



ALBERT Trained, 2023
Sustainable Production

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name / Contact info

CEO / Producer at Greenlit Productions Oy <http://www.greenlitproductions.net/>

Ritola, Merja Hannele / 25.12.1970

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Biography

Since 2000 Ritola has been working on over 45 titles (among them Iron Sky, Jade Warrior, Man's Job) and more than 24 out of them as a producer. During her career she has participated in EAVE and EWA workshops and since 2012 she has been an independent producer for short films, documentaries and fiction features. 2017 she joined at Greenlit Productions, established by producer Essi Haukkamaa-Judge. 2024 she became a voting member of the EFA.

Ritola's productions include the feature documentary The Seamstress by Ville Suhonen, which won 2016 a Jussi Award for the Best Documentary Film and the award-winning documentary film Putting Lipstick on a Pig by Johan Karrento, the internationally acclaimed feature documentary The Voice of Sokurov by Leena Kilpeläinen and nationally acclaimed science-fiction feature Apeiron by Maria Ruotsala.

2021 she has completed with a feature documentary about the legendary Finnish print designer Maija Isola and minor co-productions with a fiction feature Deserted by Kadri Kõusaar (Estonia), a short film A Wish Upon a Satellite by Leeni Linna (Estonia) and internationally acclaimed feature documentary The Other Side of the River by Antonia Kilian (Germany). Currently she is in production with Lex Julia written and directed by Laura Hyppönen and a Polish minor co-production The Seal Mother written and directed by Aga Trosz and developing several fiction features (Propaganda Man, Northern Lights), a feature documentary (Elin Danielson Gambogi – A Portrait of a Woman) and YOE by Fabiano D'Amato, two minor co-productions and a hybrid documentary tv-series (Remarkable Women - Out of The Shadows).

Studies / workshops

CIRCLE Fiction Orbit, Montenegro 2023

Intimacy in a Film Set workshop with Ita O'Brien, Aalto University 2023

Albert trained, sustainable production 2023

Eave Slate 2023 workshop in Trieste, WEMW 2023

TAP (Trans Atlantic Partners) workshop in Berlin and Halifax 2018

Nordic Genre Boost in Helsinki and Haugesund 2017

EDN - Twelve for the Future Rough Cut in Helsinki 2017
Doc Lab Poland in Krakow 2016
EWA – MRST4FF workshop in Pisa and Strasbourg 2016
Baltic Sea Docs – Co-financing Forum and Workshop of International Documentary Projects in Riga 2015
EAVE Ties That Bind Asia - Europe Producers Workshop in Udine and Busan 2013
EAVE Film Finance Forum in Luxembourg 2011
The Strategies Film Marketing Workshops in Luxembourg and Amsterdam 2005-2006
Intensive course of Dramaturgy, Alexis / Adulta 1999
Production course of theater and culture, Alexis / Adulta 1997-1998
Artisan of Wardrobe, Savonlinna Art and Craft School 1993
Graduated from Haapavesi High School 1989

Working experience

Film Jury

ARCTIC OPEN Int. Film Festival, Archangelsk, Russia / Fiction Features, 2018
DHAKA Int. Film Festival, Bangladesh / Short fictions and documentaries, 2018
FILMETS Badalona Film Festival, Spain / Short fictions and documentaries 2016
International Film Festival MOLODIST in Kiev, Ukraine / The Boat Meeting Pitching Jury, 2015
ROSHD International Educational Film Festival in Teheran, Iran / Animated films, 2010

Other activities

EWA member
EUROPEAN FILM ACADEMY, member since 08/2024
EVIL SLAYER – VIHTI FILM FESTIVAL (Pahantorjuja - Vihdin elokuvajuhlat) / Founding member of the festival (2022) / board member since 2022
RISTO JARVA Association, secretary since 2016
FILMIAURA Association, member since 2013

Greenlit Productions Oy (March 2017 -)

Producer

The Robin That Never Returned, short documentary / dir. Jani Ahlstedt / premier at Tampere Film Festival, national competition 03/2025

Maija Isola Master of Colour and Form, feature documentary / dir. Leena Kilpeläinen / Finland-Germany / released 3/2022

Refugee Conversations, feature documentary film / dir. Teemu Mäki / released 05/2020

Forbidden Bicycle, short form documentary / dir. Rasoul Khorram / released 02/2018

Associate Producer

War/Peace, feature documentary film / dir. Inderjit Kaur Khalsa / released 05/2017

Co-Producer

Putain, short film / dir. Aet Laigu / Estonia- Finland / released 2024

A Wish Upon A Satellite, short film / dir. Leeni Linna / Estonia-Finland / released 07/2021

The Other Side of the River, feature documentary film / dir. Antonia Kilian / Germany-Finland / released 04/2021

Fridolf Höök – From Sea to Sea, short documentary / dir. Mila Kudryashova / Russia-Finland / released 10/2021

Deserted, fiction feature / dir. Kadri Kõusaar / Estonia-Sweden-Finland / Int. premier in Busan 10/2021, released in Estonia 03/2022

Rabbits Paw, fiction feature / dir. Nana Djordjadze / Russia-Belgium-Finland / released 2021

In production / Producer

Lex Julia, fiction feature / dir. Laura Hyppönen / Finland-Sweden-Estonia-Poland-UK / scheduled release 2026

In development / Producer

Thank You Mom, I love you! A short film / dir. Nici Brückner and written by Merja Ritola / scheduled release 2026

Elin Danielson Gambogi – A Portrait of a Woman, feature documentary / dir. Leena Kilpeläinen / scheduled release 2026

Northern Lights, fiction feature / dir. Mara Tamkovich / Finland-Poland / scheduled release 2029

Remarkable Women - Out of The Shadows, a hybrid documentary Tv -series / 5x58min / Several directors / Finland-Belgium-Romania-Poland-Germany / scheduled release 2027

Propaganda Man, fiction feature / dir. Lauri Haukkamaa / Finland-Estonia-Lithuania-Czech Republic / scheduled release 2027

In production / Co-Producer

THE SEAL MOTHER, fiction feature / dir. Agnieszka Trzos / Poland-Finland-Norway / scheduled release 2026

Alto Media Oy (September 2020 - January 2021)

Producer

The Mother's Paw (Ei haukku haavaa tee), 8x22 min tv-series / dir. Jäppi Savolainen / released 11/2021

Yellow Film & TV Oy (January 2019 - February 2020)

Producer

Hotel Swan Helsinki, 8x42min tv-series / dir. JP Siili, Ulrika Bengts and Matti Kinnunen / released 02/2020

Zero Fullt Noll Ab (April 2016 - 2018)

Producer

Putting Lipstick on a Pig, documentary film / dir. Johan Karrento / released 03/2018
God Hates Finland, 10 min short film / dir. Johan Karrento / world premier at
Gothenburg FF 2017

Inland Film Company Oy (November 2014 - 2018)

Producer

Dreams of the Blind, short fiction based on true stories / dir. Mies Mikkonen /
released 2019

Producer's Assistant

Hyundai Rally Car commercial film for South Korean markets / released 2015

LPMA Productions Ay (November 2015 – February 2017)

Producer during the Development phase

Lasikatto (It's Raining Women), documentary film / dir. Mari Soppela / scheduled
release 01/2022

Illume Oy (May 2013 - August 2016)

Producer

Seamstress, documentary film / dir. Ville Suhonen / released 2015
The Voice of Sokurov, documentary film / dir. Leena Kilpeläinen / Finland-Estonia-
Germany / world premiere at Locarno IFF 2014
Animal Friends, a pilot for TV series, documentary / dir. Mia Holopainen / completed
2016

Line Producer

Monsterman, documentary film / dir. Antti Haase / Finland-Sweden-Norway / released
2014

Kinoproduction Oy (June – September 2014)

Production Manager

We Are the Pirates of the Roads I, feature film for children / dir. Marjut Komulainen /
released 2015

Periferia Productions Oy (July 2012 - October 2013)

Producer

Cyklisten, 12 min short film / dir. Aarne Norberg / Finland-Sweden / released 2014
The Best Friend, 30 min TV-film / dir. Johan Karrento / released 2014

Koskela Art & Media House Ky (April 2012 - March 2013)

Producer

Apeiron, feature film / dir. Maria Ruotsala / released 2013
Freixenet commercial film for Japanese markets / released 2012

Blind Spot Pictures Oy (November 2003 - April 2012)

Producer

Tokio Baby, youth drama, novella film / dir. Tommi Kainulainen / released 2010
Happy Fatties (Onnelliset läskit) comedy, short film / dir. Teppo Airaksinen / released 2010

Head of Production

Iron Sky, science fiction, black comedy / dir. Timo Vuorensola / Finland-Germany-Australia / released 2012

Co-Productions / Producer's Assistant

Beyond (Svinalängorna) drama / dir. Pernilla August. / Sweden-Finland / released 2010
Rational Solution, drama / dir. Jörgen Bergmark. / Sweden-Finland / released 2009
The Rainbowmaker, drama / dir. Nana Djordjadze / Germany-Finland / released 2008
Maria Larsson's everlasting Moment, drama / dir. Jan Troell / Sweden-Denmark-Finland / released 2008

Production Manager / Line Producer

Falling Angels (Putoavia Enkeleitä) drama, fiction / dir. Heikki Kujanpää / released 2008
Jungle of Dreams, drama comedy / dir. Esa Illi / released 2007
Opportunist (Menestyjä) short film / dir. Teemu Nikki / released 2005

Production Secretary

Man's Job (Miehen työ) drama, fiction / dir. Aleksi Salmenperä / released 2007
Family of One (Yhden hengen perhe) documentary / dir. Mia Halme / released 2005
Caasha, fiction / dir. Lotta Kupiainen / released 2004

Production and Marketing Coordinator, Producer's Assistant

Jade Warrior (Jadesoturi) epic love story, kung-fu, action / dir. AJ Annila / Finland-Netherlands-China / released 2005
Producing Adults (Lapsia ja aikuisia) fiction / dir. Aleksi Salmenperä / released 2004

Kinoproduction Oy (June 2000 - October 2003)

Production Coordinator

Raid / fiction feature / dir. Tapio Piirainen / released 2003
Handcuff King (Kahlekuningas) / fiction feature / dir. Arto Koskinen / released 2002

Production Secretary

Family Files / documentary / dir. Mari Soppela / released 2002
Livet en Längtan / feature documentary / dir. Monica Slotte / released 2001
Kites over Helsinki (Leijat Helsingin Yllä) / fiction feature / dir. Peter Lindholm / Finland-Sweden / released 2001

Awards and Nominations: (the latest)

‘Deserted’ (fiction feature film) by Kadri Kõusaar
2022 The Best Feature Film and The Best Cinematography – Estonian Film and Tv Award (EFTA), Estonia

‘Maija Isola, Master of Colour and Form’ (documentary film) by Leena Kilpeläinen
2022 The Music Insight of the Year 2022 – Recognition Award by Teosto and Gramex Finland
2022 Aegeandocs, The Best Documentary Film

‘The Other Side of the River’ (documentary film) by Antonia Kilian (over 30 film festivals)
2023 59th Grimme Award – The German TV Award, Germany
2022 The Best Documentary Film – The German Film Award (LOLA), Germany
2021 Hessen Film Preis, Germany (20 000€ + 4 000€)
2021 [DocsMX](#), Mexico, Winner for International Competition Global Docs
2021 Short listed for the European Film Awards
2021 Best Documentary Film – Fünf Seen Film Festival, Germany
2021 4th VFF Documentary Production Award for the outstanding achievement in the production of the documentary, Germany (7 500€)
2021 Best Documentary Camera – Achtung Berlin
2021 Grand Prix – Kinenova Skopje
2021 Best Documentary Film – Biberacher Filmfestspiele
2021 Special Mention – Kassler Dokfest
2021 Best Int. Documentary Filmaward – Duhok Int. FF
2021 Best Int. Long Film – XVII Panorama Coisa de Cinema Festival

‘Putting Lipstick on a Pig’ (documentary film) by Johan Karrento
2018 The Best Documentary Film, 34th Warsaw Int. Film Festival, Poland
2018 The Main Prize, Vera Film Festival, Åland

‘God Hates Finland’ (short film) by Johan Karrento
2017 The Best Director, Fort McMurray Int. Film Festival, Canada

‘Seamstress’ (feature documentary) by Ville Suhonen
2016 State Award for Public Information, Finland (15 000€)
2016 Quality Support by Arts Promotion Centre, Finland (40 000€)
2016 Special Award (over 30 min films) Tampere Film Festival, Finland
2016 The Best Documentary Film – The Finnish Film Award (Jussi). Three nominations: Best Script, Best Editing and Best Sound Design.

‘The Voice of Sokurov’ (feature documentary) by Leena Kilpeläinen
2015 Quality Support by Arts Promotion Centre, Finland (25 000€)
2014 Second Diploma, The VII International Film and TV Festival, Russia

‘Monsterman’ (feature documentary) by Antti Haase
2016 Best Original Soundtrack Award by Rolling Stone Magazine, See You Sound Int. Music Film Festival, Italy
2015 Quality Support by Arts Promotion Centre, Finland (10 000€)
2015 Main Prize, Austin Film Festival, USA

‘Cyklisten’ (short film) by Aarne Norberg
2015 Venus Award for Human Values, Filmets Badalona Film Festival, Spain

‘The Best Friend’ (short film) by Johan Karrento
2014 Main Prize, Seoul International Agape Film Festival, South Korea (5 000 USD)

'Apeiron' (feature film) by Maria Ruotsala

2013 Venla Award nominations for Best Actress and Best Actor