

ART FILMS PRODUCTION & MP FILM PRODUCTION PRESENT

MARTTI SUOSALO PAMELA TOLA
JANNE REINIKAINEN HANNU-PEKKA BJÖRKMAN
AN ARTO HALONEN FILM MIKKO KOUKI

A PATRIOTIC MAN

EVERY NATION GETS THE HEROES IT DESERVES



BEN JOHNSON

EPPU SALMINEN

KARI KETONEN

PIRJO LONKA

SATU PAAVOLA

LAURI TILKANEN



ART FILMS PRODUCTION & MP FILM PRODUCTION present "A PATRIOTIC MAN" starring MARTTI SUOSALO PAMELA TOLA JANNE REINIKAINEN HANNU-PEKKA BJÖRKMAN MIKKO KOUKI
KARI KETONEN PIRJO LONKA SATU PAAVOLA LAURI TILKANEN EPPU SALMINEN IVICA ZADRO ZIJAD GRACIC ALAN KATIC SRECKO VUCIC and featuring BEN JOHNSON
Director of Photography HANNU-PEKKA VITIKAINEN Editor TUULI KUITTINEN Art Director KAISA MÄKINEN Sound Designer KIRKA SAINIO Makeup Designer RIikka VIRTANEN
Costume Designer JOHANNA HEIKILÄ Composer ALFI KABILJO Produced by ARTO HALONEN & IGOR A. NOLA Screenplay by JOUNI K. KEMPPAINEN & ARTO HALONEN Directed by ARTO HALONEN

www.artfilmsproduction.com

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A PATRIOTIC MAN

A Film by Arto Halonen

“Every nation gets the heroes it deserves”

PRESS MATERIALS – 6 February 2014

A PATRIOTIC MAN is the new dramatic-comedy feature film by director Arto Halonen, and stars some of Finland’s top actors. Halonen’s first dramatic feature, PRINCESS, has won prizes all over the world and is one of the highest-grossing Finnish films of the last ten years.

A PATRIOTIC MAN tells the story of Toivo, the secret weapon for the Finnish ski team. His rare blood type can improve any athlete’s performance and lead the skiers to success. Toivo’s ethical dilemma takes us through a dark comedy with ultimately tragic overtones, as Toivo works increasingly closely with one of the most talented skiers, the young woman Aino.

The film had its theatrical premiere in Finland on December 4, 2013 and continued the widespread public discussion of doping first raised by Halonen’s 2012 documentary *When Heroes Lie*, was an enormous critical success and subject of public talk in Finland, Norway, Germany and Italy. In addition, the film has received many admiring reviews and has been praised by both audiences and critics in its private Talk Cinema tour of major US cities as selected by renowned critic and former Film Comment editor Harlan Jacobson.

SYNOPSIS



Toivo's blood is exceptionally powerful. When the Finnish ski team hears about Toivo, they understand that they have found a highly prized secret weapon. His blood can improve any athlete's performance, fueling the skiers to success. The prospects are fantastic, and in particular Toivo works closely with one of the most talented skiers, Aino.

It is the 1980s. Toivo is an unemployed typesetter. His wife Pirkko encourages him to do something useful, so he goes to donate blood. The blood astonishes the hospital nurse who assists him. The Finnish national ski team then discovers the special qualities of Toivo's blood, and soon Toivo joins the team's technical division to take up his secret role as a human blood-tank.

Finland's brightest star is making a breakthrough: Aino. A young woman, who's not only a good skier but an impressive public brand with the nickname of "Finnm Maiden". Soon, Toivo and Aino become an integral pair.

With Toivo's help, Aino skis to the top of the world rankings. Just before the most important race, however, a disaster occurs, which jeopardizes the highest goal: Olympic victory. Once again, the Finnish team's success is placed in Toivo's hands.

Will the dangerous plan succeed? What will Toivo do? What will happen to Aino? And most important of all: Is Toivo a patriotic man?

ARTO HALONEN - THE DIRECTOR



Finnish filmmaker Arto Halonen is the director of the award-winning dramatic feature "*Princess*", one of the highest-grossing Finnish films of the last 10 years. In 2005, he received the Finland Prize, given in recognition of a notable artistic career and a major commendation from the Minister of Culture and the government. He has also won the Humanitarian Award of the European Union, and is only the third filmmaker ever to receive the City of Helsinki Culture Prize. In 2008, the Thessaloniki Documentary Festival gave Halonen its lifetime achievement award. The festival's official statement described Halonen as one of the most important documentary filmmakers of his time, whose work contributes to the development of documentaries on an international scale.

Princess: Halonen's first fiction feature film for cinematic distribution, *Princess*, opened in September 2010. It received great reviews and became one of the most financially successful Finnish features of the last decade. It premiered internationally in competition at the World Film Festival in Montreal, and took the jury's best actress award at the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. It was then selected for the Talk Cinema tour in the U.S., curated by American film critic Harlan Jacobson. It also won the Grand Prix for Best Film at the Cape Winelands Film Festival in South Africa, the Jury's Special Mention at the Festroia International Film Festival in Portugal, second prize in competition at Viareggio EuropaCinema in Italy, and the Best Feature Film Award at the Teaneck International Film Festival in the U.S. Partly due to the success of *Princess*, Arto Halonen was given The

Finnish National Mental Health Prize, and the Civil Action Prize of the Finnish Federation for Social Welfare and Health. This fall, Halonen also directed and co-wrote a new musical-theater version of *Princess*, which premiered to favorable reviews and strong ticket sales.

Documentaries: Before *Princess*, Halonen was already established internationally as an important documentary filmmaker. Five of his films have been selected for the world's leading documentary film festival, the International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), and three have been chosen for IDFA's main Joris Ivens competition: *Shadow of the Holy Book* (2007), *Pavlov's Dogs* (2006) and *The Stars' Caravan* (2000). *Shadow of the Holy Book* was nominated for the European Film Academy's award for best documentary of the year. Halonen's documentaries have won many prizes around the world, and have been distributed in over 20 countries. In 2009, the European Film Academy officially invited Halonen to join as a member. Halonen is also the founder and first festival director of DocPoint – Helsinki Documentary Film Festival. During Halonen's tenure, DocPoint became the biggest documentary film festival in the Nordic area and one of the leading documentary film festivals in the world. Halonen has also produced award-winning films by other directors.

When Heroes Lie: Halonen's two most recent films deal with doping in cross-country skiing. He treated the subject first in his documentary feature *When Heroes Lie*. The film opened theatrically in October 2012 to overwhelmingly positive reviews, and raised an unusually intense media discussion about doping, creating a large-scale debate on the subject in Finland, Estonia, Norway, Sweden and Italy. The film's world premiere was at IDFA in November 2012, and it was the opening film at the DocPoint Tallinn festival. It won the State Quality Award for 2013, and was a finalist for Finland's 2013 Lumilapio Prize, which recognizes high-quality investigative journalism.

A Patriotic Man: Halonen's latest film, *A Patriotic Man*, is also about doping, and is a dramatic feature with strong elements of black comedy. It had its successful theatrical premiere in Finland on December 4, 2013, and continued the public doping discussion raised by *When Heroes Lie*. In addition to the admiring reviews it received in Finland, the film was taken by renowned American critic and former *Film Comment* editor Harlan Jacobson for his prestigious Talk Cinema tour of major American cities, where private Talk Cinema subscribers were able to see the film. The Talk Cinema audience reactions were highly favorable, as officially reported by Talk Cinema, and the US film critic Laura Fuschman wrote for the Examiner: "A film with a message hidden in humor, *A Patriotic Man*'s creative team have come up with a winner."

Art Films: Halonen is the CEO of his own production company, Art Films: www.artfilmsproduction.com

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



(Eurimages kirja)

Through its extraordinary story, the subject of "**A PATRIOTIC MAN**" can be narrated in an exceptionally humorous and moving way – and one not without sympathy and understanding for those who have taken part in the doping saga. The film's subject presents an opportunity to raise important discussion on the hidden structural problems of our society while simultaneously highlighting the twists and turns in our history and the way we have dealt with event during this era.

For these reasons, I see the film as a highly important and pertinent to this day and age.

I believe this to be a film whose comedic aspects and characters will be accessible to a wide audience regardless of which sports they follow. Doping is a reality in all competitive sports, in every country. The film's humorous take on its subject will give viewers, regardless of their cultural heritage, a chance to laugh at a problem concerning their favorite pastimes.

Arto Halonen
The film's director

FILMOGRAPHY OF PRODUCER AND DIRECTOR ARTO HALONEN

FEATURE FILMS:

- A PATRIOTIC MAN (2013)
- WHEN HEROES LIE (2012)
- VICTORS AND VANQUISHED (2011)

TELEVISION BROADCAST:

- PRINCESS – *Drama* (2010)
- THE MAGNETIC MAN – *Creative Documentary* (2009)
- IN STRENG'S GARDEN – *Concert film* (2009)
- AMENDS – *Documentary film* (2008)
- SHADOW OF THE HOLY BOOK – *Creative Documentary* (2007)
- CONFRONTATIONS IN CUBA - *Documentary film* (2007)
- LONE STAR HOTEL – *Creative Documentary* (2007)
- TOBACCO GIRLS – *Creative Documentary* (2006)
- PAVLOV'S DOGS – *Creative Documentary* (2006)
- THE LEGEND – *Creative Documentary* (2006)
- MOONSHINE VILLAGE – *Creative Documentary* (2006)
- CONQUISTADORS OF CUBA – *Creative Documentary* (2005)
- THE TANK MAN – *Creative Documentary* (2004)
- KARMAPA - TWO WAYS OF DIVINITY – *Creative Documentary* (1998)
- KARMAPA - A VOYAGE ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (1998)
- A DREAMER AND THE DREAMTRIBE - *Creative Documentary* (1998)
- RINGSIDE - *Creative Documentary* (1992)
- LIGHT – A TYPE OF ANATOMY OF VIDEO FILM / *Educational film* (1991)
- THE LIGHT BEHIND THE SHADE - *Documentary film* (1990)

- THE TALE OF THE POND MAIDEN - *Animation* (1990)
- THE LONG TRIP - *Documentary film* (1990)
- AARO IIVARI AUKUSTI, FARMER'S SON - *Documentary film* (1988)
- TWO FACES – *Animation* (1987)
- ARINA - *Animation* (1987)
- PROGRESS - *Animation* (1987)
- NEXT CHRISTMAS – *Fiction* (1986)

Arto Halonen has also directed commercials and commissioned works. The films "Shadow of the Holy Book", "The Light Behind the Shade", "Ringside", "Something in the Blood" , "A Dreamer and the Dreamtribe", "Karmapa Two Ways of Divinity" and "The Stars` Caravan" have been aired on many TV channels around the world.

Between 1989 and 1993 Arto Halonen acted as Regional Artist of Cinema in the province of Northern Karelia (Finland), during which he consulted and trained teachers, screenwriters and film makers with educational films and extensive production programs. Between 1986 and 1989 Halonen trained students of film making at the Joensuu School of Visual Arts for Children and Youth. In 1993, the Art Community in North Karelia handed Halonen the "Premiere" – Award for distinguishing himself in film production with international reach.



CHARACTERS & ACTORS



TOIVO – Martti SUOSALO

Toivo is a traditional Finnish man with traditional Finnish habits. His blood, however, is extraordinary: it is the blood that every athlete dreams of. His hemoglobin level is exceptionally high, and his blood type is compatible with everyone. Thanks to this exceptional blood, Toivo has the chance to start a new career with the Finnish cross-country ski team. In this position, Toivo needs to make an important ethical choice. How much is he prepared to sacrifice for Finnish skiing? And the ultimate question: Is Toivo a patriotic man?

Martti SUOSALO has a long and distinguished career as an actor. Over the years he has played many Finnish national figures such as Jean Sibelius, Reino Helismaa and Irwin Goodman. Suosalo has also acted in many different television shows. He has won three Jussi statues (the Finnish Oscar) and received a golden Venla statue for Best Male Actor in a Finnish TV series.



Coach Ilmo Kukkonen – Janne REINIKAINEN

Ilmo Kukkonen is the head coach of Finland's cross-country ski team. He is a passionate Finnish skiing prophet and the ultimate patriotic man. Ilmo has a strong personality, and uses equally strong coaching methods, including the so-called "scientific training" that involves doping. He has always been guided by the interests of his nation, and is willing to do whatever it takes to serve those interests.

Janne Reinikainen is known for many film and television roles. He was awarded the Jussi for his lead role in the film "Badding" (2000). Reinikainen is also an excellent theatre actor, as well as a director of many plays.



AINO – Pamela TOLA

Aino is a rising young cross-country skier, already closing in on some of the world's top skiing positions. Small but strong, Aino knows what she wants. Behind the lovely appearance, however, there is a cool and determined top-level athlete. Aino has decided to win the race to become Finland's new queen of cross-country skiing – by any means necessary. Yet none of this happens without her facing personal qualms and problems.

Pamela TOLA had her breakthrough role in Dome Karukoski's movie "Tyttö sinä olet tähti" (2005), for which she received her first Jussi nomination. Tola is one of the most popular Finnish film actresses, and her film "Napapiirin sankarit" was Finland's most-watched movie in 2010.



Ben JOHNSON – Taxi Driver

Famous Olympic sprinter Ben Johnson – who was notoriously caught for doping in 1988 – has a cameo in the film as the taxi driver who encounters Toivo at the Olympics. This is Johnson's first movie role. These days he is an outspoken opponent of doping in athletics.

PRODUCERS & PRODUCTION COMPANIES



Arto HALONEN – Executive Producer, Finland

Art Films Production AFP Oy

Art Films develops and produces creative, quality films. The company's main focus has been on documentaries, but fiction and animation projects have also been developed and realized over the years. Art Films, Arto Halonen has been producing films since 1987 and following company Art Films production Ltd since 1997.

See: www.artfilmsproduction.com

Art Films
production

Igor A. NOLA - Co-Producer, Croatia

MP Films

Igor A. Nola has over thirty years of experience in a wide range of international film productions. Nola has worked as a line producer on over twenty feature films and television series in Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Austria, Italy, Great Britain and other European countries. From 1994 to 1998 he was a Managing Director in Charge of Production at the Macedonian state film production company Vardar Film. During that period he worked on Michael Winterbottom's seminal film about the war in Bosnia, "Welcome to Sarajevo," as well as on Mimi Leder's Dreamworks production "The Peacemaker," starring George Clooney and Nicole Kidman.

Nola has long experience in co-producing Hollywood films in Croatia, Macedonia and other European countries. He was one of the producers in Milcho Manchevski's "Before the Rain," which received the Oscar nomination for Best Foreign-Language Film in 1994. In 2000, he brought the first international co-production to Croatia – the film "Like a Bad Dream" directed by Antonio Mitriciski. Nola has also produced the award-winning film "The Living and the Dead" by Kristijan Milic, which won eight Golden Arenas at Croatia's annual national feature film festival in 2007. His most recent production, "Diana," a film by Oliver Hirschbiegel, is about the Princess of Wales and stars Naomi Watts. Nola also worked as a co-producer on the Peter Greenaway film "Goltzius and the Pelican Company" (2012). Nola and his current production company specialize in European co-productions in the Balkans and beyond. His experience, knowledge and contacts in Balkan countries have made him a very popular co-producer for European and American film projects.

See: <http://www.mainframeproduction.com/>



TALK CINEMA



Selected by top US film critic for private tour

A Patriotic Man received unusually strong audience ratings comments after a special private screening in New York's Lincoln Center, presented by renowned U.S. film critic Harlan Jacobson as part of his prestigious Talk Cinema series in November 2013. Talk Cinema is known for introducing the highest-quality independent films to American audiences, from Aki Kaurismäki's "Le Havre" to Lars von Trier's "Melancholia" and David O. Russell's "Silver Linings Playbook". Talk Cinema chooses only 10-15 films per year. To be chosen for the series is a rare honor. Furthermore, the film had these private Talk Cinema screenings in a total of 10 major cities around the country.

The audience reaction to "A Patriotic Man" demonstrates how well the film works internationally. The Talk Cinema report says nearly 80% of the audience had a favorable reaction, with nearly half (49%) calling it "Excellent" and 85% ready to recommend it to others. The report is attached. The audience comments show that the film's subject matter, humor and artistry came through clearly for viewers who knew nothing about the film in advance. Sample comment: "A delight to watch a film with a dark, complex, nuanced, funny and touching story about doping."

Talk Cinema is run by one of the most respected U.S. critics, film journalist Harlan Jacobson, former editor of Film Comment, widely regarded as the best serious American film magazine. Talk Cinema shows its films in sneak-preview private screenings before their commercial distribution in the United States. The Talk Cinema private previews do not affect a film's eligibility for festival premieres in the U.S. or other countries.

Halonen's previous dramatic feature "Princess" (2010) was also selected for Talk Cinema, along with Aki Kaurismäki's "Le Havre" (2011). Other recent Talk Cinema films include "Silver Linings Playbook" (David O. Russell), "Barbara" (Christian Petzold), "Quartet" (Dustin Hoffman), "Renoir" (Giller Bourdos), "The Artist" (Michel Hezanavicius), "Habemus Papam" (Nanni Moretti) and "Melancholia" (Lars von Trier).

TALK CINEMA REPORT

A Patriotic Man
Lincoln Center, New York, NY
November 17, 2013

OUR AUDIENCE RATED THE FILM:

49% EXCELLENT

30% GOOD

79% OVERALL FAVORABLE

61% WOULD RECOMMEND

24% MIGHT REC

85% OVERALL RECOMMEND

TALK CINEMA subscribers in New York write:

- Excellent.
- One of the best.
- Fascinating way to depict decadence and to expose a global problem that ruins sport (65+).
- Ironical, heroic, and amusing (F65+).
- A delight to watch a film with a dark, complex, nuanced, funny and touching story about doping.
- We'd never tell the story this way in the U.S. Lance Armstrong a case in point (F50-64).
- Topic is as relevant today as it was during the era depicted (F50-64).
- Having my hemoglobin checked for alternative career choice !
- Skype interview was terrific! (F65+).
- I applaud the courage of the filmmaker, a fine film in every way (F65+).
- Very real and fascinating.
- Beautiful cinematography.
- Can you be moral and patriotic at same time? (F65+).
- Strong theme, acting and cinematography (M65+).
- My favorite kind of film – a great story where I learned something and one that brought out a real moral dilemma (50-64).
- Fiction that makes one think hard about a complex and universal problem – it is an honest film (F65+).
- Asking the son if he is a patriotic man - wonderfully cynical! And Aino's description of her plight is wonderful! (M65+).
- Fascinating film about the high level of competition – great acting and screenplay (F50-64).
- Very good portrayal of the doping scandal in sports.
- A sympathetic view of athletes who find themselves in this doping cycle (65+).
- Honest, depressing, dispiriting, and so much for the benefits of sportsmanship.
- The blackest comedy imaginable. (M65+).
- An insightful examination of the destruction of an "everyman" overwhelmed by the appeal of patriotism, self-interest, and infatuation.

- Morality falls prey to corruption.
- The comic touches made this morality play watchable.
- Fabulous job by all the participants (F65+).
- Loved last line (65+).
- Interesting and informative.
- Sports have certainly changed and money has become the reason (F65+).
- Controversial and funny (F50-64).
- I was ready to start drinking! (65+).

UNITED STATES REVIEW – Joan Fuchsman in The Examiner – Dec 8, 2013

A Patriotic Man: Doping not necessary for enjoyment

Rating: 4 Stars

“Better jobless and drunk, than just jobless.” Ah, words to live by. So begins the darkly humorous “A Patriotic Man, a Finland/Croatia production.

An accident sends our down-on-his-luck hero, Toivo, to the hospital where it’s discovered that he has a very rich type of O-type blood—blood that is highly desired by athletes. Fortuitously, this hospital has ties to the Finnish Olympic ski team. Before you know it, Toivo is recruited to help the team with the question, “Are you a patriotic man?”

Directed, written and produced by Arto Halonen and co-written by Jouni Kemppainen, “A Patriotic Man” is a witty, slightly whimsical look at the sinister side of competition at the highest levels. It’s an unusual approach, but it’s works. In the U.S. we normally associate blood doping and pharmaceuticals with baseball, or when it’s time for the Olympics, with cycling, swimming and track and field. But as this film beautifully illustrates, the need to win is common to all nationalities and all sports—no matter how big or small the competition or country.

Martti Suosalo as Toivo is terrific as the sought-after blood donor. His expressive face and way with a line makes his character immediately and extremely likeable. In his own droll way, Toivo conveys the moral conflict between serving one’s country and doing what is right. And just what is right? A frustrated skier himself, it’s hard for Toivo not to be tempted by the appeal of being a part of the Olympic family and basking in the glory and rewards that come with that family.

Suosalo is surrounded by a great supporting cast including those portraying the skiers who “thirst” for his blood, in particular Pamela Tola, as the skier who catches Toivo’s eye (and blood), his friends and most especially Pirjo Lonka as his wife, Pirkko. Pirkko comes across as a ball-busting shrew, but then you stop and think about Toivo’s character and some of his short-comings, and you wonder if you’ve judged her too harshly. Making a pointed cameo appearance is Ben Johnson, the real-life disgraced Olympian charged with illegal doping, as Toivo’s cab driver.

“A Patriotic Man,” set in the 1970s, states at the film’s beginning that while the characters are fictional, the story is based on fact. That’s not hard to believe. A film with a message hidden in humor, “A Patriotic Man’s” creative team have come up with a winner... hopefully using their own blood in so doing.

TECHNICAL DETAILS

ORIGINAL TITLE:	ISANMAALLINENMIES	
ENGLISH TITLE:	A PATRIOTIC MAN	
DIRECTED BY:	Arto HALONEN	
SCREENWRITERS:	Jouni K. KEMPPAINEN & Arto HALONEN	
CINEMATOGRAPHER:	Hannu-Pekka VITIKAINEN	
EDITOR:	Tuuli KUITTINEN	
PRODUCTION DESIGNER:	Kaisa MÄKINEN	
SOUND DESIGNER:	Kirka SAINIO	
HEAD MAKE UP ARTIST:	Riikka VIRTANEN	
COSTUME DESIGNER:	Johanna HEIKKILÄ	
MUSIC COMPOSER:	Alfi KABILJO	
PRODUCERS:	Arto HALONEN	
CAST:	<p>Toivo Aino Ilmo Pakarinen Kataja Pirkko Marjatta Karhumäki Peltola Risto Karhumäki Rissanen Taxi Driver Antti S. Heikkinen Markku Nurse Turunen Gennadi Meelik Customs Officer Soviet Team Leader</p>	<p>Martti SUOSALO Pamela TOLA Janne REINIKAINEN Mikko KOUKI Hannu-Pekka BJÖRKMAN Pirjo LONKA Satu PAAVOLA Kari KETONEN Lauri TILKANEN Eppu SALMINEN Ben JOHNSON Peter KANERVA Mikko NEUVONEN Katja KÜTTNER Alan KATIĆ Srečko VUČIĆ Ivica ZADRO Zijad GRAČI</p>

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