



In the Crosswind

a film by Martti Helde

Estonia 2014

87 min, b/w

produced by Allfilm

with the support of the Estonian Film Institute, Estonian Cultural Endowment,
Estonian Ministry of Defence, Estonian Ministry of Culture,
Estonian World Council, Estonian American Council

World Sales:

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Original title: Risttuules
Country of production: Estonia
Year of production: 2014
Length: 87 min
Shooting format: HD
Screening format: DCP CRU (1:2.39, Dolby 5.1, 2K, 2048x858, 25fps, not encrypted)
Language(s): Estonian
Subtitles: English
Color or b/w: b/w

Production: Allfilm

Synopsis: *14 June 1941. Without warning tens of thousands of people in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were removed from their homes. Without any sort of trial men faced being sent to prison camps and women and children were deported to Siberia.*
The aim of this extraordinary operation – carried out on the orders of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin – was to purge the Baltic countries of their native inhabitants.

Erna, happily married and the mother of a young daughter, is sent to Siberia. For her, time takes on another dimension. Fighting starvation and humiliation in inhuman conditions, her soul seeks and finds freedom in the letters she sends to her husband who has been sentenced to prison camp.

Even so, the years in Siberia rob Erna of something much more precious than just her youth.

This film is based on a true story and uses extraordinary visual techniques and language to tell the heart-wrenching tale of the fate of thousands of Estonians.

Festivals: Toronto IFF 2014, Canada
Warsaw IFF 2014, Poland (**Ecumenical Jury Award**)
Thessaloniki IFF 2014, Greece (**Artistic Achievement Award**)
Mannheim Heidelberg IFF 2014, Germany (**Auszeichnungen der Empfehlungsjury der Kinobetreiber**)

Black Nights FF Tallinn 2014, Estonia (**Prize for the Best Cinematographer, the Estonian Film Award, the FICC [International Film Clubs] Don Quixote Award for Best Film**)

Camerimage IFF 2014, Poland

Palm Springs IFF 2015, USA

Alpe Adria Cinema Trieste 2015, Italy

Göteborg IFF 2015, Sweden

Director's statement:

Few years ago now I was doing a photo research in the archive. An archive ladie handed me an old notebook saying: „*You should read, young man! Don't just stare at the pictures*“. This thin notebook was a Siberian-diary of a young Estonian woman Erna Nagel.

The content of this remarkable diary became groundwork of my film. And the author of it, an incredibly sharp observer, became my main character.

It is a Soviet holocaust story, but the most important issue for me is a theme of freedom and first of all, freedom of the human mind.

Cast and Credits

Erna Laura Peterson

Heldur Tarmo Song

Eliide Mirt Preegel

Hermiine Ingrid Isotamm

Head of Kolkhoze Einar Hillep

Author and director: Martti Helde

DoP: Erik Põllumaa

Sound: Janne Laine

Editor: Liis Nimik

Production Designer: Reet Brandt

Costume Designer: Anna-Liisa Liiver

Music: Pärt Uusberg

Producers: Pille Rünk & Piret Tibbo-Hudgins

World Sales: Deckert Distribution

Biography Martti Helde

Martti Helde was born in Estonia in 1987. He had his first try at filmmaking when he was 16 and the result caused plenty of uproar both in local media and politics. He attended the Baltic Film and Media

school, graduating as a film director and he has completed directing courses both in Europe and USA (Judith Weston, Robert McKee, Jean-Louis Rodrique, LungA). He is currently attending an MA course in stage directing in the Higher Drama School. Martti has won several competitions and scholarships with his projects. He has also directed dozens of TV-commercials.

IN THE CROSSWIND is Martti's feature debut.

Filmography Martti Helde

- 2013 SUPERBIA; short film, 16 min
- 2010 BURNT MISTAKES; short film, 26 min
- 2009 EAT ME!; short film, 3 min
- 2009 THIBAUT; short film, 18 min
- 2008 DAY WHEN I GREW UP; short film, 23 min
- 2007 TA HAMMUSTAB SIND!; short film, 5 min