

# WALKS WITH ME

a short film / dance film by


KATI KALLIO

10 mins 7sec - no dialogue

Premiere 9.2021 - Finland

PRESS MATERIAL





*When life is long,  
when friends don't walk here anymore,  
when memories cannot be shared,  
Then I am lonely.*

## SYNOPSIS

80-year-old Sanna lives alone with her memories and houseplants. One day Sanna sees an event from her window that makes her reminisce about her friends and notice her own loneliness.



The story comes first.

The film is a story of life itself.

Short scenes catches the most important moments of life - a playful childhood, first romance, finding your love, marriage and all different demands of busy years - work, home, family, relationship, friend, old parents.

And finally, the old age when you are loosing your love ones, one by one.

And loneliness.

The story is built up by carefully choreographed moves, supported by ambient sound and music.



a film by KATI KALLIO



original idea by ELLI ISOKOSKI



# BACKGROUND

The original idea for *Walks With Me* came from the Finnish dance artist **Elli Isokoski**. The film was inspired by the conversations Isokoski and the 94-year-old lady *Kyllikki Piira* had as part of an art project called "Creating, Experiencing and Watching Contemporary Dance and Dance Films for Senior Citizens Living at Home". **Kati Kallio** crafted a script for the film based on these conversations and Isokoski's ideas.

During the writing process, the trio talked a lot about death and letting go as natural and inevitable parts of life. The passing of friends and loved-ones has to be accepted over the years, though it brings along a special kind of loneliness, almost a feeling of not belonging, as your fellows leave you behind.

Loneliness of the elderly and acceptance of death became important subjects of discussion, and these are the themes the films wants to bring to the audience's attention.





# Kati Kallio: DIRECTOR'S WORDS

With the film *Walks With Me*, I aspire to highlight the experiences of loneliness expressed by the 94-year-old lady *Kyllikki Piira*. The film emphasises its central themes of letting go and loneliness by telling a story of prolonged friendship and companionship.

The film is structured around a playground game called "Statues" which leads us on a journey from childhood to old age.

Choreographies for the various stages of life have been weaved into a performance symbolising external responsibilities and authorities one must face throughout life. The characters shift their focus between social relationships and obligations.

The choreography and the rhythm of the dance reflect the pace, dynamics, and mood of different stages of life. Dance, image and sound are brought together to portray people, their attitudes, and their feelings in a way where the action always moves the story along.





## CREW

script, choreography, director KATI KALLIO

original idea ELLI ISOKOSKI

producers OUTI ROUSU, PYSTYMETSÄ &  
ELLI ISOKOSKI, MYRSKYRYHMÄ

camera ANTTI AHOKOIVU

editing KATI KALLIO, ANTTI AHOKOIVU

sound & music JANNE LAINE

costumes NINA HUOVINEN

## CAST

RITVA KATTELUS, ELINA HÄYRYNEN,  
JUKKA TARVAINEN, ERVI SIRÉN,  
MARJUKKA SAVOLAINEN and 10-90-year-old  
dance and theatre students & enthusiasts.







## WALKS WITH ME / KÄY RINNALLAIN FESTIVALS / FESTIVAALIT

2021

- Women Over 50 Film Festival, London, the UK / **Runner Up the Best Experimental**
- DCI Thessaloniki Cinedance International, Greece
- AVDP Athens Video Dance Project, Athen, Greece
- 'Kettupäivät' film festival, Helsinki, Finland

2022

- Tampere Film Festival, national competition, Finland
- Bodyscope Dance Film Festival, Moscow, RU
- Moovy Dance Film Festival, Cologne, Germany
- ScreenDance festival, Stockholm, Sweden
- Frame Rush, London, the UK
- Short Waves Festival, Poznan, Poland
- Festival Corto de Ciudad Real, Spain
- THIRD ACTION Film Festival, Calgary, Canada
- ZED Festival Internazionale Videodanza, Bologna, Italy





## continue - WALKS WITH ME / FESTIVAALIT / FESTIVALS

2022

- Movies by Movers, American Dance Festival, Durham, USA
- Tofifest International Film Festival, Toruń, Poland
- CinedansFest & DANCESCREEN, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- InArt - Community Arts Festival, Lisboa, Portugal
- MOVIMIENTO EN MOVIMIENTO #10, International Screendance festival, Mexico City
- Tehdas tanssii (Factory Dances), Helsinki, Finland
- Tanssivirtaa Tampereella, Tampere, Finland
- Elämän lähde, Helsinki, Finland
- Palma de Mallorca Dance Film Festival, Spain
- Amarcort FF, Italy / **Special Mention**
- ROLLOUT FESTIVAL, Macao / **Jury Recommendation Award**
- The Zinetika Dance Film Festival 2022, Spain / **K Prize**
- Dance On Screen, Austria
- Breaking the Walls Dance film festival, Egypt / **The Best Dance Film**





## continue - WALKS WITH ME / FESTIVAALIT / FESTIVALS

2023

- Multiplié dance film festival, Minimalen, Norway / **Honorable Mention**
- Dhaka Intl Film Festival, Bangladesh
- Seoul International Senior Film Festival, South-Korea
- Ciné-Corps Screendance Festival, France
- Spring Dancefilm Festival, Spain / **The Best Short Film PlatArtistic**
- 24th Rainbow International Film Festival, the UK
- Contact Dance International Film Festival, Canada
- Talvitanssit tapahtuma (Winter Dances), Finland
- Vaasan tanssinpäivä (Dance Day in Vaasa), Finland
- Kino Tanca (online), Poland
- Braga International Video dance festival, Poland
- Joutseno Art Summer International Film Festival, Finland / **Award: The Best leading role to Riitta Kattelus and The Best Dance Film Award**



## continue - WALKS WITH ME / FESTIVAALIT / FESTIVALS

2023

- Le Petit Festival, Hanko, Finland
- 8th edition of Moving Body Festival, Bulgaria /  
*Encouragement Award: Best Collective Body & Audience Award*
- Los Angeles Dance Film Festival, USA
- 77° Festival Internazionale del Cinema di Salerno, Italy





# BIO - Director KATI KALLIO

**Kati Kallio** is Finnish dance artist and awarded filmmaker. She is one of the pioneers of dance films in Finland and was an artistic director of **Loikka Dance Film Festival** (2015-2018).

She became the leading dance film expert in Finland and travels the globe to present her work, curate dance film programs and teach this specific genre.

Kati has a MA degree in Dance from UniArts Helsinki - Theatre Academy. During her dancer career she worked in several freelance dance productions in Finland and taught dance for children and youth.

Her artistic works have been focused on dance films since 2008. Since then, she has completed several short dance films which have been screened and broadcast widely around the globe.

Since 2010, together with dance artist **Elli Isokoski** from the dance group *Myskoryhmä*, Kallio has been working with a special method for inclusive participatory filmmaking. Where she created several short films in collaboration with senior citizens.

Read more: [www.katikallio.com](http://www.katikallio.com)





# PRODUCER

**Myrskyryhmä** (Tempest Group) is an innovative Finnish dance group working in the field of participatory and inclusive art. Director of Myrskyryhmä is dance artist **Elli Isokoski**.

Myrskyryhmä's mission is to promote the cultural rights of seniors as participators and audiences.

The activities of Myrskyryhmä include dance performances and artist residencies in care units, workshops for seniors and artists, and dance video projects with elderly people. Myrskyryhmä also provides training for nursing staff at care units.

Myrskyryhmä has been a forerunner of this groundbreaking work since 2002 and currently considered one of the leading experts in their field.

<https://www.myrskyryhma.fi/in-english.html>



*Myrskyryhmä*



# PRODUCER

The film production boutique **Pystymetsä**, based in Finland, was established in 2002 by the sisters **Outi Rousu** and Sirkka Rousu.

Outi has a vast experience in film production since 1990. To the date, she has produced some 50 films in all film genres. She also acts as an active co-production partner.

Pystymetsä focuses on themes that attaches our life, tells something relevant of us and our time.

Outi was a producer of Nordic dancefilm co-production "MOVING NORTH - 10 short dance films" (2003). Her track record as producer consists some 15 dance films.

Read more: [www.pystymetsa.fi](http://www.pystymetsa.fi)

[www.pystymetsafilms.com](http://www.pystymetsafilms.com)

[www.imdb.com/name/nm0746116/](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0746116/)



**PYSTYMETSÄ OY**



# TECHNICAL CREDITS

Dur 10 mins 47 sec

No dialogue

Formats DCP & Mpeg4 1080p file

Aspect ratio 1:79 - 25f - Sound 5.1

Premiere in Finland 28.9.2021

Production year 2021

# SUPPORTERS

AVEK - Promotion Centre for  
Audiovisual Culture in Finland,  
YLE, Church Media Foundation,  
TAIKE - Arts Promotion Centre Finland,  
Finnish Cultural Foundation,  
Iloa Arkeen -pysäkkitoiminta,  
City of Helsinki





# INQUIRIES

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