

15.-25.9.2016

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# LOVE & ANARCHY

29<sup>TH</sup> HELSINKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

PRESS RELEASE August 11th, 2016

Free for publishing

## Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy announces Gala Films

*The 29th Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy takes place in Helsinki from the 15th to 25th of September 2016. The biggest and the most beautiful film festival in Finland screens new quality films from around the globe for ten days. This year has been very good for Finnish cinema and it shows – the festival program is filled with Finnish premieres. After the festival, the Love & Anarchy Tour brings the gems of the programme to film theatres around the country.*

### Gala Films

This year the main venue is the glamorous Savoy Theatre, which has 735 seats and brand new digital film technology. The first screening in Savoy is also the very first screening of the festival. The Opening Gala Film is **Paul Verhoeven's ELLE**. The controversial film got its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, where it was part of the Official Selection. ELLE is an extraordinary thriller about violence, revenge and dangerous games. Michelle (**Isabelle Huppert**) is a tough business woman, leading a big company. Her love is as merciless as is her working methods. Everything changes, as an unknown man attacks her in her own home. A peculiar, dangerous game starts as Michelle won't break, but starts searching for her attacker – and for revenge. ELLE hits Finnish theatres later this year, as Disney brings it to national distribution.

The amazing Isabelle Huppert is also starring at the festival's Closing Gala Film, **Mia Hansen-Løve's** drama THINGS TO COME. Hansen-Løve was awarded the best director at Berlinale this February. Isabelle Huppert plays a philosophy teacher struggling in a life crisis caused by her mother's death, deceitful husband and the loss of her job. Atlantic Film brings the film to theaters October 14th.

The Finnish Film Gala selection is THE FLOWER'S OF EVIL. The film is written and directed by **Antti J. Jokinen**, who was awarded the best director at the Shanghai International Film Festival in July. Flowers Of Evil is an edgy, topical and ragged story of a family trying to survive the pressures of restlessness. The main character Sipe, 14, has a touching relationship with his stepbrother Juno and his family, which is the main focus of the story. The threat is continuously simmering, until the unrest breaks out into a riot – with fatal results. Flowers of Evil is a social commentary on the problems of suburban life in Helsinki. Solar Films has produced the film, which hits theatres September 30th and is distributed by Future Film.

To honor the exceptionally strong year of Finnish films, the opening night gets a brand new screening spot. A new drama by the Oscar nominated director **Selma Vilhunen** will be screened after the opening film. LITTLE WING is a story about 12 year old Varpu (**Linnea Skog**), who is growing up fast, and her mom (**Paula Vesala**), who doesn't want to grow up. B-Plan Distribution brings the film to theaters September 23rd.

The Love & Anarchy Gala Film is Cristian Mungiu's new film GRADUATION (Bacalaureat). Mungiu won the best director award for his film in Cannes this year. The film is an exceptionally sharp psychological diamond. Mungiu shows the uncomfortable and difficult choices in life that we all are forced to make at some point. The film is distributed by Cinema Mondo and hits theaters later this year.

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## Spotlight Selection

The festival programme includes a wide selection of the hottest new films all around the world. Japanese master **Mamoru Hosoda** has his birthday on September 19th and it's celebrated accordingly with the screening of his new, award winning animation **THE BOY AND THE BEAST**. The film was a box office hit in Japan and the Japanese Academy awarded Mamoru Hosoda the best director of an animation film as well as the Annie Award for best independent animation.

**FIRE AT THE SEA** is a Berlin Film Festival winner. The documentary got the first prize, Golden Bear. The film focuses on the ongoing migrant crisis in the Italian island of Lampedusa, which is a gateway to Europe for thousands of people trying to cross the sea. Cinemanse distributes the film to theaters September 23rd.

**CAFÉ SOCIETY** is the latest film by **Woody Allen**. The drama comedy takes place in the 1930s giving new life to old Hollywood glamour. The film stars **Jesse Eisenberg, Kristen Stewart, Steve Carell** and **Blake Lively**. The film, distributed by Finnkino, hits theatres later this year.

## Important dates and the L&A Tour

The Savoy Theatre makes a comeback as it replaces Bio Rex, which is currently being renovated, as the festival's main venue. Savoy Theatre has now been fitted with new digital cinema and sound technology. During the festival, Savoy Theatre will host more than 40 screenings, including the festival's Opening Gala and other gala screenings. The last time Love & Anarchy screened films in Savoy Theatre was from 1995 to 1997.

During the ten festival days, there'll be about 180 feature films and more than 180 short films in a total of 500 screenings, in 16 different venues. After the festival the L&A Tour brings ca 20 films all around the country. The L&A Tour programme is still under process. Further info (in Finnish): [Hiff.fi/kiertue/ohjelmisto](http://Hiff.fi/kiertue/ohjelmisto).

Welcome to the press conference on the 1st of September at 12 o'clock, in Helsinki Kinopalatsi. At the press conference we're introducing the whole programme, the guests and other information. The 2016 festival tabloid will be published on August 19th. The complete festival programme will be published on September 2nd. Pre-sale of festival passes and catalogues begins on the same day. Single tickets will be available from September 8th.

The media accreditation is now open in: [Hiff.fi/en/press/accreditation](http://Hiff.fi/en/press/accreditation)

## Further information, interview requests:

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