



Still from *The Act of Killing* whose director, Robert Oppenheimer, will be in attendance at HIFF.

Cinematic anarchy in the Capital Region

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HELSINKI TIMES

THE 26TH Helsinki Film Festival will be staged once again in the capital city from 19-29 September. Known more widely under the moniker of "Love and Anarchy", the festival is an eagerly anticipated event each year for local cinephiles, showcasing a wide variety of films.

The films on offer this year once again scale the various heights and diversity of cinema. **Wong Kar-Wai's** hotly anticipated latest *The Grandmaster*, **Tony Leung** and **Zhang Ziyi** star in the biographical drama based on the life of legendary martial artist **Ip Man**, best known as a mentor to **Bruce Lee**.

Noah Baumbach's *Frances Ha* sees **Greta Gerwig's** 20-something Brooklynite

barely making a living as an apprentice with a dance company. Her greatest happiness is the friendship she shares with **Mickey Sumner**. Things gear up shaped with haste when they are separated, however.

Documentary **Harry Dean Stanton: Partly Fiction**, offers a superb look at the astonishing career of the 86-year-old actor, whose face has appeared in countless films over the years. With the film's focus cagey and not prone to stream of consciousness ranting at the best of times, **Sophie Huber's** winning portrait will stay with you long after the lights go up.

Meanwhile, **Alexander Payne** returns to his home state of Nebraska for his sixth directorial feature, *Nebraska*, following the Hawaii-set wistful antics of 2011's *The Descendants*. With the leading role filled by **Bruce Dern**,

after original choice **Jack Nicholson** passed, bagging him Best Actor at this year's Cannes, the film is Payne's first to be based on another writer's original screenplay.

Continuing **Matthew McConaughey's** somewhat astonishing about face from rom-com purgatory in recent times, director **Jeff Nichols** follows up his impressive *Taking Shelter* (2011) with *Mud*. Here two 14-year-old boys growing up in a small town beside the Mississippi come across McConaughey, who claims to be on the run from brutal bounty hunters after killing a man in Texas.

Gus Van Sant's latest in a chequered career, *Promised Land*, offers the tale of **Hal Holbrook's** small-town teacher who stands up to a pair of drilling representatives (**Matt Damon** and **Frances McDormand**) determined to exploit the local resources.

Joshua Oppenheimer and **Christine Cynn's** documentary *The Act of Killing* explores the rationale behind the mass killings of Communists in Indonesia during the 1960s. Here, former death squad leader **Anwar Congo** is presented with the unique opportunity to reenact his crimes in the style of his favorite Hollywood films for the camera. He is also given the opportunity to speak candidly about his memories and motivations for committing mass murder. Oppenheimer is also a guest of the festival this year.

Guests to impress

The list of guests of the festival over the years is long and impressive, with numerous important filmmakers being guests of HIFF, discussing their work and meeting both audiences and industry professionals. Previously, the festival has hosted the likes of **Danny Boyle, John Woo, Gas-**

par Noé, Tilda Swinton, Jan Kounen, Aleksandr Sokurov, Baz Luhrmann, Philip Ridley, Nicolas Winding Refn and Jacques Audiard.

This year, director **Tom Berninger** will be present at *Love and Anarchy* to present his documentary *Mistaken for Strangers*. Following his older brother's band The National on tour, the film depicts Berninger's efforts to make a documentary about them, in the shadow of his older sibling's success. Other confirmed guests of the festival include director **Srdan Golubovic** and screenwriter **Srdjan Koljevic** (*Circles*) Norwegian director **Dag Johan Haugerud** (*Som du ser meg*) and director **Erik Skjoldbjærg** and producer **Christian Fredrik Martin**, whose oil-drilling thriller *PIONEER* premiered at Toronto International Film Festival.

Furthermore, if you fancy some culinary goodness with your cinema, **Warwick Ross** will be on hand to share his wine documentary *Red Obsession* as a part of a film dinner with a wine theme at Restaurant Sunn.

In a packed bill, other films of note this year at HIFF include French director **Claire Denis' Bastards** and local filmmaker **Dome Karukoski's** latest, *Heart of a Lion*. See what you can find.

More info and full programme can be found from the HIFF website.

**Love & Anarchy
Film Festival**
19-29 September
www.hiff.fi

Anarchy in short

Founded in 1988, the Helsinki International Film Festival gradually expanded from two theatres to 12 screens and established itself as an 11-day homage to cinema. During its first year the festival screened 26 films. Nowadays the programme consists of somewhere in the vicinity of 180 feature films and 80 short films. Last year's festival had over 57,000 visitors.

Time to go WILD

Marita Huurinainen presents her new eco-friendly fur fashion collection.

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HELSINKI TIMES

WHAT if you could be 100 per cent sure about a fur garment being manufactured according to ethical principles? Would that influence your perception of this soft, warm and, when used in the right dose, elegant material? Finnish designer **Marita Huurinainen**, well-known in the country for her coiled-wooden soil shoe creations, believes so. Together with her right-hand man **Andreas Jank**, she has recently put all efforts on developing the so-called 'WILD concept'. This new fashion proposal is based on the production of an entire fur collection by obtaining the prime material from animals that have been hunted due to ecological reasons.

Right now you are probably thinking: 'Is that possible at all?' Well, it turns out it is. Every year many thousands of animals need to be eliminated from the Finnish wilderness to preserve a balanced ecosystem and protect other populations. Species such as martens, racoons, minks and foxes can represent a threat for the environmental *status quo* when freely spread across the country, thus authorities have to establish a list of quotas within which registered Finnish hunters are allowed to work.

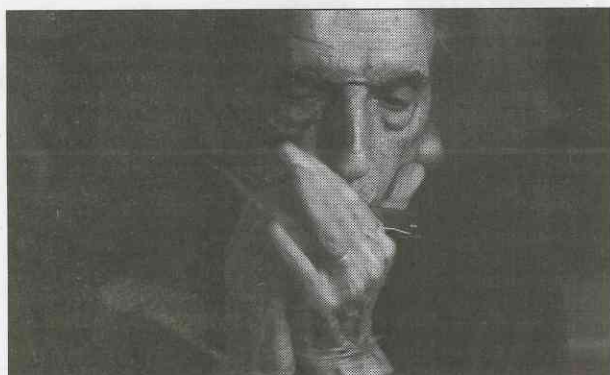
"I enjoy working with different kinds of natural materials," Huurinainen states. "In that sense fur is a very special one because of its softness and warmth. However, I would never choose to work with farmed animals. The first idea for this concept

came originally from my father, long ago he showed me there was a logo that guaranteed the origin of the item was set on natural wild life. Then, about two years ago, it started to take shape in my mind; the timing was actually very convenient because there had been a lot of discussion with regard to farmed animals. So, it's a good moment to introduce this concept and try to push it a bit in the industry."

Furry by association

To get the ball rolling, Huurinainen helped develop the "Wild Finnish Fur Association," an independent entity whose aim is to ensure that the skin of the animals is collected according to a sustainable approach. Furthermore, if not used for this project, these materials would have gone almost entirely wasted. After achieving this first step of securing her providers, the next thing to do was to start sketching. The collection eventually resulted in a succession of hats, globes, scarves, jackets and capes, available in a wide variety of natural colours – from white and black to a different range of beige tones. Since fur is the *leitmotiv* of the designs, each item has been conceived, either to be entirely covered by it, as the most part of the accessories, or to present more subtle details (such as collars or straps in the case of the exterior layers).

"Though there are some more festival items, most of them are thought to be worn on daily basis", Huurinainen explains when asked how to make the most of her creations. Then, returning to the different angle she has taken in the context of the local fashion industry, she says "As designers, we have a huge responsibility when it comes to making choices about the materials and the production, because, in the end, those are the options the customer has to choose from."



Harry Dean Stanton: *Partly Fiction* plays the tune of life.



Matthew McConaughey leads from the front in *Mud*.



Finnish designer Marita Huurinainen wearing an eco-friendly fur hat, one of the items of her new WILD collection.