

# THE PUNK SYNDROME

A film about Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät.

*"The film tells about Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät... so it's about one retard who sings punk and three retards who play punk. You should watch it and think about whether you should hate disabled people or love and respect them."*

– Kari Aalto, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät.

## Synopsis

*The Punk Syndrome* is a film about Finland's most kick-ass punk rock band, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät. The band members, Pertti, Kari, Toni and Sami, are mentally handicapped and they play their music with a lot of attitude and pride.

We follow these professional musicians on their journey from obscurity to popularity. We watch them fight, fall in love and experience strong emotions. We witness long days in the recording studio and on tour. They laugh, cry, drink and fight over who gets to sit in the front on the tour bus. Then it's time to make up and go talk to people in the audience and tell them how great their band is.

Their songs are about the problems in society as well as about things that they face in their everyday life: how going to the pedicurist sucks and the misery of living in a group home. The guys give piece of their mind to both politicians and people whose attitudes towards people with intellectual disabilities need improvement.

*The Punk Syndrome* is a film about the essence of punk. It's a story of handicapped people rebelling against the mainstream. This time you're allowed to stare and wonder why they act the way they do. And you'll fall in love with them as you watch how the most kick-ass punk band in Finland conquers the world.

## Short synopsis

*The Punk Syndrome* is a film about Finland's most kick-ass punk rock band, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät. The band's mentally handicapped members, Pertti, Kari, Toni and Sami, play their music with a lot of attitude and pride. We follow these professional musicians on their journey from obscurity to popularity. We watch them fight, fall in love and witness long days in the recording studio and on tour. It's a film about the essence of punk - it's a story of handicapped people rebelling against the mainstream.

## Crew

Script	Jukka Kärkkäinen, J-P Passi, Sami Jahnukainen
Directors	Jukka Kärkkäinen, J-P Passi
Cinematography	J-P Passi
Editing	Riitta Poikselkä
Sound Recording	Antti Haikonen, Jukka Kärkkäinen
Dramaturgy	Magnus Gertten
Sound Design	Jørgen Bergsund
Sound Mix	Tormod Rignes
Colour Grading	Roberto Duarte
Graphic Design	Illusia Sarvas
Music	Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät
Assistant Editing	Illusia Sarvas
Editing Consultant	Mika Ronkainen
Producer	Sami Jahnukainen / Mouka Filmi
Co-Producers	Carsten Aanonsen / Indie Film, Magnus Gertten, Lennart Ström / Auto Images, Joakim Strand / Film i Skåne

## Production Info

Production Company	Mouka Filmi
Financiers	Finnish Film Foundation, ESEK, LUSES, Norwegian Film Institute Swedish Film Institute, Nordisk Film & TV Fond
Broadcasters	YLE, NRK, SVT
Distribution in Finland	Buena Vista International Finland
International Sales	AUTLOOK Filmsales
Production Year	2012
Length	85 min (TV version 55min)
Available screening formats	DCP, 35mm, HDcam, Digital Betacam, Blu-ray
Original language	Finnish
Subtitles available in	Swedish, English (in theatres in Finland: Swedish)
Premiere in cinemas in Finland	27th April 2012



Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät: Kari Aalto, Pertti Kurikka, Sami Helle, Toni Väitalo. Photo: J-P Passi

## Directors

**Jukka Kärkkäinen** has been making documentary films since 2003. Aside from filmmaking Jukka has a background as a construction worker. He is the co-founder of Mouka Filmi production company.

"I had a huge desire, nearly beyond words, to make this positive film.

It all started in the end of 2009 when the television news introduced Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät, a punk band formed by four mentally handicapped people. The joy and the energy they transmitted to me was like tar that wouldn't wash off.

I immediately thought I'd like to make a film about them. In Spring 2010 I sent a message to Kalle, the band's mentor at the Valo workshop where the band rehearses.

Soon I got to meet the band and immediately felt at home with them. I felt welcomed. My general anxiety level, which is typically high in such situations, dropped to zero. It felt good. Like I had come home. Falling in love had begun."

Jukka Kärkkäinen

## Selected Filmography

*The Punk Syndrome*. Documentary, 85', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2012

*Do You Still Remember Hilma Limperi*. Documentary, 12', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009

*The Living Room of the Nation*. Documentary, 74', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009

*Tomorrow Was Yesterday*. Documentary, 58', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009

*The Smoking Room*. Documentary, 58', Oktober Film, 2006

*Zetor – Born Free*. Documentary, 58', Videcam Oy, 2005



Pertti Kurikka, Toni Välitälo, Sami Helle. Photo: Marianne Heikkinen

**J-P Passi** has worked as a cinematographer since 2000. He also directs and works as a scriptwriter every now and then. Passi has worked together with Kärkkäinen and Jahnukainen since the establishment of Mouka Filmi.

*"Don't stare!"* And don't point your finger at them. I'm sure these instructions are ingrained in many of our minds. Despite that, I hope our film looks closely at the people in it, and even stares and points a finger at *them*. And maybe even finds the human side that we all have inside us. I hope our film provokes new thoughts, questions and moods and not merely tells a story.

I don't know if our film succeeds in doing that, but I do know that the band, Pertti Kurikka's Name Day, will. The film is a weird, comical and disturbing combination of joy, enthusiasm, compassion, pity, envy and a whole lot of other emotions. These musicians are thoroughly honest; they'll say what they think and show how they feel, no matter what. In their world the lowest feeling or act is rather harmless, after all.

I once heard a beautiful thought: *"There are people whose meaning we don't know."* I hope that our film will show people that these people shouldn't be thought of as defective or inadequate, but rather as individual and complete human beings. I'd like the audience to see them as people who lack certain knowledge and skills but also lack the ability to act destructively against other people. I think that this is also their meaning."

J-P Passi

### **Selected Filmography**

*The Punk Syndrome*. Documentary, 85', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2012 (director)

*The Painting Sellers*. Feature, 58', Oy Aamu Ab, 2010 (scriptwriter, cinematographer)

*The Living Room of the Nation*. Documentary, 74', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009 (cinematographer)

*Tomorrow Was Yesterday*. Documentary, 58', Mouka Filmi Oy, 2009 (cinematographer)

*The Citizens*. Feature, 28', Oy Aamu Ab, 2008 (cinematographer)

*The Rescuers*. TV-series, 24 x 24', Century Films Oy, 2007-2008 (cinematographer, directing and scriptwriting together with Miska Berg)

*Alihankkijat*. Feature, 20', Kuvakieli Ky, 2002 (scriptwriting, shooting and directing together with Esa Nissi)

*"We are one of the best bands in Finland. And will always be."  
-Sami Helle, Pertti Kurikan Nimipäivät*

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Kari Aalto. Photo: J-P Passi