



VALO is a feature family film for children of 7-12 year-old – duration 84 mins

Script MARKKU FLINK (FIN), based on childhood diaries of artist Aleksanteri Ahola-Valo (1900-1997). Dramaturg DAVID WINGATE (UK/SWE).

Director KAIJA JUURIKKALA (FIN).

Language Finnish. Subtitles English, Swedish, Norwegian.

35 mm cinemascope / re-mastered in 2021 digital 4K

Shooting locations in Oulu and Haukipudas in Northern Finland and Norbotten, Sweden in 2004.

Released 2005-2006 by SF Film (Finland), SONET Film (Sweden), ORO Film (Norway)

Critics 4-5 stars / 5 stars

VALO - WE DON'T GIVE UP !



VALO

STORY FROM CHILDREN TO CHILDREN – based on child's diaries

VALO is an adventurous family film, set in a small village in the early 1900's. The film is about the friendship between brave children who seek justice in a world which does not listen to them.

The main characters, a 9-year-old boy Valo and his friend Ville (9) want to learn. They would gladly go to school if such a thing were allowed in their small village.



VALO

THIS IS OUR OWN SCHOOL !



VALD

A STORY OF THE BRAVE CHILDREN

With full of joy and energy of children, this film tells a story about smart and courageous children who take it upon themselves to get an education. They set up their own school in secret, gathering books, supplies, and whatever they can get their hands on. When their secret school is discovered, the children refuse to give up, vowing to learn at any cost.

Their determinism is outstanding and their cunning and savvy overwhelm the numerous obstacles they face.





VALO

STATEMENT OF THE COLLABORATOR UNICEF

“**VALO** comments on an issue of singular importance: children’s right to attend school.”

*UNICEF, the official collaborator of **VALO***

UNICEF and VALOLA FOUNDATION are the official partners.





VALO

A NORDIC CO-PRODUCTION

Produced by company PYSTYMETSÄ (former PERIFERIA PROD), Finland, in co-production with SPERANZA Film, Norway and GIRAFF Film, FILMPOOL NORD and SONET Film, Sweden

Funded by the national film institutes of Finland, Sweden and Norway, Nordic Film & TV Fund and Filmpool Nord (SWE) in cooperation with broadcasters YLE TV2 (FIN) and NRK (NO).



VALO

STORY OF SONS AND FATHERS



VALO

9-year-old little chimney sweep
(played by school boy Vili
Järvinen, 9 years, from Oulu,
Finland)

PEKKA AHOLA

Valo's father, a chimney sweep
(actor Teijo Eloranta from Helsinki,
Finland)



VILLE

11-year-old child worker, Valo's
best friend (played by school boy
Joni Kehusmaa, 11 years, from
Oulu)

KONSTANTIN

Ville's father, a village police
(actor Hannu Kivioja from Helsinki,
Finland)

VALO

CLEVER GIRLS

The three leading girls, JULIA, VIKTORIA and RAIJA, are the members of the secret school of children and friends of Valo and Ville. These clever girls know how to support Valo and Ville.



JULIA
played by
Sara-Maria Juntunen,
11 years from Oulu



VIKTORIA
played by Alina
Sakko, 12 years
from Oulu



RAIJA
played by Eveliina
Uusitalo, 8 years
from Haukipudas

CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT



VALD

ADULT CHARACTERS



Above from left: KATARINA KUSMINA, a nurse and friend of children (actress Rea Mauranen). MARIA, a young teacher who listens to children (actress Olka Horila). NIKOLAI, a secret police who is after the children (actor Pentti Korhonen). Judge TUURMAN seeks the sense of justice and law (actor Antti Litja)

Right: JURGENSSON is from Norway (actor Morten M. Faldaas from Norway). He runs a village shop with his lovely WIFE (actress Sanna-Maija Karjalainen).



CAST FROM FINLAND, NORWAY, SWEDEN



VALO

CAST FROM FINLAND, NORWAY, SWEDEN



VALO

DIRECTOR & WRITER

DIRECTOR KAIJA JUURIKKALA (b. 1959)

- Kaija specifies in films for children and young people
- She awarded the State Film Prize in 2003 and State Film Quality prize in 2001 & 2002
- A feature film debut 'Taking Moses for a Ride' (2001) was made together with children of 11-14 yrs
- Kaija has directed several drama-series and some documentaries for children since 1994
- Elementary school teacher from 1980 -1989
- Film director from the Film academy in 1997



SCRIPT WRITER MARKKU FLINK (b. 1964)

- Markku has studied scriptwriting and directing in Volda & Bergen in Norway and Finland
- He collaborates closely with his Nordic and European colleagues
- VALO is his first feature film script (2004)



NORDIC PRODUCERS

PRODUCER OUTI ROUSU

Outi has worked within films since 1985. She has produced some 50 films: feature films, shorts, docs, children's films and international co-productions. 8 of her films has been awarded the State Film Quality prize, 11 films got the 'Jussi' nominations (Finnish Oscars) and the 2 films awarded Jussi. Outi graduated film producer at EAVE (1997) and Finnish Film Academy (1996). She is BA Tampere University (1984). A member of the National Cinema Council In 1997-2002.



Outi established production companies PYSTYMETSÄ & PERIFERIA PROD in 2002. Now Periferia has a new owner. PYSTYMETSÄ focuses on films for children and young audiences.

CO-PRODUCERS

The Swedish co-producer is **John O. Olsson**. His GIRAFF FILM is one of the oldest production companies in Sweden. The Norwegian co-producers are talented producer-directors **Thomas Robsahm & Margreth Olin** of SPERANZA.



TECHNICAL CREDITS

- ORIGINAL S 16mm
- MASTER 35mm, cinemascope 1:2.35, Fuji negative
- Re-mastered in 2021 Digital, 4K
- SOUND Dolby Digital 5.1, 24fps / 25fr
- DURATION 84 mins
- ORIGINAL LANGUAGE Finnish
- SUBTITLES English, Swedish, Finnish



VALO

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS & AWARDS (selected)

UNICEF prize 2005 for the film VALO and the director Kaija Juurikkala

- 2nd World Kids Foundation, Intl Film Festival, Mumbai India April 2008
- Women Film Festival in Pamplona, Spain, 31.5.2008
- Syracuse International Film Festival, USA, April – May 2008
- 15th "The Golden Elephant" Intl Children Film Festival, Hyderabad, India, Nov 2007
- Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival, Brazil, Sept - Oct 2007
- 9th Festival Intl de Cine de Cartagena Para Niños y Jovenes, Colombia, Sept 2007
- Little Big Shots film festival, Australia & New Zealand, June-July 2007
- 21st Hamaden International Festival of Films for Children and Young Adults Tehran, Iran, April – May 2007 (former Istfhan festival)
AWARD: the CIFEJ prize, www.cifej.org
- Sarasota Film Festival, FL, USA, April 2007
- BARI, Italy, March 2006
- Ale Kino Children's FF Poland, Dec 2006
- Dubai Intl FF Cinema For Children, Dec 2006
-festival guests, the young actors Vili Järvinen ("Valo") and Joni Kehusmaa ("Ville")
- FICI - Festival Internacional de Cine para la Infancia y la Juvetud, Madrid, Spain, Nov 2006
- festival guest writer Markku Flink
- 12th Kolkata International FF, India, Nov 2006
- festival guest Vili Järvinen "Valo"
- Chicago Intl Children's FF, USA, Oct 2006
- Vilnius international FF for children and youth, Lithauen, Sept - Oct 2006
- Tel Aviv Intl Children's FF, Israel, Sept 2006
-the GRAND PRIX by the children's jury
- Goyang Intl Children's Filma Festival, South Korea, Sept 2006
- Hong Kong Intl Children's Film Carnival (ICFC), July-Aug 2006

continues ---

VALO

continues--INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS & AWARDS (selected)

- 36th GIFFONI International Film Festival for children & youth, Italy, July 2006
-guest the director Kaija Juurikkala
- 8th Showcomotion, Young People's Film Festival, Sheffield, UK, June – July 2006
- REDCAT International Children's Film Festival, Los Angeles, USA, June 2006
curator Elizabeth Shepherd
- 9th Kristiansand International Children's Film Festival, Norway, April 2006
- 24th Annual Minneapolis-St. Paul Intl FF, Minnesota, USA, April 2006
- 19th Singapore Intl FF, April 2006
- 7th Leeds Young People's Film Festival, UK, April 2006
- 17th Stockholm Film Festival, Junior section, Sweden, April 2006 - **guest actor Vili Järvinen**
- Montreal International Children's Film Festival (FIFEM), Canada, March 2006
- Cairo Intl Children's FF Egypt, March 2006
- CinemaK:Children's FF Seattle, USA, Jan 2006
- Moscow International FF for Children and Young people, Russia, Dec 2005 - **guest writer Markku Flink**
- 8th Olympia Intl Film Festival for children & young people, Pyrgos, Greece, Dec 2005
AWARD "Best actor" Joni Kehusmaa (Ville)
- 9th Tallinn BlackNights FF, Children&Youth "Just Film", Estonia, Nov-Dec 2005
- 24th Oulu Intl Childrens' FF, Finland, Nov 2005
- Kinotavrik, International Children's Art Festival, Sochi, Russia, Nov 2005
- 47th Nordische Film Tage Lubeck, Germany, Nov 2005
- Buster International Film Festival for Children & Youth, Denmark, Sept 2005

CONTACT



CONTACT producer Outi Rousu - tel +358 40 5412922 - outi@pystymetsa.fi
PYSTYMETSÄ OY, address HONKATIE 8, FIN 06100, city PORVOO, Finland
www.pystymetsa.fi - www.pystymetsafilms.com

PYSTYMETSÄ OY

VALO

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME



VALO