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## 41st Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival 12–20 November 2022

### Little big heroes fill the screen

The Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival will take place for the 41st time on 12–20 November 2022.

In addition to grand adventures, the programme includes characters familiar to children from books and particularly impactful and thought-provoking films for young people. Both short and feature films will bring you good cheer and guarantee a memorable experience for the whole family. This year's theme country is Ukraine, and the festival will feature both fiction and non-fiction films connected to the country.

The festival's target audiences are especially children, young people and families – there is something for all ages!

### Children's Film Competition Opens with *Roi*

Completed this autumn, an adventure film for the whole family, *Roi*, will be previewed at the festival. The film, shot mainly in the city of Raahelampi, is directed by **Rane Tiukkanen** and written by **Antti Kairakari** and **Aleksi Puranen**. It is based on the *German shepherd Roi* book series written by **Jorma Kurvinen** from the 1970s onwards. Produced by Lucy Loves Drama and Whatevergroup, the film is the streaming service C More's first domestic original film.

*Roi* is shortlisted for the Oulu ECFA Award for Best European Children's Film. *Roi* will be screened as the opening film of the festival on Monday 14th of November. Members of the cast and crew will be present.

### Resourceful Children Get Things Moving

Children also take reins in other Finnish adventure films. In addition to *Roi*, the films *Detective Agency Henkka & Kivimutka*, *Vinski and the Invisibility Powder* and *The Exploits of Moominpappa - the Adventures of a Young Moomin* are based on books; all of these films show how children's curiosity and courage help them solve problems.

*My Robot Brother* peeks into the future and *Stop my Stepmom!* takes place in a fairytalelike world. Wild adventures beckon in the films *Chickenhare and the Hamster of Darkness* and *The Ghastly Brothers*. *The Path* tells the gripping story of escape during the Second World War.

### Big Choices and the Joy of Youth

In the powerful youth films *The Albanian Virgin* and *Free Skate*, the protagonists face life-changing decisions. The exhilarating joy of youth and the endurance of friendship are experienced in *Girl Picture* and *Adventures Italian Style*. The world of social media influencing is explored in the topical *Parents vs. Influencers*, which makes you feel the generation gap sometimes can't be bridged.

### **Ukraine in Focus**

In this special programme we see the fast-paced animated adventure for the whole family, *Gulliver Returns* (Ukraine 2020), but also the more serious *Olga* (Switzerland, France 2021), about a tenacious Ukrainian gymnast. A real speciality is a short documentary about everyday life in the midst of war, filmed by an 11-year-old Ukrainian girl.

### **Films in Competition**

There are ten films in the Children's Film Competition, six in the Youth Film Competition, thirteen in the Finnish Competition and nine films competing for the ECFA Award given to the Best European Children's Film and six competing for the ECFA Short Film Award given to the Best European Children's Short Film.

In addition to the competitions, the festival will also feature special programmes. The late Finnish actor **Vesa-Matti Loiri**, who passed away in August, will be remembered in three rarely seen short films produced by the Finnish broadcaster Yle in the 1970s. Also featured are the Kaleidoscope programme, a short film compilation curated by the Nordic Junior Sessions project of the Nordic children's film festivals and a comprehensive selection of other short films. Films made by children and young people take part in the Oskari competition. The festival, which attracts around 30 000 visitors a year, has almost a hundred films in its programme.

More information about the awards and the juries: <https://www.oulufilmfestival.fi/en/awards-juries/>

### **Children's Film Competition**

**CHICKENHARE AND THE HAMSTER OF DARKNESS** Belgium, France 2022, directed by Ben Stassen, Benjamin Mousquet

**DETECTIVE AGENCY HENKKA & KIVIMUTKA** Finland 2022, directed by Väinö Weckström, Jarkko Felin

**THE GHASTLY BROTHERS** Belgium, The Netherlands 2021, directed by Michael Van Ostade

**GULLIVER RETURNS** Ukraine 2020, directed by Ilya Maksimov

**HOW TO GET YOUR PARENTS TO DIVORCE** Canada 2022, directed by Sandrine Brodeur-Desrosiers

**KIDS CUP** Norway, Denmark, Finland 2021, directed by Line Hatland

**MY ROBOT BROTHER** Denmark 2022, directed by Frederik Nørgaard

**ROI** Finland 2022, directed by Rane Tiukkanen

**STOP MY STEPMOM!** Hungary 2021, directed by Kata Dobó, Buda Gulyás

**TOO OLD FOR FAIRY TALES** Poland 2022, directed by Kristoffer Rus

### **Youth Film Competition**

**ADVENTURES ITALIAN STYLE** Italy 2020, directed by Antonio Pisu

**THE ALBANIAN VIRGIN** Germany, Belgium, Albania, Kosovo 2021, directed by Bujar Alimani

**FREE SKATE** Finland 2022, directed by Roope Olenius

**GIRL PICTURE** Suomi 2022, directed by Alli Haapasalo

**OLGA** Switzerland, France 2021, directed by Elie Grappe  
**PARENTS VS. INFLUENCERS** Italia, 2021, directed by Michela Andreozzi

### **Finnish Competition**

**ALL MY MOM'S PHONE CALLS** Finland 2021, directed by Iiti Yli-Harja  
**BLACK PEIDER** Finland 2022, directed by Jukka Vidgren  
**BLANKET** Finland 2021, directed by Teppo Airaksinen  
**DETECTIVE AGENCY HENKKA & KIVIMUTKA** Finland 2022, directed by Väinö Weckström, Jarkko Felin  
**THE EXPLOITS OF MOOMINPAPPA – ADVENTURES OF A YOUNG MOOMIN** Finland 2022, directed by Ira Carpelan  
**FREE SKATE** Finland 2022, directed by Roope Olenius  
**GIRL PICTURE** Finland 2022, directed by Alli Haapasalo  
**GROUNDLED** Finland 2022, directed by Samuli Hahl  
**A LETTER TO MY COACH** Finland 2022, directed by Maria Hiekkämäki  
**MAD FROM THE SUN** Finland 2021, directed by Anna Äärelä  
**THE PAPER** Finland 2022, directed by Katariina Haukka  
**ROI** Finland 2022, directed by Rane Tiukkanen  
**VINSKI AND THE INVISIBILITY POWDER** Finland 2021, directed by Juha Wuolijoki

### **ECFA Short Film Award**

**ALL MY MOM'S PHONE CALLS** Finland 2021, directed by Iiti Yli-Harja  
**BLANKET** Finland 2021, directed by Teppo Airaksinen  
**ORCHESTRA FROM THE LAND OF SILENCE** Slovakia, Afganistan 2020, directed by Lucia Kasova  
**[SHORT DOCUMENTARY]** Ukraine 2022  
**SILENT TREATMENT** Czech Republic 2021, directed by Pavol Hirjak  
**SMILE** Sweden 2021, directed by Jonas Forsman

### **Award Ceremony on Saturday 19th of November**

The Award Ceremony, where the juries will award the winners of the competitions, will take place on Saturday 19th of November.

On our website at [www.ouluofilmfestival.fi/en](http://www.ouluofilmfestival.fi/en) you will find more information about the films. Stills from the films will be found at [www.ouluofilmfestival.fi/en/press](http://www.ouluofilmfestival.fi/en/press)

### **Changes in programme are possible.**

You can also follow the festival on social media:  
[www.facebook.com/lastenjanuortenekuvienfestivaali](https://www.facebook.com/lastenjanuortenekuvienfestivaali)  
[www.instagram.com/ouluofilmfestival](https://www.instagram.com/ouluofilmfestival)  
[www.tiktok.com/@ouluofilmfestival](https://www.tiktok.com/@ouluofilmfestival)

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