

SYNOPSIS

In 1939, at the start of the bitterly cold Winter War the Soviet Red Army invaded Finnish-Karelia forcing hundreds of thousands of civilians deep into Finland. With men at war front and women looking after the small children, the responsibility of driving the family cattle through deep snow and hostile lands was forced upon the oldest girls.

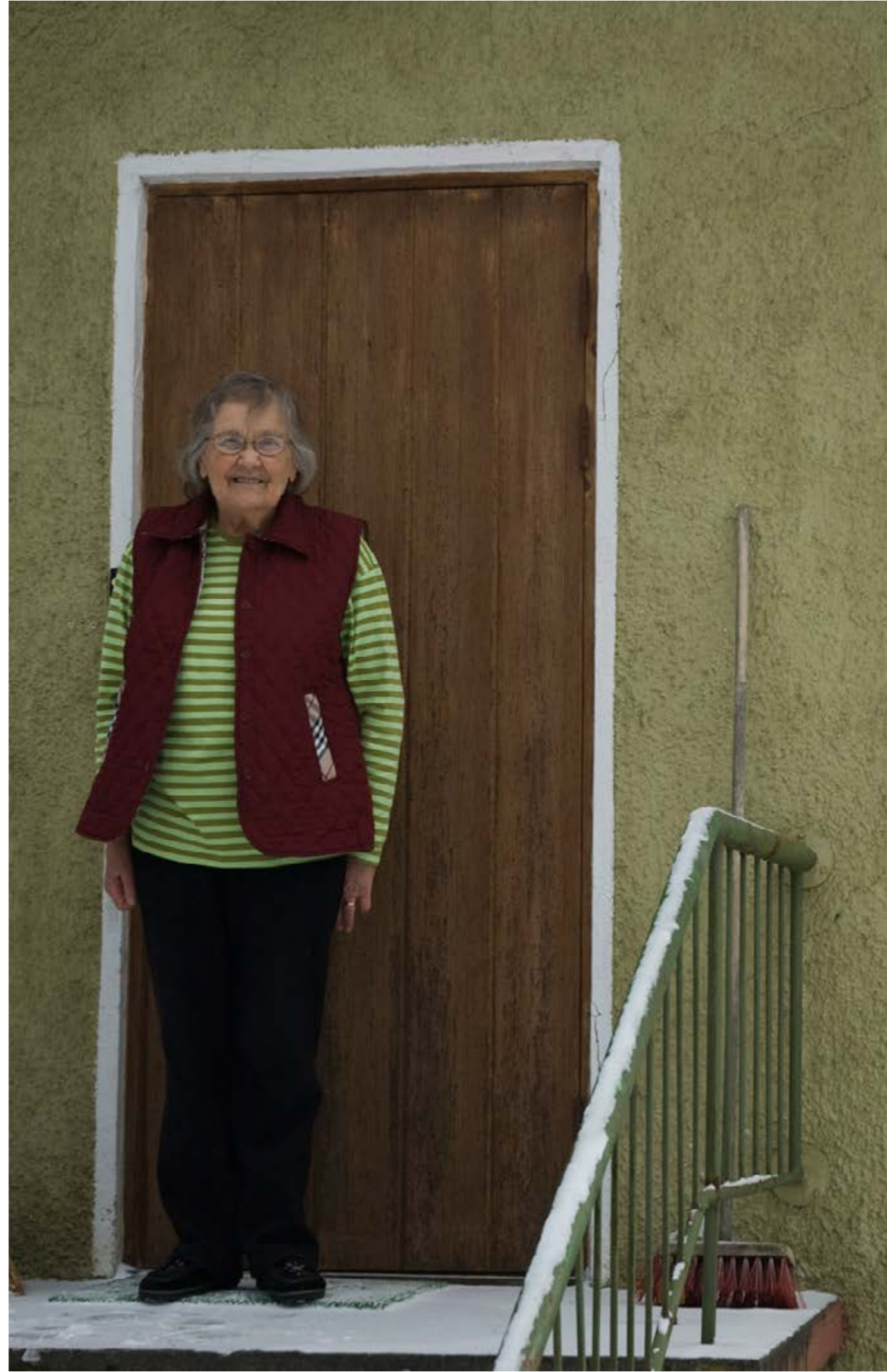
A lifetime later, Annikki, Inkeri and Hilka look back on their adventures on a journey that coincided with their journey to adulthood - and the effect the war had on their lives.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

OFFICIAL SELECTION - Hidden Door Festival - Edinburgh 2010
OFFICIAL SELECTION - Parvin Etesami Women Film Festival, Teheran, 2009
OFFICIAL SELECTION - Oulu FF (Finland) 2009
OFFICIAL SELECTION - Vancouver FF 2009
OFFICIAL SELECTION - Dokubazaar 2009
OFFICIAL SELECTION - I've Seen Films FF 2009
OFFICIAL SELECTION - Dawson City Short FF 2009
OFFICIAL SELECTION - London Short Film Festival 2009
OFFICIAL SELECTION - LIDF, 2009
OFFICIAL SELECTION - Vancouver Film Festival, 2009 (Canada)
OFFICIAL SELECTION - Tampere Film Festival, 2009 (Finland)
OFFICIAL SELECTION - Tromsø International Film Festival, 2009 (Norway)
OFFICIAL SELECTION - LIDF, 2009 (UK)
NOMINATION- Best Short Documentary Film Award - Edinburgh International Film Festival, 2008 (UK)

<http://www.kareliancowgirls.pulkka.eu/>

Trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNBDaxCBvKE



KARELIAN COWGIRLS (Short)
2008, 10.20 minutes

RESOURCES

Geist blog piece

POST-SCREENING CONVERSATION QUESTIONS

1. What role does first person narrative play?
2. How does the director convey the feelings of fear and uncertainty experienced by the protagonists through the film's visual language?
3. "I got a written order, just like the soldiers. If you didn't comply, you'd be court-martialled." What do the speaker's words reveal in relation to their experiences of the Soviet Red Army's invasion?
4. Why do you think the filmmaker chose to position the speakers' narratives of the homes they left behind within the space of a new home?

