

It takes a good fall to know where you stand



GIRL PICTURE

PRESS KIT

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Synopsis

Best friends Mimmi and Rönkkö have each other's backs, always. They want to live adventurous lives, loaded with experiences and passion. Emma, on the contrary, has given her whole life to figure skating. Nothing gets between her and success. But when the girls meet, life opens new paths, and they all rocket in new directions. While Mimmi and Emma experience the earth moving effects of first love, Rönkkö is on a quest to find pleasure.



Rönkkö (Eleonoora Kauhanen)
and Mimmi (Aamu Milonoff)

MIMMI AAMU MILONOFF
RÖNKKÖ ELEONOORA KAUKANEN
EMMA LINNEA LEINO
TARJA SONYA LINDFORS
KAROLIINA CÉCILE ORBLIN
SANNA OONA AIROLA
JARMO MIKKO KAUPPILA
SIPI AMOS BROTHERUS
KALLE BRUNO BAER
HENKKA NICKY LAAGUID

DIRECTOR ALLI HAAPASALO
SCREENPLAY ILONA AHTI & DANIELA HAKULINEN
CINEMATOGRAPHY JARMO KIURU
PRODUCTION DESIGN LAURA HAAPAKANGAS
COSTUME DESIGN ROOSA MARTTIINI
MAKE UP & HAIR DESIGN KAISU HÖLTÄ
EDITING SAMU HEIKKILÄ
SOUND DESIGN ANNE TOLKKINEN
MUSIC SUPERVISING JAN FORSSTRÖM
LINE PRODUCER INKA HIETALA
PRODUCERS LEILA LYYTIKÄINEN, ELINA POHJOLA

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Director's statement

Girl Picture is a film about the need to be seen.

17–18-year-old Mimmi, Emma and Rönkkö are girls at what I call a liminal age: right at the cusp of womanhood, fluctuating between childhood and adulthood.

At this age the gaze of another person feels like a superpower – it can define, strengthen or change one's self image in an instant. Closeness with the other is very inviting; it hooks us. And then suddenly, an overwhelming realization takes over: how to be close to another person, if you're only just drawing your own contours?

Our story follows the girls on three consecutive Fridays, during which Mimmi and Emma experience the earth moving impact of falling in love, while Rönkkö goes on a quest for something she hasn't yet experienced: pleasure.

The condensed timeframe means it's a fragment of their lives. But because teenagers' lives are so amplified, and every moment counts for everything, a fragment may very well encapsulate a whole universe.

And there, in center of the universe emerges the picture of "me".

Of the film's many themes, the one that became the most important for me, is the safe freedom of the girls. Mimmi, Emma and Rönkkö get to concentrate on exploring their identities without any threats. They catapult at full speed toward emotions, situations and sexuality, on their own terms – and they never end up in danger. They are not punished for desiring. They don't get warned, belittled, shamed or patronized.

In that sense, this is perhaps more a film about the world we aspire for, than the world we live in. And that's why *Girl Picture* invites us not only to look at girls, but to really see them.



ALLI HAAPASALO

Director

Alli Haapasalo (b. 1977) is a Finnish director and writer. With her third feature film *Girl Picture* she continues her passion to tell strong female driven stories. Haapasalo's feature debut *Love and Fury* (2016) followed a writer finding her own voice. *Force of Habit* (2019) – written and directed by a collective of seven writer-directors – dealt with gender bias and structural misuse of power. It traveled the world bringing home some awards and received Jussi-nominations (Finnish Film Awards) for best film, best directing and best screenplay, and was given the Nordisk Film Award in 2020. Haapasalo wrote and directed short film *Doing the Right Thing* (2020) about the early stages of covid-19 pandemic for HBO Nordic's series *At Home*. She has also directed episodes for spy thriller series *Shadowlines* (2019). Alli Haapasalo has a BA from Aalto University's School of Film, Television and Scenography, and an MFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

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Citizen Jane

PRODUCTIONS

Citizen Jane Productions is a female owned and run independent production company, that produces feature films and TV series. We strive to tell stories that matter about this world and the people in it.

Leila Lyytikäinen and Inka Hietala are the producers behind Citizen Jane Productions, together they develop, finance and produce feature films and drama series. The latest productions include the feature film *Girl Picture* (dir. Alli Haapasalo) the road trip drama series *Dragons* (creator Tom Saxman), the comedy series *I'm Coming* (creator Helmi Tolonen) and the feature film *Life after death* written and directed by Klaus Härö.

Citizen Jane Productions is also an experienced co-producer, the feature film *Superposition* (Beofilm, Denmark), the TV drama *The Last Socialist Artefact* (Kinorama, Croatia) as well as the documentary feature *The first 54 years* (Les Films d'Ici, France) were all co-produced in 2021.

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LEILA LYytiKÄINEN

Producer

Leila Lyytikäinen is a seasoned producer with more than 20 years of experience. She has many feature films in her producer credits as well as the executive producer title on several big TV dramas such as *Bordertown* and *Replacements*.

Emma (Linnea Leino) and Mimmi (Aamu Milonoff)

"Girl Picture is a fragment of the lives of three girls at the cusp of womanhood, when every moment is so amplified, that even a fragment may include a whole universe."

- Alli Haapasalo (Director)

Screenplay

DANIELA HAKULINEN

Daniela Hakulinen (b. 31.7.1984) grew up in the most northern parts of Finland, but she moved to Helsinki in an early age to pursue her dream of becoming a filmmaker. She graduated from Aalto university school of art, design and architecture in 2016. In film school she met Ilona Ahti with whom she wrote *Girl Picture* - a film about three teenage girls based on their own lives and experiences as young girls. *Girl Picture* is directed by Alli Haapasalo and will premiere in 2022. Daniela works as a freelance scriptwriter diversely for film and television. Currently she's working on a family drama series created by herself and developing a feature film based on the memories of her grandparents.



ILONA AHTI

Ilona Ahti, 34, is a Finnish screenwriter with an MA in both Screenwriting (Aalto University) and Social Sciences (University of Helsinki). She has been to all continents, except Antarctica, and lived in most of them. Currently she lives in Bogota, Colombia. She is drawn to writing about characters that are underrepresented and stories that question stereotypes. In "*Girl Picture*", Ahti found her writing soulmate in Daniela Hakulinen, as they explored their personal experiences of what it was really like growing up as a teenage girl, and they fought hard to get this story out. Currently, Ahti is writing a feature film questioning the narrative of motherhood. One of her biggest accomplishments is winning gold for the Finnish women's Unified soccer team at the Special Olympics in Los Angeles.



Key Cast

AAMU MILONOFF - AS MIMMI

Aamu Milonoff began her acting career at a very young age making her television debut when she was only 12 years old. Since then Aamu has worked consistently across numerous TV & Film projects, such as "Little Wing" and "Stupid young heart" by Selma Vilhunen, Teppo Airaksinen's dark comedy series "The Duke of Sipoo" and "Maanantai" by Samuli Valkama. Aamu made her main stage debut performance in The Finnish National Theatre in 2016. Recently Aamu made her lead role debut as "Aliisa" in Ulla Heikkilä's coming of age drama EDEN, wich screened extencively in the international festival circuit. Alli Haapasalo's Girl Picture is Aamu's second leading role in a feature film. Aamu is currently studying the Master's programme in Film and Television at Aalto university / ELO film school Helsinki.



ELEONOORA KAUKANEN - AS RÖNKKÖ

Eleonoora Kauhanen is a Finnish actor, dancer and singer. She graduated from Lärkkulla musical theatre school in 2020. Before becoming a thriple-threat performer she studied ballet at Finnish national opera ballet school. After making her lead debut as Little Clara in Finnish National Ballet Company's Nutcracker in 2012, her main focus switched to theatre, musical and camera-work. Eleonoora is best known from her roles as Megan in Valtimo theather's play Megan's Story (directed by David Kozma) Cassie in Peacock theatre's musical A Chorus Line (directed by Marco Bjurström) and Rönkkö in Alli Haapasalo's upcoming film Girl Picture, which marks as her lead debut in a feature film. At the moment Eleonoora is working on a new musical production yet to be announced.



LINNEA LEINO - AS EMMA

Linnea Leino is a Finnish actor. She has a master's degree in acting from the University of Tampere. When Linnea was young, she lived in France and graduated from the French language high school in Helsinki. She has a great interest in languages and is fluent in French, and speak also Italian, English, and Swedish – in addition to her mother toungue Finnish. She is known for her roles in series Aikuiset directed by Anna Dahlman and Nörtti: Dragonslayeróóó by Aleksi Delikouras. Recently Linnea has appeared in the crime series Pahan väri and comedy feature Peruna. Linnea does her lead role debut as Emma, a professional figure skater, in the upcoming feature film Girl Picture by Alli Haapasalo.



Rönkkö (Eleonoora Kauhanen) and Mimmi (Aamu Milonoff)

TECHNICAL SPECS

Original Title: Tytöt tytöt tytöt

Genres: Drama

Production Year: 2022

Country of Origin: Finland

Language Spoken: Finnish, French

Duration: 100 min.

Shot On: Arri Alexa

Screen Ratio: 4:3

Format: DCP, 5.1

PRESS MATERIALS

PHOTOS FOR PRESS

VIDEOCLIPS

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