

34<sup>TH</sup> HELSINKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL  
**LOVE & ANARCHY**  
16.-26.9.2021 [WWW.HIFF.FI](http://WWW.HIFF.FI)

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

## **34 Finnish Entries Compete for the R&A Shorts Award – “The Content Is Nothing Short of Awesome”**

*A total of 34 entries have been shortlisted for the National Competition of the Cut to the Chase – R&A Shorts of the Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy. In addition to the competition films, the programme includes a number of award-winning shorts from the world’s biggest film festivals. Cut to the Chase – R&A Shorts programme will be screened September 22–26.*

The pre-selection jury has chosen 34 entries to the National Competition of *Cut to the Chase – R&A Shorts* programme of Love & Anarchy from the 155 short films submitted. The winner of last year’s main award was **Iiti Yli-Harja’s** animation REAL MEN.

There are both renowned filmmakers and promising newcomers taking part in the fourth edition of the National Competition. Audio Network sponsors the 1,500 € main prize of the competition. The competition winners will be announced on Saturday, September 25.

The winners are chosen by a professional jury consisting of actress **Satu Tuuli Karhu**, filmmaker and film scholar **Christopher L. Thomas** and freelance writer **Mathilda Larsson**. The consulting member of the jury is filmmaker **Erol Mintaş**.

### **The New Award Embraces Diversity and Inclusion**

The *Moving People and Images* award is presented for the first time. The award is given to a filmmaker whose work emphasises inclusion and diversity. The monetary award of 1,000 € is given to finance the filmmaker’s next project. In addition, the filmmaker will have a consultation meeting with the Promotion Centre for Audiovisual Culture (AVEK) and the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE) on the next project as part of the award.

The initiative for the award came from Erol Mintaş. The award has been funded by the Finnish Film Foundation, AVEK and YLE.

“This new award shows that the film industry in Finland is ready to open up and to make room for new voices. Change is possible when we challenge existing structures”, says Erol Mintaş.

The *Uusi aalto* (New Wave) award, funded by the Finnish Film Foundation, will be given to a promising new filmmaker. The best student film and the audience's favourite film will also be awarded. The audience award is sponsored by Audio Network.

## **Festival Favourites and Voices of the Underdogs**

During the festival, a total of 149 short films will be presented in 26 curated screenings. At the heart of the programme are new Finnish and European short films.

It has been a strong year for animated films, and R&A Shorts programme is no exception. *Animation Celebration!* screening presents six brand-new European animated films. *SOUVENIR SOUVENIR* by the French **Bastien Dubois** has won awards at the Sundance Film Festival and the Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival. In the film, a man plans to make a film about his grandfather's war memories and does so with mixed feelings.

The African theme of the festival is equally vibrant in the short film programme. *African Express – Short Station* screening presents five shorts from various parts of the continent, including *I AM AFRAID TO FORGET YOUR FACE*, a 2020 Cannes Golden Palm winner by the Egyptian **Sameh Alaa**.

*Bodies, Boundaries* screening explores being human from a bodily point of view. *MAT AND HER MATES*, completed as a student film and directed by the French **Pauline Pénichout**, is a fresh and surprising documentary. In the film, young people contemplate their uteruses and think about their relationship with their bodies. It won awards in three categories at the Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival.

*To the Barricades!* screening is dedicated to societal resistance and the voices of the underdogs. *DO NOT SPLIT*, a short by the Norwegian **Anders Sømme Hammer**, tells about the protests that shook Hong Kong in 2019 as seen from the demonstrators' point of view. The film received an Oscar nomination.

“Short films are a fascinating world of their own within the festival programme. The screenings differ from feature films by presenting a series of several films, but the content is nothing short of awesome. Short films often are a *tour de force* for new filmmakers. For example, *PLEASURE*, this year's Love & Anarchy Gala, is based on a short that director **Ninja Thyberg** presented at the festival in 2016”, says festival's producer **Hilla Okkonen**.

In addition to the series curated by the festival, the programme has various collaborative screenings. *Gentle Stories Of Decay* screening by contemporary artist **Nastja Säde Rönkkö**, is a collaboration with AV-arkki. It is screened on the closing day of the festival, Sunday, September 26. The artist will be present to discuss the films with the audience after the screening.

## **R&A SHORTS: THE NATIONAL COMPETITION**

### **NATIONAL COMPETITION 1**

Siiri Halko: Haikara

Elias Kahla: Varjoja radalla

Kai Rintamaa: Silmät tummat kuin yö

Pia Andell: Rekonstruktio

Aleksi Salmenperä: Poke

Markus Virpiö: Nähdään tunnin kuluttua

Iiti Yli-Harja: Kaikki äitini puhelut

NATIONAL COMPETITION 2

Anssi Määttä: Knock, Knock  
Inga Pohjolainen: Kokko  
Anna Äärelä: Auringonpistos  
Saara Hakkarainen: No perkele  
Lotta Taarasti: Röökitauko  
August Joensalo: Space Is Quite a Lot of Things  
Anton Baer: Manian lapset

NATIONAL COMPETITION 3

Virpi Suutari: Kansanradio - Runonlaulajien maa  
Arttu Kapulainen: Pastorin vaimo  
Ilja Rautsi: Night of the Living Dicks  
Anssi Määttä: Hysteria  
Hanna Hovitie: Kuoriutua, kukoistaa, kuolla  
Anni Puolakka: Sydäimestä

NATIONAL COMPETITION 4

Sameli Muurimäki: Leskimies ja elokuvakamera  
Virva Kunttu, Vuokko Kunttu: Ikuisesti Moskova  
Tuomas Kurtakko: Überfrog  
Inka Rusi: Bind  
Aleksi Delikouras: Souturetki  
Krista Hannula: Lääkäri Johansson  
Santtu Salminen: Suoterapia

NATIONAL COMPETITION 5

Pirjo Ojala: A Burning Voice  
Mika J. Ripatti: Kultahäät  
Ezra Gould: Ill  
Emilia Hernesniemi: Hei hei Tornio  
Basha Troni: Väkivallan tanssi  
Malakias: Merenneito purnukassa  
Saara Hakkarainen: Hiljaisuus

*The 34th Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy will take place September 16–26 in Helsinki cinemas. The programme is published on Thursday, September 2, when the sales of festival passes also begins. Sales of individual screening tickets begins on Thursday, September 9.*

*More detailed information on the practical arrangements of the festival will be available as soon as the orders are issued by the Regional State Administrative Agency for Southern Finland. The current orders are in effect until September 12. The safety of the festival will be seen with low capacity seating, facial masks, attention to hygiene, instructions and guidance.*

**For more information, pictures, and interview requests, please contact:**

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