



Maarit Suomi-Väänänen: LOG HEAD (2015)

Staircase, 8 November 2016 to 1 January 2017

Log Head is an experimental comedy
about a birch log
with a soul and a pair of skis.
When Log Head is faced with
the final chop, it takes to its skis.
Will Log Head's escape be blocked?

Log Head is an experimental comedy about nature within us. In the forthcoming work, Log Head, the artist explores the human being's inner state using cinematic special effects. Although the soulscapes are dark, she has chosen humour as her method. The common thread in this work is the psychological tension, absurdity and atavistic behaviour. Log Head takes an absurdist look at our dark side and asks: where does the human being end and nature begin?

Log Head is surrealistic, psychoanalytical and mythical film about experimenting life of a human as a tree. Log Head is an universal portrait. The main character is a half-metre birch log that skis in Forest on red mini skis with its lumberjack hat on its head. The torso is sawn in half, it has a gnarled crotch and a wound left by a chainsaw. Log Head has special skills, it moves, becomes moved, and moves others. Its soul is recognisable: it is envious of handsome and whole Juniper; in a clear-cut area of forest its heart breaks and it tries to unite with Stump. Log Head is also sensual. And temperamental: it gets cross when ignored.

In its emotional turmoil Log Head explodes, smokes and blackens, its bark sweats sap and curls up. The antenna and feelers of its emotions are the flaps and strings of its fur hat, which fly back when it is being pursued, spin around when it is excited, or droop when it is disheartened. At the beginning of the work, Log Head runs away because it is afraid of being terminally split. At the end, it yields to the natural cycle, for new life to grow from it. The red mini skis shine unchanged.

Further information:

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MAARIT SUOMI-VÄÄNÄNEN'S SPECIAL EFFECTS TRILOGY

Trilogy is consisting of films Up And About Again, In a Musty, Misty Thicket and Log Head (work-in-progress). Up And About Again and In a Musty, Misty Thicket have been shown and won awards in over 150 various venues in 28 countries, are co-produced with the YLE Finnish Broadcasting Company, AVEK the Promotion Centre of Audiovisual Culture and the Finnish Cultural Foundation. Log Head was born out of Suomi-Väänänen's participation in artist residencies at the Banff Centre in Canada, Kinokino Art and Film Centre in Norway and Kone Residency in Finland. In the trilogy, abandoned landscapes play central roles, where speech is absent and inner worlds are exposed. A heightened awareness of one's solitude is experienced as we journey through the metaphors of childhood, puberty and adulthood. The trilogy points towards the ultimate exploration of human's inner state of being by combining black humour and cinematic special effects. A truly perfect celebration of madness.

English title / Log Head

Original title / Pölkyllä pää

Type / Single channel

Genre / Experimental

Country / Finland, Canada, Norway

Picture ratio / 16:9

Duration / 00:08:00

Language / No dialogue

Sound format / Dolby Surround 5.1

Year / 2015

Credits / Maarit Suomi-Väänänen (Author), Sari Aaltonen (Cinematographer), Maarit Suomi-Väänänen (Director), Ville Väänänen (Editor), Maarit Suomi-Väänänen (Script), YLE / Sari Volanen (Funder), Saari Residency Finland / - (Funder), AVEK / - (Funder), TAIKE / - (Funder), Banff Centre Canada / - (Funder), Kinokino Norway / - (Funder), Jarkko Liikanen (Photographer), Päivi Takala (Sound Design), Konsta Mannerheim (Special effects)

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