



La Biennale di Venezia

Biennale College  
Cinema

LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA PRESENTS A FILM BY HANNA VÄSTINSALO

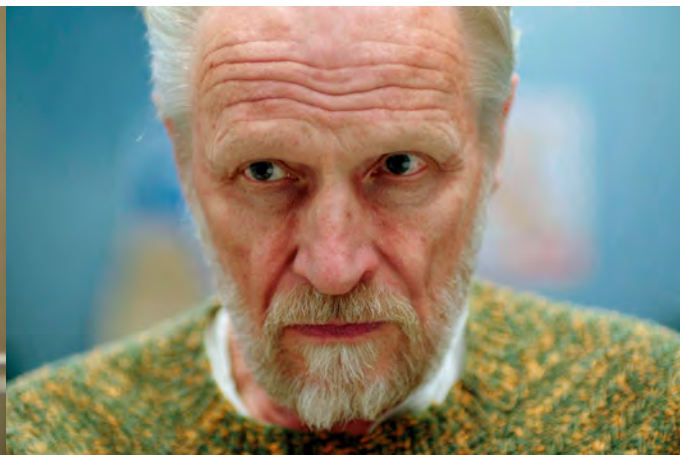
# PALIMPSEST

A THINKSEED FILMS PRODUCTION. RIIITA HAVUKAINEN, EMMA KILPIMÄÄ, KRISTA KOSONEN, KAISU MÄKELÄ, LEO SJÖMÄN, ANTTI VIRMANVIRTA. CASTING BY MINNA SORVOJA. PRODUCER ANNO HALONEN. EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MATIAS BOETTCE. MUSIC BY LINDA ILVES. COSTUME DESIGNER MERT OTSAMO. EDITED BY TAREK KARKOUTLY. PRODUCTION DESIGNER JONATHAN MAXWELL. CINEMATOGRAPHY BY HENRY DHUY. PRODUCED BY CYRIL JACOB ABRAHAM. WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY HANNA VÄSTINSALO.

## LOGLINE

Two elderly roommates at a hospice, Tellu and Juhani, are randomly selected for a Gene-Therapy Trial that rejuvenates their bodies, making them younger. Given a second chance at love, lust and life, with the memories of their past life intact, they now must find their place in a new world that has left them behind.





## SYNOPSIS

TELLU and JUHANI (80s) have barely anything in common, except a room they share while waiting for death. Their fates change when Tellu and Juhani are chosen for a gene therapy trial, akin to the fountain of youth.

As their bodies get younger, Tellu and Juhani explore the world they thought they had lost forever. While Tellu doesn't want to think too much about the future, Juhani is forced to reconsider his second chance after his wife, Matilda, passes.

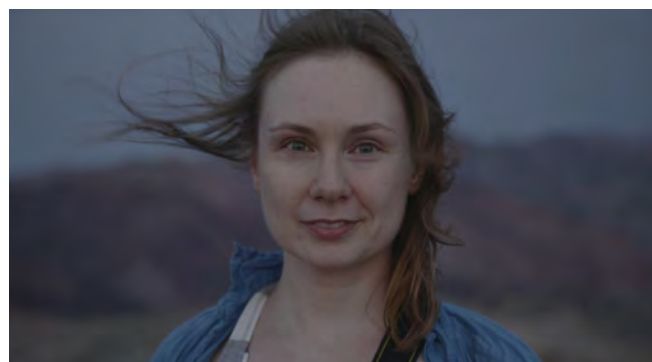
Juhani realizes his newfound youth gives him a chance to turn his childhood dream into reality, as in this changed world, traveling to the stars is no longer impossible. Juhani's newfound passion for life makes Tellu question her choices. She never considered that her quiet roommate would leave the program and when he does, she is unable to stop her spiral into the hedonism of youth.

Tellu, in her pre-teen body, tells Juhani that she has been approved to rejuvenate further and would need someone to adopt her. Before losing her memories, Tellu tries to reconnect Juhani with his daughter, who has not been able to accept her father's new youth. Juhani now has to decide whether he should help his friend to erase herself.

**“What fascinates me about the concept of being able to manipulate the biological age isn't the feat itself, but what it would do to us as humans”**

## DIRECTOR'S BIO

Hanna Västinsalo studied directing at the American Film Institute Conservatory in Los Angeles, CA, for which she received a Sloan Foundation Fellowship after receiving a Ph.D. in molecular genetics at the University of Helsinki. Hanna was a speaker at TEDxHelsinkiUniversity 2018, where she spoke about the relationship between storytelling and scientific discovery. Her virtual reality experience, MAN UNDER BRIDGE, had its international premiere at the 77th Venice International Film Festival. PALIMPSEST is Hanna's debut narrative feature.



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

What fascinates me about the concept of being able to manipulate the biological age isn't the feat itself, but what it would do to us as humans. We are so set in our fate moving in a certain way, through various steps of our lives. What would happen if these steps would be taken away and we were given the power to do whatever we want with them? I wanted to explore this story through the mental idiosyncronicities of two personalities, a woman and a man, dealing with their past and their new place in society. What would happen if we placed no judgment at their choices and observed this unconventional love story unfold within their shared experiences?



## CAST

Riitta Havukainen  
Emma Kilpimaa  
Krista Kosonen  
Kaisu Mäkelä  
Leo Sjöman  
Antti Virmavirta

## CREW

Director  
**Hanna Västinsalo**

Produced by  
**Cyril Jacob Abraham**

Cinematographer  
**Henry Dhuu**

Production Designer  
**Jonathan Maxwell**

Editor  
**Tarek Karkoutly**

Producer  
**Aino Halonen**

Executive Producer  
**Matias Boettge**

## CONTACT

### PRODUCTION

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