

IMPIVAARA – A NEW WORLD

A Film by Patrik Söderlund





SYNOPSIS

Brothers escape to the virgin forests of *Impivaara* to create a new world. An experimental imagining of Finnish national author Aleksis Kivi's novel *Seven Brothers* (1870) for the 21st Century, focusing on the energetic basis of a Northern welfare state and a possible future emerging from the climate crisis.

SCREENWRITER'S AND DIRECTOR'S WORD

Impivaara – A New World is a dreamlike imagining of Finnish national author Aleksis Kivi's classic novel *Seven Brothers* (1870). The short film focuses on the energetic basis of a Northern welfare state and a possible future emerging from the climate crisis. The events in the film begin with the great land reform of the 18th century and end in a post-fossil-fuel 22nd century.

The original *Seven Brothers* is a strong novel about humans and their relationship with the World. In Kivi's story, the seven brothers are reluctant to conform with modern society. Taking refuge in the virgin forests of *Impivaara*, they seek to create a new world. They assume dominion over nature, make the land productive and eventually find their place as pillars of society. Ultimately, the forest of *Seven Brothers* is an object of conquest. Animals are prey, trees are material for building and trade, and the land is reshaped by humans, all of which makes *Impivaara* a tale of the material foundation of a Nordic welfare state.

Impivaara subverts the anthropocentric bias of the original and its countless later adaptations – centering on the brothers’ growth and socialisation – by focusing on the environment, which was and is used to enable the organisation, enrichment ja maintenance of the modern free-market society. This foundation needs to be changed, the social contract must be re-written as a natural contract to include the entangled totality of humans and more-than-humans as the climate crisis cannot be solved by a techno-scientific fix devoid of all empathy and spirit.

The end of the film aims to offer a modest vision of convivial existence based on mutual care in the thriving ruins of our modern state. The brothers are replaced by children, who end the vicious circle of men. On the *Hiidenkivi* scene of massacre, we hear giggling, howling and birdsong. The story ends with a hopeful twist. The world gets a new chance.

Patrik Söderlund



DIRECTORS' BIO AND SELECTED FILMOGRAPHIES

Patrik Söderlund is the founding member of **IC-98** with Visa Suonpää. With backgrounds in visual arts and cultural history, IC-98's collaboration spanning three decades has produced artist publications, site and context specific projects and interventions, animated moving image installations, short films and numerous public commissions. IC-98 received the Finnish State Art Prize in 2009 and represented Finland at the Venice Biennale in 2015. Their work has been showed extensively at museums, biennials and festivals in Europe, Asia and the Americas.

Selected filmography:

Realms (2019), short

Lands of Treasure (2021), installation*

Nekropolis (2016), installation*

Abendland (Hours, Years, Aeons) (2015), mid-length/installation*

Arkipelagos (2013), short/installation*

A View from the Other Side (2011) feature/installation*

* co-directed with Visa Suonpää as IC-98

Impivaara is the second collaboration between Söderlund and cinematographer, producer **Jussi Eerola**. *Realms* (2019) was screened widely at international film festivals gaining six awards including two for cinematography. Eerola has worked as a cinematographer for 30 years collaborating with artist like Mika Taanila, Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Anu Pennanen, Kari Juusonen and Auli Mantila. Eerola's own films include *The Return of the Atom* written and directed together with Mika Taanila (NORDIC:DOX award at CPH:DOX) and minimalistic short films *Blue Honda Civic* (2020) and *Grasshopper* (2023). In 2014 he started the production company Testifilmi with Mika Taanila and artistic duo IC-98.

Lauri Ainala founded **Paavoharju** in 2000. The distinct sound of Paavoharju is constructed with microphones purchased from the flea market, old PC computers, and free software such as ModPlug Tracker and Cool Edit. In addition Ainala has used technology ranging from old cassettes to software that translates images to audio. Paavoharju has manifested itself in various live incarnations over the years that has been a distinct entity, both in terms of the performers and the soundscapes. Live performances have taken place in Moscow, London, Roskilde Festival, Flow Festival, and smaller sold-out shows. Paavoharju albums include: *Yhä hämää* (Fonal, 2005), *Laulu laakson kukista* (Fonal, 2008), *Joko sinä tulet tänne alas tai minä nousen sinne* (Svart, 2013), *Yön mustia kukkia* (Fonal, 2023).



Elokvayhtiö Testifilmi Oy is a Finnish artist-run production company focusing on cinematic art. Company's previous films include feature *Failed Emptiness* by Mika Taanila (IFFR 2024), short films *Blue Honda Civic* and *Grasshopper* by Jussi Eerola (IFFR 2020 and 2023), *Flame* by Sami van Ingen (IFFR 2018), *Realms* by Patrik Söderlund (IFFR 2019), mid-length pencil animation *Abendland* by IC-98 (Sundance 2016), feature doc *Monica in the South Seas* by Sami van Ingen and Mika Taanila (IFFR 2023) and the camera-less lettrist feature *Tectonic Plate* by Mika Taanila (Berlinale 2016).

IMPIVAARA – A NEW WORLD

2024 | Finland | Color | DCP | 26 min |
1:2,39 | FI/EN | testifilmi #12

Original title:
Impivaara – Uusi maailma

Writer and Director: Patrik Söderlund
Cinematographer and Editor: Jussi Eerola
Music: Paavoharju
Sound Designer: Mika Niinimaa
Visual effects: Jari Hakala
3D artists: Markus Lepistö and Kari Kuusela
Producer: Jussi Eerola

Production company:
Elokvayhtiö Testifilmi Oy

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