



AND WE WERE

A FILM BY

RAINER SARNET

BASED ON ESTONIAN AUTHOR ANDRUS KIVIRÄHK'S
BESTSELLING CULT NOVEL, REHEPAPP.



115 min /
black & white /
Estonia, The Netherlands, Poland /
2017 /

WORLD PREMIERE



PRESS SCREENINGS

FRI March 31 @ 5pm
at the Tribeca Screening Room

THUR April 20 @12:15pm
at Cinopolis Chelsea (CIN)
260 West 23 St, betw 7-8 Ave

PUBLIC SCREENINGS

MON April 24 @ 6:30pm
at CIN-08

TUE April 25, @ 3:45pm
at CIN-02

WED April 26 @6:15pm
at CIN-05

THUR April 27 @ 4:15pm
at CIN-03

NOVEMBER is set in a pagan Estonian village where werewolves, the plague, and spirits roam, Rainer Sarnet's third feature film is a bold, twisted fairy tale about unrequited love. In NOVEMBER the villagers' main problem is how to survive the cold, dark winter. And, to that aim, nothing is taboo. People steal from each other, from their German manor lords, from spirits, the devil, and from Christ. They are willing to give away their souls to thieving creatures made of wood and metal called kratts, who help their masters whose soul they purchased steal even more. A young farmgirl Liina (Rea Lest) is hopelessly in love with Hans (Jörgen Liik), a nearby farmhand, whose heart she loses to the daughter of the German manor lord. In order to regain his love, Liina turns to any means necessary, even if that means tapping into the black magic that is circling around the village. Estonian pagan legends and Christian mythologies come to a spell-binding intersection in NOVEMBER.

In his 48 years of existence, RAINER SARNET has directed five films, lived with three women, accumulated about ten friends, passionately loved Fassbinder and directed theatre plays by Przybyszewski, Gorky, and Jelinek. He mostly writes his own scripts but usually bases them on literary classics. He is captivated by the different facets of the human soul. This was evident in his screen adaptation of Fyodor Dostoyevsky's THE IDIOT (2011). Following in Dostoyevsky's footsteps, Sarnet believes one must focus on that which upholds man and culture so that they do not become devalued and start placing value in the banal.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I was drawn to the book because of the animism, the belief that all things have a soul. Everything has a soul and this is the central theme of the film - selling one's soul, living without a soul and longing for a soul.

The story mixes Estonian fairy tales with Christian mythology. Fairy tales have a fantastical enchantment of beauty and longing. There are ghosts and supernatural forces, and everything is possible. Mortal man is connected to a world greater than himself, which gives him infinite perspective and strength. Fairy tales are spun from the rites of dead religions, where the central image is one of judging a person's soul in order to glean the person's worth. In this story Estonian fairy tales have been taken apart and reconstructed so that the pragmatic and greedy motives, as well as the darker and uglier side of human nature of the characters are revealed. Far from being just a satire about stealing, the story touches something much more primordial. It is comical not

for the stealing, itself, but for the explicitly numb and calm way that people steal.

“November” is no museum folklore, it is a description of a black conscience and the love story in it is more of a soul yearning to escape from that kind of a material world.

Stylistically, it is like a careless, wide brush stroke that spills out over the edges a bit, full of dark comedy, romance, magic and horror.

The visual concept is based on Estonian photographer Johannes Pääsuke’s farmer photographs from the beginning of the 20th century. The main, visual idea was to present the environment as documentary fact and avoid ethnographic embellishments. Ramshackle buildings, wet, muddy farmyards, low ceilings and dirt floors, with farm animals in the living quarters. Those photos show wretchedness of the farmers’ lived, and yet, the light in his photos somehow makes it all magical and unreal. High contrast

between dark and light, lucid streaks of light next to pitch-black darkness.

The film’s fairy tale-like fantasy elements are balanced with environments that are as realistic as possible with natural-looking costumes and people from the countryside playing next to the professional actors.





REA LEST AND JÖRGEN LIIK

THE MAIN ACTORS



Other than their gender, REA LEST (Liina) and JÖRGEN LIIK (Hans) have almost identical biographies. They were both born in 1991, both graduated from Drama School at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in 2014, both have received the highest honor a young Estonian actor can get - the Panso Prize - both joined Theatre NO99 in 2014 and both played their first large film roles in “November” and in a film in post-production “Mankiller. Innocent. Shadow” by Sulev Keedus. You could say that so far they’ve moved hand-in-hand.





THE FILM IS A FIRST EVER
CO-PRODUCTION BETWEEN **ESTONIA**,
THE NETHERLANDS AND **POLAND**.

Homeless Bob Production, a company bringing home the first ever Estonian **Venice IFF Award** with Veiko Õunpuu's "**Autumn Ball**", that was named the most important film in the last 100 years of Estonian film history by critics and aficionados, bringing awards at home and abroad. HBO has produced three films by Veiko Õunpuu that have had premieres at A-list festivals, been chosen as Estonian Academy Award submissions, been selected Film of the Year in Estonia and received a nomination for best art direction at the European Film Awards with "**The Temptation of St. Tony**". The Polish co-producer **OPUS FILM** is Poland's leading companies that produces features and TV

productions on a world scale. In 2015 the Opus Film won the **Oscar for the Best Foreign Language Film** with "**Ida**" by Pavel Pavlikowski.

PRPL, from the Netherlands, produces films with strong director signatures. Their latest, "**The Paradise Suite**" by Joost van Ginkel, was the official entry from The Netherlands for the Academy Award Foreign Language Film in 2016.



Written & directed by:

Rainer Sarnet

Director of Photography:

Mart Taniel

Set designer:

Jaagup Roomet, Matis Mäestu

Editor:

Jaroslaw Kaminski (POL)

Sound designer:

Marco Vermaas (NL)

Composer:

Jacaszek (POL)

Producer:

Katrin Kissa

Co-producer:

Ellen Havenith, Lukasz Dzieciol

Cast:

Rea Lest, Jörgen Liik,

Heino Kalm, Katariina Unt,

Dieter Laser (GER),

Taavi Eelmaa, Arvo Kukumägi

etc.

Budget:
1,6 MLN USD



Screening copy available:
1st of January 2017

Estonian premiere:
4th of February 2017



Website:

[http://www.homelessbob.ee/
movies/rehepapp/](http://www.homelessbob.ee/movies/rehepapp/)

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