

**estdocs**

Oct 19-23, 2018



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COLLECTING**

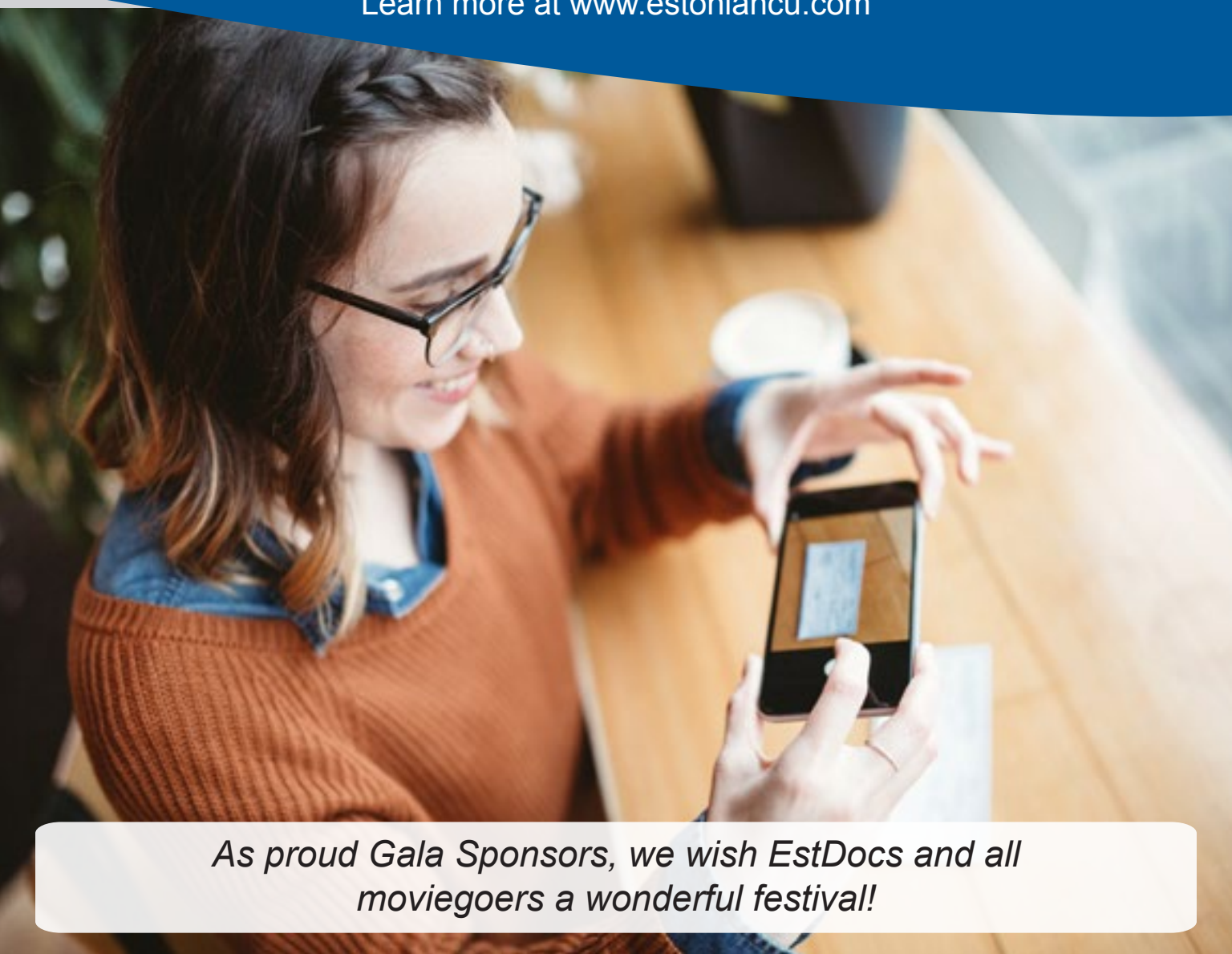
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## WELCOME TO ESTDOCS 2018

I am so pleased to welcome you to the 14th annual Estonian Documentary Film Festival in Toronto. This is the first time I have had the pleasure of taking part in EstDocs as the Ambassador of Estonia to Canada, and I am looking forward to it with much anticipation.

This year, Estonia is celebrating its 100th birthday with friends in Estonia and abroad. EstDocs, as part of the celebration in Canada, has been a memorable event of Estonian film and culture for the past 14 years.

Protecting and nurturing our cultural heritage and its roots in the Estonian language is not an easy undertaking for a small country. One of the impressive examples of culture and people coming together is the Song Festival which celebrates 150 years in 2019. It is also worth noting that Estonian documentary film celebrates its 110th birthday this year. In 1908 a documentary clip was filmed during Swedish King Gustav V's stop in Estonia on his way to St. Petersburg. These are just a few examples that illustrate how Estonia's cultural heritage has thrived and will grow for years, decades and centuries to come.

In keeping with the current celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia, the festival's lineup of films captures the resilience, authenticity, and ingenuity of the Estonian culture and people. From *Geislingen*, *Coming Home Soon* that chronicles how children and their families established a small Estonia in a refugee camp in Germany during WWII, to *Rodeo* that documents how the vote was won in Estonia's first free elections after the war, to *Anni's Island* that tells how old traditions shape life on an island today, the films reveal the enduring spirit and strength of a country who fought for freedom and independence from Soviet oppression and rose up to become a world leader in technology, where internet access is a human right.

I am especially grateful to Festival Director Kristi Sau Doughty and her team of volunteers for organizing EstDocs and creating a showcase for Estonian culture, history, and art here in Toronto.

*Toomas Lukk*

Toomas Lukk, Ambassador

Welcome to the 14th annual Estonian Documentary Film Festival. If you're unfamiliar with the country of Estonia, it's a small nation in Northern Europe on the shore of the Baltic Sea close to Finland with a population of 1.3 million. We are indigenous people of this terrain, who have a deep love and respect for the land and the ocean as well as a zest for song, art, and technology. In fact, the capital of our country, Tallinn, is sometimes called the Silicon Valley of Europe.

On February 24th of this year, we marked Estonia's 100th anniversary, and the celebration is far from over. It continues through February 2020. Maybe that's because we have so much to celebrate. In terms of film, we've been making movies in Estonia for more than 100 years. According to Estonian World, that's one reason James Cameron, the award-winning director of mega-budget blockbusters *Avatar* and *Terminator*, has decided to shoot *Avatar 4* in Estonia.

Not only do we have experienced local film crews to support the production, but we also have folk tales and myths in which the sins of humans reverberate in nature like they do in the Na'vi world of *Avatar*. And when Cameron found the "perfect filming spot" just outside an Estonian village, aptly named Navi, he was sold.

As we celebrate the centennial, Estonians everywhere are giving our country gifts. Here at EstDocs, our gift is the wonderful selection of films in this year's festival, films that touch on many aspects of our past, present, and future, documenting our struggle to rebuild a nation after years of Soviet occupation, turning the lens on difficult issues of our time, and looking to create a bright, thriving future. We've also invited Estonia's Baltic sisters, Latvia and Lithuania, to join the celebration by featuring some of their films that touch on these threads that bind all three of our nations together.

And of course, there's the generous gift of all our volunteers, who give their hard work, time, and energy throughout the year, to bring EstDocs to the screen. Thank you and let the festival begin.

*Kristi Sau Doughty*

Kristi Sau Doughty, Festival Director

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## ESTDOCS BREAKFASTS

A delicious way to begin your weekend mornings at EstDocs! Join us Saturday and Sunday mornings at Tartu College for breakfast, catered by renowned Tallinn restaurant, SALT, and mingle with directors Jaanis Valk and Erik Norkroos (Ahto), and Helga Merits (Geislingen).

### SAT OCT 20

BREAKFAST WITH JAANIS VALK & ERIK NORKROOS OF AHTO, MODERATOR MARJE TÕEMÄE & SPECIAL GUESTS

10 AM | TARTU COLLEGE

*Catered by Salt Restaurant of Tallinn*

### SUN OCT 21

BREAKFAST WITH HELGA MERITS OF GEISLINGEN & SPECIAL GUESTS

10AM | TARTU COLLEGE

*Catered by Salt Restaurant of Tallinn*

RESERVATIONS FOR BREAKFASTS CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT:

[estdocs.eventbrite.com](http://estdocs.eventbrite.com)

*Don't delay, seating is limited!*

## LECTURE

### THE NORDIC MODEL IN THE ERA OF GLOBALISATION

*Just like the Baltic nations, Icelanders are also celebrating their 100 year anniversary of restored independence. Initially we were among the poorest of the poor in Europe. At the dawn of the 21st century, we were among the top ten globally. Ten years ago we suffered a devastating economic crisis.*

*Faced with the task of rebuilding our society, we are at crossroads of a fateful choice: should we go the American way – or rebuild our original Nordic model?*

Please join EstDocs on Monday for an informative talk and discussion with Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson, hosted by Andres Kasekämp at the U of T's Monk School of Global Affairs.

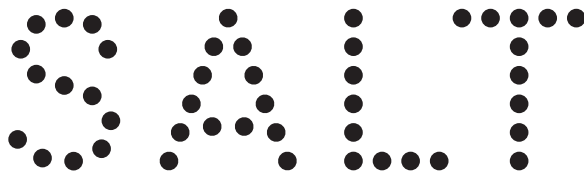
### MON OCT 22

LECTURE - JÓN BALDVIN HANNIBALSSON

4 PM | MUNK SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS, U OF T  
1 Devonshire Place, North House, Room 208N

KINDLY REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT ONLINE AT:

[munkschool.utoronto.ca/ceres/event/25612](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/ceres/event/25612)



From Tallinn, with love

EstDocs is excited to showcase exquisite seasonal appetizers created by Chef Vladimir Proskurnin from the acclaimed SALT restaurant in Tallinn.

### POP-UP DINNERS

Fri Oct 26 @ The Cotton Factory, Hamilton

Sat Oct 27 @ The Diplomat, Hamilton

Reservation information:  
[cottonfactory.ca/salt](http://cottonfactory.ca/salt)



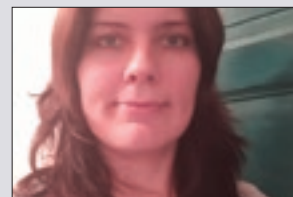
## ESTDOCS JURY



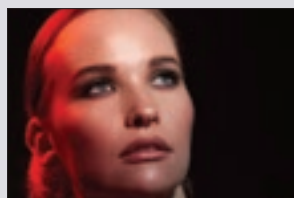
**ANDRÉ BENNETT** — Founder of Cinema Esperança International, a production, distribution, and sales company in 1992. He is a director and producer with several films currently in production and two documentaries in development: "Tarkovsky: The Cinema of Dreams" (UK) and "Magic Box: The John Meier Story" (Canada). Before becoming a filmmaker, he was a university professor in social and political philosophy, teaching from an interdisciplinary perspective, using books and movies, to discuss ideas, contemporary values, and belief systems, and to demystify the concept of power.



**MARTIN MÄNNIK** — Martin is a seasoned film editor. He has worked on many documentaries, including Soviet Hippies that won the jury prize at the 2017 EstDocs Film Festival, The Lion Tamers (2017), They Say Tomatoes Love Rock Music (2016), The Moon Hunter (2015), Between Two Worlds (2014), Blood Type (2013), Seto saadik (2012), Distance (2012), Underwater Flights (2012), Wariazone (2011), Tallinn Spiced Sprats: The Canned Tales (2011), and Kuku: I Will Survive (2011).



**LIINA SÄRKINEN** — Liina has worked in various positions in film and television in two countries—Estonia and the UK (2009 - 2017), including Production Assistant, Production Manager, and Researcher for a cinema archive project and FOH team in Secret Cinema. Liina has a BA in TV production from Tallinn University and an MA in TV History and Practice from Birkbeck University. Liina has recently chronicled some Estonian immigrant experiences in the UK in her new documentary *Why Don't I Leave?*



**KATARINA ISBERG** — I have always had a huge love for film. It's part of the reason I chose to become an actor. Whether I am part of a film, watching a film, or perhaps part of the short film competition jury for EstDocs, it is my "happy place".



**ARIADNA OCHRYMOVYCH** — Ariadna is an award-winning documentary film producer and director. She has directed for the NFB, CBC, and many independent docs. Most recently, her documentary, *Holodomor: Voices of Survivors: Ukrainian Genocide of 1932-33*, won the Audience Choice Award at EstDocs 2017. From a Ukrainian background, Ariadna has always seen Estonians as compatriots.



**RIHO VÄSTRIK** — Riho is an associate professor at the Baltic Film, Media, Arts and Communication School in Tallinn and co-owner of the production company Vesilind. His interest in mountaineering motivated him to consider filmmaking—the beauty of the mountains and human suffering yearned for recording. Since 2003, Riho has been attracted to the Siberia and Far North. He has produced and co-produced a number of award-winning documentaries with Latvian, Russian, and Finnish filmmakers.

## SHORT FILM JURY

## MODERATOR

**MARJE TÕEMÄE** has been acquiring films for Estonian Television (ETV) since 2000, specialising in documentaries. In 2008, she started to build ETV2, a television channel dedicated to films, world culture, and children's programs. In 2017, she became the Head of Programs at ETV, the main television channel of Estonian Public Broadcasting. She has worked as the commissioning editor for the film and television coproduction brand "Estonian stories," 30 min documentaries of life in Estonia. She is an experienced editor and producer as well as the director of several documentaries, such as "Time Is Here," which has been broadcast on television around the world, including the French-German culture channel ARTE and the worldwide news channel Al Jazeera.



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community projects in Estonia.



**Contact:**

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eeroesimees@gmail.com

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- Tartu Children's Fund
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**FUTURE PROJECTS:**

- Centre for children with disabilities
- Centre for adults with disabilities
- Seniors and long term care  
centres



## CITIZEN OF THE SEAS

WRITTEN BY: TRISTAN PRIIMÄGI

One of the central Estonian myths is our attachment to land – as a nation that has supposedly inhabited the same spot of land for the longest time in Europe, we take pride in our homesickness when abroad. As Sulev Keedus said: “There is certain beauty in hanging around in some really small place for a long time”. Jaanis Valk’s “Ahto”, a film about an Estonian seafarer Ahto Valter, is refreshing in its attempt to stress the opposite. Ahto has always longed for the ocean and when he took off to circumnavigate the world in 1938, he probably already knew that he doesn’t belong to any piece of land, but to all of the sea.

“Ahto” rests on a treasure trove of source material that turns the film into a truly unique story. Valk has the command of: Ahto’s and his father’s diaries, memoirs of his son Ewan who was with Ahto at the age of six weeks, starting the journey with him, and abundant amateur 8mm film footage from the schooner from variety of destinations. Valk has expertly messed up the timeline, turning “Ahto” into a dreamlike trip into the past, that sometimes feels pieced together mainly on intuition and association, much like we construct memories in real life.

After 1938 and during the following decades, Ahto sails everywhere on his yacht, and by doing so, constructs a thoroughly modern and liberal identity for himself. An identity that is not necessarily based on the nationality, the state and the homeland, but on more broader notions of humanity and multiculturalism. As an Estonian, Ahto goes completely against the grain, conversing with the Polynesians and Africans as equals when racism was still very much in vogue in Europe, and sees himself as a native of his yacht, a citizen of a ship-state, a governor of self.

“Ahto” is a classic road movie in a sense that it starts with the destination in mind but becomes more about the journey when the events unfold. Paraphrasing Keedus: “There is certain beauty in enjoying the moment without any clear idea where you are going to end up”. “Ahto” makes you yearn for more freedom in life, and that is not a bad thing at all.



### AHTO. UNISTUSTE JAHT AHTO. CHASING A DREAM

D: Jaanis Valk | Estonia, 2018 | 90m  
Estonian with English subtitles

Tösielufilm purjetaja Ahto Valterist ja tema seiklustest keskendub mehe ümbermaailmareisile 1938–1940. Ainulaadse meresõidu filmijäädvustustele, Ahto Valteri ja tema isa Rudolfi päevikute tekstidele rajatud jutustus annab edasi kahe maailmasõja vahelisel ajal läänemaailmas valitsenud ajastu vaimu, kaasates arhiivikaadreid ja väljalõikeid ajalehtedest. Filmi avab ja lõpetab Ahto poeg Ewan Duff Walter, kes kuue nädala vanuselt koos vanematega ümbermaailmareisi alustas. Ahto Valter on inimene, kellest tänapäeval eriti palju ei teata. Poiss, mees ja meediasündmus, kellest rääkisid suure maailmasõja eelõhtul ajalehed mõlemal pool Atlandi ookeani ja kes seejärel unustati.

*Ahto Valter had a constant craving for adventure. From 1930 to 1937, the young Estonian sailor crossed the Atlantic Ocean five times in a small sailboat, becoming an instant celebrity as he broke speed records and made headlines news. Still, he thirsted for more. In 1938, Valter climbed aboard a schooner with his wife, one-and-a-half year old son, and a crew of 17 to chase his dream of sailing around the world. Weaving together rare footage, Valter’s diaries, and excerpts from an interview with his son, the film documents how Valter overcame mutiny, storms, accidents at sea, reefs, and the outbreak of World War II, returning to port 18 months later to find a changed, war-torn world, in which he could no longer go back home.*

FRI OCT 19 8:30 PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA

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ESTONIAN STUDIES CENTRE



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ESTONIAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA  
EESTI SIHTKAPITAL KANADAS



We also thank our audiences, our participating filmmakers and our valued volunteers for making this festival a success. EstDocs would not be possible without your continued support.

# estdocs

Estonian Documentary Film Festival Toronto

## THE ESTDOCS 2018 TEAM

|                        |                                                                                                         |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FESTIVAL DIRECTOR      | Kristi Sau Doughty                                                                                      |
| PROGRAMME DIRECTOR     | Kalli Paakspuu                                                                                          |
| OPERATIONS DIRECTOR    | Mai Meret                                                                                               |
| FINANCE DIRECTOR       | Lem Ristsoo                                                                                             |
| SHORT FILM COMPETITION | Äret Pea, Tauno Mölder                                                                                  |
| AD SALES               | Liis Truuvert                                                                                           |
| SECRETARY              | Maret Jaks                                                                                              |
| TREASURER              | Urmus Sui                                                                                               |
| PROGRAMMING            | Bonnie Andrukaitis,<br>Johanna Helin, Kaisa Pitsi,<br>Keltie Thomas, Margus<br>Jukkum, Tristan Priimägi |
| TECHNICAL              | Rein Ende, Killi Mirka, Lauri<br>Raudsepp, Tauno Mölder,<br>Peeter Piil, Andre Vare                     |
| COMMUNICATIONS         | Maret Jaks, Äret Pea                                                                                    |
| DESIGN                 | Gina Angelea,<br>Kristi Toi Greco                                                                       |
| JURY CONSULTANTS       | Jaak Järve, Reet Mae                                                                                    |
| TEAM                   |                                                                                                         |
| Aleksa Del Castillo    | Helga Del Castillo                                                                                      |
| Zoe Dirse              | Markus Doughty                                                                                          |
| Andrea Herrmann        | Nicholas Jones                                                                                          |
| Kariina Järve          | Anu Jõe                                                                                                 |
| Linda Karuks           | Kai Kiillaspea                                                                                          |
| Tea Kilch              | Janne Laanemaa                                                                                          |
| Ellen Leivat           | Kaarin Lupp                                                                                             |
| Elin Marley            | Einar Medri                                                                                             |
| Brian Meret            | Jaan Meri                                                                                               |
| Kristina Märtn         | Piret Noorhani                                                                                          |
| Elle Palumäe           | Christina Prozes                                                                                        |
| Peeter Põldre          | Anita Saar                                                                                              |
| Taavi Tamtik           | Ellen Valter                                                                                            |
| Eva Varangu            | Mikk Villem                                                                                             |
| Miina Yalle            |                                                                                                         |
| COVER ART              | Valev Laube                                                                                             |

# 2018 FILM COLLECTION



14 KÄÄNET

## 14 KÄÄNET 14 CASES

D: Marianna Kaat | Estonia, 2017 | 85min  
Estonian w English subtitles

Filmi aluseks on mitu paralleelselt arenevat venekeelse pere lugu. Filmitegijad jälgisid peaaegu nelja aasta jooksul 5-aastaselt eesti lasteaeda läinud Ksenijat ja Emiliat, eesti kooli eelistanud 7. klassi õpilast Marki ja Eestist Peterburi kõrgkooli õppima läinud abiturienti Vitalit. Hirmud ja kõhklused, lootused ja frustratsioon, toimetulekud ja äpardused, lõimumine ja isolatsioon, keel ja identiteet – film püüab mõista probleeme, millega venekeelsed lapsed ja nende vanemad rinda pistavad. Hoolimata ohust oma identiteeti kaotada, üritavad peategelased meeleheitlikult eestikeelsesesse ühiskonda integreeruda.

*So you want to learn Estonian... These days that's the situation many Estonian citizens whose mother tongue is Russian find themselves in. 14 Cases follows several Russian families and their children as they decide whether to enroll in Estonian kindergarten to learn the language. The film explores the themes of isolation and integration as it reveals their fears of losing their language and identity along with their hopes to join and participate in society.*

FRI OCT 19 2:30PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA



RODEO: UNISTUS TÖÖTATUD MAAST

## RODEO: UNISTUS TÖÖTATUD MAAST RODEO: TAMING A WILD COUNTRY

D: Raimo Jõerand, Kiur Aarma | Estonia, 2018 | 75m  
Estonian with English subtitles

Taasiseseisvunud Eesti esimesele põhiseaduslikule valitsusele, mis saab noore ja kogenematu peaministri Mart Laari juhtimisel võimule 1992. aasta sügisel, ei ennustata valitseva kaose keskel paari kuudki. Ometi suudetakse võimul püsida kaks aastat, viies ellu hulga radikaalseid reforme. Soov "plats puhtaks lüüa" – vabaneda täielikult okupatsiooniaja pärandist ja eelmise valitsuse „pehmet“ teest, teeb Eestist välismaal eduka üleminekuriigi musternäidise. Aga kodumaal saadab Laari valitsust üks skandaal teise järel. Usalduse hoidmisest ja kaotamisest rääkiva loo keskmes on konflikt aatemeeste ja pead tõstva uue majanduseliidi vahel, kus peaministril jääb häid valikuid järjest vähemaks. See on avameelselt ja paraja eneseirooniaga jutustatud lugu kaasaegse riigi loomisest, noortest idealistidest, kellest saavad aja tahtel poliitikud.

*They had three goals: get Estonia independent, get their own currency, and get Russian troops out. Flashback to 1992 for a revealing look at how a group of young guns—a forester, history teacher, and former political prisoner to name a few—won Estonia's first free elections since the Second World War. At 32, Mart Laar, the oldest of the idealistic lot, became Europe's youngest prime minister. That was the least of his challenges. Neither he nor his cabinet ministers knew much about politics or economics and Estonia was flat broke. They had to learn fast, taking the country and each other by the horns to forge a nation and a viable economy out of chaos.*

FRI OCT 19 5 PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA

CO-PRESENTED BY HOTDOCS

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OUTSPOKEN. OUTSTANDING.



# Estonia 100:

4 events to keep in mind during  
Estonia 100 celebrations



**New permanent exhibition  
of Vabamu Museum of  
Occupations and Freedom**

Open since July 2018 / Tallinn



**The opening of the  
Arvo Pärt Centre**

October 2018 / Laulasmaa



**XII ESTO Days - festival  
of global Estonian culture  
and heritage**

June 27 – July 3, 2019 /  
Helsinki-Tartu-Tallinn



**XXVII Song Celebration  
and the XX Dance Celebration  
„My Fatherland is My Love“**

July 4-7, 2019 / Tallinn



*A hundred years  
of the Republic  
of Estonia*

See more about the Estonia 100  
celebrations: [www.ev100.ee/en](http://www.ev100.ee/en)



TUULTE TAHUTUD MAA

## TUULTE TAHUTUD MAA THE WIND SCULPTED LAND

Director Joosep Matjus | Estonia, 2018 | 65min  
Estonian w English subtitles

Eepiline filmilugu Eestimaa metsikust loodusest, kus vaataja ees rulluvad lahti meie kodumaa eriilmelised maastikud koos metsloomade ja tuhandete läbirändavate linnuparvedega. Filmi peategelane on meie metsade suurim imetaja ja põliselanik põder. Läbi looduse avanevad meie mineviku püüdlused ja vajadused ning meie iseloom, mida maastikud on tuhandete aastate jooksul hoidnud ja kinnitanud.

*With no people or dialogue to speak of on screen, this film transports audiences deep into the heart of Estonia's wilderness with its simple but rare sights and sounds of nature. Prepare to immerse yourself where the moose, snakes, and wolves roam, to catch your breath in the beauty and violence where the wildlife rules, and to emerge with a new perspective.*

SUN OCT 21 3:15PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA



TUULTE TAHUTUD MAA

## GEISLINGEN: COMING HOME SOON

D: Helga Merits | Netherlands, 2018 | 52min  
English

Mis tunne on jätta maha oma lähedased ja kõik vana, sest alanud on sõda ning sinu pere on ohus? Helga Merits on teinud palju uurimistööd 4000 sõjapõgeniku, sealhulgas tema perekonna kohta, kes lahkusid Eestist 1944. aastal. Pagulased maandusid Geislingenis, põgenikelaagris Saksamaal, millest kujunes välja väike Eesti oma koolide, töökodade, postkontori, haigla, ajaleheagentuuri, teatri, orkestri ja kooridega. Nende püüd toime tulla, üle saada raskustest ning luua positiivne tulevik toob välja paralleele praegu kõneainet pakkuva põgenikekriisiga Euroopas.

*What does it mean to leave your loved ones, everything, and everyone you know behind, because war breaks out in your country and your family is in danger? Filmmaker Helga Merits (Class of 1943, The Story of the Baltic University) explores this as she chronicles the lives of some 4000 refugees, including their siblings and parents, who fled from Estonia in 1944. According to one interviewee, nobody wanted them. They ended up in Geislingen, a refugee camp in Germany, which became a small Estonia with schools, workshops, post office, hospital, newspaper, theatre, orchestra, and choirs. Their struggle to cope, overcome their circumstances, and build a positive future draws strong parallels with the refugee crisis in Europe today and provides hope and inspiration.*

SAT OCT 20 4:30PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA  
MON OCT 22 7PM EHATARE

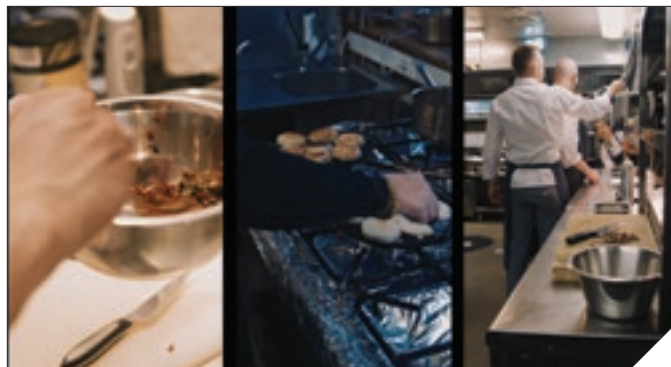
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GEISLINGEN: COMING HOME SOON



JAGATUD VALGUS



KÖÖGIS

## KÖÖGIS IN THE KITCHEN

D: Marko Raat | Estonia, 2018 | 90min  
Estonian w English subtitles

Algselt Eesti Rahva Muuseumi Toidu Muuseumile loodud Dokumentaalfilm räägib kolme Eesti peakoka tegemistest tipprestoranide köögis, nende tavalisest tööpäevast, menüü kokkupanekust kuni serveerimiseni.

*If you've ever wanted to hang out in the kitchen with the top chefs of Estonia to see what they get up to in order to serve up the menu of the day, now's your chance. Made originally for the Food Museum of the National Museum of Estonia, this documentary makes bold use of a three-split screen to show a day in the life of three of the country's star chefs at work simultaneously in restaurants as diverse as a local farm-to-table eatery and chi-chi a la carte establishment.*

MON OCT 22 3:45PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA

## JAGATUD VALGUS SHARDS OF LIGHT

D: Kullar Viimne | Estonia, 2018 | 59min  
Estonian w English subtitles

Vitraažikunstnik Dolores Hoffmann on loonud vitraaže 36-le sakraalhoonele Eestis, Soomes, Jaapanis ja Venemaal, ka ametiasutustele, firmadele ja eratellijatele laias maailmas. Eestlastele on ehk tuntuim vitraažpannook Tallinna teletornis. Jälgitakse töökulgu Tallinna Pühavaimu kiriku vitraažakna loomisel – kavandi teostamisest kuni valminud vitraaži õnnistamiseni. Dolorest saadab kaamera tema stuudios, maakodus ja kirikus. Kunstniku vitraažakendega tehakse filmis justkui vaimne rännak läbi terve Eesti. Vaadates tagasi oma pikale elule, vaeb kunstnik praegust eluseisu ja oma loomingulise tegevuse motiivi. Film loomisest, lootusest ja looja tahtest.

*Art. "It's like pregnancy. Or the need to wee. Something that you can't control," says stained glass artist Dolores Hoffmann in Shards of Light. And she would know. Hoffmann has made stained glass for 36 sacred buildings in Estonia, Finland, Japan, and Russia, the Tallinn TV Tower, and companies around the world. The film profiles the artist at work, through the stages of making a stained glass window for Tallinn's Holy Spirit Church, as she reflects on life, the artistic journey, and the motivation to create.*

TUES OCT 23 7PM ESTONIAN HOUSE

SPONSORED BY AKEN





**Toronto Eesti Selts  
soovib jõudu ja edu  
EstDocsile!**

*Kirjutage kalendrisse! Save the date!*

Eesti Vabariigi 101. aastapäeva tähistamine  
pühapäeval, 24. veebruaril 2019 Toronto Eesti Majas

Toetage TES täienduskooli ja lasteaeda - astuge Seltsi liikmeks!

## ELAGU ESTDOCS!

THE ESTONIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL IN CANADA WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1952. REPRESENTATIVES ARE ELECTED FROM ACROSS CANADA TO REPRESENT AND ADVOCATE FOR THE INTERESTS OF CANADIANS OF ESTONIAN HERITAGE.



**EESTLASTE KESKNÕUKOGU KANADAS**  
ESTONIAN CENTRAL COUNCIL IN CANADA

**ESTO  
2019**

HELSINKI / TARTU / TALLINN

27. JUUNI - 3. JUULI 2019

E S T O 2 0 1 9 . C O M



# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY OCTOBER 19

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION: FROM THE VAULT

**ST. JOHN'S DAY**  
**THE 511 BEST PHOTOS FROM MARS**  
**LASNAMÄE**  
**TIME**

Screening 12:45 pm | Free | Bloor HotDocs Cinema

**14 KÄÄNET**  
**14 CASES**

Screening 2:30pm | Free | Bloor HotDocs Cinema

### RODEO: UNISTUS TÕOTATUD MAAST

RODEO: TAMING A WILD COUNTRY

Screening 5 pm | \$10 | Bloor HotDocs Cinema

*Co-presented by HotDocs*

### GALA FILM & SHORT FILM AWARDS

#### AHTO. UNISTUSTE JAHT

AHTO: CHASING A DREAM

Reception 7 pm | Screening 8 pm | \$15

Bloor HotDocs Cinema

*Special Guests: Ahto Director Jaanis Valk & Producer Erik*

*Norkroos. Sponsored by Estonian Credit Union*

*After Party @ Pauper's Pub, 538 Bloor St. W.*

## SATURDAY OCTOBER 20

### SPECIAL EVENT

#### BREAKFAST WITH AHTO

WITH JAANIS VALK AND ERIK NORKROOS  
& MODERATOR MARJE TÕEMÄE

10 am | \$10 | Tartu College

*Breakfast catered by SALT Restaurant of Tallinn*

#### LIBERATION DAY

LIBERATION DAY

Screening 1 pm | \$10 | Bloor HotDocs Cinema

#### GEISLINGEN: COMING HOME SOON

Screening 4:30pm | \$10 | Bloor HotDocs Cinema

*Special Guest: Director Helga Merits*

*Sponsored by EERO*

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

#### NOVEMBER

Reception 6:30 pm | Screening 7:30 pm | \$15

Bloor HotDocs Cinema

*Special Guests: Director Rainer Sarnet and Cinematographer Mart Taniel. Sponsored by Estonian Foundation of Canada*

*After Party @ Tartu College, 310 Bloor St. W.*

## SUNDAY OCTOBER 21

### SPECIAL EVENT

#### BREAKFAST WITH GEISLINGEN

WITH HELGA MERITS

10 am | \$10 | Tartu College

*Breakfast catered by SALT Restaurant of Tallinn*

#### ANNI SAAR

ANNI'S ISLAND

#### KÜMME, ÜHEKSAKÜMMEND. POISS NAGU ORKESTER

TEN, NINETY. BOY LIKE AN ORCHESTRA

#### MIKS MA SIIS EI LÄHE?

WHY DO I NOT GO?

Screenings Begin 12:45 pm | Free | Bloor HotDocs Cinema

*Special Guest: Director Liina Särkinen*

#### TUULTE TAHUTUD MAA

THE WIND SCULPTED LAND

Screening 3:15 pm | \$10 | Bloor HotDocs Cinema

*Special Guest: Producer Riho Västriik*

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

#### PARADISE 89

Reception 5:45 pm | Screening 6:30 pm | \$15

Bloor HotDocs Cinema

*Special Guests: Jón Hannibalsson and Honourable Ambassador of Latvia Karlis Eihenbaums*

## MONDAY OCTOBER 22

#### KÖÖGIS

IN THE KITCHEN

Screening 3:45 pm | Free | Bloor HotDocs Cinema

### SPECIAL EVENT

#### LECTURE

THE NORDIC MODEL WITH JÓN HANNIBALSSON

4 pm | University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs

1 Devonshire Place, North House, Room 208N

#### ANNI SAAR | ANNI'S ISLAND

GEISLINGEN: COMING HOME SOON

Doors Open 6pm | Screening Begins 7 pm | Ehatare

*Special Guest: Director Helga Merits*

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

#### KUI ME RÄÄGIME KGB-ST

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT KGB

Reception 6:30 pm | Screening 7:30 pm | \$15

Bloor HotDocs Cinema | *Special Guest TBA*

## TUESDAY OCTOBER 23

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: FROM THE VAULT

**DRAAKONI AASTA**  
YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Doors Open 3:45 pm | Screening 4:30 pm | Free  
Eesti Maja Toronto

**JAGATUD VALGUS**  
SHARDS OF LIGHT

Doors open 6 pm | Screening 7 pm | \$10  
Eesti Maja Toronto  
*Sponsored by AKEN*

## TICKET INFO

**ONLINE**  
[hotdocscinema.ca](http://hotdocscinema.ca)

**AT THE DOOR**  
Tickets available at the door for all screenings.

**BREAKFAST RESERVATIONS & TUESDAY SCREENINGS**  
[estdocs.eventbrite.com](http://estdocs.eventbrite.com)

**LECTURE**  
[munkschool.utoronto.ca/ceres/event/25612](http://munkschool.utoronto.ca/ceres/event/25612)

## SCREENING VENUES

**BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA**  
506 Bloor Street West (Bathurst subway)

**ESTONIAN HOUSE / EESTI MAJA TORONTO**  
958 Broadview Avenue (free parking)

**TARTU COLLEGE**  
310 Bloor Street West (entrance off Madison Avenue)

**EHATARE**  
40 Old Kingston Road, Scarborough

*Unless otherwise noted, all films are in English or subtitled. Evening films include a post-screening discussion led by moderator Marje Tõemäe. Doors open one hour prior to screening. All events include a 45 min to 1 hour cash bar. For complete festival info, visit [estdocs.com](http://estdocs.com).*

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## PAGAN POETRY

WRITTEN BY: TRISTAN PRIIMÄGI

***Rainer Sarnet's visually arresting parable, shown as the feature during a second evening of EstDocs, contemplates the possibility of love in the darkest chaos of a godless world.***

Estonian filmmaker Rainer Sarnet plans to take audiences' breath away in Toronto with his new visual epic *November*, a black-and-white story about tender feelings in a brutal metaphysical environment, where ghosts roam free and people have to find their way through a chaotic jungle of co-existing and competing religious beliefs.

The story takes place during the bygone feudal era in Estonia, when peasants had to earn their keep under the rule of the German landlords. Peasant girl Liina (Rea Lest) falls for a boy, Hans (Jürgen Liik), but Hans is infatuated with the young baroness (Jette Loona Hermanis). This unrequited love causes Liina to run around wildly at night as a werewolf, Hans tries to employ a kratt – a fantastic being made of household items and endowed with a soul by the devil in a contract involving three drops of blood – to make his secret desires come true, and the young baroness' fate hangs by a thread when she spends her nights sleepwalking on the manor roof.

Shot in absolutely breathtaking black-and-white photography by Mart Taniel, *November* whisks us away to a world where the lives of village people are underpinned by old pagan beliefs as well as animistic spirits and metaphysical creatures. A plague appears in the form of a young woman, and the ghosts of the

ancestors come to the sauna to wash themselves on All Hallows' Eve. Christianity has only taken hold in the purely pragmatic aspects of life: the Eucharist is spat out after a service and used as a good-luck charm together with a bullet during hunting, so that it will be sure to hit its mark.

*November* taps directly into the paradox that characterises Estonian society very accurately. The country takes pride in being one of the most atheistic nations in Europe, together with the Czechs and Icelanders, but fails to see that the void left by the lack of any religious system is randomly filled with any old outrageous superstition. Pendulums, crystals and vacuous "spirituality" run rampant, and people believe in the afterlife, rebirth, nirvana, aliens, enlightenment, the Kama Sutra, witches, forests and animals. As there is no unified belief system in *November*, people have to tread this dangerous terrain like a minefield, in order not to rile any of the countless entities around them. Without belief, all life is governed by shallow drives such as material gain through any means available – whether it be employing a kratt to accumulate wealth at night, or blatant stealing. The majority of people have gambled their souls away to the devil in various shady dealings, and there is not much to look forward to, either in this life or the next. Only two questions remain: can love prosper under these dire conditions? Is there any pureness of the heart to be found in this quagmire? As an incurable romantic, Sarnet wants to believe in the possibility of love, but in these dark days, it has a hard time surviving, let alone conquering all.

*Originally published in Cineuropa*



NOVEMBER



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

NOVEMBER

D: Rainer Sarnet | Estonia, 2017 | 125m

Estonian with English subtitles

Andrus Kivirähki romaani "Rehepapp ehk November" ainetel valminud filmi tegevus toimub paganlikus Eesti külas, kus liiguvad ringi libahundid, katk ja vaimud. Külainimeste peamine mure on, kuidas elada üle külma ja pime talv. Miski pole tabu. Varastatakse üksteise, saksa mõisnike, vaimude, kuradi ja Kristuse tagant. Et endal elu sees hoida, antakse hing kratile – puust ja rauast olendile, kes aitab peremehel rohkem varastada. Varastamine on muutunud ainsaks kinnisideeks ja külainimesed ise hingetuteks olenditeks. Loo peategelane, noor talutüdruk Liina on lootusetult armunud külapoiss Hansu, kellele on silma jäänud hoopis imekaunis mõisapreili. Liina isa nõuab aga, et neiu läheks naiseks ropu suuvärgiga Endlile.

*Breathtaking black-and-white shots and an intoxicating mix of magic, black comedy, and romance takes audiences into a pagan Estonian village where werewolves, the plague, and spirits run riot. Adapted from the best-selling Estonian novel "Rehepapp" by Andrus Kivirähk, this feature film tells the story of villagers who will stop at nothing to survive a cold, dark winter, including stealing from one another, witchcraft, and any kind of deception. When a farm girl sets her sights on marrying a village boy who's smitten with a young baroness, there's no telling what machinations they'll concoct to snag the heart of their obsession.*

SAT OCT 20 7:30 PM HOTDOCS CINEMA

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ANNI SAAR

### ANNI SAAR ANNI'S ISLAND

D: Julia Finkernagel | Estonia, 2017 | 22min  
Estonian w English subtitles

10-aastane Anni elab väikesel Kihnu saarel, mis asub Balti mere põhja pool. Kihnu saarel on traditsioonid au sees. Tüdrukud ja naised kannavad punaseid või siniseid pearingeid ja seelikuid, et näidata, kas nad on kurvad või rõõmsad, lapsed õpivad koolis traditsioonilisi tantsu ja laule, ning nende kommuun tähistab erinevaid sündmuseid lauldes ja tantsides. Saare lugu on võetud filmi lapse silmade läbi, kes armastab Kihnu elu ja ei näe end kunagi sealt lahkumas.

*Ten-year-old Anni lives on a small island, Kihnu, in the far north of the Baltic Sea. On Kihnu, islanders keep old traditions and ways of life. Girls and women wear red or blue head scarves and skirts to show when they're happy or sad, children learn traditional dances and songs at school, and the community often gets together to sing and dance in celebration. This gem captures the beauty of the island's special culture through the eyes of a child who loves life on Kihnu and can't imagine ever leaving.*

SUN OCT 21 12:45PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA

### KÜMME, ÜHEKSAKÜMMEND. POISS NAGU ORKESTER TEN, NINETY. BOY LIKE AN ORCHESTRA

D: Martti Helde | Estonia, 2017 | 28min  
Estonian w English subtitles

Kert on 10-aastane Raplamaa poiss, kelle silmad paneb särama klassikaline muusika. Tema päevad on täidetud kooli, esinemiste ja huviga elektroonika vastu. Oma tulevikuametile lähemale jõudmiseks harjutab Kert aga juba kolm aastat regulaarselt flöödimängu ja väisab oma unistuste töökoha, ERSO, proove. Kert on poiss nagu orkester.

*When seen through the eyes of Kert, classical music has a hue that's bright, shiny, and new. The 10-year-old boy's dream job is to join the Estonian National Symphony Orchestra (ERSO). And he's already fast at work turning that dream into reality. Not only does he play the piano, but he also plays the flute. The filmmakers follow the budding concert musician as he calls up Klassikaraadio, goes to an ERSO concert, visits jazz singer and composer Kadri Voorand, attends school in Raplamaa, makes electronic gadgets, and plays with friends. Along the way, they splice in interviews with noted ERSO musicians talking about their humble beginnings and Kert talking about his musical aspirations.*

SUN OCT 21 12:45PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA



KÜMME, ÜHEKSAKÜMMEND. POISS NAGU ORKESTER

### MIKS MA SIIS EI LÄHE? WHY DO I NOT GO?

D: Liina Särkinen | Estonia, 2017 | 28min  
Estonian with English subtitles

Kati, Triin ja Siiri kolisid Londonisse, et paar aastat keelt õppida ja kogemusi koguda. Tänapäev on aga möödunud üle kümne aasta, on loodud pere ja sündinud lapsed ning tundub, et tulevik on nüüd seotud välismaaga. Igatsus kodumaa järele on jäänud, kuid tagasipöördumine hirmutab. Miks on kojutulek järsku nii keeruline?

*Going home isn't always easy in post-iron curtain Estonia. Just ask Kati, Triin and Siiri. The three women moved to London, England, more than 10 years ago and not one of them ever intended to stay. But now the bonds of children and the families they've formed seem to lock them outside their homeland in ways they never could have foreseen. Why Do I Not Go? explores the conflicted thoughts and feelings that keep them at bay.*

SUN OCT 21 12:45 BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA



MIKS MA SIIS EI LÄHE?



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cousins on  
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LIBERATION DAY

## LIBERATION DAY

D: Uģis Olte and Morten Traavik | Latvia, Norway, 2016 | 100min  
English subtitles

– George Orwell “Kogu kunst on propaganda .. ja kogu propaganda on kunst”

Põhja-Koreasse peaks esimese lääne rokkbändina minema mängima ikka U2 või mõni teine selletaoline leige kartulisalati seksikusega ambassadöör, kelle suurte maailma ühendavate žestide taga haigutab õõnes ja huumorivaba paatos. Ometigi sai selleks bändiks Sloveenia industriaal-skandaal-radikaalgrupp Laibach, kes on terve karjääri vältel mänginud totalitaarse propaganda instrumentidega ja seega selleks ülesandeks täiesti ideaalne. Kimide suguvõsa aga bändi ei mõista. Kas nad teevad nalja? Kritiseerivad meie korda? On nende vaimustus meie utoopiast reaalne või võlts?

*Under the loving but firm guidance of an old fan turned director and cultural diplomat, and to the surprise of a whole world, the ex-Yugoslavian now Slovenian cult band Laibach becomes the first rock group ever to perform in the fortress state of North Korea. Confronting strict ideology and cultural differences, the band struggles to get their songs through the needle's eye of censorship before they can be unleashed on an audience never before exposed to alternative rock'n'roll. Meanwhile, propaganda loudspeakers are being set up at the border between the two Koreas and a countdown to war is announced. The hills are alive... with the sound of music.*

SAT OCT 20 1PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA

## PARADISE '89

D: Madara Dišlere | Latvia, Germany, 2018 | 90min  
Latvian with English subtitles

On suvi 1989. Linnatüdrukud Paula ja Laura saadetakse suvevaheajaks veetma idüllilisse väikelinna, nõbude Maija ja Linda juurde. Täiskasvanute silma alt ära, naudivad neli tüdrukut senitundmatut vabadust ning nii teevad nad ka oma esimesed sammud suureks saamise suunas. Ajalooline ning südamlik film põhineb tõsielulistel sündmustel ning jutustab loo 9-aastase Paula suureks kasvamisest ajalt, mil Läti oli iseseisvumas.



PARADISE 89

*It's 1989 in Latvia and the political situation is a turbulent one. When 9-year-old Paula arrives at her cousins' home, she comes face-to-face with an existence that's simpler and more light-hearted than anything she's used to. Here, for example, there are no parents watching your every move. But when she learns of the news that her parents are to be divorced, she's forced to conclude that whatever the current political developments in Latvia, it's family that matters most.*

SUN OCT 21 6:30PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA

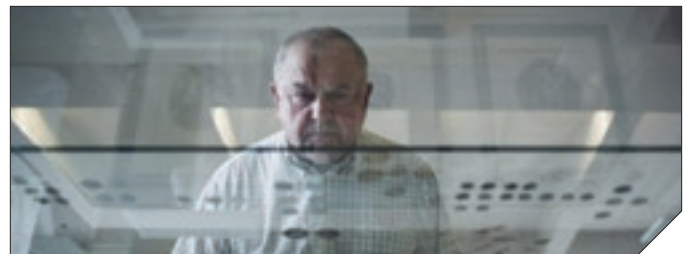
## KUI ME RÄÄGIME KGB-ST WHEN WE TALK ABOUT KGB

D: Maximilien Dejoie, Virginija Vareikyte | Lithuania, Italy, 2015  
73min | Lithuanian with English subtitles

Itaalia režissööri Maximilien Dejoie filmi peategelased on tolle aja haritlased, kes kuulutati KGB poolt ühiskonnale ohtlikuks ning suleti aastateks. Mehed jagavad oma mälestusi ja vaateid KGB ja teisitimõtlejate vastasseisu kohta. Dejoiel on õnnestunud toimumule anda selle sõna parimas ja teadlikumas tähenduses kõrvalseisja pilk, milles on vaikust, rahu ja leppimist. See on pihtimuslik õhkkond, milles saab avaneda ja rääkida oma traagilise eluloo ka paljusid teisitimõtlejaid ülekuulanud KGB ohvitser ise.

*When We Talk KGB captures seven heart-wrenching stories of lives interrupted, forever changed by the Soviet occupation of the Baltic states, as a handful of people open up on camera about their experiences at the hands of and within the former state security police. But when a former political prisoner, a dissident writer for the Lithuanian underground, phones up the retired KGB officer who interrogated him and they meet for coffee, will more than just their words fly? Can they navigate any lingering grief, guilt, or anger? Can they find a way to reconcile their shared past?*

MON OCT 22 7:30PM BLOOR HOT DOCS CINEMA



KUI ME RÄÄGIME KGB-ST



511 FOTOT MARSILT

**511 FOTOT MARSILT (1968)**  
THE 511 BEST PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MARS

**JAANIPÄEV (1978)**  
ST. JOHN'S DAY

D: Andres Sööt | Estonia

**LASNAMÄE (1985)**

**AEG (1983)**  
TIME

D: Mark Soosaar | Estonia

Total Length 56 min

#### A COLLECTION OF SHORT FILMS

Estonian film makers had a delicious sense of humor even back in the occupation days, and exhibit number one is *The 511 Best Photographs from Mars* (1968) and its droll look at the ladies and their gentlemen at tea in city cafeterias where the condiments included milk, lemon, and airs. Director Andres Sööt's sparkling music track includes the Beatles, Chuck Berry, Handel, and Strauss.

Come and join us as we explore 3 other great shorts *St. John's Day* (1978), *Time* (1983) and *Lasnamäe* (1985) which are likely to make you smile and shake your head all at the same time. Digitally remastered.

FRI OCT 19 12:45PM BLOOR HOTDOCS CINEMA

**DRAAKOONI AASTA**  
YEAR OF THE DRAGON

D: Andres Sööt | Estonia, 1989 | 55min

Estonian with English subtitles

According to the Chinese zodiac, 1988 was the Year of the Dragon. Nowhere was that more true than Estonia. After 48 long years of Soviet occupation, the people began to stir as if something lit up the darkness of daily life in the totalitarian state, awakening the fire in their bellies. All of a sudden the country's national symbols began popping up, along with statements of "no confidence" in the leaders of the Communist Party. The Estonian Heritage Society restored the monuments of the War of Independence, facts about war crimes during the Stalinist regime came out, and representatives of the Estonian Republic went against the central authorities in Moscow. This documentary chronicles the remarkable events of 1988 that took the Estonian people and the international community by surprise and how they came to pass in a place no one thought was possible.

TUE OCT 23 4:30PM ESTONIAN HOUSE



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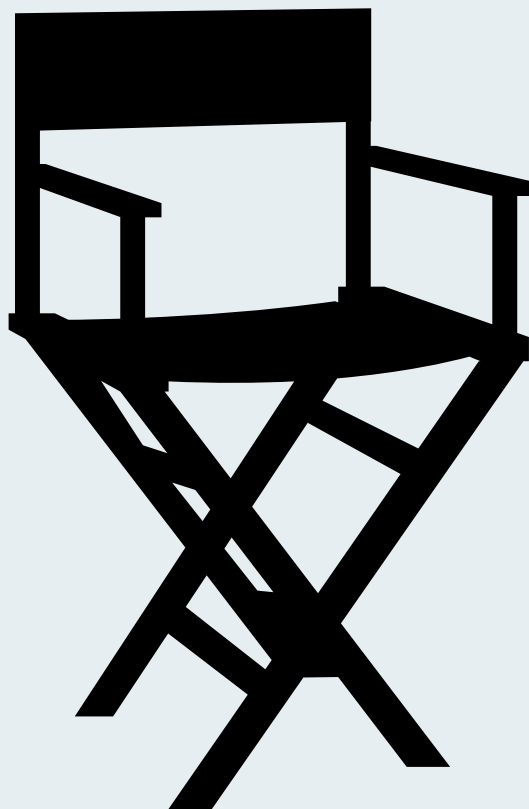
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We love EstDocs. And we are proud to be lead sponsor of the Festival, watching it grow into the largest Estonian cultural event outside of the country.

The Estonian Studies Centre is also committed to financially supporting talented filmmakers who document the Estonian experience. In fact, over the last two years, we have awarded almost \$100,000.00 in funding to jumpstart new cinema projects.

Productions like:

- Helga Merits' **Coming Home Soon**, the forgotten story of Estonian children at the end of the Second World War assigned to the Geislingen refugee camp in Germany
- Kalli Paakspuu's **Awakening** – as told by Roman Toi, a loving look at the musical legacy of the late, great choral conductor, and
- Tom and Reet Mae's **Homeland on**

**Fire**, the first feature-length film from the **In Search of Our Fathers Project**, which focuses on the stories of young Estonian soldiers and Baltic patriots during the Second World War.

But, of course, we know no one loves Estonian film more than you do. So, if you'd like to help fund a future production, please consider donating to the Estonian Studies Centre.

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**TARTU**

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