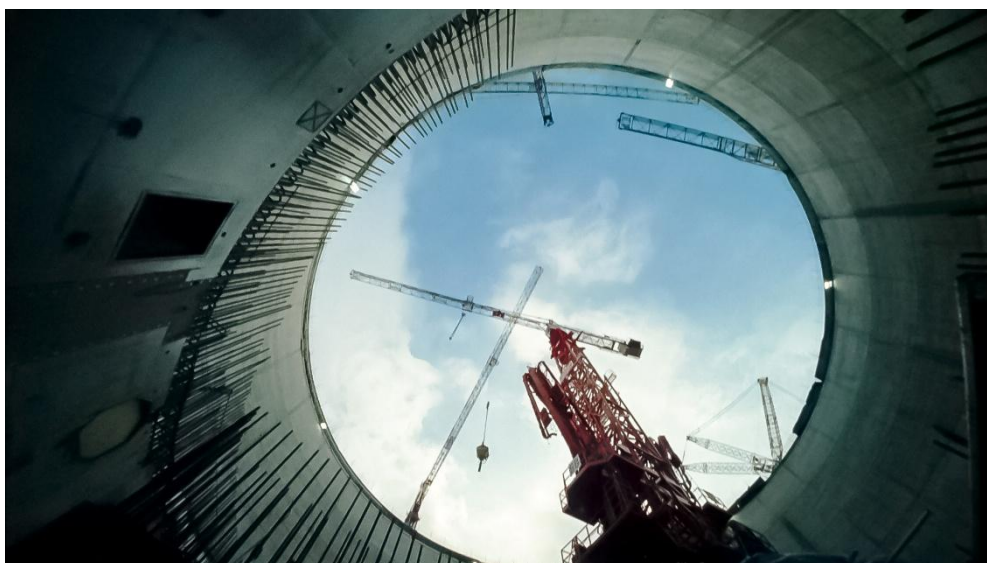


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## TIFF DOCS

# RETURN OF THE ATOM



a documentary by Mika Taanila and Jussi Eerola

Finland / Germany, 2015, 110 min, feature documentary debut, world premiere

produced by Kinotar in co-production with Blinker Filmproduktion, YLE, WDR and ZDF in collaboration  
with ARTE, supported by Finnish Film Foundation, AVEK, MEDIA Programme of European  
Community, Film- und Medienstiftung NRW

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## Return of the Atom

a film by Mika Taanila and Jussi Eerola

**Original title:** Atomin paluu  
**Country of production:** Finland, Germany  
**Year of production:** 2015  
**Length:** 110 min (24fps)  
**Shooting format:** DVcam, Mini DV, 16mm, XD-Cam, HD  
**Screening format:** DCP, BluRay (1:1,85, Dolby Digital, 24fps)  
**Languages:** Finnish, English, French, German, Polish, Russian  
**Subtitles:** English  
**Color or b/w:** both

**Production:** Kinotar in co-production with Blinker Filmproduktion, YLE, WDR and ZDF in collaboration with ARTE

**Synopsis:** Finland was the first country in the west to give permission to build a new nuclear power plant after the Chernobyl disaster (1986). The OL3 plant in Eurajoki is being built by the French nuclear company Areva and was supposed to be ready in five years (2004–2009), being a calling card for nuclear industry's second coming globally. However, the project has faced serious problems in planning, construction and safety automation. The project is delayed over nine years at the moment. The film RETURN OF THE ATOM portrays the strange and stressful life in a small "nuclear town" during an era of nuclear renaissance. There's hardly any anti-nuclear resistance in Eurajoki, which creates a tense, unspoken consensus amongst local inhabitants and leaves room for paranoid scenarios.

### Credits

**Authors and directors:** Mika Taanila and Jussi Eerola  
**DoP:** Jussi Eerola  
**Sound Design:** Olli Huhtanen  
**Editor:** Mika Taanila  
**Music:** Pan Sonic  
**Commissioning editors:** Erkki Astala (YLE), Martin Pieper (ZDF/ARTE), Jutta Krug (WDR)  
**Co-producer:** Meike Martens  
**Producer:** Cilla Werning  
**World Sales:** Deckert Distribution

### **Biography Mika Taanila**

Mika Taanila (b. 1965) is a filmmaker and visual artist based in Helsinki. His works look curiously at the progress of technological evolution, futuristic visions of contemporary science and the intersection of art and science.

Taanila's Works have been shown at major international group shows, such as Aichi Triennale (2013), Documenta (2012), Shanghai Biennale (2006), Berlin Biennale (2004), Manifesta (2002) and Istanbul Biennial (2001). Solo shows include Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art Helsinki (2013–14), Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis (2013), TENT Rotterdam (2013), Galleria Heino Helsinki (2010), Badischer Kunstverein Karlsruhe (2008), Dazibao Montréal (2007) and Migrosmuseum Zurich (2005). Taanila's short films have been screened at numerous international film festivals (e.g. Toronto IFF, Rotterdam IFF, Clermont—Ferrand Short FF, Karlovy Vary IFF, IDFA Amsterdam, Oberhausen Short FF) and special events.

The Ars Fennica Award was presented to Mika Taanila in May 2015.

### **Filmography Mika Taanila**

- 2015 RETURN OF THE ATOM, doc, 110 min, co-directed with Jussi Eerola
- 2013 SIX DAY RUN, doc, 14 min
- 2012 THE MOST ELECTRIFIED TOWN IN FINLAND, 3-channel video installation, 15 min
- 2010 TWILIGHT, video installation, 6 min
- 2006 THE ZONE OF THE TOTAL ECLIPSE, experimental short film & installation, 6 min
- 2005 OPTICAL SOUND, experimental short film, 6 min
- 2002 FUTURE IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE, doc, 52 min
- 2002 A PHYSICAL RING, experimental short & multi-channel video installation, 4 min
- 2000 ROBOCUP99, doc, 25 min
- 1998 FUTURO - A NEW STANCE FOR TOMORROW, doc, 28 min
- 1998 PORI, silent triple-screen doc, 35 min
- 1997 THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC – A FILM ABOUT MUZAK, doc, 24 min

### **Biography Jussi Eerola**

Jussi Eerola (b.1969) is an art-house cinematographer of many internationally rewarded short films, documentaries and TV-features. He has worked successfully with many of Finland's most innovative directors and moving image artists. He is the cinematographer of almost all Mika Taanila's films. His works as a DOP have been screened in Berlin, Rotterdam, Clermont-Ferrand, Sundance and Cannes.

### **Filmography Jussi Eerola (as director):**

- 2015 RETURN OF THE ATOM, doc, 110 min, co-directed with Mika Taanila
- 2009 REFUGEES OF TECHNOCRACY, doc, 58 min

**RETURN OF THE ATOM is the first feature-length documentary film for both Mika Taanila and Jussi Eerola.**