatre and film directing. Kaupo Kruusiauks has directed several short films, one full-length feature film (Sandra saab tööd, 2021), and a few episodes of the project Estonian Stories for the Estonian Public Broadcasting (Murust, Teaduse nimel, Kütt).

In its documentaries, Kaupo Kruusiauks has been portraying a chess player Jaan Ehvest (Mängija, 2008), an actor and musician Peeter Volkonski (Viimane vürst, 2018), and a musician and composer Maria Faust (Machina Faust, 2022).

Kaupo Kruusiauks's most acknowledged film is Machina Faust. The Estonian Association of Film Journalists named it the best Estonian movie of 2022. Concurrently it was selected as the best Estonian documentary in 2022 at the Estonian Film and Television Awards gala. Machina Faust has been selected for the programme of CPH:DOX, Krakow Film Festival, Baltic Film Days, and New York Baltic Film Festival.

**KATRE RATASSEPP**

*SALES AND DISTRIBUTION*



Katre Ratassep has worked in the field of marketing and communication for over 20 years. Katre Ratassep has designed public relations campaigns for several music festivals and for musician solo projects, as well as for contemporary art exhibitions and feature and documentary films. In Flo Film Katre Ratassep is currently responsible for the distribution and communication of documentaries Machina Faust (film about a musician and a composer Maria Faust, 2022), Anett (film about recently retired Estonian tennis player Anett Kontaveit, to be premiered 2024), and Coaching for Ordinary People (film about people hunting for happiness with the help of personal coach, to be premiered 2024/2025).





# The Perfect

Director: Laura Liventaal

Estimated duration: 60'

Production stage: End of development

Estimated time of release: 2025

Contact: Director Laura Liventaal, [laura.liventaal@gmail.com](mailto:laura.liventaal@gmail.com) , +33 7 81 99 70 77

## LOGLINE:

*A kaleidoscopic view into the lives of three ballerinas. Why do we hide our pain?*

## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

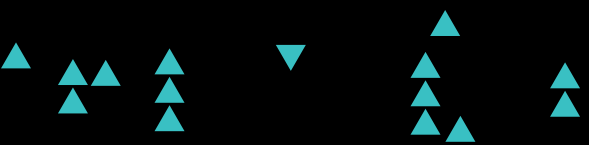
An intergenerational dialogue between the worlds of a child, a young professional and a mature teacher, connected by escapist devotion to ballet. Their individuality and life philosophy emerges despite the suppression of discipline, making room for mistakes, self expression and joy. Why are they causing so much pain to their bodies and what does that do to the soul?



## LINK TO THE TRAILER:

<https://vimeo.com/lauraliventaal/theperfect?share=copy>





Short intro to the filmmaker:

**LAURA LIVENTAAL**

*DIRECTOR*

Laura Liventaal (b. 1988) is a director and artist who works with the mediums of documentary film, sculpture, installation, performance, photography and video. She studied philosophy at Tallinn University (BA 2012, MA 2016), in 2020 she graduated from the Baltic Film and Media School with an experimental short documentary “How To Be Naked”, which premiered at the Black Nights Film Festival in Tallinn. From 2021 she is studying contemporary art MA at the Estonian Academy of Arts and 2022-2024 she is an exchange student in the fine arts department of ENSAD Paris. Liventaal has participated in exhibitions and festivals in Estonia, Finland, Sweden and France.





# Totem

Original title (EST): Tootem

Production company: Door 2  
Director/producer: Birgit Rosenberg

Estimated duration: 60'  
Production stage: Post production  
Estimated time of release: Spring 2024  
Contact: Director Birgit Rosenberg, [birgit.rosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:birgit.rosenberg@gmail.com) , +372 5667 8118

## LOGLINE:

*For the sake of the tank and peace*

## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

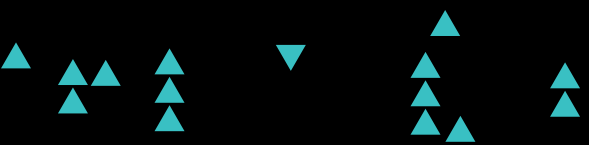
Totem is an infamous tank T34 that stands on a high stone pedestal on the Estonian bank of Narva river, a natural border between Estonia and Russia with the gun provocatively turned westward. As Estonian government orders the removal of the soviet relict, Russians gather to protect the tank and everything it symbolizes. Totem is a tense and a bit absurd film of humans, histories and the irresistible magnetism of steel power.



## LINK TO THE TRAILER:

<https://youtu.be/gBKlFkzM32k>





Short intro to the filmmaker:

**BIRGIT ROSENBERG**

*DIRECTOR*

Birgit Rosenberg is a researcher, documentary filmmaker and producer. With a background in social sciences and anthropology, she is mostly interested in social and political issues and of places and events where they manifest. Before graduating Baltic Film, Media and Arts School as a producer and director she worked for human rights and advocacy organizations in Estonia and abroad. Since 2012 she has created documentary series for Estonian Public Broadcasting, produced and directed 2 short documentaries and assisted various international projects with productions in Estonia and beyond.





# As Far As It Takes

Original title (FIN): Äärimmän äärellä

Director: Lauri Autere

Estimated duration: 80'

Production stage: In development

Estimated release: 2027

Contact: Director Lauri Autere, lh.autere@gmail.com , +358504059965

## LOGLINE:

*After spending 10 years filming the rise and fall of the ultranationalist movement founded by my old childhood pal, I need to have a final reckoning with him and his new friends.*

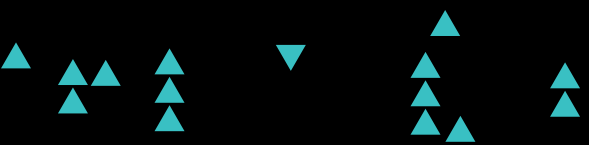
## SHORT SYNOPSIS:

An old friendship has offered the director a vantage point into extremist nationalism. In front of his eyes, Lauri's childhood friend Tuukka became a genuine fascist ideologue. Today it seems though that steam is running out of Tuukka's outrageous party-political effort, and the self-identified radical racists are going to find themselves in a dead end. After a years long



journey in the position of observatory filmmaker, Lauri feels the growing need to at last take initiative in his hands. He embarks a serious effort to get rid of toxic cynicism and nihilism in his friend Tuukka and his new pals. This confrontation opens a window for change. It's time for reckoning.





Short intro to the filmmaker:

**LAURI AUTERE**

*DIRECTOR*

Lauri Autere is a Finnish documentarist, director of photography and environmental activist born in Rovaniemi, based in Helsinki. In his work he has been occupied with themes of societal change, polarization and ecological crisis. His documentary short The One Who Remembers More, which takes us to the long lost land of Sompio, has traveled the world from Tromsø to Murmansk and Palestine. The feature film 111 góðir dagar with Lauri's cinematography won the prize of best film in Faroe Islands 2021.





# Once We Were Heroes

Original title: Once We Were Heroes

Production company: Kompot (FIN). Co-producer: Kalejdoskop Film (PL)

Director: Oliwia Tonteri

Producers: Aino Halonen, Jerem Tonteri (executive producer), Kamil Skątkowski (co-producer)

Estimated duration: 85'

Production stage: In development

Estimated time of release: early 2025

Contact: Producer Jerem Tonteri, [jerem@kompot.fi](mailto:jerem@kompot.fi) , +358 50 539 6789

## LOGLINE:

*Polish family father and coal miner, Szczepan, is admired by everybody in his community. Now time is up, all coal mines in Europe will be closed, but is it possible to abolish the heroes?*

## SYNOPSIS:

Coal Miner Szczepan with his daughter and colleagues take us into the Polish mining region. As a little boy he decided to be a coal miner just like his father and grandfather did.

Everyday Szczepan goes to the dark underground with his friends. They share good and bad moments together like soldiers on the battlefield. Soon will be his last shift and after that his colleagues will tear down his clothes with knives and scissors, so he can't wear them anymore.



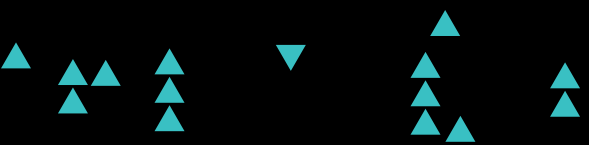
For Szczepan the world that was once admired and respected has been cracked. All coal mines will be closed in Europe.

Szczepan's daughter is very close to him. She is starting journalism studies in Krakow. It signifies a new phase for both her and her family – the cycles of growth and change. Does she have to protect her community's traditional values and her fathers profession in the new environment?

## LINK TO THE MATERIAL:

<https://vimeo.com/872397922/b32b0a9ea5>





Short intro to the filmmakers:

**OLIWIA TONTERI**

*DIRECTOR*



OLIWIA TONTERI is a Helsinki-based film screenwriter, director and producer who has directed award-winning documentaries (e.g. Best Film for “Lilli” at Fresh Film Fest, Karlovy Vary 2007). Tonteri graduated with a Master of Arts from Aalto University. Tonteri’s first feature was “The Blackouts”, co-directed by Jerem Tonteri. It was awarded with a Grand Prix at Emigra Film Festival Warsaw in 2019. Tonteri has dual Finnish and Polish citizenship and in her work she often considers the importance of transnationalism. Her documentary film project “Once we were heroes”, has been selected to take part in a year long Ice and Fire Docs workshop and Baltic Sea Doc Forum 2023.

**AINO HALONEN**

*PRODUCER*



AINO HALONEN (b. 1973) works as a producer mainly with short films and documentaries. She is based in Helsinki, Finland, but has also worked in Azerbaijan directing short documentaries and produced a Finnish-Zambian co-production. Her productions have been successful at many festivals. For example the short film Cold Storage was the most distributed Finnish short film and Rekonstruktio was awarded as the best Nordic short in Nordic International Film Festival 2021. Her latest production, feature film Palimpsest was premièred in Venice film festival 2022.

**JEREM TONTERI**

*EXECUTIVE PRODUCER*



JEREM TONTERI graduated from Aalto University with a master's degree in art. He co-directed together with Oliwia Tonteri a feature documentary “The Blackouts” (2018) which won Grand Prix at Emigra Film Festival. He teaches filmmaking in two different schools. He is also Scriptwriter and Film Editor of the project Once we were heroes.





## TUTORS:

### MIKAEL OPSTRUP



A specialist in international project development, trailer consultancy, co-productions, workshop planning & tutoring. Head of Studies at European Documentary Network, EDN (2011-19), creator and editor of EDNs Co-production Guide. Worked as expert, tutor or moderator for IDFA (Netherlands), Hot Docs (Canada), Nordisk Panorama (Denmark/Sweden), Institute of Documentary Film (Czech Republic), Baltic Sea Docs (Latvia), Docs Barcelona (Spain), In Docs (Indonesia), Dox Box (Syria/Germany) a.o.

Developed and headed a number of international workshops. Produced international documentaries for a couple of decades, latest as co-owner of Final Cut Productions in Copenhagen, Denmark (2002-09). Documentary Producer at The Danish Film Institute (1998-2002). Attended script writing at the Danish Film School (1988). Has worked for more than 50 documentary organisations & events all over the world. Author of the book 'THE UNCERTAINTY – A book about developing Character driven Documentary', 2021.

### JESPER OSMUND, DFK



...is a Danish film editor, narrative consultant and tutor. He started his career in fiction, but became increasingly drawn to documentary films ... as he puts it: "to edit without a script". Today he has edited over 100 international documentaries: THE LAST RELIC - World premiere HOT DOCS Toronto 2023 NELLY & NADINE - Berlinale Teddy Award 2022 NO BURQAS BEHIND BARS - International Emmy Award 2014 And award-winning films like: ONLY THE DEVIL LIVES WITHOUT HOPE • BECOMING ZLATAN • EVERY FACE HAS A NAME • COMMANDER ARIAN • THE WELL • I WILL BE MURDERED • BIG BOYS GONE BANANAS! He's often called upon as a story consultant, like on the Netflix-series: NISMAN: THE PROSECUTOR, THE PRESIDENT AND THE SPY and award-winning films like NOTHING BUT THE SUN • AMAZONA • I CALLED HIM MORGAN He's a valued mentor for emerging filmmakers (ICE & FIRE Estonia, DocMontevideo, EIDF Korea, IDFAcademy) and a regular tutor at pitching workshops (BELOW ZERO Norway, Thessaloniki IDF, DocLisboa, Baltic Forum, One World Media and FDC Colombia)

### GITTE HANSEN



Gitte is independent film consultant in the international documentary field with focus on project development, production, financing and distribution of films with international potential. Gitte is currently a committed mentor for the co-production training-scheme Close-Up and Finnish AVEK's Talent Development Lab Kehittämö. In addition, she serves at various workshops such as IDFA Project Space and Documentary Campus, at institutes, schools and organizations as mentor, tutor, or consultant, and at festivals and pitching events as moderator such as CPH:DOX and Nordisk Panorama. She furthermore works with individual production companies with a background as executive producer of more than 20 international documentaries and series for First Hand Films, where she was deputy director and headed sales and acquisitions for many years. Gitte holds a Master of Film & Rhetoric from the University of Copenhagen.



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