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The Liar

Kaurismäki Shorts Program

The Liar, Mika Kaurismäki, Finland, 1980, 53 minutes

Jackpot 2, Mika Kaurismäki, Finland, 1981, 23 minutes

Rocky VI, Aki Kaurismäki, Finland, 1986, 8 minutes

In addition to their feature film work, the Kaurismäki brothers have produced a number of equally entertaining short films and this program is a selection of just a few of them. *The Liar* is the story of a young man named Ville Alla, who has decided to forego any sense of social usefulness in his life. His burning ambition is to become Finland's greatest working class writer, but he has already determined that he will never publish any of the books he has yet to write. *The Liar* is a sad and simple comedy about growing up, dreaming, daydreaming and kissing. *Jackpot 2* is set in a bleak urban future, that bears an eerie resemblance to the present. Three young people, two men and one woman, roam a Helsinki of empty streets, burning cars, and a complete absence of human life. Only shadows speak in this absurd comedy. *Rocky VI* is an iconoclastic reworking of a rock video and stars the Leningrad Cowboys. Igor and Rocky VI have just arrived from Siberia to attend a European Security Conference in Helsinki, and Igor is determined to destroy the musclebound hero of the eighties. But what chance does a man who was born in a corner of a MacDonald's ladies room have against thousands of years of heroic history? — *Piers Handling*