

FALLEN LEAVES

ALMA PÖYSTI JUSSI VATANEN

A film by AKI KAURISMÄKI



FESTIVAL DE CANNES
JURY PRIZE
2023



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A film by **AKI KAURISMÄKI**

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fallenleaves.com.au

Finland, Germany – 2023 – Colour – 1.85:1 – 5.1 – 81 min – M – Finnish

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SYNOPSIS

FALLEN LEAVES tells the story of two lonely people (Alma Pöysti and Jussi Vatanen) who meet each other by chance in the Helsinki night and try to find the first, only, and ultimate love of their lives. Their path towards this honourable goal is clouded by the man's alcoholism, lost phone numbers, not knowing each other's names or addresses, and life's general tendency to place obstacles in the way of those seeking their happiness.

This gentle tragicomedy, previously thought to be lost, is the fourth part of Aki Kaurismäki's working-class trilogy (Shadows in Paradise, Ariel, and The Match Factory Girl).



DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Although I have so far made my questionable reputation by making mainly irrelevant violent films, I finally decided, tormented by all the senseless, unnecessary and criminal wars, to write a story about the themes through which humanity might have a future: the longing for love, solidarity, hope, and respect for other people, nature and anything living or dead. With the precondition that the subject deserves it.

In this film, I casually tip my too-small hat to my household gods Bresson, Ozu and Chaplin, but I am still solely responsible for this catastrophic failure.

Aki Kaurismäki

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Aki Kaurismäki
Writer, director, editor and producer
Born 4.4.1957

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

1983 CRIME AND PUNISHMENT (RIKOS JA RANGAISTUS)
1985 CALAMARI UNION (CALAMARI UNION)
1986 SHADOWS IN PARADISE (VARJOJA PARATIISISSA)
1987 HAMLET GOES BUSINESS (HAMLET LIIKEMAAILMASSA)
1988 ARIEL (ARIEL)
1989 LENINGRAD COWBOYS GO AMERICA (LENINGRAD COWBOYS GO AMERICA)
1989 THE MATCHFACTORY GIRL (TULITIKKUTEHTAAN TYTTÖ)
1990 I HIRED A CONTRACT KILLER (I HIRED A CONTRACT KILLER)
1991 LA VIE DE BOHEME (BOHEEMIELÄMÄÄ)
1993 TAKE CARE YOUR SCARF, TATJANA (PIDÄ HUIVISTA KIINNI TATJANA)
1996 DRIFTING CLOUDS (KAUAS PILVET KARKAAVAT)
1999 JUHA (JUHA)
2002 THE MAN WITHOUT A PAST (MIES VAILLA MENNEISYYTTÄ)
2005 THE LIGHT IN THE DUSK (LAIKAKAUPUNGIN VALOT)
2011 LE HAVRE (LE HAVRE)
2017 THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE (TOIVON TUOLLA PUOLEN)
2023 FALLEN LEAVES (KUOLLEET LEHDET)

MAIN CAST

ALMA PÖYSTI

Alma Pöysti (born 1981) graduated in 2007 from the Theatre Academy at the University of Helsinki with a Masters degree in Arts. Pöysti has since gained a broad experience on the most prestigious theatre stages in Scandinavia as well as in front of the camera. Her breakthrough cinematic role was in 2020 when she played the lead in the feature film *Tove* (directed by Zaida Bergroth), for which she was awarded Best Actress at the Finnish Film Awards. She has appeared in various Scandinavian film and tv productions, including the series *Helsinki Crimes*, *Blackwater* as well as feature film *Four Little Adults*, for which she won the award for Best Actress at Gothenburg Film Festival 2023. In addition to *Fallen Leaves*, Pöysti's most recent productions include the lead role in the upcoming feature film *A Day and a Half* directed by Fares Fares and the new film from Pirjo Honkasalo, *Orenda*.

JUSSI VATANEN

Jussi Vatanen (born 1978) is one of Finland's most well-known actors, whose breakthrough lead performance was in *Lapland Odyssey* in 2010 (directed by Dome Karukoski), spanning also two sequels. Since then he has worked consistently in numerous film and tv productions. He is known for his work in *The Unknown Soldier* (2017, directed by Aku Louhimies), the film that broke all box office records in Finland, the role of 'Zaney' in the feature film *Dark Corners* (2021, directed by Richard Parry), and the drama *Forest Giant* (directed by Ville Jankeri), for which he received a Best Actor Award nomination at the Finnish Film Awards in 2020. Vatanen's recent work include the lead role in the crime series *Man in Room 301* (2019) which was selected for the main competition in Canneseries, and the lead character in the thriller *The Man Who Died* (2022).



CAST

Ansa
Holappa
Huotari
Liisa

Alma Pöysti
Jussi Vatanen
Janne Hyytiäinen
Nuppu Koivu

CREW

Director: **Aki Kaurismäki**
Writer: **Aki Kaurismäki**
Assistant director: **Eevi Kareinen**
Cinematography: **Timo Salminen**
Lighting: **Olli Varja**
Set designer: **Ville Grönroos**
Costume designer: **Tiina Kaukanen**
Sound designer: **Pietu Korhonen**
Editor: **Samu Heikkilä**
Producers: **Aki Kaurismäki,
Misha Jaari, Mark Lwoff,
Reinhard Brundig**





TECHNICAL DETAILS

Original title: **KUOLLEET LEHDET**

International title: **FALLEN LEAVES**

Duration: **81 min**

Aspect Ratio: **1.85:1**

Format: **DCP and 35 mm**

Sound: **Dolby Digital 5.1**

Year: **2023**

Original language: **Finnish**

Countries of production: **Finland, Germany**

Production Companies: **Sputnik Oy, Bufo**

Co-production Companies: **Pandora Film**

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Yle, the Finnish Broadcasting Company, ZDF
/ ARTE, ARTE G.E.I.E, Filmförderungsanstalt,
Film-und Medienstiftung NRW

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