

Virke Lehtinen

Film maker, Director, Producer, Writer; CV/CA
Born in Tampere, Finland 1940

I am interested in the cycle of the seasons, cycling, maths, history, Latin and other things

I started to take photos at the age of around 10. I took then a camera out of the hands of my younger brother who was smashing it with a hammer. As a son of chemist I prepared my own film developers by using just two chemicals. On the plates I saw how the pictures were born. Naturally I became a photographer, and at the age of 21 I filmed my first short 'Market Place', which won the Silver Bear in Berlin in 1963. The same year I shot my first feature 'At summer at five o'clock', and got The Finnish award for the cinematography. It was a film of a new era in Finland, a big success too. Of course I had seen *Lola* many times - now I could observe Raoul Coutard working. Especially I am always grateful to director Jean-Paul Le Chanois for his humanism and wisdom. He was kind to the young apprentice. As from that time I admire the French art of film-making.

My company 'Filmiryhma', established in 1964, has produced a few features and totally 125 different films, of them I have directed many myself. Filmiryhmä has won some 30 different film awards. We also owned the Art House Cinemas Diana. To be able to keep their programming interesting I made several tens of sponsored films; thus we could distribute some 200 foreign films, of them some 70 were French, some 30 Japanese.

My first own feature, based on my script, was 'Summer trail' in 1969, a road movie which was a big success. The second one, 'Three men' in 1984, was shot in Lapland and sold widely to tv stations. I am working in Lapland for long periods.

I am now developing 'The French Surveyor' a documentary style fiction. I have written and developed the script through Sources 2. For the development of the project we have got support by MEDIA, the Nordic Film & TV Fond and the Finnish Film Foundation.

The chemical developers may not help any more in the film process - so, we must use different kind of methods. Now we develop the projet with people, then we'll make a good film.

A small selection of my films:

Market Place, short, photo Silver Bear in Berlin, 1962

At Summer five o'clock, feature/photo, the Finnish Award for Photo, 1964

Marimekko, co-dir, photo. 1967

Summer Trail, first own feature, based on own script, Dir. 1969

Reindeer, short, co-dir, photo, short film award Venice, 1970

Bridge, social doc. co-Dir. and Photo Best European industrial film 1974

Work, social short, Dir and Photo. Chicago FF Grand Prix, 1978

Three men, feature, feature, Dir, co-script, co-photo 1984

Police hunt for a murderer, doc, Dir. and photo, 1998

Hazards, one hour doc, script, Dir, 2013

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