

15.-25.9.2016

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LOVE & ANARCHY

29TH HELSINKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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Love & Anarchy celebrates female filmmakers

29th Helsinki International Film Festival – Love & Anarchy film festival lights up the autumn in Helsinki from the 15th to 25th of September 2016. The biggest and the most beautiful film festival in Finland presents new quality films from around the globe for ten days. This year the festival celebrates female filmmakers – but doesn't forget about men.

Female filmmakers are the stars at this year's Love & Anarchy. One of the main guests attending the festival is the highly appreciated French director and script writer **Lucile Hadžihalilović** (b. 1961). Her most famous film INNOCENCE charmed at Love & Anarchy in 2005. This time she attends the festival with her latest film, visually breathtaking EVOLUTION. Drama thriller escapes any explanation and is part of the Twilight Zone section.

The amazing **Isabelle Huppert** stars in both the Opening Gala Film and the Closing Gala Film screenings of the festival. ELLE opens the festival in this year's main venue, the beautiful Savoy theatre which has 735 seats and brand new digital film technology. **Paul Verhoeven's** 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 (Huppert) is a tough business woman whose love is as merciless as are 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.

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 on October 14th.

To honor the exceptionally strong year of Finnish films, the opening night gets a brand new screening slot. 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.

MISS IMPOSSIBLE is refreshingly anarchistic coming-of-age drama. French director **Émilie Deleuze** manages to present teen age angst with warmth and a sense of humour. The film is based on a popular novel trilogy from **Marie Desplechin**. The film is a part of L&A Tour that takes the festival pearls all over the country.

Ninja Thyberg is described as the new hope for Swedish films. Her short films point out sharp facts about womanhood and girlhood. Thyberg's fresh and furious shorts are a part of the cooperation between the festival and the Family Federation of Finland (Väestöliitto). There are film screenings followed by conversations concentrating around the question **Does sex**

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belong to everybody? Ninja Thyberg will be present in Korjaamo Kulmasali on the 19th September at 4PM. After the screening there'll be a discussion about sex and youth. **Does sex belong to youth?** asks if adults or media are afraid of young peoples sexuality. Other screenings concentrate in questions like **Does sex belong to handicaps** and **Does sex belong to all genders?** The events are drawn into a conclusion in Savoy theatre on Friday the 23rd: **Does sex belong to everybody?**

Male filmmakers aren't lacking from the programme either. Three-time Cannes winner, Romanian director **Cristian Mungiu** arrives in Helsinki with his latest film GRADUATION (Bacalaureat). The Love & Anarchy Gala Film won the best director award 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.

Terence Davies arrives in Finland with his two latest films, SUNSET SONG (2015) and A QUIET PASSION (2016). The British veteran director, scriptwriter and novelist is available for media interviews and present at the film screenings of SUNSET SONG and A QUIET PASSION. Also known as an enthusiastic Sibelius fan, Davies will give a Masterclass in Andorra on Wednesday 21st at 2.30PM.

Cooperation with the Finnish Broadcasting company YLE continues with two documentaries about circus and ballet. THE SHOW OF SHOWS: 100 YEARS OF VAUDEVILLE, CIRCUSES AND CARNEVALS is a documentary combining old archive materials to melancholic modern music. Film's Islandic director **Benedikt Erlingsson** visits the festival 19th-22nd September and is present at the screenings of his film. The film will also be presented on YLE Teema tv channel on September the 24th.

BOLSHOI BABYLON is a documentary about the politics, conspiracy, big feelings and the world's best ballet. The film tells about the storms of Moscow's Bolshoi Ballet. It will also be presented on YLE Teema tv channel on September the 17th.

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