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For immediate release

HIFF Launches a Competition for Finnish Short Films

A total of 32 entries have been shortlisted for the national film competition included for the first time in the Cut to the Chase – R&A Shorts event. The four-strong jury that has been announced today will honour the winner with the €1,500 R&A LIFT award. Apart from the competition, the event, organized as part of the Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy (HIFF), will present some of the best new short films with a Nordic focus. R&A Shorts will take place on September 26–30.

The second **Cut to the Chase – R&A Shorts** event organised in connection with the HIFF festival now features a competition selection of its own. The 32 entries of the first national short film competition were shortlisted by a pre-selection jury from the 164 shorts completed in 2017–2018 and will be shown in five screenings. The competition entries are listed on page 2.

The professional jury of the national competition comprises of **Susani Mahadura** and **Yagmur Özberkan** who are broadcasters at the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle), Milton Creatives' Creative Director **Mikko Hakkarainen**, and the director/cinematographer **Johannes Östergård** who won the R&A Shorts Audience Award last year. The winner and recipient of the €1,500 R&A LIFT award will be announced on Saturday, September 29.

R&A Shorts presents a total of approximately 190 short films in more than 30 categories over five days with a main emphasis on Finnish and Nordic cinema. The guests to this year's event include Swedish director **Bahar Pars** whose shorts get their own retrospective, the students of the leading independent Danish film school **Super16**, and the Swede **Sanna Lenken** who will be interviewed in the *Kelaamo Kino Lab*. Lenken's first feature film *My Skinny Sister (Min lilla syster)* was one of the hits of the 2015 HIFF.

A special screening to honour the centenary of the legendary director **Ingmar Bergman** will add another Swedish touch to the R&A Shorts programme. The special screening of *Bergman Revisited* will feature a series of new short films inspired by the Swedish master and directed by **Tomas Alfredson**, **Lisa Aschan**, and **Pernilla August** among others. One of the Finnish festival guests is **Hannaleena Hauru** whose new short *METATITANIC* is inspired by the hit movie *Titanic*.

The R&A LIFT award of the national competition is sponsored by the LIFT event combining media, arts, and culture. This year's R&A Shorts Audience Award is sponsored by Rajala Pro Shop.

31st Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy will take place on September 20–30. The festival programme will be announced on September 7. Ticket sales begin on September 13.

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R&A SHORTS: THE NATIONAL COMPETITION

THE NATIONAL COMPETITION, PART 1

Mikko Myllylahti: **The Tiger**
Tuuli Teelahti: **A Life from Death**
Iiti Yli-Rinne: **All My Aunt's Pets**
Catarina Diehl: **Confessions of an Angry Mother**
Tia Kouvo: **Family Time**
Max Ovaska: **Blind Date**

THE NATIONAL COMPETITION, PART 2

Ulla Heikkilä: **#barewithme**
Terhi Kokkonen: **Bellboy**
Virva Kunttu, Vuokko Kunttu: **Star Shaped Scar**
Mika Tervonen: **Career Day**
Terjo Aaltonen: **Cleaners of Death**
Ilja Rautsi: **Helsinki Mansplaining Massacre**
Juice Huhtala: **Amazing Race**

THE NATIONAL COMPETITION, PART 3

Jarno Lindemark: **Driving Lesson**
Anssi Määttä: **Unknown Redux**
Anna Äärelä: **Goldilocks Zone**
Arttu Hokkanen: **Swimmers**
Teemu Nikki: **Cleaning Woman**
Marja Helander: **Birds in the Earth**

THE NATIONAL COMPETITION, PART 4

Juho Kuosmanen: **The Moonshiners**
Jonna Kina: **Arr. For a Scene**
Milja Härkönen: **Belle de Jour**
Reetta Aalto: **Fingerling**
Hannes Renvall: **Some ways to get rid of a body**
Otto Heikola, Anniina Kauttonen: **Mother's Day Gift**

THE NATIONAL COMPETITION, PART 5

Kimmo Leed: **Giveaway**
Maria Björklund: **Planet Z - Surprise Egg**
Sami Van Ingen: **Flame**
Simo Saarikoski: **Abandoned Land**
Jan Ijäs: **Waste no.1 Money**
Anastasia Lobkovski: **The Spark**
Henna Välkky, Eesu Lehtola: **We are in a Dream**