

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
January 1989

FINNISH DUET: AKI AND MIKA KAURISMÄKI

January 26 - February 5, 1989

The highly original and engaging works of Finnish filmmakers Aki and Mika Kaurismäki are the focus of an eleven-day program at The Museum of Modern Art. Opening on January 26, FINNISH DUET: AKI AND MIKA KAURISMÄKI presents eight feature films made between 1980 and 1987. The creative force of the Kaurismäki brothers has drawn international attention to the development of an indigenous film industry in Finland. Each of the brothers writes and directs his own projects, but there is a high degree of collaboration between them, especially in their early films.

Mika Kaurismäki will be present to introduce his work, Helsinki Napoli All Night Long (1987), on Friday, January 27, at 6:00 p.m.

The duality of the influences of American culture and the dark, mystical side of the Scandinavian spirit lies at the heart of films by each of the Kaurismäkis. The brothers frequently rely on the conventions of gangster films, a genre which often celebrates rebels and misfits. Generally concerned with downtrodden working people and society's fringe, the Kaurismäki's films are centered around characters who are vaguely dissatisfied with their lives and attempt to escape their disenfranchised lots. Both filmmakers take a harsh, dispassionate view of society, yet manage not to fall into despair. Aki's films project a cynical view of life and contain deep irony and scathing humor; Mika's films express similar ideas but the tone is more romantic and picturesque.

-more-

The energetic cofounders of the Villealfa production company, Mika and Aki Kaurismäki have formed a unique partnership as independent producers, directors, and actors. They also jointly own and run two cinemas and a film import and distribution company. Additionally, the brothers organize and program the Midnight Sun Film Festival, which they cofounded in 1985. Aki (b. 1957) began his career as a film critic and then turned to script-writing and assistant direction before making his first film, Crime and Punishment (1983). Mika (b. 1955) made his first film, The Liar (1980) while attending the Munich Film School. Since then he has made seven feature films.

FINNISH DUET: AKI AND MIKA KAURISMÄKI was organized by Adrienne Mancina, curator, and Jytte Jensen, curatorial assistant, Department of Film, The Museum of Modern Art, with the cooperation of The Finnish Film Foundation.

* * *

No. 3

For further information or film stills contact Sarah Eaton, film press representative, Department of Public Information, 212/708-9752.

The Museum of Modern Art

FINNISH DUET: AKI AND MIKA KAURISMÄKI

January 26 - February 5, 1989

Film Schedule

Thursday, January 26

- 3:00 p.m. Helsinki Napoli All Night Long. 1987.
Mika Kaurismäki. 105 minutes
In English.
- 6:00 p.m. Hamlet Goes Business (Hamlet Liikemaailmassa). 1987.
Aki Kaurismäki. 86 minutes

Friday, January 27

- 3:00 p.m. Calamari Union. 1984.
Aki Kaurismäki. 80 minutes
- 6:00 p.m. Helsinki Napoli All Night Long. 1987.
Introduction by the filmmaker.
see January 26

Saturday, January 28

- 1:00 p.m. The Liar. 1980.
Mika Kaurismäki. 53 minutes
- 2:30 p.m. Crime and Punishment (Rikos Ja Rangaistus). 1983.
Aki Kaurismäki. 93 minutes
- 5:30 p.m. Rosso. 1985.
Mika Kaurismäki. 90 minutes

Sunday, January 29

- 2:30 p.m. The Worthless (Arvottomat). 1982.
Mika Kaurismäki. 105 minutes
- 5:30 p.m. Shadows in Paradise (Varjoja Paratiisissa). 1986.
Aki Kaurismäki. 76 minutes

Monday, January 30

- 3:00 p.m. The Liar. 1980.
see January 28

The Museum of Modern Art -2-

Tuesday, January 31

3:00 p.m. Rosso. 1985.
see January 28

6:00 p.m. Crime and Punishment (Rikos Ja Rangaistus). 1983.
see January 28

Saturday, February 4

2:30 p.m. Shadows in Paradise (Varjoja Paratiisissa). 1986.
see January 29

5:30 p.m. The Worthless (Arvottomat). 1982.
see January 29

Sunday, February 5

2:30 p.m. Hamlet Goes Business (Hamlet Liikemaailmassa). 1987.
see January 26

5:30 p.m. Calamari Union. 1984.
see January 27

All films in Finnish with English subtitles except where otherwise noted.

* * * *