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the

CRIME

TALE  
of the  
FROGS

LEEVI SAMMAKKO. 3 VUOTTA KURIA JA PYTTY  
KAKOLASTA TULOSSA JA KAKOLAAN MENOSSA.

a MIKA KAURISMÄKI film

Freedom was their dream, Dignity their right and Crime their destiny.



The Frogs are a family cursed with an inherent inclination to deceit and petty theft. Not that they are more evil than any of us but, like everyone else, they want to be free, to live their own lives and to make their own decisions. Crime has become their road to independence. The Frogs are proud and harsh people who know what they are doing. They don't care what others may think of them and they are ready to take the consequences for their actions.



"Society is a merciless machine"  
– Bristlehead, the cop

"The world vanishes, but not the prison."  
– Levi Frog

THE CLAN – TALE OF THE FROGS tells the story of this curious family. The events take place during a short period of freedom in their lives – a few warm days and bright nights of the Finnish summer. It's a story seen through the eyes of young Alexander the Great Frog, who has learned the views and ways of life of his family. But he can also see where their way is leading, and wants to free himself of the family curse.





"Mika Kaurismäki's professionalism comes across so clearly that it needs no elaboration. The rage, the passion and the sensitivity of the people of THE CLAN pass directly via the camera to the viewer. The quays, the outskirts of the town, the islands, the fog, the marshlands and the dark railway yards form a pulsating background to the action, full of expression. The intense tempo, in places a crude rhythm, finds occasional relief in touches of intimacy and tenderness. The love between Alexander and Miriam cannot be destroyed by the ugliness of the world around them."

— Erkkä Lehtola, Aamulehti



THE CLAN – TALE OF THE FROGS is the second feature film by Mika Kaurismäki, 29, a leading figure among the new generation of Finnish film-makers. He studied cinematography in Munich and won acclaim both in Finland and abroad with his short films The Liar (1980) and Jackpot 2 (1981). The Saimaa Gesture, a feature-length rock documentary co-directed with brother Aki Kaurismäki, was released in 1981. The Worthless, the first full-length fiction film by Mika Kaurismäki, was praised the best Finnish film of 1982.

"THE CLAN has many qualities. It is unlike any other film. From it flows a strange feeling of maturity. Light and dark materials combine to form a solid texture of clarity and gloom, defiance and joy. The Frogs are foolish, yet magnificent. They are not pitears, they are heroes. Stone drunk and on their knees, stealing and getting caught, they are proud wanderers... Kaurismäki has succeeded in creating a consistent world. The scenes and the sets, the dresses, the make-up, the people and their stories form a unity, a world that did not exist before he filmed it."

— Helena Ylänen, Helsingin Sanomat





# the CLAN

## TALE of the FROGS

directed  
and edited by  
production

MIKA KAURISMÄKI  
JAAKKO TALASKIVI & ANSSI MÄNTTÄRI  
VILLEALFA FILMPRODUCTIONS  
MIKA KAURISMÄKI & AKI KAURISMÄKI  
based on the novel by Tauno Kaukonen

screenplay

cinematography

sound

music

set designer

costumes

make-up

cast

TIMO SALMINEN  
MIKAEL SIEVES  
ANSSI TIKANMÄKI  
MATTI JAARANEN  
IRMA SARJANEN  
KRASSU VALKEASUO  
MARKKU HALME (Alexander the Great Frog)  
MINNA SOISALO (Miriam Andersson)  
JUHANI NIEMELÄ (Samuel Frog)  
KARI VÄÄNÄNEN (Levi Frog)  
ANTTI LITJA (Benjamin Frog)  
MIKKO MAJANLAHTI (Birger Andersson)  
SAKARI ROUVINEN (Robert Andersson)  
LASSE PÖYSTI (Bristlehead)

color wide screen 1:1,85 Dolby Stereo 1 h 35 mins.



sales

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VILLEALFA FILMPRODUCTIONS releases:

THE LIAR (Mika Kaurismäki, 1980)

THE SAIMAA GESTURE (Mika Kaurismäki & Aki Kaurismäki, 1981)

JACKPOT 2 (Mika Kaurismäki, 1981)

THE WORTHLESS (Mika Kaurismäki, 1982)

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (Aki Kaurismäki, 1983)

THE CLAN – TALE OF THE FROGS (Mika Kaurismäki, 1984)

CALAMARI UNION (Aki Kaurismäki, 1985)

WAITING FOR DARKNESS (Pau Pentti, 1985)

ROSSO (Mika Kaurismäki, in production)

SCÈNES DE LA VIE BOHÈME (Aki Kaurismäki, in production)

6916  
4 pp.