

**URALIC PEOPLES**  
**Anthropological film festival**

**Ancient shamanistic rituals, living according to the laws of nature and the indigenous peoples' traditional lifestyle in the globalising world.**

**FREE ENTRY!**

*The films will be combined with lectures about the Uralic peoples in the Department of Central and East European Studies.*

**Monday, 9 November, 7 pm**  
**The Waterfowl People**

Film by Lennart Meri  
1972, 55 min  
with English subtitles

The first internationally renowned Estonian documentary, which tells the story of the history, genealogy, linguistic and cultural relations of the Finno-Ugric peoples. Speakers of several Finno-Ugric languages were filmed between 1960–1970 in their everyday life in Altai Krai, Nenets okrug, Khanty-Mansi okrug, Uzbekistan, Komi Republic, Mari El Republic, Karelia and Estonia.



*All films by Lennart Meri shown at this festival have been digitally restored as a part of the project Estonian Film 100 and to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the legendary Estonian writer, filmmaker, historian and statesman Lennart Meri (1929-2006)*

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**Tuesday 10 November, 7 pm**  
**Yuri Vella's world**

Film by Liivo Niglas  
2003, 58 min  
with English subtitles

*IUCN Film Award for the Environment, Switzerland 2003*

This is a stunning portrait of the poet, intellectual and reindeer breeder Yuri Vella, who is the moral leader of the Forest Nenets, a semi-nomadic people in Western Siberia. Yuri Vella left his home village to lead the life of a reindeer herder in the taiga. The small unique world he created there was meant to offer protection from the alcoholism and unemployment that poses a serious



threat to the indigenous peoples of Siberia. Unfortunately, Yuri Vella's world is an oasis of traditional lifestyle in one of the largest oil-producing regions of Russia where, in the Soviet period, the life was changed forever. The filmmaker excels in portraying how an individual on the international scene stands in defence of the Nenets, and illustrates

environmental and cultural degradation.

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**Wednesday 11 November, 5 pm**

## **Shaman**

Film by Lennart Meri  
1977-1997, 22 min  
with English subtitles

This film looks at the shamanic practises of the Nganasan people. The material was filmed during one single day (16 July 1977) in the most Northern edge of the Taymyr peninsula. Demnime, son of Dühode from Namtuso family (1913–1980) was then 64 years old. This film about his shamanistic rituals was finally released 20 years later.

## **The Sons of Torum**

Film by Lennart Meri  
1989, 61 min  
with English subtitles

This film shows a 3000 years old Khanty ritual – a bear ceremony, where feasting and dancing appeal to the bear spirit. The bear has a special role in the Khanty mythological world as it was believed to be an ancestor of mankind and the son of a god Numi-Torem. The feast lasted several days and a shaman had a central role in this.



*Lennart Meri in Siberia*

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**Wednesday 11 November, 7 pm**

## **Father, Son and Holy Torum**

Film by Mark Soosaar (Estonia)  
1997, 90 min

*The Film of the Year of Estonian film journalists 1997; PRIX NANOOK, Paris 1997; Golden Gate Award, San Francisco 1998*



A documentary about the survival of the nomadic Khanty people in Siberia in the face of the exploitation of their lands by Russian oil corporations. The film focuses on the family conflict between a father who is one of the last great shamans of his people and his Westernised son who works for an oil company and whose assignment is to persuade

the Khanty to sell all their ancestral lands, which the company could exploit for millions of barrels of oil – destroying all plant and animal-life in the area. The parents are bitter and saddened by his betrayal of his heritage.

The film includes rare footage of the rites and life style of the old shaman and his wife as they worship Torum, the main god of the Khantys; it shows them bringing offerings, dancing and beating drums and praying to him through the medium of a sacred bear's heads.

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**Friday 13 November, 5 pm**

## **My Home, My Heartache**

Film by Trude Haugseth (Norway)

2004, 42 min

Anne Marge (25) is the oldest of four sisters in a Sami reindeer herder family in Northern Sweden. While her younger sisters have moved away, Anne Marge still lives at home, helping her father with the reindeer keeping. Her dream is to stay within the profession of reindeer keeping. But the problem is that reindeer herding is a job for men...

This is a film about being a woman in the reindeer herding culture, living in between tradition and modernity, but also includes the universal theme of being young and having to choose how to live your life



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**Friday 13 November, 7 pm**

## **Autumn on Ob River**

Film by Janno Simm (Estonia)

2004, 46 min

Near the mouth of Ob River in North-Western Siberia live the northernmost families of 22 500 Khanty people. In conditions of harsh polar environment

and post-Soviet unpredictability, coping is a challenge. Like many of their kinsmen, the Tobolko family is a part of a fishing brigade. In order to survive, they employ the traditional economic model of Arctic, where hunting and reindeer herding add value to fishing. The film follows the autumnal activity of a Khanty fisherman family: moving over to winter settlement, hunting and reindeer herding.



## Flight

Film by Valentin Kuik (Estonia)

1995, 27 min

*Grand Prix at the International Film Festival in Przemysl, Poland.*



A documentary about the Khanty people. At the same time, the film is also a study about cultural identity in a globalising world. Every autumn a helicopter flies over the remote marshes and bogs of Western Siberia. Native children who have grown up surrounded by forests are taken away. They enter a new world of school uniforms, an unfamiliar Russian language, education and knowledge.