

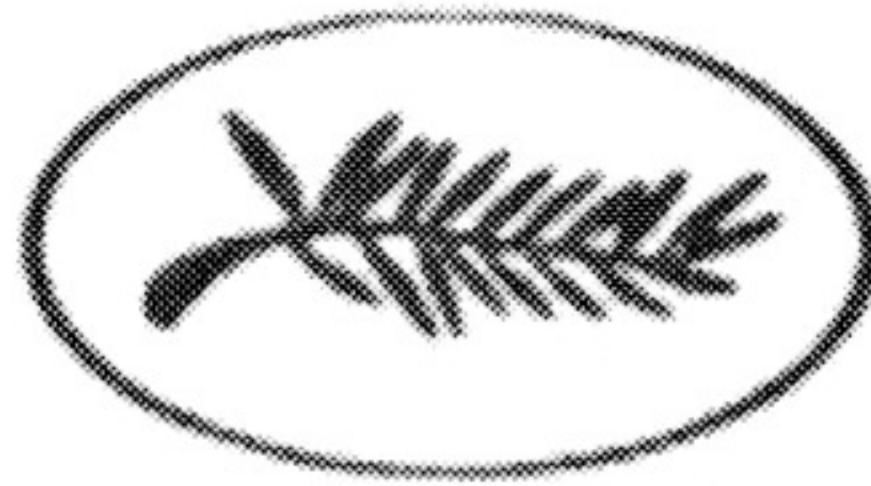
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Strand Releasing presents

a film by **Aki Kaurismäki**

Lights in the Dusk



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

OFFICIAL SELECTION

COMPETITION

35 mm / Color / 1:1.85 / Dolby Digital / 80 min / In Finnish with English subtitles

NY/National Press Contact:

Harris Dew

Director of Programs and Promotions

323 Avenue of the Americas

New York, NY 10014

Tel (212) 924-6789

hdew@ifccenter.com

Los Angeles/National Contact:

Strand Releasing

Michael Berlin/Marcus Hu

6140 W. Washington Bl.

Culver City, CA 90232

Tel (310) 836-7500

michael@strandreleasing.com

marcus@strandreleasing.com

Downloadable photos available from www.strandreleasing.com, enter our pressroom.

Director's Words

LIGHTS IN THE DUSK concludes the trilogy began by DRIFTING CLOUDS and THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST. Where the trilogy's first film was about unemployment and the second about homelessness, the theme of LIGHTS IN THE DUSK is loneliness.

Like Chaplin's little tramp the protagonist, a man named Koistinen, searches the hard world for a small crack to crawl in through, but both his fellow beings and the faceless apparatus of the society see it their business to crush his modest hopes, one after another.

Criminal elements exploit his longing for love and his position as a night watchman in a robbery they pull off, leaving Koistinen to face the consequences. This is done with the help of the most callous woman in the history of cinema since Joseph L. Mankiewicz's ALL ABOUT EVE (1950). Thus Koistinen is deprived of his job, his freedom, and his dreams.

Luckily for our protagonist, the author of the film has a reputation of being a soft-hearted old man, so we can assume there is a spark of hope illuminating the final scene.

Aki Kaurismäki

AKI KAURISMÄKI

Writer, director, editor and producer

Born in Finland 4.4.1957, but...

Films as director:

1981 THE SAIMAA GESTURE (co-dir. with Mika Kaurismäki)

1983 CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

1985 CALAMARI UNION

1986 SHADOWS IN PARADISE
ROCKY VI (short)

1987 HAMLET GOES BUSINESS
THRU THE WIRE (short)

1988 ARIEL

1989 LENINGRAD COWBOYS GO AMERICA
DIRTY HANDS (TV film)

1990 THE MATCH FACTORY GIRL
I HIRED A CONTRACT KILLER

1991 THOSE WERE THE DAYS (short)

1992 LA VIE DE BOHEME
THESE BOOTS (short)

1993 TOTAL BALALAIKA SHOW - HELSINKI CONCERT (documentary)

1994 TAKE CARE OF YOUR SCARF, TATJANA
LENINGRAD COWBOYS MEET MOSES

1996 DRIFTING CLOUDS

1998 JUHA

2002 THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST
DOGS HAVE NO HELL (short) 2004 BICO (short)

2006 LIGHTS IN THE DUSK

The Four Seasons Of Loneliness

LIGHTS IN THE DUSK addresses loneliness, a theme often discussed. The viewer has, however, perhaps in almost every instance been spared the main issue itself. This image of loneliness has no back doors, sentimentality or small idealizing touches with which one loses – perhaps everything. The romantic lighting and fairytale quality Kaurismäki often uses in a magical fashion are missing from LIGHTS IN THE DUSK. The opening city scene is the finest and most complex sketch by the great depicter of cities, presenting inside each other the celebrated glossy image of the official Fin-land, and the merciless street level – the Ruoholahti area in Helsinki as a labyrinth of consciousnesses and architecture.

Finland, too, prospers, better than ever. Koistinen, the security guard (Janne Koistinen), is also in direct touch with success. He guards large fortunes. The place where he works and the place where his humble home is are both within an area that is a metaphor of success. From the shadows, however, tormented citizens emerge. An everyday sadism oozes out everywhere, as if a willingness transmuted into the being of its practitioners. The violence reflects the psychological malaise – of everyone. Koistinen, too, gets beaten up several times, the beatings occurring like the lunar cycles.

LIGHTS IN THE DUSK concludes a series of three films described as "The Loser Trilogy". The two pre-ceding films DRIFTING CLOUDS and THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST were also screened in the Cannes Film Festival Competition Series. THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST was a story about life that had to be rebuilt. LIGHTS IN THE DUSK is also a tale of a shadowy man, or perhaps rather a story where the world has turned shadowy for a man upholding old-fashioned virtues and humanity. In their place stand betrayal and deceit, together with the absurd state of insolent division of income, sharp as a theorem: property is, concealed or openly, theft.

There is no single image that some other director might put his signature on, nor any stretch of dialogue someone else could have written. The sound track, too, is exceptional, containing in one magnificent touch the voices of the two true tango kings: the Argentinian Carlos Gardel, whom everyone knows, and the Finnish Olavi Virta, known only to a few foreigners but who should be known by everyone. And in the midst of this, a strange man – a new and dreamy apparition in Kaurismäki's world. As those who commit great crimes want to act unobstructed, they find Koistinen a magnificent surrogate victim, in the words of a crime boss, "faithful as a dog, a romantic fool". Koistinen's professional image demands that he will not tell tales. Thus he will not even talk about the girl who betrayed him. He is a moral agent in a way that is incompatible with the state of the society. The society apparently does not have any chance to understand, let alone to protect people like him.

The whole cruel equation is etched on the character of Koistinen: through an extremely closed state of mind opens a wide social cross-section. This is the paradox of the work, and its especial beauty. The main character is literally alone up to the final frames of the film. There everything changes, from the change springs the incredible power of the images. One of cinema's most unconditional descriptions of loneliness concludes with the observation that man is not alone after all. Two is the smallest unit, perhaps the only unit, as in the endings of the films of Nicholas Ray. Aki Kaurismäki has realized his most incorruptible, confident work.

Peter von Bagh

CAST

Koistinen **Janne Hyytiäinen**

Mirja **Maria Järvenhelmi**

Aila **Maria Heiskanen**

Lindholm **Ilkka Koivula**

Russians

Sergei Doudko

Andrei Gennadiev

Arturas Pozdniakovas

Shift boss **Matti Onnismaa**

Supervisor **Sulevi Peltola**

Security guards

Antti Reini

Neka Haapanen

Santtu Karvonen

Sesa Lehto

Jukka Rautiainen

Jukka Salmi

Bartender **Heikki Heimo**

Man by the bar **Erkki Lahti**

Girl by the bar **Pihla Penttinen**

Girl at the table **Helena Vierikko**

Gorillas

Jari Elsilä

Vesa Häkli

Jouni Kosenius

Doorman **Marko Helmi**

Waiter **Janne Ajanti**

Lecturer **Tommi Korpela**

Cafe waiter **Clas-Ove Bruun**

Boy **Joonas Tapola**

Dog **Paju**

Bartender **Nauri Nykänen**

Dog owner **Panu Vauhkonen**

Toughies

Jukka Ropponen

Jukka Uhlgr'en

Waitress **Katri Korander**

Band MELROSE

Tokela

Jarmo Haapanen

Bobby Nieminen

Roger Nieminen

Mitja Tuurala

Disco swinger **Teemu Väisänen**

Bank manager **Svante Korkiakoski**

Porter **Roy Rosenblad**

Vandal **Silu Seppälä**

Detectives

Pertti Sveholm

Juhani Niemelä

Police officers

Juha Springare

Tommi Hytti

Pasi Kokkonieni

Mika Roiha

Supermarket cashier **Kati Outinen**

Judge **Anna-Maria Klintrup**

Jury members

Jarmo Hemilä

Matti Oinonen

Arto Reinikainen

Prosecutor **Pertti Wilska**

Defence lawyer **Kari Lehto**

Prison guards

Lassi Halme

Risto Jeronen

Esa Nenonen

Prisoners

Ismo Ahola

Arto Korkeakoski

Jarkko Käpynen

Ari Levomäki

Kari-Pekka Lindström

Mika Lindström

Heikki Metsämäki

Tapio von Müller

Sami Ruuskanen

Markku Tirronen

Barman **Pertti Lahtinen**

Night shelter manager **Aarre Karén**

Night shelter men

Ari Härkönen

Juri Inno

Alpo Seppälä

Marco Taskinen

Mika Tuuhea

Sous chef **Marja Packalén**

Chef **Kari Pulkkinen**

Cold-kitchen chef **Maj-Lis Doktor**

Waitresses **Outi Mäkelä, Päivi Paldan**

Doorman **Risto Haimelin**

CREW

Written, directed and produced by **Aki Kaurismäki**

Cinematography Timo Salminen

Sound Jouko Lumme
Tero Malmberg

Sound assistant Pietu Korhonen

Editing Aki Kaurismäki

Set design Markku Pätilä

Set design assistant Anna Niskanen

Wardrobe Outi Harjupatana

Make-up Nadja Delcos

Gaffer Olli Varja

Electricians Jari Lehtiniemi
Ville Väänänen
Henri Heino
Elsa Varja

Location manager Olavi Tuomi

Grip Kalle Penttilä

Assistant cameraman Mika Ailasmäki

2nd assistant cameraman Nea Salminen

Still photographer continuity Marja-Leena Hukkanen

Script supervisor Haije Tulokas

Carpenters Sami Silvennoinen
Robert Lindqvist
Jonathan Kyöttinen
Jani Sinisalo
Hannu Sundelin

Sound synchronization Outi Kaasinen

Production manager Ilkka Mertsola
Assistant director Nadja Delcos

Transportation Jouni Korteso

Production secretary Haije Tulokas

Production assistant Eevi Kareinen

Catering Paula Tommila
Capital Catering

Accountant Sinikka/Stebeocat Oy

Mixing MEGURU Film Sound / Olli Pärnänen

Laboratory Finnlab Oy

Color grading Kari Manns

Negative editor Tuija Kotamäki

Translations Mikko Lyytikäinen

Titles Jan-Eric Nyström

Insurance Sampson & Allen
Yrittäjän Fennia

Camera ARRI 35 BL EVOLUTION

Stock Eastman Kodak Vision 2

Janne Hyytiäinen – Koistinen

Since his graduation from The Theatre Academy of Finland in 2001, Janne Hyytiäinen has worked in several theatres in Helsinki and in several supporting roles in television and cinema. He appeared for the first time in Aki Kaurismäki's films in a short film DOGS HAVE NO HELL as a bartender. He had a supporting role in Kaurismäki's film THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST as well. Koistinen's role in the film LIGHTS IN THE DUSK is his first leading role in cinema.

Maria Järvenhelmi - Mirja

Maria Järvenhelmi made her first appearance in film already in 1986. She graduated from The Theatre Academy of Finland in 2000 and she has already done a remarkable career in Finnish cinema. LIGHTS IN THE DUSK is her first project with Aki Kaurismäki. Maria has also been performing as a vocalist of a band called Cudos since 1997.

Ilkka Koivula – Lindström

Ilkka Koivula performed his first leading role in Finnish cinema in 1989. He graduated from The Theatre Academy of Finland in 1990 and has been working in Finnish cinema and theatres in various Finnish cities. LIGHTS IN THE DUSK is his first project with Aki Kaurismäki.

Maria Heiskanen – Aila

Maria Heiskanen's cinema debut took place in the Swedish film IL CAPITANO by Jan Troell in 1991. She has worked in several theatres and television projects in Sweden and in Finland. LIGHTS IN THE DUSK is her first project with Aki Kaurismäki.

Paju

Paju is a daughter of a famous dog-actress family; her grandmother Laika did the unforgettable role of Baudelaire in the film LA VIE DE BOHÉME by Aki Kaurismäki and her grandmother, Piitu, performed one of the principle roles in Kaurismäki's JUHA. Her mother, Tähti, won the Palm D'og prize in Cannes in 2002 with the film THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST.

Timo Salminen - Cinematographer

Timo Salminen began his collaboration with director Aki Kaurismäki in 1981 and has since been the director of photography in all of Aki Kaurismäki's films (except the TV production *Dirty Hands*) and most of the other films produced by Sputnik Oy and Villealfa Film-productions Oy.