



DIRECTED BY ELINA TALVENSAARI
WRITTEN BY ELINA TALVENSAARI & MAURO FARIÑAS
CINEMATOGRAPHY JOONAS PULKKANEN
FILM EDITING MARKUS LEPPÄLÄ
SOUND DESIGN PINJA KUUSELA
ORIGINAL MUSIC PINJA KUUSELA
GRAPHIC DESIGN ATTE KARTTUNEN
PRODUCER ELINA TALVENSAARI
CO-PRODUCER JOONAS PULKKANEN

miten marjoja poimitaan

ELOKUVATAITEEN JA LAVASTUSTAITEEN LAITOS 2010

A⁹⁹ Aalto-yliopisto
Taideteollinen korkeakoulu

MEDIAKESKUS LUME

Miten marjoja poimitaan / How to Pick Berries

SHORT DOCUMENTARY FILM BY ELINA TALVENSAARI
FINLAND 2010, 19 MIN

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SYNOPSIS

Economy is stranger than fiction.

Visitors from a distant place appear in the misty swamps of Northern Finland. The locals grow restless - things are changing, secret berry spots are revealed and everything is getting uncomfortable. Who is to blame and who is profiting from all this? How to Pick Berries is an exploration of Finnish mind and the absurdities of global economy.

Crew

Director
Elina Talvensaari

Written by
Elina Talvensaari
Mauro Fariñas

Cinematography
Joonas Pulkkanen

Film editing
Markus Leppälä

Sound design
Pinja Kuusela

Original music
Pinja Kuusela

Still photos
Mauro Fariñas

Graphic design
Atte Karttunen

Producer
Elina Talvensaari

Co-producer
Joonas Pulkkanen

Produced by
Aalto University
ELO Film School, Helsinki

ABOUT THE FILM

Savukoski, a municipality in Northern Finland has experienced a puzzling change. Some years ago the local berry company started collaborating with berry pickers from Thailand. The nearby villages were filled with hundreds of Thais trying to find an income by picking wild berries in the swamps and forests of the area and selling them to the berry company. Some of them did well, some ended up in debt. However, it is the locals that were most stirred up.

Berrypicking, although not really an income for the locals anymore, is still a tender spot for the locals. Somehow the activity seems to embody all the values of local culture, and changes in it has provoked a mix of feelings from patriotism and racism to envy, admiration and pity. How can such small fruits do all that?

How to pick berries depicts the strange changes in peoples's lives and identities caused by the global economy. Stylized as a science fiction film, it wonders how the economical inequality brings others as if to a strange planet while causing others act like they were dealing with aliens.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT ON THE FILM

The twisted logic of global economy never fails to amaze me. For me it is the most sci-fi thing there is, but real. At the same time I'm very curious about how the landscape shapes us and our identity. Those two favourite themes of mine met in the subject of this film.

It is also interesting how simple actions can carry in themselves so many unspoken rules. I've been fascinated by Julio Cortázar's way of depicting the so called normal things as strange, showing how nothing is as simple as it seems. In a way, the name of the film refers to his short stories like the *Instructions on how to cry* or the *Instructions on how to climb a staircase*. Picking berries is not just detaching the fruit from the stalk of the plant and dropping it into the bucket; it's way more complicated than that.

Elina Talvensaari

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born in Helsinki, Finland (1978) Elina Talvensaari began her studies with anthropology and sociology at Helsinki University. While finishing her Master's Degree she switched to film studies, majoring in documentary directing. How to pick berries is her film for Bachelor's Degree at ELO Film School, Helsinki.