

S O L A R F I L M S A N D T A S K A F I L M P R E S E N T



*"Powerful. Heart-stopping. Ravishing."*

– Tuomas Riskala / Italehti



*"You can't praise the actors too much."*

– Eeva Rajala / The Voice



*"Every shot, every image fulfills  
its purpose..."*

– Matti Tuomela / Cult24

# PURGE

Finland's  
official entry  
for the  
Academy  
Awards®  
2013

LOVE, DECEPTION,  
SACRIFICE



BASED ON THE INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER BY

SOFI OKSANEN

# PURGE

ANTTI J. JOKINEN FILM

## SYNOPSIS

**Purge is a breathtakingly suspenseful story of two women dogged by their own shameful pasts and the dark, unspoken history that binds them.**

Aliide has experienced the horrors of the Stalin era and the deportation of Estonians to Siberia, but she herself has to cope with the guilt of opportunism and even manslaughter. One night in 1992 she finds a young woman in the courtyard of her house; Zara has just escaped from the claws of the Russian mafia who held her as a sex slave. Aliide later finds out that the girl is related to her. Survivors both, Aliide and Zara engage in a complex arithmetic of suspicion and revelation to distill each other's motives; gradually, their stories emerge, the culmination of a tragic family drama of rivalry, lust, and loss that played out during the worst years of Estonia's Soviet occupation.

*Purge is based on Sofi Oksanen's best-selling novel by the same name that has won several prizes including the Nordic Council's Literature Prize, the FNAC Prize in France and the European Book Prize. In the UK the Sunday Times chose Purge as one of the best books of 2010.*



## ANTTI J. JOKINEN'S BIOGRAPHY

**Antti. J. Jokinen** (born 26.4.1968 in Nurmijärvi, Finland) attended East Carolina University on a basketball scholarship. He graduated at the top of his class majoring in Film. Jokinen then moved to New York and worked for MTV as an assistant producer on music shows.

Returning to Finland, Jokinen co-founded Solar Films, which has grown into one of Finland's strongest and largest production houses.

After CVC-Report ranked him as one of the top ten upcoming directors in the world, Jokinen moved to the United States. He quickly became one of



the most requested music video directors worldwide and continues to work with renown artists such as Will Smith, Beyoncé, Eminem, Shania Twain, Celine Dion, Missy Elliott, Shaggy, Kelly Clarkson and numerous others. In 2011 Jokinen finished directing his first feature film *The Resident*, based on his own screenplay and starring Hilary Swank and Jeffrey Dean Morgan.

Jokinen is managed by Tom Lassally, 3Arts Entertainment.

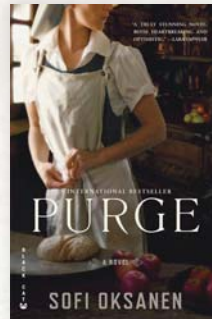
## PURGE – the novel's literary awards and publishing info

### PUBLISHING OUTSIDE FINLAND

The novel *Purge* has 38 foreign publishers of which 18 have already published the novel so far. These include major markets like France, Germany, Italy, the US and the UK where the novel has sold extremely well.

The novel has been massively praised by critics and has received extensive media coverage. In the UK Sunday Times chose *Purge* as one of the best books of 2010.

The theatre version of *Purge* has been performed in Finland, Germany, Sweden and New York/USA, and it will be performed also in Estonia and Norway among others.



### AWARDS

European Book Prize (European Union, 2010)  
The FNAC prize (Le Prix du roman Fnac) (France, 2010)  
Prix Femina Étranger (France, 2010)  
An Indie Next List Notable selection (US, 2010)  
A Barnes & Noble Summer 2010  
Discover title (2010)  
The Nordic Council Literature Award (2010)  
In Finland *Purge* has won seven awards, including the most prestigious Finlandia Award.

# PURGE



*“The music video background of Antti J. Jokinen is visible in his skill of exact and visual framing; every shot, every image fulfills its purpose...”*

– Matti Tuomela / Cult24



*“Powerful. Heart-stopping. Ravishing. Brilliant. Purge is the event of the year in the Finnish cinema.”*

– Tuomas Riskala / Iltalehti



*“Every little detail, every cut are spot on and flawless. You can’t praise the actors too much. The female stars shine.”*

– Eeva Rajala / The Voice



*“Now that Purge is finished, we must say that Jokinen has done his job well...  
Liisi Tandefelt and Laura Birn are the old and young Aliide. Their performances  
are the heart and soul of the movie...”*

*Birn must be mentioned as an actress on the finest kind.”*

– Veli-Pekka Lehtonen / Helsingin Sanomat



*“A tight quality movie. Antti Jokinen has faith in his visual talent and action but he also has the skill and patience to let his characters grow, to let his actors do what they do well.”*

– Ismo Lehtonen / Seiska



*“... the tears are not because of the acts of violence or Aliide’s desperate love. But because of the magnificent way the story of the two sisters is told.”*

– Marjut Laukia / Me Naiset



*“The casting is solid and serves the narrative; one can mention Birn, Pilke, Tandefelt and Kristjan Sarv. The music, by Tuomas Kantelinen, suits its purpose in an unassuming way...”*

– Ari Tiippana / Itä-Savo



*“The movie adaptation is strong both visually and dramatically.”*

– Toni Jerrman / Kauppalehti



*“Full of great performances. The novel by Sofi Oksanen has the makers and an adaptation up to par with the original.”*

– Minna Karila / MTV3



*“A well-made, powerful adaptation.”*

– Niina Holm / Episodi



*“Besides being visually powerful, Jokinen shows a mature talent in narrative. He is an exceptionally sensitive director of actors.”*

– Juhani Nurmi / Kaleva



*“A success as a movie.”*

– Kalle Kinnunen / blog / Suomen Kuvalehti



*“A masterpiece as a movie.”*

– Tapani Jussila / Pohjolan Sanomat



## WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

### A plot of great themes thickens like film noir

*Purge* captures the audience in an engrossing way. A Russian sex-slave on the run finds a refuge in a backwoods shotgun shack; the lonely resident Aliide takes Zara under her wings. But neither of them are what they seem to be; we get to witness a game of minds and wills where both women gradually reveal glimpses from their past, contemplating if these moments of truth are harmful or rescuing.

The flashes of Aliide's life in Estonia of 40's and 50's are full of betrayal, inferiority and hiding, of times when one had to keep one's head down. The country occupied and ruled by the Soviets, is full of humiliation, partly accepted by the society, partly growing from the human weakness.

These are fantastic themes for a movie. Visually they must be embraced; everything and everyone has a second level. The non-linear narrative emphasizes these hidden meanings, just as the changes in point-of-view between Aliide and Zara.

Both storylines are shot with different looks and in the end we find the visual uniformity as the storylines intertwine.

The backbone of the movie is imprisonment and escape and that is layered throughout the film. Both Aliide and Zara are prisoners of their actions, motifs and decisions and have to live with the consequences to the end of their days.

These themes are achieved by a naturalistic and yet, stylized look. Film noir-type of contrast lighting enhances the suspense, the camera moves around the locations like a roaming eye, creating a claustrophobic look.

The story lives, in all its beauty and horror.

ANTTI J. JOKINEN

## FACTS

### PURGE (PUHDISTUS)

Based on the novel by Sofi Oksanen

Director **ANTTI J. JOKINEN**  
Producers, Solar Films **JUKKA HELLE, MARKUS SELIN**  
Producers, Taska Film **KRISTIAN TASKA, MARIA AVDJUSHKO**  
Line Producer **SIRKKA RAUTIAINEN**  
Writers **MARKO LEINO, ANTTI J. JOKINEN**  
Original novel **SOFI OKSANEN**  
Cinematographer **RAUNO RONKAINEN F.S.C.**  
Composer **TUOMAS KANTELINEN**  
Production Designers **TIINA PAAVILAINEN, KATRIN SIPELGAS**  
Make up Designer **RIIKKA VIRTANEN**  
Costume Designer **ANNA VILPPUNEN**  
Editor **KIMMO TAAVILA**  
Sound Designer **KIRKA SAINIO**

Duration **125 min**  
Year of Production **2012**  
Shot on **Arri Alexa**  
Sound **Dolby Digital**  
Format **Digi, 35 mm film**  
Screen ratio **2.35:1**  
Spoken languages **Finnish**  
Countries of origin **Finland, Estonia**  
Domestic release **September 2012**  
Budget **2.6 m euros**

### SELECTED CAST

Aliide at young age **LAURA BIRN**  
Aliide at old age **LIISI TANDEFELT**  
Zara **AMANDA PILKE**  
Hans Pekk **PETER FRANZÉN**  
Ingel **KRISTA KOSONEN**  
Martin **TOMMI KORPELA**  
Militi **TOMI SALMELA**  
Pasa **KRISTJAN SARV**  
Lavrenti **JARMO MÄKINEN**  
Katia **JAANIKA ARUM**



#### **PRODUCTION**

Solar Films Oy  
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