

Audience Award
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SILVERDOCS

CAN YOU GO ONSTAGE
WITH SHIT IN YOUR PANTS?

THE PUNK SYNDROME

Never Mind the Sex Pistols, Here's Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät

22.10.10 Hafenklang
+ Bad Influence (BEL)
Open: 20:30 | Start: 21:30

22.10.10 Hafenklang
+ Bad Influence (BEL)
Open: 20:30 | Start: 21:30

so 24.10.10
LOBUSCH

so 24.10.10
LOBUSCH

Funny, edgy
and very
human.
- John Anderson, Variety

1977 Pu

MOUKA FILMI PRESENTS "THE PUNK SYNDROME"
PERTTI KURIKKA KARI AALTO SAMI HELLE TONI VÄLITALO
SCRIPT BY & DIRECTED BY JUKKA KÄRKKÄINEN & J-P PASSI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY J-P PASSI EDITOR RIITTA POIKSELKÄ
MUSIC BY PKN SOUND DESIGN BY JØRGEN BERGSUND SOUND MIX TORMOD RINGNES RECORDING ANTTI HAIKONEN
PRODUCED BY SAMI JAHNUKAINEN / MOUKA FILMI & CARSTEN AANONSEN / INDIE FILM & LENNART STRÖM & MAGNUS GERTTEN / AUTO IMAGES & JOAKIM STRAND / FILM I SKÅNE

Mouka filmi

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OUTLOOK

THE PUNK SYNDROME

A film about Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät.

NEVER MIND THE SEX PISTOLS.
HERE'S PERTTI KURIKKA'S NAME DAY.

"The film tells about Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät... so it's about one retard who sings punk and three retards who play punk. You should watch it and think about whether you should hate disabled people or love and respect them."
– Kari Aalto, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät.

Prix spécial du Jury international, Visions du Réel 2012

Synopsis

The Punk Syndrome is a film about Finland's most kick-ass punk rock band, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät. The band members, Pertti, Kari, Toni and Sami, are mentally handicapped and they play their music with a lot of attitude and pride.

We follow these professional musicians on their journey from obscurity to popularity. We watch them fight, fall in love and experience strong emotions. We witness long days in the recording studio and on tour. They laugh, cry, drink and fight over who gets to sit in the front on the tour bus. Then it's time to make up and go talk to people in the audience and tell them how great their band is.

Their songs are about the problems in society as well as about things that they face in their everyday life: how going to the pedicurist sucks and the misery of living in a group home. The guys give piece of their mind to both politicians and people whose attitudes towards people with intellectual disabilities need improvement.

The Punk Syndrome is a film about the essence of punk. It's a story of handicapped people rebelling against the mainstream. This time you're allowed to stare and wonder why they act the way they do. And you'll fall in love with them as you watch how the most kick-ass punk band in Finland conquers the world.

Short synopsis

The Punk Syndrome is a film about Finland's most kick-ass punk rock band, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät. The band's mentally handicapped members, Pertti, Kari, Toni and Sami, play their music with a lot of attitude and pride. We follow these professional musicians on their journey from obscurity to popularity. We watch them fight, fall in love and witness long days in the recording studio and on tour. It's a film about the essence of punk - it's a story of handicapped people rebelling against the mainstream.

Crew

Script	Jukka Kärkkäinen, J-P Passi, Sami Jahnukainen
Directors	Jukka Kärkkäinen, J-P Passi
Cinematography	J-P Passi
Editing	Riitta Poikselkä
Sound Recording	Antti Haikonen, Jukka Kärkkäinen
Dramaturgy	Magnus Gertten
Sound Design	Jørgen Bergsund
Sound Mix	Tormod Rignes
Colour Grading	Roberto Duarte
Graphic Design	Illusia Sarvas
Music	Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät
Assistant Editing	Illusia Sarvas
Editing Consultant	Mika Ronkainen
Producer	Sami Jahnukainen / Mouka Filmi
Co-Producers	Carsten Aanonsen / Indie Film, Magnus Gertten, Lennart Ström / Auto Images, Joakim Strand / Film i Skåne

Production Info

Production Company	Mouka Filmi
Financiers	Finnish Film Foundation, ESEK, LUSES, Norwegian Film Institute Swedish Film Institute, Nordisk Film & TV Fond
Broadcasters	YLE, NRK, SVT
Distribution Switzerland	Cinélibre, Bern
International Sales	AUTLOOK Filmsales
Production Year	2012
Length	85 min
Cinema format	Full HD
Original language	Finnish
Subtitles	German / French



Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät: Kari Aalto, Pertti Kurikka, Sami Helle, Toni Väitalo. Photo: J-P Passi



Verleih / Distribution: Cinélibre, Postfach 534, CH-3000 Bern 14
www.cinelibre.ch | cinelibre@gmx.ch

Directors

Jukka Kärkkäinen has been making documentary films since 2003. Aside from filmmaking Jukka has a background as a construction worker. He is the co-founder of Mouka Filmi production company.

"I had a huge desire, nearly beyond words, to make this positive film.

It all started in the end of 2009 when the television news introduced Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät, a punk band formed by four mentally handicapped people. The joy and the energy they transmitted to me was like tar that wouldn't wash off.

I immediately thought I'd like to make a film about them. In Spring 2010 I sent a message to Kalle, the band's mentor at the Valo workshop where the band rehearses.

Soon I got to meet the band and immediately felt at home with them. I felt welcomed. My general anxiety level, which is typically high in such situations, dropped to zero. It felt good. Like I had come home. Falling in love had begun."

Jukka Kärkkäinen

Selected Filmography

The Punk Syndrome. Documentary, 85', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2012

Do You Still Remember Hilma Limperi. Documentary, 12', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009

The Living Room of the Nation. Documentary, 74', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009

Tomorrow Was Yesterday. Documentary, 58', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009

The Smoking Room. Documentary, 58', Oktober Film, 2006

Zetor – Born Free. Documentary, 58', Videcam Oy, 2005



Pertti Kurikka, Toni Väitalo, Sami Helle. Photo: Marianne Heikkinen

J-P Passi has worked as a cinematographer since 2000. He also directs and works as a scriptwriter every now and then. Passi has worked together with Kärkkäinen and Jahnukainen since the establishment of Mouka Filmi.

"Don't stare!" And don't point your finger at them. I'm sure these instructions are ingrained in many of our minds. Despite that, I hope our film looks closely at the people in it, and even stares and points a finger at *them*. And maybe even finds the human side that we all have inside us. I hope our film provokes new thoughts, questions and moods and not merely tells a story.

I don't know if our film succeeds in doing that, but I do know that the band, Pertti Kurikka's Name Day, will. The film is a weird, comical and disturbing combination of joy, enthusiasm, compassion, pity, envy and a whole lot of other emotions. These musicians are thoroughly honest; they'll say what they think and show how they feel, no matter what. In their world the lowest feeling or act is rather harmless, after all.

I once heard a beautiful thought: *"There are people whose meaning we don't know."* I hope that our film will show people that these people shouldn't be thought of as defective or inadequate, but rather as individual and complete human beings. I'd like the audience to see them as people who lack certain knowledge and skills but also lack the ability to act destructively against other people. I think that this is also their meaning."

J-P Passi

Selected Filmography

The Punk Syndrome. Documentary, 85', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2012 (director)

The Painting Sellers. Feature, 58', Oy Aamu Ab, 2010 (scriptwriter, cinematographer)

The Living Room of the Nation. Documentary, 74', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009 (cinematographer)

Tomorrow Was Yesterday. Documentary, 58', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009 (cinematographer)

The Citizens. Feature, 28', Oy Aamu Ab, 2008 (cinematographer)

The Rescuers. TV-series, 24 x 24', Century Films Oy, 2007-2008 (cinematographer, directing and scriptwriting together with Miska Berg)

Alihankkijat. Feature, 20', Kuvakieli Ky, 2002 (scriptwriting, shooting and directing together with Esa Nissi)

"We are one of the best bands in Finland. And will always be."
–Sami Helle, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät

Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät (Pertti Kurikka's Name Day)

"The members of our band are four middle-aged, mentally handicapped men. The music is, of course, Finnish punk." – Sami Helle, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät

Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät (Pertti Kurikka's Name Day) is a punk band that was formed in 2009 in a culture workshop arranged by Lyhty, a nonprofit organization. Lyhty provides housing and education services as well as workshops for adults with intellectual disabilities. Pertti Kurikka, the band's guitarist and front man, writes the lyrics with vocalist Kari Aalto and composes the music. The other two members of the band are bassist Sami Helle and drummer Toni Väitalo.

"A hardcore punk, Pertti started playing punk music. It was Pertti's name day [the tradition of celebrating the day associated with one's given name] and so he decided the name would be Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät (Pertti Kurikka's Name Day)." – Kari Aalto, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät

Pertti says that the band's biggest influences are Finnish punk bands from the last millennium, such as Karanteeni, Kollaa kestää, Ratsia, Sensuuri, Ypö-Viis and Pelle Miljoona. The subjects of the lyrics range from social problems to unpleasant pedicures.

The band achieved cult status with its first demo *Kallioon*. The band's EP *Ei yhteiskunta yhtä miestä kaipaa* was released in 2010 and immediately sold out. The record was released in Germany as well. The band has also released a maxi single titled *Päättäjä on pettäjä* (2011) and a vinyl EP titled *Osaa eläimetkin pieree* (2011).

Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät is also popular outside Finland; the band has toured Germany, and in fall 2012 the band will start its Norwegian tour.

"Well, for me touring has been terribly lovely, and it's been surprising to see how many people dig us and say 'Hey, that band plays damn well.' We played a gig and they really liked our band." – Pertti Kurikka, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät

The band is the subject of the documentary, *The Punk Syndrome*, by Jukka Kärkkäinen and J-P Passi; the film premiered in spring 2012. The band also performed in *Gimme Some Respect*, a feature film directed by Pekka Karjalainen and released in 2010.



Kari Aalto (singer)

Kari writes lyrics, sings and talks. He loves motorcycles, hates pedicures and lives in a group home in the wealthy neighborhood of Töölö. Kari describes the group home and its depressing surroundings in his lyrics: "I live in a group home in Töölö, but I don't like it because the area is too quiet. People in Kallio are nicer and there are record stores and bars."

"In Kallio I see drunks, drug addicts, rock musicians and police officers every day. The song 'Kallioon' is my view on life in Kallio. It takes a couple of minutes to write lyrics for a song, and I find the subjects in society and the way I look at the world." – Kari Aalto



Pertti Kurikka (guitar)

Pertti writes riffs for the songs but doesn't always know how to play them. Sami teaches Pertti and Pertti gets pissed off. Pertti examines the seams in people's clothes and asks everyone to give him records on his birthday. Pertti is also the official organ grinder at Lyhty, a nonprofit organization that provides housing and education services as well as workshops for adults with intellectual disabilities. He'll crank anything from Abba songs to opera, from Christmas carols to children's songs and Beatles tunes. He's a professional; Pertti won the silver medal in the Nordic countries' street organ championships in 2008.

"Have a fuckin' great evening; I'm sorry I played wrong." – Pertti Kurikka



Sami Helle (bass)

Sami plays the bass, is a politically conservative NGO activist and a member of the Centre Party of Finland. Sami is also a homeboy living in the same group home as Kari. He lived in New York when he was little, speaks English well and is thus an important person when the band tours outside Finland.

"We bring a different kind of perspective into punk music; it's our perspective. We're different; we're four mentally handicapped guys, so our perspective on the world of punk is a little different." – Sami Helle



Toni Väitalo (drums)

Music is everything to Toni. He's always playing, singing or watching his favorite soap opera on TV, but mostly playing. Sometimes when others argue, Toni wants to cry. Most of the time, however, it makes him want to laugh. Toni is 27 and lives in Espoo with his parents. His parents wish he'd become independent and move into a group home. Toni himself isn't moving anywhere; instead, he says his parents should move into an old people's home.

"And we're drunk like monkeys!" – Toni Väitalo

