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The 37th Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival, 12–18 Nov, 2018

Enchanting cinema for all ages

This November, Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival will offer a diverse selection of exciting high-quality content for all ages. The event features all kinds of animated films, the Estonia 100 series, adventures accompanied by music, and glimpses into history.

According to Artistic Director **Anna Asplund**, the films also include fascinating characters, a healthy dose of adventure, stories of growth and humour - but also darker tones that offer plenty of food for thought.

Music and glimpses into history

The children's film competition will be launched at Valve Hall on Monday 12 November, at 18:00 (6:00pm). It will see the Finnish debut of *The Little Comrade*, a child's recount of Estonia's challenges during the Soviet era that is based on the autobiographical novels of **Leelo Tungal**. The Second World War is also featured in the Czech film *Barefoot*, while *The Invisibles* depicts young but resourceful Jews escaping persecution and hardship in Berlin.

Some of the stories in children's categories demonstrate how it is sometimes difficult for children to understand adults or their weird grown-up rules. Yet sometimes children manage to see right through them and overcome challenges on their own, as proven by the active Icelandic kids in *The Falcons* or the German *Invisible Sue* and her sidekicks.

The recurring theme of the youth films is the youngsters' desire to knock through boundaries in their lives in order to experience the world in a more personal way. Life may get turned upside down in the process, but growth rarely happens without some mood swings or soul searching.

The competition will feature fast-paced band comedies, out of which the Norwegian *Los Bando* and Finnish *Heavy Trip* share the same concert destination, Northern Norway. Music also has a strong presence in a documentary centred on Swedish rapper **Silvana**, preceded by a short doc about Dutch rapper **Si-G** for some warm up.

This year's theme: Estonian cinema

In honour of the 100th anniversary of our neighbour Estonia, the festival also includes a series called Estonia 100. The audience will be treated to both classics and short animations in traditional film format. Contemporary Estonian cinema can be enjoyed in both children's and youth categories, as well as during an overview of the latest short film productions. *The Last Relic*, **Grigori Kromanov's** romantic adventure set in the 16th century, attracted half of the population of Estonia upon its release in 1970.

Films in competition

There are 11 films participating in the children's film competition, eight in the youth film competition and 10 in the Finnish competition.

In addition to competition categories and the Estonia 100 series, the festival will also be screening two other series, The Kaleidoscope and Nordic Shorts, as well as numerous short films. Lastly, the event will include films produced by local youngsters as part of last summer's Elokuva! project. The films produced by children and young people participate in the Oskari contest. The festival attracts approximately 30,000 visitors annually and its program consists of more than 100 films.

More information about the awards and jury on the festival homepage:
www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef

Children's Film Competition:

Barefoot Czech Republic 2017, directed by Jan Svěrák
The Falcons Iceland 2018, directed by Bragi Thór Hinriksson
Gordon & Paddy Sweden 2017, directed by Linda Hambäck
I Am William Denmark 2017, directed by Jonas Elmer
Invisible Sue Germany 2018, directed by Markus Dietrich
The Little Comrade Estonia 2018, directed by Moonika Siimets
My Giraffe Netherlands 2017, directed by Barbara Bredero
Pony and Birdboy Finland 2018, directed by Mari Rantasila
Queen of Niendorf Germany 2017, directed by Joya Thome
Rosie & Moussa Belgium 2018, directed by Dorothee van den Berghe
Super Furball Finland 2018, directed by Joonas Tena

Youth Film Competition:

Denmark Denmark 2018, directed by Kasper Rune Larsen
Girl in Flight Italy, Switzerland 2017, directed by Sandra Vannucchi
Heavy Trip Finland, Norway, Belgium 2018, directed by Jukka Vidgren and Juuso Laatio
The Invisibles Germany 2017, directed by Claus Räfle
Los Bando Norway, Sweden 2018, directed by Christian Lo
The Polar Boy Estonia 2016, directed by Anu Aun
Rock My Heart Germany 2017, directed by Hanno Olderdissen
Silvana Sweden 2017, directed by Christina Tsiobanelis, Olivia Kastebring and Mika Gustafson

Finnish Competition:

Hayflower, Quiltshoe and the Rubens Brothers Finland 2017, directed by Anna Dahlman
Heavy Trip Finland, Norway, Belgium 2018, directed by Jukka Vidgren and Juuso Laatio
A Long Story Short – The What, Where and How of Your Clothes Finland 2017, directed by Veronica Lassenius
Mindscapes: Hedgehog Finland 2017, directed by Antonia Ringbom
One Girl UK, Italy, Finland, Romania 2018, directed by Rosa Russo

Planet Z – Surprise Egg Finland 2017, directed by Maria Björklund
Pony and Birdboy Finland 2018, directed by Mari Rantasila
Super Furball Finland 2018, directed by Joona Tena
Sure Sign Finland 2018, directed by Marjo Viitala
Uku-Uku's Enchanted Jungle Finland 2017, directed by Jaana Wahlforss

Our homepage at www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef will be constantly updated for more information about the films and filmmakers. Photos of films can be found here:
www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/fi/media.

You can also follow our updates on social media:

www.facebook.com/lastenjanuortenekuvienfestivaali
www.instagram.com/oulufilmfestival

ACCREDITATION

Accreditation for media personnel and film industry professionals can be done through this link:
<http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/en/professionals/accreditation>, no deadline.

Accredited guests will receive a press pass with access to all film screenings.

For more information:

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