

Arnold Cautious and The Happiness Stone

Directed by **Arto Halonen**

Written by **Arto Halonen and Jukka Itkonen**

Starring **Emil Paloniemi, Mikko Nousiainen, Maria Ylipää**

Producer **Arto Halonen and Aija Berzina**

Production Company **Art Films production AFP Oy**

Original Title: Antero Varovainen ja Onnenkivi | 89' | 2:40:1 | Finnish OV | Finland 2023

HIGHLIGHT

Arnold Cautious and The Happiness Stone is a story about richness of imagination and finding happiness from Award winning director Arto Halonen.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

Julius has a vivid imagination, which sometimes worries his parents and older sister. One day Julius meets and befriends mysterious Arnold Cautious, who introduces himself as vampire, who loves strawberry juice and lives in abandoned house on the outskirts of the town.

They will use Arnold's grandmother's recipe book as their guide trying to make The Happiness Stone to give Julius's separated parents...so they can find happiness again.

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Arto Halonen is an award-winning director and producer. He was awarded the Finland Prize, which is the highest annual cultural prize awarded by the Minister of Education and Culture of Finland. In addition, he has received the City of Helsinki Culture Prize as only the third filmmaker ever to receive the price. His documentary *The Shadow of the Holy Book* had a successful distribution worldwide, and was nominated for the European Film Academy's award for the best documentary. Halonen's first fiction feature *Princes* received a warm welcome around the world. His feature film, the *The Guardian Angel* was awarded as Best Feature Film at the Gold Movie Awards in London, and he was nominated for Best Director.

CAST BIOGRAPHY

In the role of Arnold Cautious we see **Mikko Nousiainen**, who is known for roles from films *The Trainer* (2018), *Restless* (2000), *The Unknown Soldier* (2017), *The Guardian Angel* (2018).

In the role of Paula, the mother of the family **Maria Ylipää**, who is known for her roles in *Kristina från Duvemåla*, *Keisarikunta* (2004) and *Aallonmurtaja* (2017-). Father of the family is played by **Mikko Töyssy**, who is known specially for his roles in TV-show *Comedy Combat*.

In the role of Manager Kärnä we see **Vesa Kietäväinen** (*Metsolat*, *Taivaan tulet*) and Sorting Manager Kuoriainen is **Ilkka Koivula** (*Under The Nord Star*, *Lights in the Dusk*, *The Other side of Hope*).

In the role of Julius, we see **Emil Paloniemi**, this is his first feature film.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Is a story about the power of imagination and being different – which can lead to alienation in our society. However, when processed right, it can be a great asset. Imagination and difference are shown in the movie as a positive asset, something to aspire to.

The movie touches on sensitive and challenging themes as separations. Loneliness, and self-worth, while contemplating how to face and solve the difficult matters in life. We pursue to tell the children (and parents as well) about the troubles in life and in the world, but emphasizing that there's always a solution to be found. In the movie we look at matters through humour and empathy. As a director I've been motivated in this project by the desire to improve and bring quality and diversity in children's movie culture.

GENRE

Family Film