



KATI OUTINEN
FESTIVAL DE CANNES
BEST ACTRESS

COLD WAR, HOT LOVE

AUGUST FOOLS

PRODUCTION KINOSTO OY / MARKKU FLINK

DIRECTOR TARU MÄKELÄ
SCRIPT RAIIJA TALVIO
D.O.P. JOUKO SEPPÄLÄ

KINOSTO OY - FILM SINCE 1920'S

Production Kinosto Oy / Markku Flink

CONTENTS

KINOSTO in Brief	1
AUGUST FOOLS synopsis	2
Actress Kati Outinen	3
<i>Taru Mäkelä</i> the Director and the Producer	4
AUGUST FOOLS Directors Note	5
WRITER Raija Talvio	6
Jouko Seppälä F.S.C, Director of Photography	7
Markku Flink Producer	8



The Mäkelä family started in the film business in 1920. During the decades that followed their company Kinosto grew to one of the major owners of cinema chains in Finland. The company also produced and distributed films. Nowadays Kinosto concentrates on producing. The company is owned by film director Taru Mäkelä and director of photography Jouko Seppälä. Kinosto produces both drama and documentaries for both domestic and international market. The chairman of the board of Kinosto is Taru Mäkelä.

The latest production of the company was a two-hour documentary film *The Unknown Woman* (Tuntematon emäntä) by Elina Kivihalme. It is a story of war effort of rural women. Film was released theatrically february 2011 and it has been a nation-wide succes in Finland. The film has until now been screened in more than hundred cinemas.

FILMS IN PRODUCTION:

The Storage: An (un) romantic comedy about people in a paint store. Director: Taru Mäkelä. Screenwriter: Vepe Hänninen from a novel by Arto Salminen. Leading roles: Kari-Pekka Toivonen, Minttu Mustakallio, Aku Hirviniemi. Theatrical release 30th December 2011.

Viru – An oratorio for a building: Documentary about Hotel Viru, the building that brought Finns to Tallin during the time of Soviet-Estonia. Coproduction with Estonian production company Amrion. Screenwriter: Taru Mäkelä. Directors: Taru Mäkelä and Margit Kilumets.

Clownwise: Oskar, Max and Viktor, once a superstar clown trio, are now paying the price of 40 years of separate grueling lives on and off the stage. A poignant comedy that proves it is literary impossible to be scared if one can laugh. Director: Viktor Taus. Screenwriter: Petr Jarchofsky. Co-production with Fog'n'Desire Films, Czech Republic.

FILMS IN DEVELOPMENT:

New Delhi surfing: A true story feature about three Nordic boys who wanted to finance their surfing trip to California by smuggling drugs from India to Europe –and ended up in a New Delhi prison for three years. Screenwriter: Jani Manninen.

www.tuntematonemanta.fi
www.fogndesirefilms.com



AUGUST FOOLS synopsis

August Fools is a romantic comedy set against the political backdrop of the Cold War. It is the story of ELSA, a middle-aged milliner and part-time clairvoyant in total control of her life-until the man she once loved and lost walks in through the door of her little hat shop, in Helsinki, in 1962. JAN a Czechoslovakian jazz musician, is in town to perform at the "International Festival of Peace and Friendship of the Youth of the World." For more than two decades Elsa has believed the man to be dead.

Initially, Elsa wants to stay away from Jan –and especially from the Festival, which for her is just another attempt by the International Communists to brainwash the good, unsuspecting citizens of Western countries, such as Finland. But Jan is persistent, persuasive, and charming. As Elsa eventually overcomes her fear of love and commitment, she realises there is only one solution if the two of them want to be together for more than seven days of the Festival. Jan has to defect to the West.

However there are few issues to be solved: Elsa's niece and apprentice MINNI has meanwhile fallen in love with ADAM, the young Communist Party watchdog of the Czechoslovakian delegation. And during the hectic Festival days, Elsa has to share her time between Jan and another man- her neighbour. Police chief Ståhl, who is responsible for the policing of the event. Elsa has promised to use her clairvoyant's skills to help him to cope with the task. Furthermore, Ståhl's private life is in a total mess.

The intoxicating blend of hot August nights, music, dance and the ice-cold political paranoia of the Age of the Iron Curtain form the circumstances in which Elsa has to make her final choice. Will she yield to the wishes of the Finnish Police, who, under pressure from the KGB, wants her to track down two Czechoslovakian defectors Jan and Adam, or will she opt for an entirely new life herself ?



Kati Outinen is internationally the most renowned Finnish actor. She was awarded in Cannes 2002 the prize of the best actress for her role in Aki Kaurismäki's Oscar-nominated film *The Man Without a Past*.

Her debut with Kaurismäki was in *The Shadows in Paradise* (1986), after which she has played in dozens of films in Finland, Germany and other countries. Her most recent roles have been the Swedish film *Popular Music from Vittula* by Reza Bagher (2004), the Hungarian film *Guarded Secrets* by Zsuzsa Böszörményi (2004) and the French *Dream, Dream, Dream* by Anne Alix (2002).

Kati Outinen is Professor of Acting in the Theatre Academy of Helsinki. She has also written scripts for radio, TV and theatre. Besides the prize of the best leading actress in Cannes, she has won a number of other awards, both national and international, including the OIRT radioplay prize for the best leading role in the radioplay *Anneli* (1986), the Swedish Gösta Ekman Memorial Fund award for the promising young actress (1990) and the Cultural Prize of the City of Bremen, in Germany, 2004.



Taru Mäkelä the Director and the Producer

Taru Mäkelä began her career by writing and directing the very popular Saturday evening comedy show, Hymyhuulet. Every episode of the series was watched by over a million Finns – one fifth of the entire population. After a successful career with numerous awards for her comedies and light entertainment she moved in to documentary film making. In the 1990's she made a trilogy of documentaries about Finland in Second world war. These films got theatrical release and touched a lot of political and emotional taboos.

Her first feature film Little Sister (written by Raija Talvio) won the Finland Prize in 2000. With only four prints Little Sister sold 40 000 tickets and gained very special audience of people between 11 and 90 years of age. Little Sister was a nominated as the Finnish competitor to the contest of the best Nordic film 2000.

Besides cinema and television Taru Mäkelä has directed theatre and radio plays. She received her M.A. from the Finnish Film School (Uiah) in 1989. She graduated from EAVE, the international training course for producers, in 2004.

Her intention as a director-producer is to increase the amount of strong, funny and touching films for international audiences.

Taru Mäkelä was a member of the Finnish Film Foundation 2005-2010 and the Chairwoman of the Board of the Society of Finnish Film Directors 2006-2008.



AUGUST FOOLS Directors Note

August Fools is a romantic comedy about every one's right to individual happiness. It is a story about three different couples: one young and two middle-aged. The film portrays the Cold-War era of Europe, but it can easily be interpreted as opposing all totalitarian ways of thinking, whatever the political system or era. As a director I am definitely a story-teller. I want to give my audiences entertainment and something to think about also after the film has finished and the curtain closes. The film will sparkle with love and happiness and plenty of good music – both score music and pop classics from the early sixties, such as "The Young Ones" by Cliff Richards.

The role of Elsa will be played by Kati Outinen, The other roles will be determined later.

August Fools is going to be well-planned cocktail of bright colours, and it will be a well-planned cocktail of bright colours. Visually it will be something akin *Les Parapluies du Cherbourg* by Jacques Demy. August Fools will be like a present to the audience, a present containing happy and intense moments for people's eyes, ears and hearts. August Fools will be film that is easy to watch and hard to forget. I have done a lot of comedies for Finnish television. Besides that I have made some art house films. I have the gift of making my audiences either laugh or cry, sometimes both at the same time.

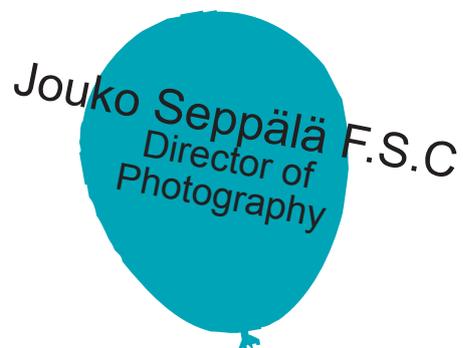
August Fools will definitely be a happy, sometimes even crazy film with a bitter-sweet touch of warm human understanding. Why August Fools? There are certain films I love to see with my teenage-children, films like *Four Weddings and Funeral*, or the comedies by Billy Wilder. There should be a lot more of films like that and August Fools is my contribution to the genre I love.



RAIJA TALVIO earned her Master's degree in film editing at the University of Industrial Arts, Helsinki. Talvio studied also in FAMU film school in Prag in the middle of 80'ies. That experience gave her the first idea for the story of August Fools. After graduation she worked as a film editor for a number of years, editing both documentaries and features, among them several of the early feature films of Aki and Mika Kaurismäki. Early on she started a parallel career as a writer for television and cinema. She won national awards both as an film editor and as a writer. In 1999 she wrote Little Sister, a feature directed by Taru Mäkelä. The writer-director team was awarded the the prestigious Suomi-prize by the Minister of Culture of Finland.

Raija Talvio is the script editor of the Finnish film For The Living And The Dead which was won the Sutherland Prize in London Film Festival 2005. Ms. Talvio now shares her time between tutoring, script editing and writing. She teaches at Lahti Polytechnic and the UIAH Helsinki and works on film and television projects with other writers. Her first play The Last Train to West premiered in the National Theatre of Finland autumn 2006 and stayed succesfully in the programme for four seasons.

The script August Fools was one of the semifinalists in Moondance Film Festival Script Competition.



Master of Arts Jouko Seppälä has photographed several prize-winning films. His first feature film was Little Sister (1999) by Taru Mäkelä. He was a director of photography in Kai Lehtinen's feature Umur (2001). His last film done with Taru Mäkelä is the comedy Storage. (Premiere in Finnish theatres 30th December, 2011) Besides these he has shot many short films, commercials, rock videos.

Seppälä is an artist who has a strong intuition of the use of light and shadows. His approach is technically very inventive and at the same time poetic. He is able to deliver detailed plans for shooting and lighting well in advance. That creates a safe and pleasant atmosphere for the whole crew. For him the actor and the story are always more important than the use of soulless technical gadgets.

Occasionally Seppälä designs lights for theatre. Seppälä is the vice president of Kinosto. He is a deputy member of Finnish Society of Cinematographers and a member of the board of the Central Organisation of Finnish Film Producers.



Producer Markku Flink (born 1964) has produced and directed films in the Nordic countries since the 1990's. Flink graduated as a documentary film director in Norway in 1993 and as a producer from EAVE 2004. In 1999, Markku founded the first regional film fund POEM Foundation in Finland, in city of Oulu. He acted as Executive Director from its founding until 2008. For time being Flink works as a free-lancer producer in Finland. His recent European co-production, Eurimages funded feature film Garbage Prince, directed by awarded Raimo O Niemi, will have its premiere in summer 2011. Markku was a member of the board of the National Cinema Council on periods 2004-2006 and 2007-2009.



COLD WAR, HOT LOVE



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AUGUST FOOLS is a co-production between Finland, Czech Republic and Norway. The Czech co-producers are Michal Kollar & Viktor Taus of Fog'n'Desire Films. www.fogndesirefilms.com.

August Fools is going to be shot 2012. Theatrical release autumn 2013.



Director TARU MÄKELÄ

Script RAIJA TALVIO

D.O.P. JOUKO SEPPÄLÄ

Format 35mm/DCP 1:1,85

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