



PYSTYMETSÄ OY

production

HEARTBEATS (orig.title Kohtaamisia)

Drama feature by Saara Cantell
Dur 81 mins © Pystymetsä 2010

STORY

MARTTA won't reveal her secret to her relatives. NOORA is trying to grow herself wings. MERI learns to be careful about what she wishes for. OLGA and FARDUSA are looking for a better future far from home, while EMMI loses the chances that have been given to her by always making the wrong choices. And ANU runs into a ghost from her past in the grocery store parking lot. But every one of them comes to notice that a single encounter can change your life.

A film about encounters and making choices. Story of seven women and seven choices; what will they choose?

NOTES

From the director Saara Cantell



The question of the possibility of making choices has been on my mind more and more the older I get. To what extent can we choose our lives? Or are we first and foremost the prisoners of circumstance? And above all else, what are those moments when it would be possible to change the direction of our lives?

In films, character development usually occurs rather dramatically, in major turning points. In so-called real life, these pivotal moments seem to come upon us like thieves in the night, in tragically comic encounters in daily life. In my film *Heartbeats*, I've attempted to catch these moments that slip past us and which are at once so small yet so monumental.

An attempt to capture a moment can be seen in the filming style I have selected for this film. Each scene has been filmed as one shot, without editing, and with the camera following the actors in the moment and events, going from one situation to another, that can last as long as 15 minutes. Life is a confusing journey that we must travel without rehearsing for it. To borrow from John Lennon, "*Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.*" Getting through life on your own is difficult, if not impossible. But together with others, at least there is hope.



From the producer Outi Rousu

It's said that every one of us has a single theme in our lives that labels us and leads us through the choices and decisions we make.

The characters in the film *Heartbeats* each come upon a moment that gives them pause and offers them a chance to inspect their own life; how it's been lived and how it looks to continue. We as audience members live in the moment with the characters through these seemingly small yet remarkable moments, the way the characters experience it. I believe that many of us can relate to the decisions the characters make. And maybe even find something to ponder in them.

My work with director Saara Cantell began in 2000. After many wonderful short films, we decided to make a feature film. The prep for the film *Heartbeats* began in the spring of 2008 and already in 2009 we shot the film. In the summer of 2009 we were at our first international film festival and our film awarded grand prix.

KEY CAST & CREW

Cast

Martta	ANNELI SAULI
Meri	MERI NENONEN
Emmi	JENNI BANERJEE
Anu	JOHANNA AF SCHULTÉN
Noora	ROSA SALOMAA
Fardusa	MARYAN GUULEED
Olga	ELENA SPIRINA
Leila	LEENA UOTILA
Make	SAMPO SARKOLA
Petri	TOMMI RAITOLEHTO
Elias	TIITUS RANTALA
Erkki	YRJÖ PARJANNE
Martta's friend	GUNNEL HANÉN



Key crew

Script & direction	SAARA CANTELL
Director of Photography	MARITA HÄLLFORS
Set design	PIRJO ROSSI
Sound design	PIETARI KOSKINEN
Music	SID HILLE
Casting	MINNA SORVOJA, Filmona
Costumes	SANJA KANGAS
Make up	KATI KOSKELA
Editing	PAULIINA PUNKKI
Line producer	ESSI HAUKKAMAA
Producer	OUTI ROUSU
Production company	PYSTYMETSÄ OY



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PRESENTATION OF THE KEY CREW & CAST

Screenwriter and director Saara Cantell graduated as a film director from the University of Art & Design in 1996. She has written for the screen more than ten short films (among them the prize-winning *Sirpalesatu*, 1995, *Peilikirkas päivä*, 1996 and *Potretti*, 2003 as well as *Den stora resan*, 2005, which was based on a short novella by Tove Jansson) as well as countless radio plays. In addition to this, Cantell has directed two children's series (*Vasikantanssi*, 2003, and *Rajametsän tarinoita*, 2004) and the feature-length children's film *Unna & Nuuk* (2005). Her documentary *Ikiomaksi* (2007) was selected by the Finnish broadcaster Yle as its choice for the Prix Europa competition. In addition to directing, she is working towards a Doctorate in the arts, and has just finished her thesis on narrative short films. Saara Cantell lives in Helsinki with her husband and three sons.

Producer Outi Rousu has worked in a professional capacity in the film industry since 1985. Outi has a degree in producing from the University of Art & Design in Helsinki (1996) and an international degree in producing from EAVE (1997). Rousu has produced dozens of films and international co-productions, among them the feature films *Valo* (2005, directed by Kaija Juurikkala, in association with Unicef), *Non Profit* (2008, directed by Pauliina Feodoroff), *Taking Moses for a Ride (Kyytiä Moosekselle*, 2001, directed by Kaija Juurikkala), *Slow at Heart (Kuningas Hidas*, 2000, directed by Saara Saarela) and has been a co-producer on films including the children's film *Rollo and the Wood Sprite (Rölli ja Metsänhenki*, 2001, directed by Olli Saarela). Outi Rousu is currently finalizing the feature film *Miss Blue Jeans*, based on a novel by Kauko Röyhkä. PYSTYMETSÄ is a sister company of the production company Periferia Productions Oy.

Line Producer Essi Haukkamaa graduated as a media producer from the Helsinki Stadia school in 2002 and from a Australian film school in 2009 (Griffith Film School, Brisbane). She lives part of the year in Australia and has her own company in Australia, Little Troopie Films, which has produced short films and music videos.

Cinematographer Marita Hällfors belongs to F.S.C., the international association of cinematographers. She is known for her tender film style, and for a strength of presence in her camera work, which is why she was chosen to shoot *Heartbeats*. Hällfors has filmed numerous award-winning documentary films, the most recent being *Punksters & Youngsters (Punk – tauti joka ei tapa, 2008*, directed by Jouko Aaltonen) and *Family Meeting (2007*, directed by Heikki Kossi) as well as working as director Pirjo Honkasalo's camera assistant in such films as the international award-winning documentary *The 3 Rooms of Melancholia (Melankolian 3 huonetta, 2004)* and *Atman (1996)*. Hällfors has shot a few narrative features, among them Esa Illi's *Broidit (1993)*, Kaija Juurikkala's youth-audience film *Taking Moses for a Ride (Kyytiä Moosekselle, 2001)* as well as English filmmaker Miranda Pennelli's *Magnetic North (2003)*.

Production Designer Pirjo Rossi graduated from the University of Art & Design in Helsinki as a production Designer. Pirjo has received a Jussi nomination (Finnish academy awards) for the film *Helsinki (Rööperi, 2009*, directed by Aleksi Mäkelä) as well as *Little Nurse (Pikkusisar, 2000*, directed by Taru Mäkelä). Pirjo's production design work can also be seen in the upcoming Dome Karukoski film *Lapland Odyssey (2010)*, *The Home of Dark Butterflies (Tummien perhosten koti, 2008*, Finland's nomination for the Oscars and recipient of Jussi awards), and Perttu Leppä's film *Pearls and Pigs (Helmiä ja sikoja, 2003)* and *Pitkä kuuma kesä (1999)*. Rossi has also done the production design for the films *V2: Dead Angel (V2 - Jäätynyt enkeli (2007*, directed by Aleksi Mäkelä) and *Bad Luck Love (2000*, directed by Olli Saarela). Rossi has also done the production design for TV series including *Salatut elämät (MTV3, 1999)*.

Costume Designer Sanja Kangas has worked as a costume designer on the films *Heartbeats, Gorilla (2009)*, in the TV series *Lukio (2007)*, *Salatut elämät (MTV3, 2007)*, *Donna Paukku (MTV3, 2007)*, *Käenpesä (MTV3 2004-2005)* and *Laura (YLE TV2, 2001)* as well as in theatre at such theatre companies as KoKo Theatre, Cassandra and Circus Maximum.

Sound Designer Pietari Koskinen is a graduate of the University of Art & Design in Helsinki. His audio work can be heard in such films as *Aku Louhimies' Tears of April (Käsky, 2008)*, Kaisa Rastimo's children's movie *Stormheart (Myrsky, 2008)* and *Hayhat and Quiltshoe (Heinähattu ja Vilittitossu, 2002)* as well as Rastimo's feature films *A Respectable Tragedy (Säädyllyinen murhenäytelmä, 1998)* and *Suolaista ja makeaa (1995)*, John Webster's award-winning documentaries *Katastrofin aineksia (2008)*, *Valon ja Varjon huoneet (2002)* and *Sukkien euroelämä (2000)*, in Saara Cantell's award-winning children's movie *Unna&Nuuk (2006)*, for which he won a Jussi award, and in Juha Koiranen's film *Rock'n Roll Never Dies (2006)* and Hannu Tuomainen's *One-Way Ticket to Mombasa (Menolippu Mombasaan, 2002)*. Koskinen also composes music.

Composer Sid Hille's music composed for film, and for his own Platybus orchestra, are multidimensional and attractive, and are very visual. Hille has also composed music for Saara Cantell's earlier films *Mahdollisuus (2006)* and *Ikiomaksi (2007)*. Hille studied piano, composing and especially focused on Jazz music in Holland at the Utrech School of the Arts (1987-1993), his teachers including Bert van den Brink, Jasper van't Hof, Willy Muller and Wim Witterman. Hille moved to Finland in 1994. He composes and appears in the Platybus Ensemble quartet, which he founded in 1997, and in the Sid Hille Jazz Orchestra, which he founded in 2005. Hille won the international composing competition 'Scrivere in Jazz 2008' in Sardegna, Italia.

Singer Marjo Leinonen & the theme song *Liian vähän aikaa*

The hit song *Liian vähän aikaa* (1959), composed by Erik Lindström, is a theme song of this film. Musician **Mitja Tuurala** has created a new version of the song for singer Marjo Leinonen. She has been called the Janis Joplin of Finland, and she interprets Joplin splendidly on stage with this melancholy song that, towards the end of the film, supports the meaning of the film's theme. Leinonen's own band, *Viranomaiset*, plays the song.

CAST:

Actress Anneli Sauli (MARTTA) is one of Finland's most renowned actors and familiar from roles in both film and theatre. Sauli has acted in about 40 films, of which ten she acted in under the name Ann Savo in Germany. Her breakthrough role was her lead role in the 1953 film *The Milkmaid (Hilja maitotyttö)*, with leading man Tauno Palo, and directed by Toivo Särkkä). She has played the lead in Finland in more than ten films, including *Jokin ihmisessä* (1956, with male lead Jussi Jurkka, directed by Aarne Tarkas) as well as *Miriam* (1957, with male lead Pentti Siimes, directed by William Markus). Sauli can also be seen in Mikko Niskanen's cult classic *Under Your Skin (Käpy selän alla)*, (1966) as well as Aki Kaurismäki's film *The Man Without A Past (Mies vailla menneisyyttä)*, (2002). Sauli can be remembered for her roles in the TV series *Hovimäki* (YLE TV2, 1999-2000) and *Käenpesä* (MTV3, 2004-2006). Sauli worked as an actor at the Joensuu City Theatre from 1971 to 1996.

Actress Meri Nenonen (MERI) is known for her work in theatre, film and TV series. Nenonen's latest role was in Neil Hardwick's film *Jos rakastat* (2010). Previously, Nenonen has acted in films including Saara Saarela's *Väärät juuret* (2009), Pekka Karjalainen's *Kummeli Jackpot* (2006), Saara Cantell's *Unna & Nuuk* (2006) and Alekski Salmenperä's *Producing Adults (Lapsia ja aikuisia)*, (2004). She acted in two seasons of the TV series *Kylmäverisesti sinun*, (Nenonen, 2000 & 2007). In spring 2005, Nenonen was awarded the best actor award at the Sarajevo International Theatre Festival.

Actress Jenni Banerjee (EMMI) went to acting school in Helsinki at the Stadia School from 2000 to 2004. She continued her acting education in 2005 at the New York's legendary Actors Studio Drama School. Banerjee has acted in film including JP Siili's *Blackout* (2008) and *Young Gods (Hymypoika)*, (2004), Markku Pölönen's *Liekka!* (2007), Saara Cantell's children's film *Unna & Nuuk* (2006), Anssi Mänttari's *Joensuun Elli* (2005) and Alekski Mäkelä's *Bad Boys: A True Story (Pahat pojat)*, (2003).

Actress Johanna af Schultén (ANU) is known for her roles in theatre (at theatres including Stjärnfall, Svenska Teatern, and Lilla Teatern), film and television. She has acted in films including Olli Saarela's *The Year of the Wolf (Suden vuosi)*, (2007), Saara Cantell's film of the Tove Jansson story *Den Stora Resan* (2005), Peter Lindholm's *Kites Over Helsinki (Leijat Helsingin yllä)*, (2001), Alekski Salmenperä's award-winning film *Ferry-Go-Round (Onnen peli)*, (2001) and Claes Olsson's *Amazing Women by the Sea (Ihanat naiset rannalla)*, (1998) and *Akvaariorakkaus* (1992). She has also acted in the award-winning TV series *Helppo elämä* (MTV3 2009, directed by Veikko Aaltonen) and *Tahdon asia* (YLE TV1 2005, directed by Johanna Vuoksenmaa).

Actress Maryan Guuled (FARDUSA) arrived in Finland in 1997 at the age of 15 as a refugee from war-torn Somalia. Her family could only afford to send one child to safety from the war. Maryan at first lived in Vaasa and Oravainen, and attended Swedish-language schools. She later continued her education in

Helsinki, and learned Finnish. She has acted in projects including Ritva Siikala's plays *Aina jonkun tytär* and *Zambesi* (2009) at Theatre Cassandra and the Human Rights League's *Whole Woman* project video, and the dramatic series *Poikkeustila* (YLE TV1, 2007).

Actress Elena Spirina (OLGA) graduated from the St. Petersburg Actors' Academy as an actor in 2001, her teacher being V.M. Filstinskij, one of Russia's best known teachers. Spirina can be seen in JP Siili's upcoming TV series *Virta* (2010), and previously Spirina has acted in films including Mika Kaurimäki's *Three Wise Men (Kolme viisasta miestä)*, 2008) and did a voice role for AJ Annila's *Sauna* (2008). She also acts in theatre, and had a role in the Ryhmäteatteri production of *Saatana saapuu Moskovaan* (2007-2008, directed by Esa Leskinen) and in Korjaamo Theatre's Kristian Smeds play *Yhä pimenevä talo* (2009, directed by Mihail Jegorenkov).

15-year old Rosa Salomaa (NOORA) has already acted in several film roles, among them the lead in Saara Cantell's children's film *Unna & Nuuk* (2006). She also acted in Hanna Maylett's film *Erottamattomat* (2008) and was an extra in films including Klaus Härö's film *Mother of Mine (Äideistä parhain)*, 2005). Rosa attends Aleksis Kivi Secondary School in Helsinki and practises dance.

Leena Uotila (LEILA) became known for her lead role in the memorable TV series *Solveigin laulu* (1974, directed by Reima Kekäläinen). She is also known as the narrator of the *Stories from Moomin Valley (Muumilaakson tarinoita)* TV series and the voice of several of the supporting characters, including Vilijonkka, from the TV series *Kylmäverisesti sinun* (Nelonen 2000, 2007, 2008), *Kaverille ei jätetä* (Nelonen 1999-2001, PP Petelius, & Taneli Mäkelä) and *Kuumia aaltoja*. She has been seen in film roles in, for example, Lenka Hellsted's film *Overseas and Under Your Skin (Maata meren alla)*, 2009), Aleks Mäkelä's *Hellsinki (Rööperi)*, 2009) and Mikko Niskanen's *Gotta Run! (Ajolähtö)*, 1982). Uotila is an actor trained at the Helsinki University of Art & Design.

Actor Yrjö Parjanne (ERKKI) is known especially for his roles as ministers and military officers in, for example, *Uuno Turhapuro armeijan leivissä* (1984), *Uuno Epsanjassa* (1985), *Uuno Turhapuro muuttaa maalle* (1986) as well as *Uuno Turhapuro – kaksoisagentti* (1987). Parjanne played the role of military officer in other films as well, including *Manillaköysi* (1976, directed by Veli-Matti Saikkonen), *Sign of the Beast (Pedon Merkki)*, 1981, directed by Jaakko Pakkasvirta) and *The Unknown Soldier (Tuntematon Sotilas)*, 1985, directed by Rauni Mollberg). Parjanne has also acted in numerous television series (among them *Kaverille ei jätetä*, *Benner & Benner*, *Venny*) and has become familiar from the long-running radio series *Knalli and the Umbrella (Knalli ja sateenvarjo)*. Parjanne has first and foremost made his life's work at the Finnish National Theatre Company.

Actor Sampo Sarkola (MAKE) is known both for his roles in theatre and film. He acted in, for example, Timo Koivusalo's film *Shadow of the Eagle (Kaksipäisen kotkan varjossa)*, 2005), Åke Lindman's *Beyond Enemy Lines (Etulinjan edessä)*, 2004) and Pekka Mandart's film *Keisarikunta* (2004). Sarkola's most recent theatre roles are as Mozart in the play *Amadeus* (2009, directed by Erik Söderblom) and *Kiviä taskussa* (2009, directed by Arn-Henrik Blomqvist), both of which ran at Lilla Teatern.

Actor Tommi Raitolehto (PETRI) has acted in films including Aleks Mäkelä's *Hellsinki (Rööperi)*, 2009) and *The Romanov Stones (Romanovin kivet)*, 1993), Saara Cantell's films *Unna & Nuuk* (2006) and *Jätkien ilta* (2001), Liisa Helminen's film *Pelicanman (Pelikaanimies)*, 2004) as well as in the TV series

Taivaan tulet (2007, directed by Kari Väänänen). He has acted in the plays *Seven Brothers* (*Seitsemän veljestä*, 2008) and *The Death of a Salesman* (*Kauppamatkustajan kuolema*, 2006) among others at the Tampere Community Theatre as well as in the play *Stalker* (2004) at the Helsinki City Theatre. Many people also remember him from his portrayal of the lead role in the play *Brand* at Theatre Takomo (1997).

10-year old Tiitus Rantala (ELIAS) does a nice job of portraying the son of Emmi, the single mother. Tiitus goes to school in Helsinki, and plays handball and watches ice hockey in his spare time. During the shoot, Tiitus was 9 years old.

Actress Gunnel Hanén (MARTTA'S FRIEND) has acted in numerous domestic films from the 1940's to the 1960's, including *..ja Helena soittaa* (1952, directed by Lasse Pöysti) *The Milkmaid* (*Hilja – maitotyttö*, 1953, directed by Toivo Särkkä), *Pikku Ilona ja hänen karitsansa* (1957, directed by Jorma Nortimo), *Kahden ladun poikki* (1959, directed by Armand Lohikoski) and *Kalle Aaltosen morsian* (1971, directed by Jukka Sipilä & Erkki Viljos). She also played a role in the award-winning TV series *Harvoin tarjolla* (YLE TV1 2008, directed by Veikko Aaltonen).

