

28th Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival 16th – 22nd November 2009



November comes with a film week for children and young people. The Festival, which is being organized already for the 28th time, has changed its name to Children's and Youth Film Festival. The change highlights that the event is also directed to the youth. The Festival can proudly present its new home pages at www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef. **Raimo O. Niemi** is this year's guest of honour, and a section has been devoted to his work. Beloved Swedish films for children and young people are one of this year's themes, and a special programme has been put together from them. For the first time in the history of the event a 3D feature will be screened at this year's Festival.

Press conference

The press conference for the 28th Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival will be held in the Oulu Film Centre's Studio cinema, on the second floor at Valve (address: Hallituskatu 7) on Monday **9th November at 11:00 am**. Hear the latest Festival news while having a cup of coffee! Welcome!

Opening film

The opening film this year is the charming *Lilly the Witch – The dragon and the magic book* (Germany, 2009), directed by **Stefan Ruzowitzky**. A girl named Lilly finds herself in the middle of amazing events when one day a tiny dragon called Hector flies into her room. Hector has brought with him the Magic Book, which the evil wizard Hieronymus mustn't get in any circumstance. *Lilly the Witch – The dragon and the magic book* is in the Festival's competitive section.

In competition

This year there are twelve films in the competitive section. Films come from, among others, the Scandinavian countries, Poland, Ireland, the US and Canada.

Raimo O. Niemi as the guest of honour

The director of the hit film *Tommy and the wildcat*, Raimo O. Niemi is this year's guest of honour at the Festival. The Raimo O. Niemi retrospective includes the adventures of *The German shepherd Roi* (from 1987 and 1988); *Tommy and the wildcat* (1998), whose world premiere was at the Festival in that same year; and his latest feature *Mystery of the wolf*, (2006). Over the years, Niemi has made films for young people, as well; the programme includes such films as *The killing of a cat*, 1994 and *Tomas* (1996).

Swedish films through the decades

The Swedish children's and youth film is brilliantly represented at the Festival. The programme of Swedish film includes many beloved classics all the way from the 1960s. The films *The brothers Lionheart* (1977) and *Ronia, the robber's daughter* (1984), which are based on books by **Astrid Lindgren**, are included in the section. Also, there is the animated film featuring the well-known, resourceful cat *Peter-No-Tail* (1981). 1990s Swedish film is represented by, among others, *Show me love* (1998) and *Tsatsiki, mom and policeman* (1999), a film which won the Children jury's prize at the Oulu Festival in 2000. More recent Swedish production is included in the Festival's competitive section and the Growing Pains programme for young people. The theme of Swedish cinema is carried out in co-operation with the Swedish Embassy, Svenska nu and the Swedish Film Institute.

3D film at the Festival for the first time

For the first time in its history, the Festival has included a 3D film in its programme. *Call of the wild 3D* (directed by Richard Gabai, US 2009) is an adaptation of the **Jack London** classic by the same name. The story takes place in the rugged landscape of a little town in Montana. 9-year-old girl called Ryan finds a wounded wild dog and makes friends with it. The two of them decide to take part in an exciting dogsled race.

Also a youth festival

The Festival wants to take young people into account better in the future, and with the change of the Festival's name, it wants to highlight that the Festival is also for teenage audiences. In addition to the Growing pains section, the competitive programme, Kaleidoscope and the Finnish survey have films suitable for youths as well as for adults. This year, young people have the possibility to write their comments on the youth films. A section for this is been created in the Festival's home pages, and well-founded comments will be published. We hope that especially the youth will be eager to comment. The comments on the films in Competition will be published on Saturday 21st November.

New prize by the Church Media foundation

At this year's Festival the Church Media foundation prize, worth 1500 euros, is given out for the first time by the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The prize will be given to a Finnish feature or short film at the Festival. In Festival's competitive section, like in previous years, the newspaper Kaleva's prize of 3000 euros as well as the CIFEJ prize (Organization of International Children's and Youth Film). The Northern Film and Media Foundation POEM's Little Bear award, worth 1500 euros, will be given to the director of a Finnish children's film or some other person for the valuable work in the children's film industry.

Kaleidoscope

This section includes films from exciting places around the globe. It is directed at those who are interested in the colourful film culture from all around the world. There are films for people of any age in this section. This year there are, among others, one film from the Czech Republic and one from Iceland.

Growing Pains

Once again teenagers' own Growing pains section offers films which discuss rough, sensitive and even things considered taboo to teenagers and adults. The films tell us about youth; its joys and sorrows, sometimes even in a shocking way. Nobody is left untouched by them.

Minister of Education opens the Cultural education seminar

In conjunction with the Festival, a two-day national cultural education seminar will be held; *What's up, media education, part 7* on 17th and 18th November, 2009. The patroness of the event, the Minister of Education **Henna Virkkunen** opens the seminar. For more information, please contact Cultural manager **Katri Laiho**, tel. 0447037544; Production secretary **Raisa Saarela**, tel. 0447037545, or by email firstname.lastname@ouka.fi

http://www.kulttuurivalve.fi/sivu/fi/lapset_nuoret/luova_luokka/

Accreditation

Free accreditation for the press representatives for the Festival is through a form in the event's home pages.

<http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/ammattilaiset/akkreditointi>

Press material

Stills and information about the films will be put on the Festival's home pages during the week 42.

www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/media

Information and interviews: Festival press officer **Riitta Ryhtä**, tel. 0400 617 491

Audience Vote

The Festival includes the Audience vote, known from previous years, in which the Festival audience has the possibility to vote for their favourite film at the venues and also online at <http://www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef/yhteystiedot/palautelomake>. Film-related prizes will be raffled among the voters. The Audience vote starts in the Festival week.

Screenings, tickets and venues

The Festival info desk and box office are in the Valve hallway, Hallituskatu 7. For the screenings at the Finnkinno Plaza cinema, tickets are sold at the Valve box office. You can also get tickets at the venues 30 minutes before the screening starts.

Screenings for schools and kindergartens start between 9.00 and 13.00 on weekdays. Public screenings start from 15.00 on weekdays and 10.00 during the weekend.

The films are shown in the Finnkinno Plaza and Studio cinema as well as in the Valve Main hall. Tickets for regular public screenings cost 4.00 euros (except *Call off the wild 3D* 6.00 euros). For short programmes 2.00 euros, a serial ticket (5 tickets) 18.00 euros, the Festival pass 17.00 euros. The pass entitles you to see all regular public screenings as well as the short programmes (*Call of the wild 3D* not included).

There are Finnish subtitles or translation in all (non-Finnish) films in Competition.

In special programmes non-English-language films are subtitled in English.

The Festival-cum-Science-Centre-Tietomaa ticket entitles you for one regular public screening and one day visit to Tietomaa. These tickets that cost 9.50 euros are sold only at the Valve. The ticket for Tietomaa is valid for the whole festival week.

Festival's supporters

The Finnish Film Foundation, the City of Oulu, the MEDIA programme of the European Union and the Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture AVEK.

For more information

Festival director **Eszter Vuojala**, tel. +358 8 8811 293,
eszter.vuojala@oufilmcenter.inet.fi

Festival coordinator **Mika Anttolainen**, tel. +358 44 588 1134,
mika.anttolainen@oufilmcenter.inet.fi

Press officer Riitta Ryhtä, phone: +358 400 617 491, info@oufilmcenter.inet.fi

Festival is organized by

**Oulu Film Centre
Hallituskatu 7
(Cultural Centre Valve, 2nd floor)
90100 Oulu
Finland**



www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi