

Why So Series?

Mister8, It's Alive Films, 2021

Join Focus on Finland panel on February 20th at Berlinale Series Market

FOCUS on FINLAND

The Man Who Died, ReelMedia, 2022

Es.

Stop Nyqvist, Yle Drama, 2022 66th North Precinct, Yellow Film & TV, 2023

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Berlinale 2023 FOCUS on FINLAND

FOCUS ON FINLAND is an export initiative, promoting Finnish content in international industry events and enabling opportunities for Finnish creators to receive international funding, sales and distribution. Focus on Finland brings documentary and drama content to the spotlight. Focus on Finland's drama initiative is carried out in collaboration with **Yle – The Finnish Broadcasting Company, Finnish Film Foundation**, and **Film in Finland**.

We hope you enjoy these carefully selected drama projects with dark comedy flavours and join us in the panel discussion on stage with Marike Muselaers. Direct contact details to the producers can be found in the catalogue, and if you have any questions about Finland, Finnish content, producers, production incentives or locations, don't hesitate to contact any of the APFI staff.

We wish you a fantastic Berlinale 2023, see you on the darker but funnier side!



Laura Kuulasmaa Executive Director Audiovisual Producers Finland – APFI

www.apfi.fi/en

Audiovisual Producers Finland – APFI is the association for Finnish content producers in the film and television industry. It is tasked with representing the interests of producers in the field of audiovisual content production, promoting internationalisation, enabling sustainable industry and organising industry events and competitions. It is also responsible for the collective management of copyrights.

Mister8

Maria is the CEO of a family business, and there is more than enough love in her life. She has seven spouses, a different man for every weekday. Then she falls in love with Juho. Sadly, there are not eight days a week

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THE SERIES that won the day at CanneSeries (Best Series, Best Performance) and broke all the records at Federation in terms of remake offers already sold (for the ready-made) to France, Belgium, Australia, Israel, Spain, Italy, and Switzerland, but some territories remain available.

A new job in a new city. Juho's new life is about to begin, and he has no plans to commit to anyone. But falling in love doesn't wait for the right time or place - although this time, love has clear rules devised by Maria.

Maria is a hyper-organized CEO of a family business who has a different partner for every day of the week, creating the ideal man from these pieces. She has it all, but problems arise when she falls for Juho, Mister8. Juho is not ready to settle for only one weekday and schemes in jealousy to turn the other men against each other, with the aim to eventually win Maria's heart all to himself.

It's Alive's latest series Mister8 is shot in modern stylized black and white. With its absurd humor, it questions our relationships and what we expect from them.



ORIGINAL TITLE MISTER8 GENRE NEO NOIR ROMANTIC COMEDY LENGTH 8 X 24-33' STATUS OF PRODUCTION COMPELETED LOOKING FOR SALES (READYMADE AND FORMAT) LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH **FINNISH PREMIERE Q1/2021 SEASON NUMBER 1 CREATORS JANI PÖSÖ, TEEMU NIKKI** WRITERS VESA VIRTANEN, ANTERO JOKINEN, TEEMU NIKKI **DIRECTOR TEEMU NIKKI PRODUCER JANI PÖSÖ** CONTACT JANI@ITSALIVE.FI **PRODUCTION COMPANY IT'S ALIVE FILMS** WORLD SALES FEDERATION ENTERTAINMENT FINNISH BROADCASTER ELISA VIIHDE



PANELIST

Ciszewski

Operations

Federation

International

Jean-Michel

Head of Special

Jani Pösö Producer It's Alive Films



Sanna Kultanen Producer It's Alive Films

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Stop Nyqvist

A controversial dark spy comedy, a totally fictional story that turned out to be more current than anybody could predict!

HELSINKI, the capital of Finland, is swarming with spies. While the CIA and the FSB are hand wrestling over Finland's future, the dysfunctional ministries and state officials trapped by their own stupidity do their best to launch World War III.

The ruthlessness of the Russians and the paranoia of the Western allies add to it. Soon there's a destroyed NATO sub and 30 dead

Danish sailors, Eastern Finland full of Russian soldiers, a NATO naval carrier is stationed in front of Helsinki, and both an insane Danish serial killer secret agent and the Olof Palme's murderer are on the loose.

And then there's the unexpected hero: the office trainee Aleksis Nyqvist becomes the chief of the Finnish Secret Service and tries to stop the world from exploding into flames.



ORIGINAL TITLE PYSÄYTTÄKÄÄ NYQVIST GENRE DARK COMEDY **LENGTH 8 X 45'** STATUS OF PRODUCTION COMPLETED LOOKING FOR SALES LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH FINNISH PREMIERE Q2/2022 **SEASON NUMBER 1** WRITERS TEEMU KASKINEN, HEIKKI HEISKANEN DIRECTOR JUHA LANKINEN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JARMO LAMPELA **PRODUCERS LIISA PALMROTH, PEKKA** RUOHORANTA CONTACT MARIA.KIVINEN@YLE.FI **PRODUCTION COMPANY YLE DRAMA FINNISH BROADCASTER YLE**



PANELIST Arttu Nurmi Commissioner Yle



The Man Who Died

Seasons 1& 2

The Man Who Died is based on the bestselling book of the same name by Antti Tuomainen, one of Finland's most successful contemporary international authors. The story follows mushroom entrepreneur Jaakko Kaunismaa (Jussi Vatanen) who discovers he has been slowly poisoned and sets out to find his would-be murderer.

SEASON 1

Jaakko is a man in his prime, with a thriving business and keen customers as far away as Japan - but his world shatters when a doctor reveals that his days are numbered. Before his impending death, Jaakko decides to uncover the murderer.

During Jaakko's hunt for the killer people have a habit of dying or vanishing around him yet with the clock ticking he feels gloriously alive for the first time in years, as he faces the ultimate questions of love, life, betrayal, death - and mushrooms.

SEASON 2

We left Jaakko at the end of season one with at least one foot on the Stairway to Heaven. Much to his and our surprise, he lurches back to life several months later in a Tokyo hospital, emerging from a medically induced coma.

It seems Mr. Kakutama has gone to considerable expense to keep Jaakko alive, and now he wants - or needs - a return on his investment in the form of a doubling of mushroom deliveries at rock bottom prices. As Mr Kakutama observes, Jaakko's ongoing survival is now a form of "performancerelated pay". Kakutama also breaks the news to Jaakko that his new shadowy Japanese paymasters controlling his future health are not his only problem.

Jaakko also has a 'mole' in his company at home, feeding information to his enemies. On his return flight to Finland, Jaakko finds that he is not alone. Miss Itoh, an enigmatic nurse and shadowy minder will be with him every step of the way. She is a form of insurance policy for the shadowy powers behind Mr Kakutama, paid to make sure Jaakko keeps ticking while he delivers profits and mushrooms.



ORIGINAL TITLE MIES JOKA KUOLI GENRE BLACK CRIME COMEDY WRITERS BRENDAN FOLEY, ANTTI TUOMAINEN **DIRECTOR SAMULI VALKAMA** PRODUCERS MARKKU FLINK, JOHANNA ENÄSUO CONTACT MARKKU.FLINK@REELMEDIA.COM **PRODUCTION COMPANY REELMEDIA**

SEASON ONE COMPLETED LENGTH 6 X 45' FINNISH PREMIERE Q2/2022 **CO-PRODUCTION COMPANY NDF IP (GER)** WORLD SALES FIFTH SEASON FINNISH BROADCASTER ELISA VIIHDE WITH SUPPORT FROM BUSINESS FINLAND

SEASON TWO IN DEVELOPMENT **LENGTH 6 X 45' ESTIMATED DELIVERY Q3/2024** LOOKING FOR INTERNATIONAL SALES **CO-PRODUCTION COMPANY AX-ON (JPN)** WITH SUPPORT FROM CREATIVE EUROPE MEDIA





PANELIST **Brendan Folev** Writer

Antti Tuomainen Writer







Johanna Enäsuo

66th North Precinct

Detective and ex-boxing champion Maria Pudas navigates the cold, unpredictable police precinct in Lapland. Just when she has resigned herself to a quiet life of fighting minor crimes her life takes an unexpected turn.

 66^{TH} NORTH PRECINCT is an $8 \times 45'$ character led procedural crime drama series set in Lapland, the world's largest police precinct.

The protagonist Detective Inspector Maria Pudas is an ex world champion boxer who with the help of her partner Samu solve crimes all over this unforgiving yet beautiful Nordic landscape. Each week they solve a crime which is based on a true crime story from the region many of which are quite absurd. Think Fargo meets Northern Exposure.

Maria is married to Essi and they have two children. Humour is her way of balancing her

tough, exhausting job. Despite the dark crimes Maria investigates, the series is optimistic and warm. Each episode of the series focuses on one case that will be solved during the episode.

Rovaniemi is the home of Ounasvaara ski center, Santa Land and the Arctic Circle. The attractions bring a lot of tourists from Finland and abroad and make Rovaniemi an international city. Rovaniemi is a mix of tourist centre, lively university town and exotic wild North. A place where different worlds and human stories meet.



ORIGINAL TITLE POHJOISEN TÄHTI GENRE DRAMA **LENGTH 8 X 45'** STATUS OF PRODUCTION COMPLETED LOOKING FOR CO-FINANCING FOR SEASON 2 BUDGET PER EPISODE 600 000€ LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH **FINNISH PREMIERE Q1/2023 SEASON NUMBER 1** WRITER TIMO VARPIO **DIRECTOR TEPPO AIRAKSINEN** PRODUCERS JACKIE LARKIN, OLLI HAIKKA CONTACT JACKIE.LARKIN@YELLOWFILM.FI **PRODUCTION COMPANY YELLOW FILM & TV** WORLD SALES FEDERATION **FINNISH BROADCASTER YLE** INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTERS AMC; NRK; SVT; DR; RUV



PANELIST Jackie Larkin Head of Scripted Yellow Film & TV



The Hired Hand

The Hired Hand is a comedy-drama about a father in his 40s who hires a handyman to help out with his daily chores. Soon, he finds himself in competition for the love of his family.

PETRI IS A FATHER in his 40s whose life is in constant chaos. Daily chores, renovation, children's hobbies, work, and maintaining a loving relationship is just too much for one man.

He hires Jaska as his personal handyman, but soon finds himself competing for the love of his family.

When Petri befriends Jaska, a rugged jack of all trades with a mysterious past, he comes up with an ingenious solution to his problems. Written by Leo Viirret, and directed by Pete Riski, *The Hired Hand* combines comedy, drama and suspense in a compelling exploration of the power dynamics between men and the daily challenges of raising a family.



ORIGINAL TITLE RENKI GENRE COMEDY-DRAMA LENGTH 8 X 22' STATUS OF PRODUCTION COMPLETED LOOKING FOR SALES LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE Q1/2023 SEASON NUMBER 1 WRITER LEO VIIRRET PRODUCERS JOHN LUNDSTEN, MELLI MAIKKULA CONTACT JOHN.LUNDSTEN@TACKFILMS.FI PRODUCTION COMPANY TACK FILMS FINNISH BROADCASTER ELISA VIIHDE



John Lundsten Producer Tack Films



Reindeer Mafia

Not everyone has a warm heart.

BRITA NELIHANKA, the great arctic matriarch, is about to lose her fight against cancer. Her wealth is to be divided evenly between the members of her family, and the ill-gotten

lands are to be returned to their original owners. The family is torn apart when her will is revealed at the funeral, and many past secrets are finally revealed.



ORIGINAL TITLE POROMAFIA GENRE CRIME LENGTH 8 X 41' STATUS OF PRODUCTION COMPLETED LOOKING FOR SALES LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH, NORWEGIAN, ENGLISH **FINNISH PREMIERE Q1/2023 SEASON NUMBER 1** WRITER MIKA KURVINEN **DIRECTOR MIKA KURVINEN PRODUCERS** LIISA PENTTILÄ-ASIKAINEN, PETE EKLUND CONTACT LIISA@KAIHOREPUBLIC.COM PRODUCTION COMPANY KAIHO REPUBLIC **CO-PRODUCTION COMPANY REIN FILM** WORLD SALES DYNAMIC TELEVISION FINNISH BROADCASTER C MORE, MTV3



Liisa Penttilä-

Kaiho Republic

Asikainen

Producer



Pete Eklund Producer Kaiho Republic





Bona Fide

Faith, hope, and fuckloads of flings – Bona Fide is a comedy about modern romance and community. The series centers around a group of five odd friends who work and hang out at a bar in Helsinki's bleakest neighborhood.

KAURI IS AN ETERNAL OPTIMIST and hustler. He's used to running away from everything and everyone: knotty relationships, difficult emotions, bad weather, annoying jobs, and clingy boyfriends. Kauri (27) runs off whenever he feels anxious or bored – which happens often.

It's April, and Kauri is leaving again. This time to surf in Portugal, although he doesn't know how to surf yet. But Kauri doesn't stress about this; he's sure surfing can be learned on the spot or by watching YouTube tutorials on the road.

On the night of Kauri's departure, his truck breaks down. To get money for its repair, Kauri goes to work at his cousin Riku's (30) bar. Around the same time, he falls in love with the mystical Leo (28), who disappears and reappears whenever Kauri least expects it.

Bona Fide follows how an unlikely group of friends in their twenties and thirties try to figure out their feelings while working and hanging out at a local bar in Helsinki's bleakest neighborhood. Are there too many feelings or too few? Would it just be easier to live without them? Why is it always the wrong timing?

Amidst the bar customers and ever-changing dates, the only sure thing is that nothing is certain. *Bona Fide* explores the difficulties of modern romance for young adults in a relatable and highly bingeable format.



ORIGINAL TITLE BONA FIDE GENRE COMEDY LENGTH 16 X 15' STATUS OF PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPMENT LOOKING FOR FINANCING, SALES LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE Q4/2024 SEASON NUMBER 1 WRITER ANNA BROTKIN PRODUCER PIETARI VAPPULA PRODUCER PIETARI VAPPULA PRODUCTION COMPANY YELLOW FILM & TV CONTACT RIKU.RIIHILAHTI@YELLOWFILM.FI FINNISH BROADCASTER YLE



Riku Riihilahti Head of Sales Yellow Film & TV



Mental 3

A black comedy about four asylum seekers trying to escape killers, arranged marriage and war trauma. Based on true stories by asylum seekers, refugees and people working at immigration.

THE THIRD STAND-ALONE SEASON of a multiaward-winning series continues to diminish the social stigma of youth mental health issues by discussing the topic fearlessly. It brings to the limelight the challenges asylum seekers face due to their traumatic experiences and distressing future. The format of Mental has been remade in Italy, Germany, Poland, and France.

A bus full of asylum seekers is driving through a snowstorm in Finland. Three of our main characters are on the bus: Iragi Kurdi OMAR is sleeping. Iraqi Shia HUSSEIN is sitting beside Omar's brother HAIDAR. Afghan child-wife MASSUMAH is traveling with her husband. The fourth main character, Syrian AISHA, sees the bus from the refugee center window.

Suddenly a wooden Christian cross bursts into a fire on the side of the road. Total silence descends over the bus as everyone stares out the window.

The employees of the refugee center witness the same event. RAKE, a Finnish security guard in his 50s, finds it amusing: - Welcome to Finland!

Mental 3 deals with a subject that is far from funny. It is a pitch-black entertaining trip about teenagers escaping killers, forced marriage, and war trauma. But there is always a glimpse of hope.



ORIGINAL TITLE SEKASIN 3 GENRE DRAMA, DARK COMEDY LENGTH 8 X 14-21 **STATUS OF PRODUCTION COMPLETED** LOOKING FOR SALES (READYMADE AND FORMAT) LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH, ARABIC, ENGLISH, FARSI **FINNISH PREMIERE Q3/2021 SEASON NUMBER 3** WRITERS TEEMU NIKKI, JANI PÖSÖ **DIRECTOR TEEMU NIKKI** PRODUCER JANI PÖSÖ **PRODUCTION COMPANY IT'S ALIVE FILMS CONTACT JANI@ITSALIVE.FI** WORLD SALES / READYMADE YLE SALES WORLD SALES / FORMAT MAGNIFY MEDIA FINNISH BROADCASTER YLE



Jani Pösö

Producer



Teemu Nikki Writer, Director It's Alive Films It's Alive Films



Sanna Kultanen Producer It's Alive Films



ILS UTVEI ←FILMS⇒

Mobile 101

Based on true events, this is an astonishing story of close calls and the uncertain first steps of a small Finnish electronics company on becoming a global titan of the mobile phone industry.

BASED ON TRUE EVENTS, *Mobile 101* is a drama series about the close calls and the uncertain first steps of a small Finnish electronics company becoming a global titan of the mobile phone industry. idealistic and ambitious young lawyers, are thrust into the midst of an international court case, when the US giant Motorola sues the Nokia for patent infringements.

In 1988, Nokia is a small electronics company hoping to conquer the world with their new mobile phone technology. Katarina and Aki, At the same time, Nokia engineer Risto, sets out to design a better and smaller mobile phone, the "101", which will change the world forever.



ORIGINAL TITLE MADE IN FINLAND GENRE DRAMA COMEDY LENGTH 6 X 50' STATUS OF PRODUCTION COMPLETED LOOKING FOR SALES LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH, ENGLISH **FINNISH PREMIERE Q2/2021 SEASON NUMBER 1** WRITERS MAARIT LALLI, JYRKI VÄISÄNEN, LASSE VIERIKKO, KAARINA HAZARD, LEO VIIRRET DIRECTOR MAARIT LALLI **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MINNA HAAPKYLÄ, OLLI** SUOMINEN **PRODUCER TIINA PESONEN PRODUCTION COMPANY RABBIT FILMS CONTACT** INFO@RABBITFILMS.COM FINNISH BROADCASTER CMORE / MTV3



Minna HaapkyläTExecutive ProducerPRabbit FilmsR

Tiina Pesonen Producer Rabbit Films

rabbit films

Money Shot

Porn star Sari gets fired; she's become too old and worn. Feisty feminist Linnea is never accepted to study in film school. Together the women start making feminist porn – but can women really come first?

SARI (45) IS A PORN STAR with a heart of gold. Sari gets fired, because she's become too old and worn for the porn industry. Suddenly Sari finds herself unemployed and penniless, and no one wants to hire an ex-porn star. She must come up with a new way of supporting herself and her ten-year-old son.

Linnea's (25) biggest dream is to become a director, but she's never accepted to study in film school. Linnea's father is a famous filmmaker. Out of habit, Linnea stays in a relationship diluted to friendship and is completely lost with her own sexuality. Linnea is terrified that she'll never become a director, or anything else for that matter. With Sari unemployed and Linnea without a place of study, both end up at the local unemployment office where an incident brings the two women together. Sari decides to start her own company that produces feminist porn directed by Linnea.

Money Shot is a current dramatic comedy about making feminist porn. In their quest to find the essence of the female gaze and pleasure, Sari and Linnea happily smash taboos as well as glass ceilings. On their journey, they change from objects of desire to the ones who experience pleasure.



ORIGINAL TITLE MONEY SHOT GENRE COMEDY-DRAMA LENGTH 8 X 25' STATUS OF PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPMENT LOOKING FOR FINANCING, SALES LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE Q3/2024 SEASON NUMBER 1 WRITER JEMINA JOKISALO DIRECTOR TEEMU NIUKKANEN PRODUCERS JOHANNA TARVAINEN, SAMULI NORHOMAA PRODUCTION COMPANY SOLAR REPUBLIC OY CONTACT JOHANNA.TARVAINEN@ SOLARREPUBLIC.FI

FINNISH BROADCASTER ELISA VIIHDE



Johanna Tarvainen Producer Solar Republic **Jemina Jokisalo** Writer Solar Republic



Cremé de la Cremé

Upon discovering the potential goldmine of peer-to-peer sperm donation, a small-town guy pulls together an underground sperm bank empire to save their way of life in the diminishing countryside.

JOONAS IS a young farmer, living in his childhood home at a dairy farm. He loves the rural lifestyle, but the farm struggles financially. Many of Joonas' peers have left for the big city, as sources of livelihood have dwindled away. Even Nuutti, Joonas' best friend, has started to talk about leaving.

Joonas receives a bizarre proposal from a lesbian couple next door; the women ask

him to donate them his sperm. Too kind and discreet to say no, Joonas agrees. Afterward, the grateful couple want to thank Joonas, and they give him an envelope full of cash.

Although the money certainly hits the spot, Joonas doubts his decision and turns to Nuutti for moral support. Nuutti is exhilarated. He figures this could finally be the solution to their problems: to start jerking off for money.



ORIGINAL TITLE YLÄ-SAVON KERMA GENRE DRAMA-COMEDY LENGTH 8 X 42'

STATUS OF PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPMENT LOOKING FOR CO-PRODUCERS, FINANCING, SALES

LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE Q1/2025 SEASON NUMBER 1

WRITERS JUKKA VIDGREN, HENNA RINNEKANGAS, TOPI KOLJONEN, JUUSO LAATIO PRODUCER JUKKA VIDGREN

PRODUCTION COMPANY MUTANT KOALA PICTURES

CONTACT JUKKA@MUTANTKOALA.COM FINNISH BROADCASTER YLE



Jukka Vidgren Producer Mutant Koala Pictures



Teen Camp

A group of teenagers, desperate to develop faster than biology and school system allow, are forced to attend a life skills camp – only to learn that no aspect of adulthood seems worth growing up after all.

TEEN CAMP (8 x 15') is a provoking comedy show based on a life skills camp for teenagers. The camp is being hosted by a dynamic duo KARI (16) and KARIN (16), who – having passed the camp last year – are eager to boss their juniors around. A former failed athlete KIMMO (56) has been assigned as the official supervisor. Kimmo is equipped with a melancholic mind of a soon-to-be-divorcee and is a mockery of an adult by his life skills.

Seven 15-year-olds, just about to finish their final year of secondary school, must pass the camp in order to move onto studies post junior high. The camp aims to teach the kids how to lead the lives of good adult citizens. As the symbiosis of the organizing duo cracks, so does the teens' image of adulthood. Each episode focuses around a theme being taught at the camp on a given day; ranging from birth control to paying taxes.

The focus in *Teen Camp* is the theme of growing up. The show plays with camp tradition in both comedy and visual style. At the very heart of the plot lies the conflict between adults and teenagers – all the effort adults put up to play good citizens and the ruthlessness teenagers see right through that act.

Teen Camp – growing up solves none of your problems.



ORIGINAL TITLE TEEN CAMP GENRE COMEDY LENGTH 8 X 15' STATUS OF PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPMENT LOOKING FOR FINANCING LANGUAGE OF THE DIALOGUE FINNISH ESTIMATED DELIVERY DATE 2024 SEASON NUMBER 1 WRITERS JENNI RIPATTI, EETU HELENIUS PRODUCER JENNI RIPATTI PRODUCTION COMPANY WILDHOG CONTACT JENNI@WILDHOG.FI





Read more about the **Focus on Finland** export venture

www.apfi.fi/en/focus-on-finland