



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.

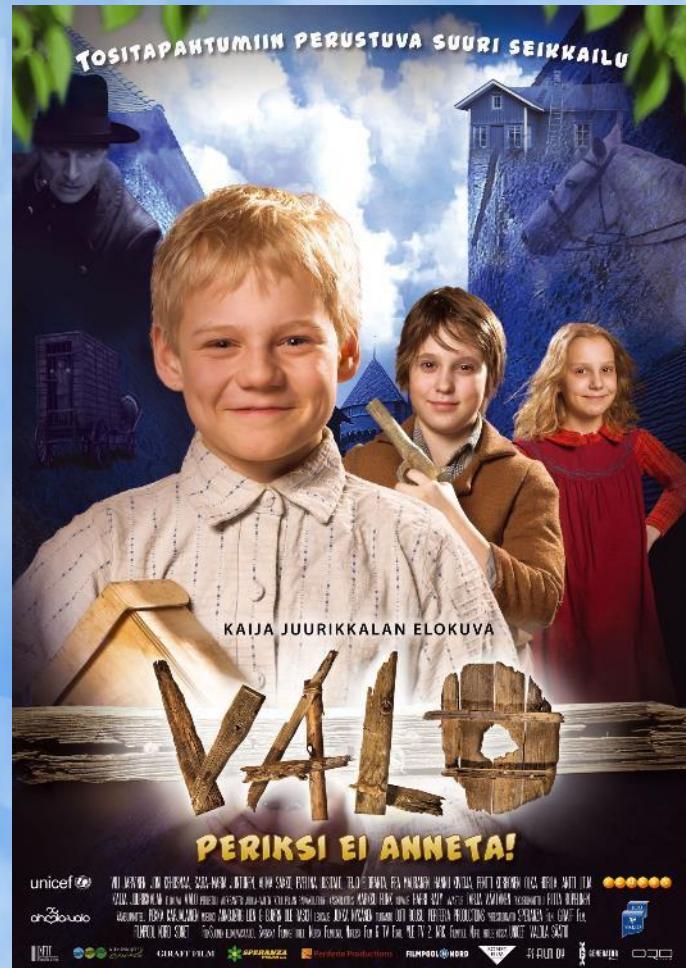
35 mm cinemascope / re-mastered in 2021 digital 4K

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 !



VALO

## 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).



# 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



## ADULT CHARACTERS



Above from left: KATARIINA 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



## CAST FROM FINLAND, NORWAY, SWEDEN



## **DIRECTOR & WRITER**

### **DIRECTOR KAIJA JUURIKKALA (b. 1959)**

- Kaija specializes 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



## INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS & AWARDS (selected)

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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
- 15<sup>th</sup> "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
- 21<sup>st</sup> Hamaden International Festival of Films for Children and Young Adults Tehran, Iran, April – May 2007 (former Istfhan festival)
- 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*
- 12<sup>th</sup> 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, Lithuania, 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

**AWARD: the CIFEJ prize, [www.cifej.org](http://www.cifej.org)**

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VALO

## continues--INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS & AWARDS (selected)

- 36<sup>th</sup> GIFFONI International Film Festival for children & youth, Italy, July 2006  
*-guest the director Kaija Juurikkala*
- 8<sup>th</sup> 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*
- 8<sup>th</sup> 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
- 24<sup>th</sup> Oulu Intl Childrens' FF, Finland, Nov 2005
- Kinotavrik, International Children's Art Festival, Sotchi, Russia, Nov 2005
- 47<sup>th</sup> Nordische Film Tage Lubeck, Germany, Nov 2005
- Buster International Film Festival for Children & Youth, Denmark, Sept 2005

## CONTACT



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**PYSTYMETSÄ OY**

**VALO**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME**



**VALO**