

# PYSTYMETSÄ OY

## FILMOGRAPHY of co-productions (selected)

majority & minority productions and short presentation of the Finnish producer OUTI ROUSU

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OUTI ROUSU

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Production company: PYSTYMETSÄ OY

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

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

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Producer Outi has worked professionally in films since 1985. She has produced & co-produced some 50 films. She is an active co-production partner. The two co-productions premiered in Finland in 2024. The most recent short doc **The Instruments of a Beating Heart** was [Oscar](#) nominated in 2025 and originally released at the New York Times OP-DOCS platform in Nov 2024. The film is a short version of the feature documentary **The Making of a Japanese** (KOULUVUOSI JAPANISSA) by Ema Ryan Yamazaki, produced by Eric Nyari, in US/Japan based Cineric Creative and French Luc Martin-Goussat, Print du Jour for NHK, YLE and France Televisions (sales Autlook) opened in cinemas in April 2024.

The Polish-Finnish-German documentary **VIKA!** directed by Agnieszka Zwiefka, produced by Katarzyna Slesicka & Anna Stylowa, My Way Studio (Poland) with Heino Deckert, ma.ja.de (Germany) for HBO, Yle and RUV (sales Deckert Distribution) premiered at the DocPoint festival 2024. In 2021 premiered in Finnish cinemas the documentary **Raise the Bar** (TYTÖT - PIDETÄÄN PALLO) by Gudjon Ragnarsson, with producer Margret Jonasdottir, Saga Film (EDDAN award 'Best Documentary 2022', [ECFA](#) Best European Documentary for Young audience 2022, and many other awards). Cats&Docs handles the sales.

Previously premiered the feature films '**Miss Blue Jeans**' (with Anita Oxburgh & Lizette Jonic, Migma Film, Sweden 2021), Eurimage supported '**Garbage Prince**' (with Lars Loge, Flimmer Film, Norway, 2011), '**Stars above**' (with Snorri Thorisson, Pegassos Film, Iceland 2012), **Engelen** (with Thomas Robsahm, Speranza & Anita Oxburgh, Migma Film, 2009), **VALO** (with Thomas Robsahm&Margreth Olin, Speranza, Norway & John O. Olsson, Giraff Film, Sweden 2006) as well as docs, such as **US BOYS** by Lionel Mills, produced by Brian Willis, Igloo Films, Ireland.

Outi's films have been awarded in international and domestic festivals and forums, 8 films awarded the State film prize and 12 JUSSI (Finnish Oscar) nominations, 2 JUSSI awards and 1 EDDAN award, 2 EDDA nominations. A co-production RAISE THE BAR awarded The Best European Documentary film for children and young people in 2022 by ECFA (European Childrens' Film Association). Outi awarded '**Little Bear**' prize in 2008 for her work for improving childrens' film culture in Finland. Her special interest is films for younger audience. She attends yearly the film events and forums, such as [IDFA](#), [Nordisk Panorama](#) and [MBrane](#).

Outi is an [EAVE](#) graduate (1997) and film producer of Art Academy TAIK (1996). She has studied in international film workshops since 1994, such as [CineKid ScriptLAB](#) (2021-2022), [DOK.Incubator](#) (2019) editing and marketing workshop of documentaries, **SOURCES2** script workshops (2002&2008), SOURCES TrainingMentors (2015) and in other workshops on co-production, script writing, film distribution and marketing.

In 2014-2019 Outi was a film commissioner for documentaries & shorts at [AVEK](#) and she granted production support for international co-productions with the Finnish producer as a minor producer.

Outi is a chair of the Regional [Arts Promotion Centre](#) in 2025-2026, which is the expert body for the Ministry of Education & Culture, a board member of Church Media Foundation in 2023-2025 and member of **APFI** – Audiovisual Producers in Finland. In 1997-2001 she was a member of the **National Cinema Council** and in 2020-2023 a chair of the board of [DocPoint](#) **Documentary film** association, overlooking the activities for the DocPoint Documentary Film Festival, DOKKINO and DocPoint IMPACT.

The European Film Academy invited Outi to the selection committee of the Young Audience Award. The awarded film is a documentary **The Remarkable life of Ibelin** by Benjamin Ree.

#### INTERNATIONAL CO-PRODUCTIONS (selected)

2024

**Instruments of a Beating Heart**, short documentary. Dir. Ema Ryan Yamazaki. Collaboration with the New York Times OP-DOCS. Producers Eric Nyari, Cineric Creative (US/Japan), Pystymetsä. [OSCAR](#) nomination 2025 in short doc category. International Documentary Association IDA award 2024 'Best short documentary'.

**The Making of a Japanese**, a feature documentary. Dir. Ema Ryan Yamazaki. Producers Eric Nyari, Cineric Creative (US/Japan), Pystymetsä, Luc Martin-Gassot, Print du Jour (France). NHK, YLE, France Televisions, RTBF, RTS. Sales Autlook Sales.

**VIKA – Keep on Dancing**, feature documentary. Dir. Agnieszka Zwiefka. Producers Katarzyna Slesicka & Anna Stylowa, My Way Studio (Poland), Pystymetsä Oy, Heino Deckert, ma.ja.de (Germany). For HBO, Yle, RUV. Finnish Film Foundation, AVEK, Yle. Sales Deckert Distribution.

**BRIGHT FUTURE** (Romania 2024), documentary film, Outi Rousu as an associate producer, director Andra MacMasters (RO-UK), producers Monica Lazurean-Gorgan & Elena Martin. Premiere in IDFA2024.

2021

**RAISE THE BAR** feature documentary. Dir. Gudjon Ragnarsson. Prod. Margret Jonasdottir, Sagafilm, Iceland & Pystymetsä Oy. Siminn, Iceland Film Centre, Finnish Film Foundation, AVEK. Premiere HotDocs 2021. Sales Cat&Docs. *EDDAN award 2022 (Oscar in Iceland): Best Documentary Film. ECFA award: the Best European Documentary film for children and young people 2022.*

2012

**MISS BLUE JEANS**, feature film. Dir. Matti Kinnunen, Prod. Pystymetsä & Anita Oxburgh & Lizette Jonic, Migma Films, Sweden. Finnish Film Foundation, MTV, Swedish Film Institute, Filmpool Nord, C More, Business Oulu, Nordisk Film. *5 JUSSI nominations, 1 JUSSI award 2013 (Finnish Oscar)*

**STARS ABOVE, feature film.** Dir. Saara Cantell. Prod. Pystymetsä & Snorri Thorisson, Pegasus Films, Iceland. Finnish Film Foundation, YLE, Icelandic FilmCentre, SAM, Nordisk Film

2011

**GARBAGE PRINCE**, feature film for young people. Dir. Raimo O Niemi. Prod. Pystymetsä & Lars Loge, Flimmer Films, Norway. Finnish Film Foundation, TV4 Finland, Norwegian Film Institute, NRK, Nordic Film & TV Fund, Eurimages, Buena Vista Finland, SF Norway.

2010

**ENGELEN (ANGEL)**, feature film. Dir. Margreth Olin. Producers Thomas Robsahm, Speranza, Norway – Pystymetsä, Anita Oxburgh, Migma Films, Sweden. NFI, SFI, Finnish Film Foundation, NRK, SVT, YLE, NFTF. Sales TrustNordisk. Cast Marie Bonnevie.

2008

**MODERN SLAVERI**, documentary series. Dir. Thomas Robsahm. Speranza, Norway – Periferia/Pystymetsä, Finland. Sales First Hand Films. NFI, NRK, YLE, NFTF, Fritt Ord.

2006

**MÖBELHANDLARES DOTTER**, drama series (7 x 60 min). Script, dir, prod by John O. Olsson. Giraff films, Sweden. SVT, YLE/FST, NFTF, Filmpool Nord. Cast Rolf Lassgård, Sofia Pekkari, Ingvar Hirdvall, Antti Reini.

2005

**VALO**, feature film for children & families. Dir. Kaija Juurikkala. Prod. Pystymetsä, Thomas Robsahm & Margreth Olin, Speranza Film, Norway, John O. Olsson, Giraff Film, Sweden. Finnish Film Foundation, YLE, SFI, Filmpool Nord, NFI, NRK, NFTF. Distributors FS Film Finland, Sonet Film (Sweden), ORO Film (Norway). In collaboration with the UNCIEF. Sales SOLA MEDIA. *Re-mastered in 2022. Several international awards.*

2003

**MAGNETIC NORTH**, short dance film. Script & dir. Miranda Pennell. Prod by Anne Beresford & Margaret Williams, MJW Productions UK & Pystymetsä. BBC 2, Arts Council of England.

**MOVING NORTH** – 10 short dance films. Co-production with Pystymetsä, Vibelke Vogel, Barok Film (Denmark), Lisbet Gabrielsson Film (Sweden), Hanne Myren, Medieoperatörer (Norway), Anna Dis Olofsdottir, Saga Film (Iceland). Financed by all Nordic film institutes & YLE, AVEK, SVT, NRK, DR, RUV, NFTF, Media+, NordScen. Distribution Norsk Filminstitutt. Series inc. the Finnish dance films 'Potretti' by dir. Saara Cantell and 'Vertebra' by dir. Milla Moilanen.

2000

**ESTELLA**, documentary, Dir. Steve Wood. Prod. Nual Carr, Paradox Pictures, Ireland. RTE, YLE, Irish Film Board.

**US BOYS** documentary. Dir. Lionel Mill. Prod. Brian Willis, Igloo, Ireland. RTE, YLE, Irish Film Board. (2000)

1998-2000

**GIRLS AROUND THE WORLD**, a documentary series on 17yrs old girls, including docs:

-**FRONTIERS**. Dir. Kaija Juurikkala. Prod. Brenda Parker, TRAFIK Films, Germany. Episode: FINLAND. Yle, AVEK, ZDF. *State Film prize 2001*

-**DON'T ASK WHY**. Dir. Sibha Sumar. Prod. TRAFIK Films, Germany. Episode PAKISTAN. YLE, ZDF.

-**HEAVEN AND EARTH**. Dir. Pascale Schmidt. Prod. TRAFIK Films, Germany. Episode: GERMANY. YLE, ZDF.

-**DAUGHTERS OF WAR**. Dir. Maria Barea. Prod. TRAFIK Films, Germany. Episode: PERU. YLE, ZDF.

1998

**KIKO-TRAVELLER IS MY NAME**, drama documentary. Dir. Minna Tarkka. YLE, AVEK, SVT, NFTF, Hosobunka Kikin (Japan). Shoot in Japan 1996-1997. Pitched at IDFA Forum 1995.