



OFFICIAL
SELECTION

INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM
2026

nox

a film by matti harju

1H4 / 2.39:1 - COLOR / ANAMORPHIC DIGITAL / DOLBY 7.1

FINNISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES / FINLAND - 2026

PRESS KIT

PRODUCTION

ELOKUVAYHTIÖ TESTIFILMI OY

Jussi Eerola - jussi@testifilmi.fi

Testifilmi #14

SHORT SYNOPSIS

A dark, almost brutal film, pierced by shards of humor and flickers of abstract hope.

From the wreckage of a buddy comedy rises something stranger: a story that fractures midway into an existential revenge thriller — burning forward with the inevitability of the sun's passage across the sky.

LONG SYNOPSIS

A dark, almost brutal film built on the ruins of a buddy comedy — blending absurd humor with unexpected, abstract hope.

Mikael, a man working at a stone quarry, is forced to leave work mid-day because of severe pain in his legs. Soon, there's a knock at his door: Move — a former friend, or perhaps just an old acquaintance — appears unexpectedly. His life has collapsed under the weight of inhalants and fragmented hallucinations. Move speaks of recurring visions: walls transforming into pixels, and a song playing in his head — one that doesn't exist.

As the afternoon stretches into evening, a neighbor arrives, mistakes Move for Mikael, and asks for help carrying a package. The following moment inside turns strangely intimate: a bright light therapy lamp burns in the darkness, a phone plays the song *Forever Alone*, and Move flees in confusion — realizing he came without shoes.

The night spirals into drugs, strobe lights, and despair. Boundaries begin to dissolve.

Morning arrives with a sharp, penetrating light, as if from another reality. The story begins again: now the main character is Esko, a man who looks like Mikael but seems to inhabit a parallel space. He is being searched for by his cousin and brother — who resembles the earlier neighbor this time. Reality fractures into identical faces, recurring moments, and images that foreshadow violence.

The search culminates in a remote forest clearing, where Osku — another echo of Move — delivers an absurd monologue to the sun before his annihilation. Blood seeps into the ground.

Finally, the cousin and John sit in a car in a middle of a rain. Lightning flashes. In the glove compartment, they find a photograph of Esko. Why it's there, nobody knows. The rain intensifies, moisture blurs the view.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This film was never entirely made, it was allowed to happen. From the beginning, I wanted to see what would emerge if control were removed: no script, no crew, no boundary between the film and the world. We worked only with what existed — weather, exhaustion, coincidence, the shifting moods of the day. Out of these fragments, the story grew on its own.

Working with non-actors was essential. As they didn't imitate emotion; they inhabited it. Their gestures, frustrations, and silences became the film's language. My task was to listen, to respond rather than direct.

This film is a record of what happens when control dissolves and something else begins to speak through the cracks. My role was to witness and assemble what was already unfolding. So the film is essentially a collaboration with chance.

BIOGRAPHY

Matti HARJU studied MA in Directing Fiction at the National Film and Television School (UK) and received an MFA from the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts.

His film school shorts and self-produced films were presented in festivals such as Locarno, Rotterdam, Doclisboa, AFI Fest Los Angeles, BFI London, Torino, Edinburgh, 25FPS, Clermont-Ferrand and Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen. He has held solo shows at Gallery Sinne twice.

Nox (2026) is his second feature film.

FILMOGRAPHY

2026 NOX 64 MIN
Festivals: Rotterdam

2023 NATURA 69 MIN
Festivals: Rotterdam, Torino, Kino Otok

2023 EKSTAASI 10 MIN
Festivals: Oberhausen, 25FPS

2022 BORN TO FEEL 6 MIN
Festivals: Oberhausen

2022 KOLME PÄIVÄÄ SADETTA 10 MIN
Festivals: Oberhausen

2021 EL CENTRO 7 MIN
Festivals: Doclisboa

2012 AFRIKKA 19 MIN
Festivals: Rotterdam, BFI London, Torino

2008 ONE IN FOUR 19 MIN
Festivals: Locarno, Edinburgh, Clermont-Ferrand

2004 MIES ETSII MIESTÄ 12 MIN
Festivals: Rotterdam, BFI London, AFI Fest

CAST

Mikael / Esko - Asko LINTUNEN
Friend / Osku - Otto KETTUNEN
Neighbour / Brother - Juha LILJA
Cousin - Eetu-Matti RAUTIO
John - Matti HILDÉN

CREW

written and directed by Matti HARJU
cinematography Matti HARJU
editing Matti HARJU
sound design Petrus RAPO
music by Asko LINTUNEN, Sean GAFFNEY, Ruttokosmos
sound mixing Sami SARHAIMAA / Kalevala Studio
produced by Jussi EEROLA, Miika TAANILA
development funding FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION, AVEK

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Testifilmi was launched in 2014 and is dedicated to cinematic art, creating works that explore new possibilities in film narrative and strive to find a distinctive form and structure characteristic to each work. It was founded by Miika Taanila, Jussi Eerola and the artist duo IC-98 (Patrik Söderlund and Visa Suonpää).

The company's films have screened widely at international festivals including Berlinale, Sundance, Rotterdam, Oberhausen, Göteborg, BFI London, Edinburgh, Viennale, Jeonju, Karlovy Vary, New Horizons Wroclaw, Cork and Ann Arbor.

Testifilmi's works have also been exhibited in leading museums and galleries such as Centre Pompidou, Musée d'Art Moderne Le Havre, VISUAL and MODEL, New Tretyakov Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Art Skopje, Konsthallen MEKEN, Gallery Anhava, Helsinki Kunsthalle, Turku Art Museum and Ateneum Art Museum.

FUNDING

