

WIND 31M/S

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AIR -2
WATER +1

FINNSURF

A Documentary of Härmäsurf

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PABLO FILMS presents

a film by ALEKSI RAIJ in association with FLATLIGHT FILMS "FINNSURF" starring KALLE CARRANZA RUMON CHAPMAN JUKKA KARHUNEN AJA KORHONEN TOMI LAGERROOS

sound design & music by TOTTE RAUTIAINEN edited by ALEKSI RAIJ JUKKA METSÄÄHO colors by KIM KOPONEN graphics by TONI LÄHDE HANS WECKMAN cinematography by ALEKSI RAIJ JUKKA METSÄÄHO KIM KOPONEN

co-producers TUUKKA KONTTINEN LAURI AHLGREN produced by HENRI SALOKANGAS

directed by ALEKSI RAIJ

www.finnsurf.fi



“A filmmaker from Finland winning a surf film festival sounds about as probable as the Jamaican bobsled team winning gold at the winter Olympics.”

-Tim Baker, *Coastalwatch*

“It’s like Aki Kaurismäki goes surfing!!... Definitely a top documentary in a the long story of films I’ve watched over the year.”

-Sancho Rodriguez, *Director of San Sebastian Surf Film Festival*

“This film is both touching and inspiring and will make you re-evaluate just what it means to be a hardcore surfer.”

-London Surf / Film Festival

“This film really questions what it is to be a hardcore surfer, Adefinite must see.”

-Idol Magazine

FINNSURF is a documentary about five finnish surfers, produced by Pablo Films & Flatlight Films and directed by Aleksi Raij. It was premiered in Helsinki, Finland, at Love&Anarchy - Helsinki International Film Festival in September 2011. It was a box office hit as all the screenings, including an extra one, were sold out.

Same happened later at Helsinki Doc Point Film Festival.

After the premier Finnsurf has been selected to various surf and film festivals and screenings all around the world. It's has been awarded as the best film in London, Australia, Slovenia, Spain, Germany and Finland.

Finnsurf is now recieving multiple distribution offers and it's planned to publish on DVD and online in 2013.

Around 10 000 people has seen the movie at film festivals around the world and the feedback has been super positive. Still, all the screenings are sold out and there is a great demand for new screenings / DVD all the time. Now only privileged people have been able to watch Finnsurf and we believe that the story of Finnsurf is just in the beginning. More people will finally see it as soon as it's out on DVD and online.

The official trailer (<http://vimeo.com/17442275>) has been watched over 50 000 times in Vimeo.

SYNOPSIS

Glassy waves, swaying palm trees, shorts and bikinis, a careless lifestyle somewhere exotic

www.finnsurf.fi

and warm. These are the visions that spring to mind when you dream of surfing. But what if that dream took place in Finland?

Now it's snowing and you're covered with frost. Temperatures are already below zero without the 30 m/s wind whipping at you from across the shore. Even the seawater is close to freezing. It's dark, it's cold, it's miserable. And just then, a man in a 6mm wetsuit comes charging through the storm and disappears into the roaring waves. What the...?

FinnSurf is the world's first Finnish surf film. Told through the lives of five Finnish surfers, it's more than a surfing documentary, it's a story of true love and that intense, overwhelming passion we all feel for what lights our fire in the coldest of places.

FinnSurf is about leaving boredom, fear, and regrets behind in order to find tranquillity, harmony, and fulfilment. It's about a world where life is your dream and your dream is lived every day—no matter where it takes place.



THE CAST

JUKKA KARHUNEN
RUMON CHAPMAN
TOMI LAGERROOS
AIJA KORHONEN
KALLE CARRANZA

JUKKA

Jukka has three different jobs to raise the money for a trip around the world. All the effort for the sake of surfing. Once in a while Jukka skives from work to be able to drive 300 kilometers in a blizzard and surf in the two-degree water. "I didn't choose to be born in Finland. But what can you do? We just have to get all the joy we can out of what's been offered. You might not get the world's best waves in Finland, but you might get the world's best surfing experience."

RUMON

After surfing for 20 years Rumon followed a woman from New Zealand to Finland, and he is now a regular in the line ups of Finland. "What do I think about surfing in Finland? It's fucking cold, mate. One day, at a temperature of -6°C, water temperature was near freezing. I had icicles on my hood and we were wearing all the gear, It didn't matter. In twenty minutes we would be finished. It was... Fuck, it was hardcore."

LAGE

Lage spends summer months by living in a van in his native country Finland and working hard in a factory.

He spends his wages on surfing on the Indonesian waters for the rest of the year. "I worked in sales at an oil company back when the war in Afghanistan began.

It was pretty horrible...I just had to leave Finland.

After a number of coincidences I ended up on the island of Bali. I tried surfing... and my life changed."

AIJA

In the cold and dark, Aija, the Finnish ladies' surfing champion, dreams of warm waves under the sun and drifts to surf to the place of her dreams.

"There's no sense living in the future. I'll do this and that when I win the lottery - or go to heaven. Or when I'm born bold and beautiful. Or as a dog. You have to enjoy the moment. You have to do what you enjoy most. And I like to surf."

KALLE

Finnish-Mexican Kalle Carranza was living his dream as a professional surfer around the world for years until he decided to quit his career and move to Finland to study. He no more felt the passion for surfing.

However, something unexpected happens in Finland...

"Being stoked makes you motivated. If you want to do something - and it makes you feel good, then you are stoked. You don't want to do anything else except surf. Being stoked is an amazing feeling. You need to be stoked in your life."

THE DIRECTOR

Aleksi Raij, Filmmaker

DOB 05/01/1981, Helsinki, Finland

Aleksi grew up making films with friends just for fun. He studied film editing at TaiK (UIAH) Film School, in Helsinki, Finland and graduated in

2008.

He's been working as a film editor in feature films, documentaries, music videos, commercials, and movie trailers in Finland, Europe, and Australia. Additionally, he's directed a few short films and music videos. At the moment he is working in Pablo Films collective (www.pablo.fi).

Aleksi's newest film "FinnSurf" is a documentary film he directed about something that holds a very special place in his heart.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"The conditions for surfing in Finland are what they are, and the fact that people do that in Finland shows their great love towards surfing..

www.finnsurf.fi

So great, in fact, we had to ask ourselves, Why?
And so we decided to create a film—an ode to
surfing. Making this film was a long and fun
process. Actually, it felt really sad to finish
it. Big up for everyone who was part of the
process and used their talent to make the film
this good! FinnSurf was born as a Finnish surfing
film. It's a documentary film about surfing in
Finland and in some other parts of the world as
well. And after all it's a film about passion and
love. We hope FinnSurf puts audiences in a good
mood, and reminds them of the chance to live a
dream."

THE CREW

Director
ALEKSI RAIJ

Producers
HENRI SALOKANGAS
TUUKKA KONTTINEN
LAURI AHLGREN
ALEKSI RAIJ

Cinematography
ALEKSI RAIJ
KIM KOPONEN
JUKKA METSÄAHO

Editors
ALEKSI RAIJ
JUKKA METSÄAHO

Music and Sound Design
TOTTE RAUTIAINEN

Colors
KIM KOPONEN

Graphic Design
MaCWell CREATIVE
TONI LÄHDE
HANS WECKMAN

PRODUCTION STILLS





PRODUCTION NOTES

GENRE
Documentary

EXHIBITION INFO
Exact runtime - 00:52:00
Print details - color, stereo
Aspect ratio- 2.35 (scope)

SCREENING FORMAT
DCP
Blue Ray
DVD

SOUND FORMAT
5.1

FOREIGN VERSIONS
This project contains dialogue in finnish, english.
Subtitled in english.

DATE OF COMPLETION
September 2011

COUNTRY OF PRODUCTION
Finland

AWARDS:

BEST SURF FILM

www.finnsurf.fi

Portuguese Surf Film festival, Portugal

BEST FEATURE FILM, MOST ORIGINAL STORY

Surfilmfestibal Donostia San Sebastian, Spain

BEST DOCUMENTARY AWARD

Surfilmfestival Hamburg, Germany

BEST FEATURE FILM

Yallingup Surfilm Festival, Australia

AUDIENCE AWARD

Arctic Heat Film Festival, Jyväskylä, Finland

BEST FEATURE FILM

Bovec Outdoor Film Festival, Slovenia

SPIRIT OF THE FESTIVAL AWARD

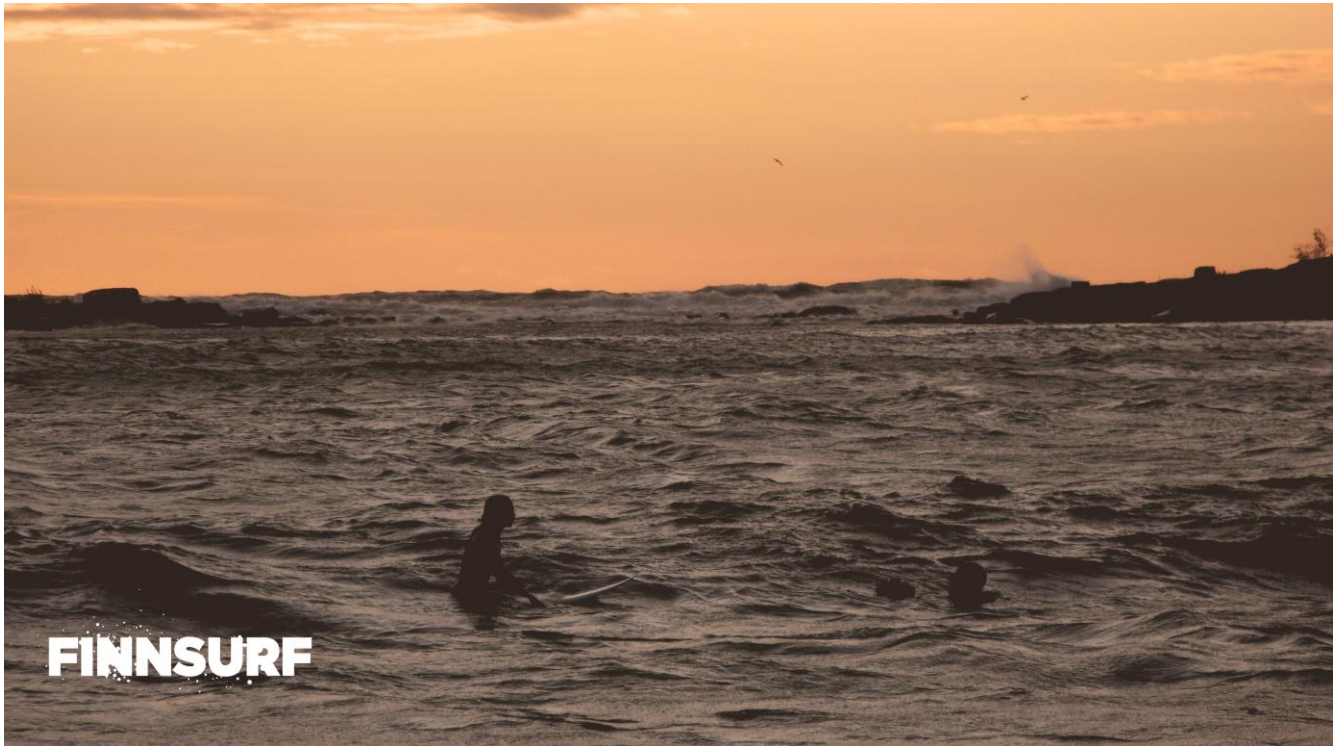
London Surf/ Film Festival, UK

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Helsinki International Film Festival (Love and anarchy)

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Docpoint, Helsinki documentary film festival



WRITTEN ABOUT FINNSURF:

REDBULL USA - TOP 5 SUMMER SURF MOVIES

"This film is taking the world by surprise, winning multiple film festival awards and blowing peoples' minds to find that there is even surf in Finland. The film follows five Finnish surfers and showcases their passion and love for surfing (which many of us can relate to) along with the struggles they deal with in order to just go for a surf. The surprising element is how Mexican pro surfer Kalle Carranza ended up in Finland and fell out of love with surfing only to have the local shredders help him rekindle his fire and passion for the sport. This one is worth watching!"

[Read more](#)

THE INERTIA

"The jaw-dropping surprise of the festival (San Sebastian Surf Film Festival) was a homegrown effort from a professional videographer living so far off the surfing map that many surfers would not be able to point to his country if you paid them. I'm referring to Aleksi Raij of Finland. His film, [Finnsurf](#), is the rarest of creations: a cold water surf flick that manages to avoid all of the typical clichés about "living the dream" and surfing waves that get "as good as anywhere else in the world" that typically sink movies in the genre. Instead, he uses interviews with five Finnish surfers to explore themes of social alienation, the strange and intense loneliness of feeling out of place in your own country, and the nature of "stoke." It is emotionally affecting in ways that few movies talking about surfing ever manage."

[Read more](#)

COASTAL WATCH

A filmmaker from Finland winning a surf film festival sounds about as probable as the Jamaican bobsled team winning gold at the winter Olympics.

But that's exactly what Aleksi Raij accomplished at the Yallingup Surf Film Festival last weekend with his unlikely, artful entry, [Finnsurf](#). It tells the story of some of the most dedicated, deranged surfers in the world, tramping through snow-covered forests and paddling out into the most wretched, wind-ravaged chop, with the air temperature at two below zero, the water temperature verging on freezing and icicles forming on wetsuit hoods. These surfers will work three jobs to save up for their next surf trip, rise at 4 am on the most forboding mornings, drive for hours in darkness through sleet and snow and plunge into the frigid waters of the Baltic Sea, on the edge of the Arctic Circle.

[Read more](#)

SAID ABOUT FINNSURF:

"Your film is super good!! really, no shit, as I told you guys,
it s like Aki
Kaurismaki goes surfing!! It has its quality, its humor... you
guys are Fucked up! Definetely a top documentary in the long
story of films I ve watched over The years!!!"

- Sancho Rodriguez, Director of San Sebastian Surf Film Festival

This film peels back the fleecy layers on the lives of a handful
of
surfers from one of the world's most inhospitable surf locations
and
discovers just what drives them to paddle out into the Baltic
Sea in water that is life threateningly frigid. This film is
both touching and
inspiring and will make you re-evaluate just what it means to be
a
hardcore surfer.

- London Surf / Film Festival

This incredible film captures these surfers, who except
Finland's unappreciative weather and embrace the country's small
but surfable waves. A film about passion and carrying out the
love for surfing, no matter the temperature or freezing waters.
This film really questions what it is to be a hardcore surfer. A
definite must see.

- Idol Magazine

SCREENINGS

[2013 Surfworld International Surf Film Festival](#),
Torquay, Australia, January 2013

[Rip Curl Finland presents: Finnsurf movie](#), Club Aussie
Bar, Helsinki, Finland, 02 November 2012 at 21

[Bluemag Surf Film Nacht- The Finnsurf Tour](#), Grand
Teatret, Kopenhagen, Denmark, 29 October 2012 at 21

[Bluemag Surf Film Nacht- The Finnsurf Tour](#), Studio
Kino, Kiel, Germany, 25 October 2012

[Bluemag Surf Film Nacht- The Finnsurf Tour](#), Riff Raff,
Zürich, Switzerland, 24 October 2012

[Bluemag Surf Film Nacht- The Finnsurf Tour](#), Zeise
Kino, Hamburg, Germany, 23 October 2012

[Bluemag Surf Film Nacht- The Finnsurf Tour](#), Central
Kino, Berlin, Germany, 22 October 2012

[Bluemag Surf Film Nacht- The Finnsurf Tour](#), Rio
Filmpalast, München, Germany, 17 October 2012

[Bluemag Surf Film Nacht- The Finnsurf Tour](#), Cinenova,
Köln, Germany, 15 October 2012

[Blue Ocean Film Festival](#), Monterey, CA, United States,
29 September 2012

[Doc Lounge Oulu](#), Nordisk Panoramien ennakkoklubi, 45
Special, Oulu, Finland, 20 September 2012

[Dok-Sampo](#), Riihimäki, Finland, 15 September 2012

[Aussie Bar](#), Turku, Finland, 14 September 2012

[Bermudan Ulkoilmakino](#), Helsinki, Finland, 06 September
2012

[Savonlinna International Nature Film Festival](#),
Savonlinna, Finland, 25/26 August 2012

[Surf&Skate Festival](#), Munich, Germany, 02 August 2012

[Ilosaarirock, Doc lounge](#), Joensuu, Finland, 15 July
2012

[Honolulu Surf Film Festival](#), Honolulu, Hawaii, 8/25/28
July 2012

[Torikorttelit](#), Helsinki, Finland, 08 July 2012

[Portuguese Surf Film Festival](#), Ericeira, Portugal, 07
July 2012

[Nord Nordwest Surf Skate Film Fest](#), Hamburg, Germany,
05 July 2012

Cinema Nights Exeter Phoenix, Exeter, United Kingdom,
28 June 2012

[PUFF- Portugal Underground Film Festival](#), Fundão,
Portimão, Portugal, 09 June 2012

[Surf Film Festival Donostia](#), San Sebastian, Spain, 08
June 2012

[Finnsurf Tikkurila](#), Bio Grand, Tikkurila, Finland, 19
May 2012

[Santa Cruz Film Festival](#), Santa Cruz, United States,
12 May 2012

[Honolulu Film Awards 2012](#), Honolulu, Hawaii, 12/13 May 2012

[Surf&Skate Festival](#), Hamburg, Germany, 09 May 2012

[Finnsurf Hyvinkää](#), Kinoma, Hyvinkää, Finland, 05 May 2012

[Levi Camp531](#), Levi, Finland, 04 May 2012

[Hyvät Kuvat](#), Kino Kuvakukko, Kuopio, Finland, 29 March 2012

[Finnsurf Turku premiere](#), Oldmill, Turku, Finland, 23 March 2012

[SHAFF- Sheffield Adventure Film Festival](#), Sheffield, United Kindom, 9 March 2012

[SLO- International Film Festival Surf Nite](#), San Luis Obispo, CA, United States, 08 March 2012

[Rovaniemi Design Week](#), Arctic Snow Room, Rovaniemi, Finland, 19/22 February 2012

[Arktisen Upeeta- Pohjoismaisen Elokuvan festivaali](#), Kampus Kino, Jyväskylä, Finland, 16 February 2012

[DocPoint Helsinki- jatkot](#), Vuotalo, Helsinki, Finland, 16 February 2012

[Doc Lounge](#), Pacifico, Helsinki, Finland, 15 February 2012

[DocPoint Helsinki- jatkot](#), Karatalo, Helsinki, Finland, 12 February 2012

[DocPoint Helsinki- jatkot](#), Malmitalo, Helsinki, Finland, 31 January 2012

[DocPoint Tallinna](#), Tallinn, Estonia, 28 January 2012

[DocPoint Helsinki](#), Helsinki, Finland, 26 January 2012

[Yallingup Surfilm Festival](#), Yallingup, Australia, 21 January 2012

[BOFF- Bovec Outdoor Films Festival](#), Bovec, Slovenia, 28 December 2011

[Finnsurf Bali Premiere](#), Kuta, Bali, Indonesia, 4 November 2011

[Rokumentti Rock Film Festival](#), Tapio, Joensuu, Finland, 19 November 2011

[London Surf/Film Festival](#), London, United Kindom, 15 October 2011

Helsinki International Film Festival (Love and
Anarchy) 2011, Helsinki, Finland, 17/18/20/22
September 2011

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