

Document Citation

Title	Drifting clouds
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Finnish Film Foundation</i>
Date	
Type	program
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	2
Subjects	Kaurismäki, Aki (1957), Orimattila, Finland
Film Subjects	Kauas pilvet karkaavat (Drifting clouds), Kaurismäki, Aki, 1996



FILMS from FINLAND



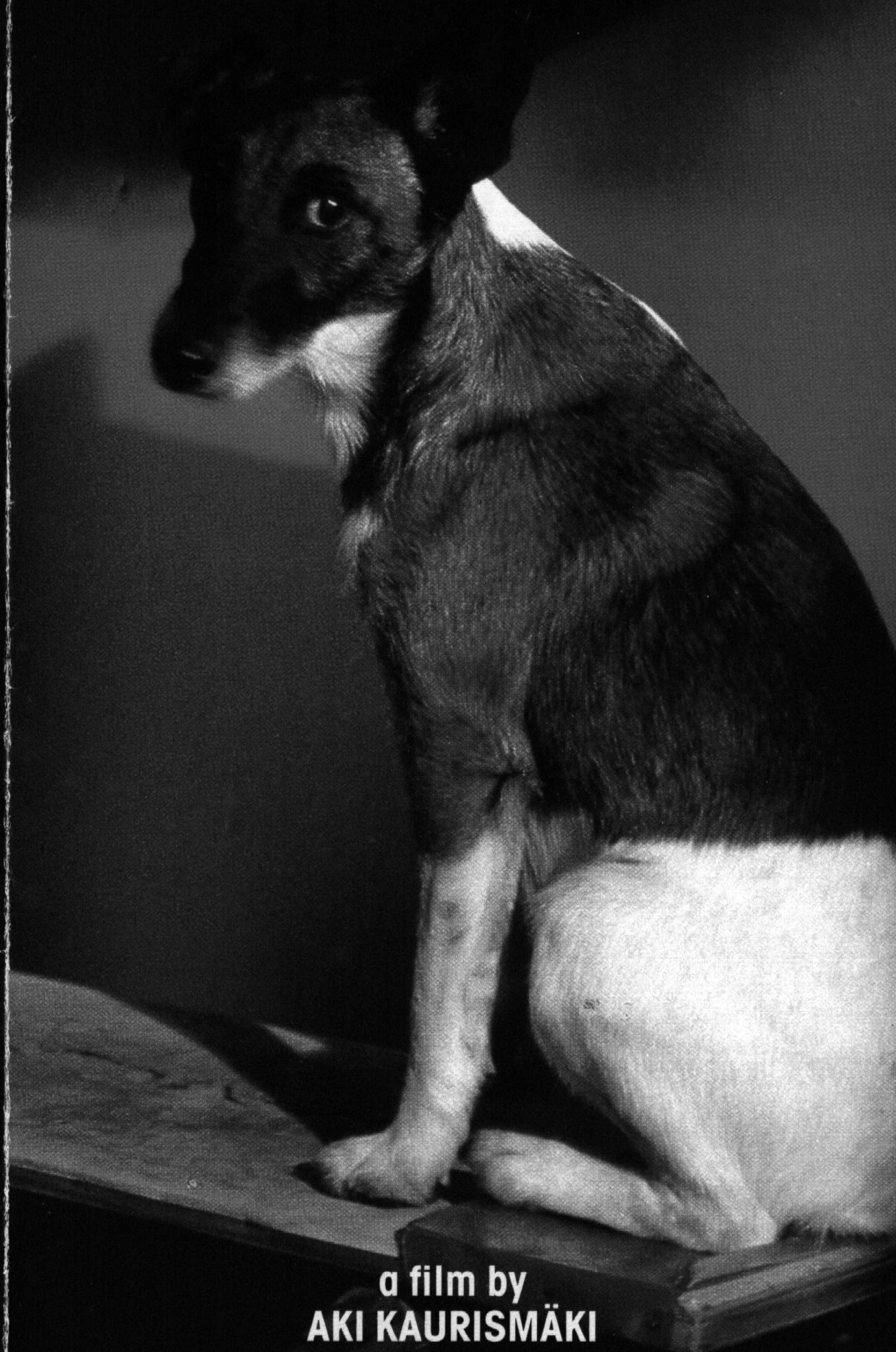
Production
SPUTNIK OY
PURSIMIEHENKATU 25, FIN-00150 HELSINKI, FINLAND
TEL. (+358 0) 622 1811, FAX (+358 0) 622 3855

Sales
WORLD SALES CHRISTA SAREDI
STAFFELSTRASSE 8, CH-8045 ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND
TEL. (+41 1) 201 1151, FAX (+41 1) 201 1152

Festivals
THE FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION
K 13, KANAVAKATU 12, FIN-00160 HELSINKI, FINLAND
TEL. (+358 0) 6220 300, FAX (+358 0) 6220 3060
e-MAIL: ses@ses.fi
Internet: Lumo@kaapeli.fi.http://www.kaapeli.fi/~lumo/

SPUTNIK PRESENTS

DRIFTING CLOUDS



a film by
AKI KAURISMÄKI

SYNOPSIS

This film has a story, which is not very hard to understand, especially if you have seen the film. The main characters (altogether two) form a family. In the beginning they are happy. Then the trouble comes. In the end they are happy again. Almost the same can be said about the supporting characters, although they are never – in the Cinema – as important as the main characters. Except Wolter Brennan.

A.K.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

(Written in a snowstorm seven months before the shooting)

You can get full clarity of your artistic and other goals only on your deathbed, if even then, but here are some observations concerning the project in question.

ON THE SUBJECT:

The actual subject of the film is unemployment, outlined more on the mental and less on the economic side of it. The main character - Nikander - is a head waiter, i.e. a worker in the restaurant trade (which is a mobile profession and therefore, hopefully, quite generally applicable). In this case, the author has arrived at a happy ending (however that is interpreted, since we have no knowledge of events after death, or if such exist). The unemployment situation in Finland, but also almost everywhere in the world, and most of all its mental effects, are so desperate that I believe a film can at the moment have no other purpose than to give hope, on one hand, and to document, on the other.

ON THE CINEMATIC STYLE:

The style is stylized realism complemented with Frank Capra-like hyperoptimism in the final stages (cf. "It's a Wonderful Life"). This means realism in relation to the contents and stylization in relation to the scenery and sets (still giving priority to external realism). Since the great romantic realists of the cinema are dead, I see it as my duty to sacrifice come cinematic possibilities to the altar of credibility, which, in this case, means that what is lost in speed is gained in truthfulness. In other words, I am aiming at some kind of a Neo-realism mixed with lots of comical elements. I hope the eventual viewer, whoever he or she is, will come out of this film happier than he or she was when coming in.

The external style of the film comes close to three earlier films by the same author: "Shadows in Paradise", "The Match Factory Girl" and "I Hired a Contract Killer".

Otherwise the author agrees to obey the laws of both reality and the cinema, insofar as they are in harmony with the author's morality, and, as occasion offers, to do his best.

DRIFTING CLOUDS

35 mm / colour / 1:1,85 / DOLBY STEREO / 96 mins
original title: KAUIAS PILVET KARKAAVAT

Ilona
Lauri
Mrs. Sjöholm
Melartin
Lajunen
Forsström
Child in the photo
Pietari

KATI OUTINEN
KARI VÄÄNÄNEN
ELINA SALO
SAKARI KUOSMANEN
MARKKU PELTOLA
MATTI ONNISMAA
MATTI PELLONPÄÄ
PIETARI

Pianist

SHELLEY FISHER

Orchestra

MARKUS ALLAN
PAULI GRANFELT
KARI LINDQVIST
PENTTI MUTIKAINEN
TOMMI PARKKONEN
TAISTO WESSLIN

Waitresses

TUIRE LIITI
KAARINA VÄYRYNEN
ELLI LINDSTEDT
VILHELM LINDSTEDT
TUIRE TUOMISTO
MUSTAFA ALTIN
PENTTI AUER
IISAK LUSUA
SIMO SANTALAHTI

Foreman
Lauri's sister
Restaurant manager
Labour official

SOLMU MÄKELÄ
OUTI MÄENPÄÄ
ESKO NIKKARI
TARJA LAIHO

Man at Nelia
Tax officials

SULEVI PELTOLA
VESA MÄKELÄ
TERO JARTTI
KAIIA PAKARINEN
VESA HÄKLI
ANTTI REINI

Man at Olympia
Cleaning woman
Repossession men

YRJÖ JÄRVINEN
ONA KAMU
EERO FÖRSTI
KARI NENONEN
KLAUS HEYDEMANN
MATO VALTONEN
AARRE KÄREN
ROSE-MARIE PRECHT
CLAS-OVE BRUUN
SILU SEPPÄLÄ
JORMA PULLA
ATTE BLOM
PETER VON BAGH
JUHO GRÖNQVIST
KARI JÄRVINEN

Gilder
First customers

Garbage men

Dedicated to the memory of
MATTI PELLONPÄÄ

Written, directed and
edited by
Assistant director

AKI KAURISMÄKI
ERJA DAMMERT

Cinematography
Assistant cameraman
Lighting

TIMO SALMINEN
HEIKKI FÄRM
OLLI VARJA
RISTO LAASONEN
OLAVI TUOMI
LAURI TOMMILA

Script supervisor, stills
Sound
Boom operator
Sound editing

MARJA-LEENA HELIN
JOUKO LUMME
JUUSO HIRVIKANGAS
JOUKO LUMME
TIMO LINNASALO

Set design

MARKKU PÄTILÄ
JUKKA SALMI

Wardrobe
Dresser

TUULA HILKAMO
MINNA HÄRKÖNEN

Unit location managers

HEIKKI UKKONEN
JUKKA JALKANEN

Sound synchronization

KIMMO TAAVILA

Mixing

TOM FORSSTRÖM
SES-SOUND

Laboratory
Grading
Negative cutting
Titles

FINNLAB
TIMO NOUSIAINEN
TUIJA KOTAMÄKI
JAN-ERIC NYSTRÖM

Production manager
Location manager
Assistant producer
Production assistant

ERKKI ASTALA
JAAKKO TALASKIVI
KLAUS HEYDEMANN
PAULA OINONEN

Postproduction supervisor
Production secretary
Accountant

RAILI SALMI
HAJE ALANOJA
SINIKKA

Sales
Insurance

WORLD SALES CHRISTA SAREDI
SAMPSON & ALLEN
YRITTÄJÄIN FENNIA
CAPITAL CATERING
ARRIFLEX BL II
KODAK EASTMANCOLOR

Catering
Camera
Stock

Production

SPUTNIK OY / AKI KAURISMÄKI

In association with

YLE TV-1 / EILA WERNING
PANDORA FILM / REINHARD BRUNDIG
PYRAMIDE PRODUCTIONS
S.A. / FABIENNE VONIER

Production supported by

THE FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION
THE NORDIC FILM AND TELEVISION FUND
ARTE



AKI KAURISMÄKI

WRITER, EDITOR, PRODUCER, DIRECTOR

Born in 1957
Films as director:
The Saimaa Gesture
(Saimaa-ilmiö. co-directed with Mika Kaurismäki, 1981)
Crime and Punishment (Rikos ja rangaistus, 1983)
Calamari Union (1985)
Shadows in Paradise (Varjoja paratiisissa, 1986)
Rocky VI (short, 1986)
Hamlet Goes Business (Hamlet liikemaailmassa, 1987)
Thru The Wire (short, 1987)
Ariel (1988)
Leningrad Cowboys Go America (1989)
Dirty Hands (Likaiset kädet, TV film, 1989)
The Match Factory Girl (Tulitikkutehtaan tyttö, 1990)
I Hired a Contract Killer (1990)
Those Were The Days (short, 1991)
La vie de bohème (1992)
These Boots (short, 1992)
Total Balalaika Show (documentary, 1993)
Take Care of Your Scarf, Tatjana (Pidä huivista kiinni, Tatjana, 1994)
Leningrad Cowboys Meet Moses (1994)
Drifting Clouds (Kauas pilvet karkaavat, 1996)