

KINO LORBER

TOM OF FINLAND
A film by Dome Karukoski



**Starring: Pekka Strang, Lauri Tilkanen, Werner Daehn
and Jessica Grabowsky**

**FINLAND'S OFFICIAL SUBMISSION TO THE
90th ACADEMY AWARDS®**



RUNNING TIME: 116 mins
2017 – Finland / Sweden / Denmark / Germany
WEBSITE: <https://www.kinolorber.com/film/tomoffinland>

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LOG LINE

Award-winning filmmaker Dome Karukoski brings to screen the life and work of one of the most influential and celebrated figures of 20th century LGBTQ life.

SYNOPSIS

Known to the world as Tom of Finland, artist Touko Laaksonen shaped the fantasies of a generation of gay men with his proudly erotic and taboo-shattering drawings of testosterone-filled, muscle-bound men. But who was the man behind the leather?

Dome Karukoski's stirring biopic follows his life from the trenches of WWII and repressive Finnish society of the 1950s through his struggle to get his work published in California, where he and his art were finally embraced amid the sexual revolution of the 1970s.

Tom's story is one of love, courage and perseverance, mirroring the gay liberation movement for which his leather-clad studs served as a defiant emblem.

Film Festival Screenings

Tribeca Film Festival – U.S. Premiere

Frameline – San Francisco International LGBTQ Film Festival

OUTFEST – Los Angeles LGBT Film Festival

Austin's Gay & Lesbian International Film Festival

InsideOut – Toronto LGBT Film Festival

Fairy Tales Film Festival

Seattle International Film Festival

MIFO LGBT Film Festival

OUTEast

Fantasia Film Festival

CinemaQ FF

Traverse City Film Festival

QFest

Quebec City Film Festival (QCFF)

Queer City Cinema

Out on Film - Atlanta

Vancouver International Film Festival

Reel Q - Pittsburgh Int'l LGBT FF

ImageOut: Rochester LGBT Film and Video Festival

Tampa International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

ReelPride

Windsor International Film Festival

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DOME KARUKOSKI – Director

Dome Karukoski is one of Finland's most commercially successful and critically acclaimed filmmakers. In 2013, he was chosen as one of Variety's Top 10 Directors to Watch (worldwide) and his six feature films have garnered a total of 33 nominations at the Finnish National Film Awards. There, Karukoski has been nominated for Best Director for all six of his feature films and has won the prize twice for *Home of the Dark Butterflies* and *Lapland Odyssey*.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This is the story of a man ahead of his time, who bravely fought for his right to be who he was – a gay man with gay fantasies. I hope the film shows how one person can create change in the world, even with something as simple as an artist's tools. It is a long-overdue portrait of a celebrated artist but it is also, at its heart, a love story. Touko Laaksonen lived a truly incredible life that I am honored to share with the world.

CAST

PEKKA STRANG – Touko Laaksonen

2015 We Are The Pirates Of The Roads (dir. Marjut Komulainen)
2015 Armi Alive! (dir. Jörn Donner)
2012 Simo Times Three (dir. Teemu Nikki)
2012 Naked Harbour (dir. Aku Louhimies)
2008 Three in Love (dir. Peter Lindholm)
2007 Colorado Avenue (dir. Claes Olsson)
2003 Producing Adults (dir. Aleksi Salmenperä)
2001 Kites Over Helsinki (dir. Peter Lindholm)

And various roles in TV-series and theatre.

LAURI TILKANEN – Veli

2016 Autumn Prince (dir. Alli Haapsalo)
2015 Midwife (dir. Antti Jokinen)
2015 Reunion (dir. Taneli Mustonen)
2014 Summertime (dir. Inari Niemi)
2013 A Patriotic Man (dir. Arto Halonen)
2012 Diary of a Drunk (dir. Lauri Majjala)
2012 Once Upon A Time In The North (dir. JP. Siili)
2011 Silence (dir. Sakari Kirjavainen)
2010 Bad Family (dir. Aleksi Salmenperä)
2009 The Good Son (dir. Zaida Bergroth)

And various roles in TV-series and theatre.

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JESSICA GRABOWSKY – Kaija Laaksonen

2014, 2015 Thicker Than Water(TV-series, 2 seasons)

2013 8-ball (dir. Aku Louhimies)

2012 Love and Other Troubles (dir. Samuli Valkama)

2011 Where Once We Walked (dir. Peter Lindholm)

And various roles in TV-series and theatre.

About TOM OF FINLAND

“Tom of Finland, a moniker of Touko Laaksonen, was a Finnish illustrator best known for his distinctively stylized homoerotic drawings. An influential aesthetic force in late 20th-century gay culture, his illustrations were rendered in grayscale graphite and often featured uniformed men with exaggerated musculature and genitalia either performing or implying sexual activities. “I almost never draw a completely naked man,” he once explained. “To me, a fully dressed man is more erotic than a naked one. A naked man is, of course, beautiful, but dress him in black leather or a uniform—ah, then is more than beautiful, he is sexy!” Both the content and militaristic style of his work was informed by the artist’s time spent serving in the Finnish armed forces, and he originally began creating his erotic drawings for his own entertainment.

“The critical reception of his work has shifted in tandem with changing political landscapes—prior to the 1970s, Laaksonen’s art was either censored or rejected by mainstream culture, whereas after the end of the 20th century, his illustrations have been championed by gay activists and fine arts institutions alike. In 2013, the exhibition “Bob Mizer & Tom of Finland” held at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles offered a comprehensive survey of his work, and Finish national stamps featuring Laaksonen’s drawings were released in 2014. Born on May 8, 1920 in Kaarina, Finland, the artist died in Helsinki, Finland on November 7, 1991.”

– ArtNet.com

KINO LORBER

CREDITS

Cast

Touko / Tom – Pekka Strang
Veli / Nipa – Lauri Tilkkanen
Kaija – Jessica Grabowsky
Alijoki – Taisto Oksanen
Doug – Seumas Sargent
Kake – Niklas Hogner
Jack – Jakob Oftebro
Sahlin – Kari Hietalahti

Crew

Director – Dome Karukoski
Writer – Aleksí Bardy
Story by – Aleksí Bardy and Dome Karukoski
Producers – Aleksí Bardy, Miia Haavisto, Annika Sucksdorff
Co-producers – Malin Söderlund, Gunnar Carlsson, Miriam Nørgaard, Caroline Eybye, Ingvar Pórðarson, Sophie Mahlo, Johann Frank, Simon Perry
Executive producers – Dome Karukoski, Mike Downey, Sam Taylor, Ronnie Fridthjof
Director of photography – Lasse Frank DFF
Editor – Harri Ylönen
Sound designers – Niklas Skarp and Christian Holm
Main Composer – Hildur Guðnadóttir
Composer – Lasse Enersen, Fortunator Musik GmbH
Score Producer – Jukka Immonen
Costume Designer – Anna Vilppunen
Production Designer – Christian Olander
Make up & Hair designer – Johanna Eliason
Special make-up artist – Lars Carlsson
Production – Helsinki-filmi Oy
Co-production
Anagram Väst (Sweden), Fridthjof Film (Denmark) and Neutrinos Productions (Germany)