

SPUTNIK OY



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION

Lights in the Dusk

A film by
Aki Kaurismäki

Janne Hyytiäinen • Maria Järvenhelmi •
Maria Heiskanen • Ilkka Koivula

Cinematography **Timo Salminen** Sound **Jouko Lumme Taro Malmberg**

Editing **Aki Kaurismäki** Set design **Markku Pöytä**

Wardrobe **Sari Harjupatana** Assistant director **Nadja Delcos**

Production manager **Ilkka Mertsola** Written, directed and produced by **Aki Kaurismäki**

Production SPUTNIK OY in association with YLE/TV1, PANDORA FILM (in co-production with ZDF/Arte), PYRAMIDE PRODUCTIONS (in co-production with Arte France Cinema and with the participation of Canal+), BIM DISTRIBUZIONE and C MORE ENTERTAINMENT. Production supported by The Finnish Film Foundation.

THE MATCH FACTORY

Lights in the Dusk



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION

Written, directed and produced by
AKI KAURISMÄKI

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In association with
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PANDORA FILM
In co-production with ZDF/ARTE

PYRAMIDE PRODUCTIONS
In co-production with Arte France Cinéma
With the participation of Canal+

BIM DISTRIBUZIONE

C MORE ENTERTAINMENT

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35 mm / Colour / 1:1.85 / Dolby Digital / 80 min / O.V. Finnish
Original title: Laitakaupungin valot



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 SCARE, 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

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 Finland, 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 preceding 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 is there no 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 he 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



Maria Järvenhelmi
MIRJA

Janne Hyytiäinen
KOISTINEN



Maria Järvenhelmi
MIRJA

Janne Hyytiäinen
KOISTINEN

Ilkka Koivula
LINDSTRÖM

“VOLVER”

(Gardel / LaPera)

CARLOS GARDEL

“VIA VITAE”

(T. Wesslin)

JOUSIKVARTETTI SPUTNIK

Wesslin Music Ltd

Sputnik Oy 1997

“JÄÄTYNYT SADE”

(com. M. Haavisto & J. Telilä,

lyr. M. Haavisto, arr. Geronimo)

MARKO HAAVISTO & GERONIMO

& Johanna Kustannus 2003

“SENTIMENTAL MOVIE TRASH”

(Anssi Tikanmäki)

ANSSI & EEMIL TIKANMÄKI

& Bardi 2005

“IN THE MEANWHILE”

(com. & lyr. Tokela, arr. Melrose,

T. Viksten & M. Tuurala)

MELROSE

Johanna Kustannus

Sputnik Oy 2005

“TOSCA”

(G. Puccini)

JUSSI BJÖRLING

“SÄ ET KYYNELTÄ NÄÄ”

(com. & lyr. Olavi Virta, arr. Jaakko Sato)

OLAVI VIRTÄ

Warner / Chappell Music Finland Oy

Warner Music Finland Oy



"LA FANCIULLA DEL WEST"

(G. Puccini)

JUSSI BJÖRLING

"RICH LITTLE BITCH"

(Tokela)

MELROSE

& Johanna Kustannus Oy 2004

"PIENI TULITIKKUTYTTÖ"

(A. Jakoila)

ANTERO JAKOILA

& Love Kustannus 1997

"OGONEK"

(M. Isakovski, arr. Heikki Valpola)

TOSHITAKE SHINOHARA

Sputnik Oy 1996

"SYYSPIHLAJAN ALLA"

(com. Arvo Koskimaa,

lyr. V. Virmajoki, arr. P. Vesa)

HENRY THEEL

Warner/ Chappell Music Finland Oy

Levytukku 1942

LE TEMPS DES CERISES

(com. A. Renard, lyr. J.B. Clement)

FRED GOUIN

"MANON LESCAUT"

(G. Puccini)

JUSSI BJÖRLING

"EL DIA QUE ME QUIERAS"

(Gardel / LaPera)

CARLOS GARDEL





Maria Järvenhelmi
MIRJA



Janne Hyytiäinen
KOISTINEN

Written, directed and produced by **AKI KAURISMÄKI**

Cinematography
Timo Salminen

Assistant cameraman
Mika Ailasmäki

Accountant
Sinikka/Stebecat Oy

Sound
Jouko Lumme
Tero Malmberg

2nd assistant cameraman
Nea Salminen

Mixing
MEGURU Film Sound /
Olli Pärnänen

Sound assistant
Pietu Korhonen

Still photographer
continuity
Marja-Leena Hukkanen

Laboratory
Finnlab Oy

Editing
Aki Kaurismäki

Script supervisor
Haije Tulokas

Colour grading
Kari Manns

Set design
Markku Pätilä

Carpenters
Sami Silvennoinen
Robert Lindqvist

Negative editor
Tuija Kotamäki

Set design assistant
Anna Niskanen

Jonathan Kyöttinen
Jani Sinisalo
Hannu Sundelin

Translations
Mikko Lyytikäinen

Wardrobe
Outi Harjupatana

Sound synchronization
Outi Kaasinen

Titles
Jan-Eric Nyström

Make-up
Nadja Delcos

Production manager
Ilkka Mertsola

Insurance
Sampson & Allen
Yrittäjän Fennia

Gaffer
Olli Varja

Assistant director
Nadja Delcos

Camera
ARRI 35 BL EVOLUTION

Electricians
Jari Lehtiniemi
Ville Väänänen
Henri Heino
Elsa Varja

Transportation
Jouni Kortesoja

Stock
Eastman Kodak Vision 2

Location manager
Olavi Tuomi

Production secretary
Haije Tulokas

Production assistant
Eevi Kareinen

Grip
Kalle Penttilä

Catering
Paula Tommila
Capital Catering

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 Uhlgrén

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

SPUTNIK presents in Cannes 2006

MELROSE

Tokela – *Vocals and guitar*

Jami – *Drums*

Roger – *Bass*

Formed in 1981. High energy Rock'n' Roll. Has played gigs all over Europe and U.S. Their first performance in an Aki Kaurismäki film was a stunning version of the song "Rich Little Bitch" in the film *Hamlet Goes Business*. Since then their music has been used in Kaurismäki's films *Ariel*, *The Match Factory Girl* and *Drifting Clouds*.

Discography

- Melrose (1986)
- Another Piece Of Cake (1987)
- Full Music (1990)
- Rock My World (1993)
- Trio (1996)
- It's In The Bag (2002)
- 8604 - Best of Melrose (2004)

For more information: www.melrose.fi

ANTERO JAKOILA

has been one of the leading guitarists in Finland for more than thirty years. Both as a performer and a studio musician, he has been making the history of Finnish popular music together with its most important artists.

For a long time now, he has honed his skills in the realm of acoustic music as a producer, a songwriter, and a performer. As a songwriter, Antero has discovered a refined personal style that has been much in demand e.g. in the Aki Kaurismäki films *Drifting Clouds*, *The Man Without a Past*, and *Lights in the Dusk*. He has familiarized himself with the tango while working with Argentine masters; Antero has made records in Finland and in France with the bandeonists Cesar Strocio and José Libertella, and the pianist Gustavo Beytelman.

ENSEMBLE MASTANGO

Ensemble Mastango focuses on the musical traditions of our time. With Troilo, Pugliese and Piazzolla, the tango has developed into concert music, presenting genuine challenges to the performers. The Mastango repertoire includes both classic tangos (Troilo, Gardel) and compositions of the band members. The works of Antero Jakoila echo the influences of the tango and the Finnish folk music.

Antero Jakoila (b. 1945) (*Guitar*)

Mikko Helenius (b. 1977) (*Bandoneon, piano, vocals*)

Mauri Saarikoski (b. 1961) (*Violin*)



MELROSE
Tokela



Janne Hyytiäinen
KOISTINEN



Maria Heiskanen
AILA

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.



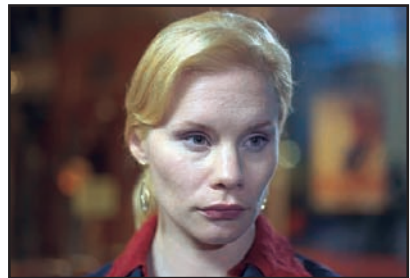
TIMO SALMINEN
Cinematographer

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 the Past* as well. Koistinen's role in the film *Lights in the Dusk* is his first leading role in cinema.



JANNE HYYTIÄINEN
Koistinen

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.



MARIA JÄRVENHELM
Mirja

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.



ILKKA KOIVULA
Lindström

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 his first project with Aki Kaurismäki.



MARIA HEISKANEN
Aila

Paju is a daughter of a famous dog-actress family; her grandgrandmother Laika did the unforgettable role of Baudelaire in the film *La vie de Bohème* 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*.



PAJU

Production contacts

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