

Solar Films Presents a Film Based on a Novel by *Leena Lander*

# The Home of Dark Butterflies

a *Markus Selin* Production a *Dome Karukoski* Film



A PAST TO FORGET – A FUTURE TO FIND

TOMMI KORPELA NILO SYVÄOJA MARJUT MARISTO  
EERO MILONOFF KRISTINA HALTU PERTTI SVEHOLM AND KATI OUTINEN

RAMU VUETELA MATTEENA RUUSUNHEMI ROOPE KARISTO HENRI HUTTUNEN VILJE SAKSALA MIRO VÄRSTEN HIRVANTOJA

Author: *MARKUS SELIN* Screenplay: *JYRKI RÄHÖNEN* Director: *PASU AALTO* Production Designer: *PIRJO ROSSI*

Executive Producer: *KAIJA KOLEHMAINEN* Director of Photography: *JUHO HELLETERÄ* P.A.C. Music: *MARJO LEINÄ* Original Score by: *LEENA LAMMARI*

Executive Producer: *JURKA HELLE* Producer: *MARIN HELIN* Director: *DOMI KARUKOSKI*

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## *Synopsis*

### **A past to forget, a future to find**

The principal character of the movie is 14 years old Juhani (played by **Niilo Syväoja**), haunted and oppressed by a traumatic childhood experience. After being bounced between foster homes and temporary families for six years, Juhani ends up in a Boys' Home, The Island. The place is run under the laws and regulations of the superintendent, Olavi Harjula (**Tommi Korpela**), who is ruthless in his administration. Besides the seven boys and Harjula, the only other inhabitants of the Island are the superintendent's wife Irene (**Kristiina Halttu**) and their two daughters, along with Tyne (**Kati Outinen**), who's in charge of the livestock and the catering. The isolated community is a world of its own. The movie forces the spectators to ask themselves; how long do you have to keep paying for past mistakes and deeds? When can you forgive yourself and set free? Or can you at all? And are you responsible for other people's actions? *The Home of Dark Butterflies* won't answer these questions directly – because there are no answers. Every spectator must make his own stand, based on his own moral judgement; what is right and reasonable?





*The boys of the Island. Standing: Sulkava (Iiro Panula), Salmi (Eero Milonoff) and Simola (Henri Huttunen). In front: Hämäläinen (Niko Vakkuri), Rinne (Ville Sakela), Jubani (Niilo Syväoja) and Sjöblom (Roope Karisto).*

## PRODUCTION INFO

Director	DOME KARUKOSKI
Producer	MARKUS SELIN
Executive producer	JUKKA HELLE
Screenwriter	MARKO LEINO based on the original novel by LEENA LANDER
Director of photography	PINI HELLSTEDT F.S.C.
Sound designer	JYRKI RAHKONEN
Composer	PANU AALTIO
Production designer	PIRJO ROSSI
Costume designer	ELINA KOLEHMAINEN
Make up artist	MARI VAALASRANTA
Editor	HARRI YLÖNEN
Principal actors	TOMMI KORPELA, NIILO SYVÄOJA, EERO MILONOFF, KRISTIINA HALTTU, MARJUT MARISTO, KATI OUTINEN, PERTTI SVEHOLM, MATLEENA KUUSNIEMI
Shootings	27.2.2007 – 2.3.2007 and 3.7.2007 – 24.8.2007
Release in Finland	11.1.2008





## Director DOME KARUKOSKI

"I want to make films that make the audience smile for a week", says Dome Karukoski (born 29th December 1976 in Nicosia, Cyprus). He is bilingual with Swedish and Finnish. He was selected to the University of Art and Design of Helsinki in 1999. That year, three students were selected to become students majoring in directing.

*Tyttö, sinä olet tähti* (*Beauty and the Bastard*, 2005) was Karukoski's graduation film. *The Home of Dark Butterflies* is his second feature. Karukoski has several national championships as a coach and a player in American football and Floorball. Because of that, has an odd trademark of arriving to premiere's and galas: "straight from practice". Has said in interviews, that he never misses practice.

### A word from the Director

*"You must not be too hard on life. Not your own, nor anyone else's."*

The sentence above is one of the profound messages that can be found in the novel by Leena Lander. A lot of people spend their lives projecting guilt onto themselves or others, preoccupied by bitter and cynical views of the world. And it seems as if these sorts of feelings are a growing trend in our society, likely to lead to extremes of behavior such as suicides, school massacres and increasing use of Prozac and other anti-depression medication.

If I, as a filmmaker, can have some impact on society, I will do it. This movie is a milestone in that mission. Life is a beautiful thing and that is what this movie also tries to express.

Feelings, moments and thoughts – we are privileged that we have a chance to experience them. And we should be happy about that. That is what this movie is trying to say, via the story of its characters.

Despite hardships and negative feelings one must always try to go on, to get up after being knocked out. That is what this movie tries to say through the stories these dark butterflies, these boys who have been knocked to the ground.

Naturally, I want to reach out to a beautiful world in my own way, by trying to give the audience a little smile, a glimmer of hope.



## THE AUTHOR BEHIND THE ORIGINAL NOVEL

**LEENA LANDER is one of the most translated Finnish authors**

For Leena Lander (Born 25th October 1955 in Turku) the seventh time is the charm. During the 1980s she wrote six well-received historical novels depicting, for example, 17th-century witch hunts, the forest Finns of Värmland and the unrelenting life in the sawmills of the early 20th century. These novels, which employed various documentary sources, were admired but the real breakthrough was yet to come.

*Tummien perhosten koti* (*The Home of the Dark Butterflies*), short-listed for the Finlandia Prize in 1991, proved such both commercially and critically; and in a event extremely rare for a Finnish book, the film rights were acquired by Hollywood. The two subsequent volumes that complete the trilogy, *Tulkoon myrsky* (1994; *May the Storm Come*) and *Iloisen kotiinpaluun asuinsijat* (1997; *Happy Reunion*), also chronicle the history of a Finnish mining family.

Translated into nine languages, the trilogy holds countless levels of past and present that shape into a spell-binding labyrinth of dark secrets and historical conjunctions. In Lander's work the past has never been and gone; instead, it is that in which transgressions and achievements are passed like a baton from one generation to the next.

*The Home of the Dark Butterflies* has been translated to fourteen languages and published in seventeen countries. It is the first novel translated from Finnish to Arabic.

In all three works there move through the background the themes of childhood suffering, mad forbidden love and ecological doom. The multifaceted whole displays the elements of the thriller, the love story, melodrama and the ambitious historical novel. Lander is a story-teller par excellence, a writer who, instead of fragmenting the world, continues to possess the ability to fashion major narratives.

## Screenwriter MARKO LEINO

Marko Leino (born September 8th 1967 in Hyvinkää) has written novels, plays, poetry, children's books and screenplays. He is a free-lance writer and resides in Espoo with his wife.

His works have been translated into French, German, English and Hungarian. His career as a writer had a kick-start; his first collection of short stories "*Miehen tehtävä*" (*A Man's Job*) was awarded with the Kalevi Jäntti prize.

His psychological crime novel, "*Epäily*" (*Suspicion*) was selected as one of the most important literary works of its publishing year, 2004, by Helsingin Sanomat, the leading newspaper in Finland. Solar Films owns the film rights of *Suspicion*.

A vast film audience knows Leino from the screenplays he has written for Solar Films: *Minä ja Morrison* (*Me and Morrison*) 2002, *Matti* (*Hell Is For Heroes*) 2005, *V2 – jäätynyt enkeli* (*Dead Angel*) and *Tummien Perhosten Koti* (*The Home of Dark Butterflies*) 2008.

He also wrote the screenplay for the most watched domestic movie of 2007, *Joulutarina* (*A Christmas Story*) which is based on his own novel of the same title, also published in 2007.





## MARKUS SELIN – the Producer behind hits

Markus Selin (born 16th March 1960) is the most successful producer in the recent rebirth of popular Finnish cinema. The most successful producer in the recent rebirth of popular Finnish cinema, Markus Selin was chosen Finnish producer of the year in 1999. He has won the Finnish ‘most successful movie’ audience poll five times and his movies have collected 23 Finnish Movie Awards.

Selin works as a producer in Solar Films, the company he founded in 1995. Under his management, the company has become the leading production company in Finland in the fields of drama and entertainment.

### Selin’s local No 1 top performers during the last four years:

2006 Aleksi Mäkelä’s *Matti* (*Matti – Hell Is for Heroes*), 461,314 admissions.

2005 Aku Louhimies’ *Paha maa* (*Frozen Land*), 171,709 admissions.

2004 Aleksi Mäkelä’s *Vares*, 201,097 admissions.

2003 Aleksi Mäkelä’s *Pahat pojat* (*Bad Boys – A True Story*), 614,757 admissions.

His most recent première, Aleksi Mäkelä’s *V2 Jäätynyt enkeli* (*V2 Dead Angel*), has since Friday, 12th January, taken 193,600 admissions.

### The movies produced by Markus Selin

*Mannerheim* (in pre-production), 2009  
*Dark Floors – The Lordi Motion Picture*, 2008  
*Home of the Dark Butterflies*, 2008  
*Astrópía*, Iceland, 2007  
*Dead Angel*, 2007  
*Frozen City*, 2006  
*Matti*, 2006  
*Eleven Men Out*, Iceland, 2005  
*Frozen Land*, 2005  
*Popular Music*, Sweden / Finland, 2004  
*Vares, Private Eye*, 2004  
*Addiction*, 2004  
*Bad Boys*, 2003  
*Me and Morrison*, 2001  
*The South*, 2000  
*Restless*, 2000  
*The Tough Ones*, 1999  
*Gold Rush*, 1997  
*Sunset Riders*, 1994  
*Born American*, 1985

### Finnish Movie Awards to movies produced by Markus Selin (23):

*Frozen City*: best direction Aku Louhimies, best leading actor, Janne Virtanen, best leading actress, Susanna Anteroine, best script, Paavo Westerberg and Mikko Kouki, best editing, Samu Heikkilä  
*Frozen Land*: best film, Markus Selin, best direction, Aku Louhimies, best supporting actor, Sulevi Peltola, best supporting actress, Matleena Kuusniemi, best script, Paavo Westerberg, Jari Rantala and Aku Louhimies, best editing, Samu Heikkilä, best sound design, Kirka Sainio, Janne Laine and Samu Heikkilä, best costume design, Tiina Kaukanen  
*Vares – Private Eye*: best editing, Kimmo Taavila  
*Bad Boys*: best photography, Pini Hellstedt, best sound design, Jyrki Rahkonen  
*Me and Morrison*: best actress, Irina Björklund  
*The South*: best actress, Outi Mäenpää  
*Restless*: best score, Leri Leskinen, best editing, Samu Heikkilä  
*The Tough Ones*: best actor in a supporting role, Kalevi Haapoja  
*Sunset Riders*: best direction, Aleksis Mäkelä, best actor, Juha Veijonen

## CAST

**Harjula** TOMMI KORPELA  
**Juhani** NIILO SYVÄOJA  
**Salmi** EERO MILONOFF  
**Hämäläinen** NIKO VAKKURI  
**Sulkava** IIRO PANULA  
**Rinne** VILLE SAKSELA  
**Simola** HENRI HUTTUNEN  
**Sjöblom** ROOPE KARISTO  
**Vanamo** MARJUT MARISTO  
**Irene** KRISTIINA HALTTU  
**Tyyne** KATI OUTINEN  
**Erik** PERTTI SVEHOLM  
**Maire** MATLEENA KUUSNIEMI  
**Orvokki** EDIT VILJAMAA  
**Juhani, 7** SAMU UUTELA  
**Social worker** HEIKKI NOUSIAINEN  
**Policema** DOME KARUKOSKI  
**Policewoman** KIRSTI VÄÄNÄNEN



**Olavi Harjula**  
 (Tommi Korpela, b. 23.8.1968)



**Juhani "Siili" Johansson**  
 (Niilo Syväoja, b. 13.4.1991)



**Salmi**  
 (Eero Milonoff, b. 1.5.1980)



**Rinne**  
 (Ville Saksela, b. 21.12.1990)



**Hämäläinen**  
 (Niko Vakkuri, b. 4.7.1988)



**Simola "Pieru"**  
 (Henri Huttunen, b. 24.11.1988)



**Sjöblom**  
 (Rooppe Karisto, b. 16.6.1990)



**Sulkava**  
 (Iiro Panula, b. 19.5.1990)



**Irene Harjula**  
 (Kristiina Halttu b. 7.7.1963)



**Vanamo Harjula**  
 (Marjut Maristo, b. 29.12.1985)



**Orvokki Harjula**  
 (Edit Viljamaa, b. 16.5.2000)



**Erik Johansson**  
 (Pertti Sveholm, b. 2.12.1953)



**Juhani Johansson, 7**  
 (Samu Uutela, b. 29.1.2000)



**Maire Johansson**  
 (Matleena Kuusniemi, b. 24.9.1973)



**Tyyne**  
 (Kati Outinen, b. 17.8.1961)

**The film is based on a praised novel by LEENA LANDER**

Leena Lander's novel *The Home of The dark Butterflies* (1991) has been published in seventeen countries. It was short-listed for the Finlandia Prize in 1991, proved such both commercially and critically; and in a event extremely rare for a Finnish book, the film rights were acquired by Hollywood.

Several years later Solar Films bought the rights and made it happen. Producer Markus Selin hired young Dome Karukoski (graduation film *Tyttö sinä olet tähti* aka *Beauty and Bastard*) to direct the film and Marko Leino, born 8.9.1967, (*Me and Morrison, Matti, V2 – Dead Angel*) to write the script.



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