



JUKAJOKI

Two Finnish villages join together to
save their cherished watershed.

A PRETTYGOODPRODUCTIONS FILM

PRODUCED BY CHRIS & PAULA MILLER, PAUL BENSON, ADAM HIXON

DIRECTED BY TOM MILLER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JODI WHITE, KEN WHITE, JUNIPER HUNTER, TOM MILLER, NUUN-TARA KEY

PrettyGoodProductions and Snowchange Cooperative

presents

Jukajoki

A film by

Tom Miller

&

Nuin-Tara Key

USA | 55 minutes | 2015 | English/Finnish

Publicity & Press Contact USA

PrettyGoodProductions

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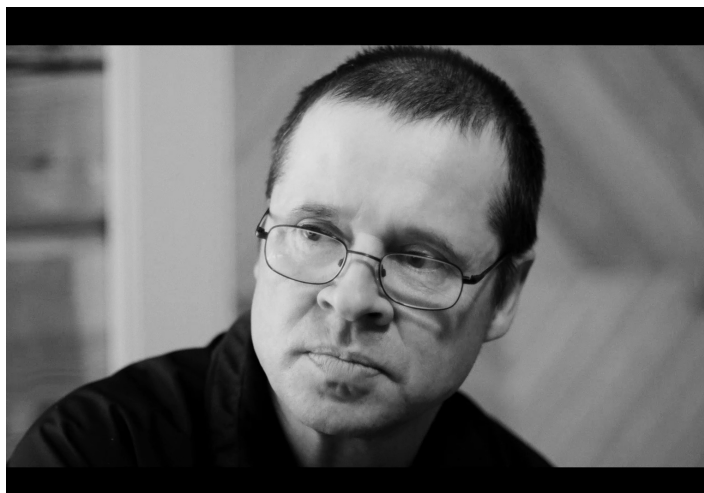
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Snowchange Cooperative

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How it started:

In 2010 and 2011, runoff from large peat mining operations caused two massive river contamination events, which lead to major fish die-offs in the Jukajoki River.



"I was wondering...why there were so many gulls flying above the river.

I, of course, went to see since there must be some reason for that. And fish were floating belly up in the river."

- Heikki Roivas
Fisherman
Resident, Selkie

Comanagement

Out of this catastrophe has come a remarkable form of collaborative land and water management based on the shared knowledge and interests of local fisherman, hunters, scientists and even the energy company.

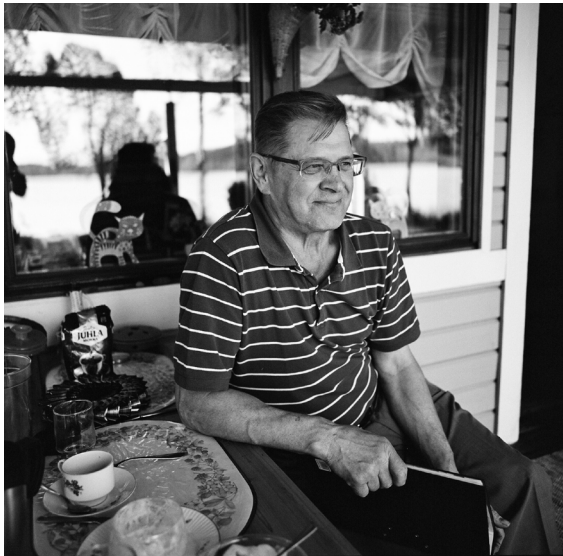


"I hope Jukajoki comanagement can provide models all throughout Finland, to enable new styles of management that address the power, the locality, traditional knowledge, and science, so that all of us survive. That's the basic idea. Everybody has to yield. And everybody has to say: These are the times. These are the issues. But first and foremost what we need in the world are wise decisions."

-Tero Mustonen
Founder, Snowchange Cooperative
Head of Selkie Village

Community Collaboration

The Jukajoki River restoration project is an example of how a relatively small, community-led project can quickly materialize and have long-lasting, positive impacts at the local and regional levels.



“One village cannot do this on its own. But when we put two small shoulders next to each other, the burden is easier to carry.”

-Kalevi Hämäläinen
Former Head of the Village of Alavi

A New Paradigm



“It’s very important that we’ve been able to get so many people involved. So many different parties involved. And it has created good thinking, new thinking, and positive feelings.”

-Kaisu Mustonen
Snowchange Cooperative

Director's Notes

By Tom Miller

January, 2016

Two years ago, when my partner and I embarked on our filmmaking adventure, we had no idea how captivating two small Finnish villages could be. But we were taken in; by the evolving story, the beauty of the places, and by the warm nature of the people we met along the way.

What was slated as a short educational piece, Jukajoki quickly grew into something much larger and more profound. I came to understand that the river restoration work was grounded not only in science, but also by long-standing traditions, deep connections with nature, self sufficiency, and love of place. The goal of the villages is both timely and universal: to discover a transformative paradigm that will balance both tradition and modernity - not to discount the past in our rush to the future, but to understand where we're going and remember where we've been.

This was the story I had to try and tell. With the access and support we were granted from the villages of Selkie and Alavi, and with production help from our new friends at Snowchange Cooperative, Jukajoki soon grew into a feature documentary.

One of the best things about being a filmmaker is that as your movie changes, so do you. Our production was only five short weeks, but my time in the forests and on the lakes had a profound effect on me. It rekindled an intangible something I've been missing; maybe a rootedness. As such, the landscape shots, the sound of the ice singing, and the sense of quiet, are some of my favorite parts of the film. And capturing the connections the Finns have with their places, and witnessing the deliberate actions by the villagers to protect their lands and waters, has been an inspiration. It has fueled thinking in myself that I will carry for the rest of my life.

Finland is part of the western world, but it's also not. There is something different there with lessons for us all. In these quiet villages I've seen time slow down. And this has offered me the space to reflect, and to realize something obvious: that the places closest to our hearts are the places we need to protect first. We know them better than anyone. They will inspire and guide us. And, ultimately, it's up to us to ensure their survival.

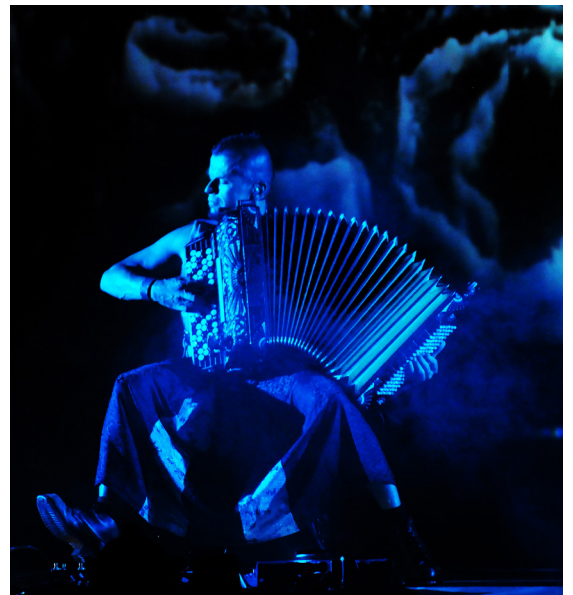


Music by Kimmo Pohjonen

Jukajoki features numerous pieces by acclaimed musician, Kimmo Pohjonen.

Finnish accordion adventurist Kimmo Pohjonen is internationally known for revolutionizing accordion music, sound and performance. His custom-made, electrified and MIDI-fied instrument plus voice, effects, samples, surround sound and light show combine to make a unique and captivating performance experience.

A visionary of boundless energy, Pohjonen's roots go back forty years in all forms of accordion music including folk, dance, classical, rock, experimental, theatre music and more. His studies in the progressive and innovative Sibelius Academy Folk Music Department were a critical factor in Pohjonen's transition to the boldly creative and versatile, internationally successful musician/performer he is today.



The filmmakers were excited to meet with Kimmo in June of 2015, and spend two days constructing the soundtrack, visiting, and fishing on the lakes around Selkie.



Production Photos



The Team

Tom Miller

Director/Cinematographer

Tom Miller is a filmmaker, artist, and musician. His production company, PrettyGoodProductions, focuses on social justice issues, art, and the environment. Tom has produced over 20 short films; completed a multiphase community-led storytelling project; taught classes and workshops on filmmaking around the world; and has been recognized by the Native American Youth & Family Center (NAYA), in Portland, Oregon, for his part in amplifying their ongoing community development work.

His 2014 release, *This Land is for All of We*, has been seen worldwide and inspired numerous journalists to cover the story of Nicaragua's Gran Canal Project, including Al Jazeera America and Vice Magazine.

Nuin-Tara Key

Executive Producer

Nuin-Tara Key, Executive Producer for Jukajoki, is dedicated to advancing community-led social and environmental change. With a background in urban and regional planning, she has a unique perspective and ability to communicate complex issues to diverse audiences—having worked in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Nuin-Tara works at the intersection of climate change research, policy, and storytelling in an effort to advance understanding of the social dimensions of climate change.

Tero Mustonen

Producer

Dr. Tero Mustonen, a passionate defender of traditional worldview and cosmology of his people, is a Finn and head of the village of Selkie in North Karelia, Finland. He has worked as the traditional knowledge coordinator for Eurasia for the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment. Professionally, he works for the award-winning Snowchange Cooperative, which is a non-profit organization based in Finland with members across the Arctic, including the communities of Eastern Sámi, Chukchi, Yukaghir, Sakha, Evenk, Even, Inuit, Inuvialuit, Gwitchin and many more. Mustonen is well-known scholar of Arctic biodiversity, climate change and indigenous issues, having published over a dozen publications on the topics including the ground-breaking Eastern Sámi Atlas and Snowscapes, Dreamscapes. He is a winter seiner. Mustonen has won several human rights and environmental awards for the work with Snowchange and indigenous peoples of the Arctic.

Kaisu Mustonen

Producer

Researcher Kaisu Mustonen works at the Snowchange Cooperative. She has extensive work experience from the boreal and Arctic regions. Mustonen has worked in Arctic Alaska, Canada, Iceland, Sámi areas and Siberia on the questions of traditional knowledge, climate change, traditions of the women of taiga and tundra as well as biodiversity. She has participated professionally in a number of projects dealing with ecological restoration of damaged boreal habitats, surveying of Arctic birds and land uses of the reindeer herding communities of Eurasia.
