

tuuledraakon film
PRESENTS

DOCUMENTARY DRAMA 1 x 90' and 2 x 45'

WAR FOR FREEDOM

Supported by

J. Tõnisson

JAAN TÕNISSONI
— POSTIMEHE FOND —



KAITSELIIT



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Oleg Gross

systemair

ESTIKO
AD 1918

Kagu Elekter

METEC

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ELEKTRITÖÖD

PIPELIFE
wienerberger

barrus

*One of the most crucial prerequisites for avoiding war is to be prepared for it – both in terms of arms and in spirit.
Telling the story of Estonia's War of Independence is a significant part of fortifying our spirit.*

Mart Laar, historian and author

A cinematic photograph of three young boys in military-style uniforms, including flat caps and heavy coats. They are gathered together, looking off-camera with expressions of intense focus and anticipation. The boy on the right is holding a small, round object, possibly a piece of food or a small trophy. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows, creating a somber and historical atmosphere.

LOGLINE

The Estonian War of Independence against Soviet Russia, seen through the eyes of three youngsters. Based on true stories.

SYNOPSIS

The year is 1918. Three young men from various parts of Estonia go to fight for liberty. Through unwavering faith and incredible will, the hopelessness and misery of the newly born state and its first battles finally grows into unbelievable success – independence and national self-autonomy. Dramatized scenes revive the most crucial moments of the War of Independence that turned the tide and eventually all of history. The culmination of the tale confirms that the true price of liberty is known only by the fallen – when we realize the narrator of the tale is one of them.

CREATIVE VISION

War For Freedom is a 90% dramatised documentary. Dramatisation is necessary due to the lack of sufficient archival footage from the period. However, the entire narrative and factual content is 100% documentary, based on authentic writings and testimonies of those directly involved in the events.

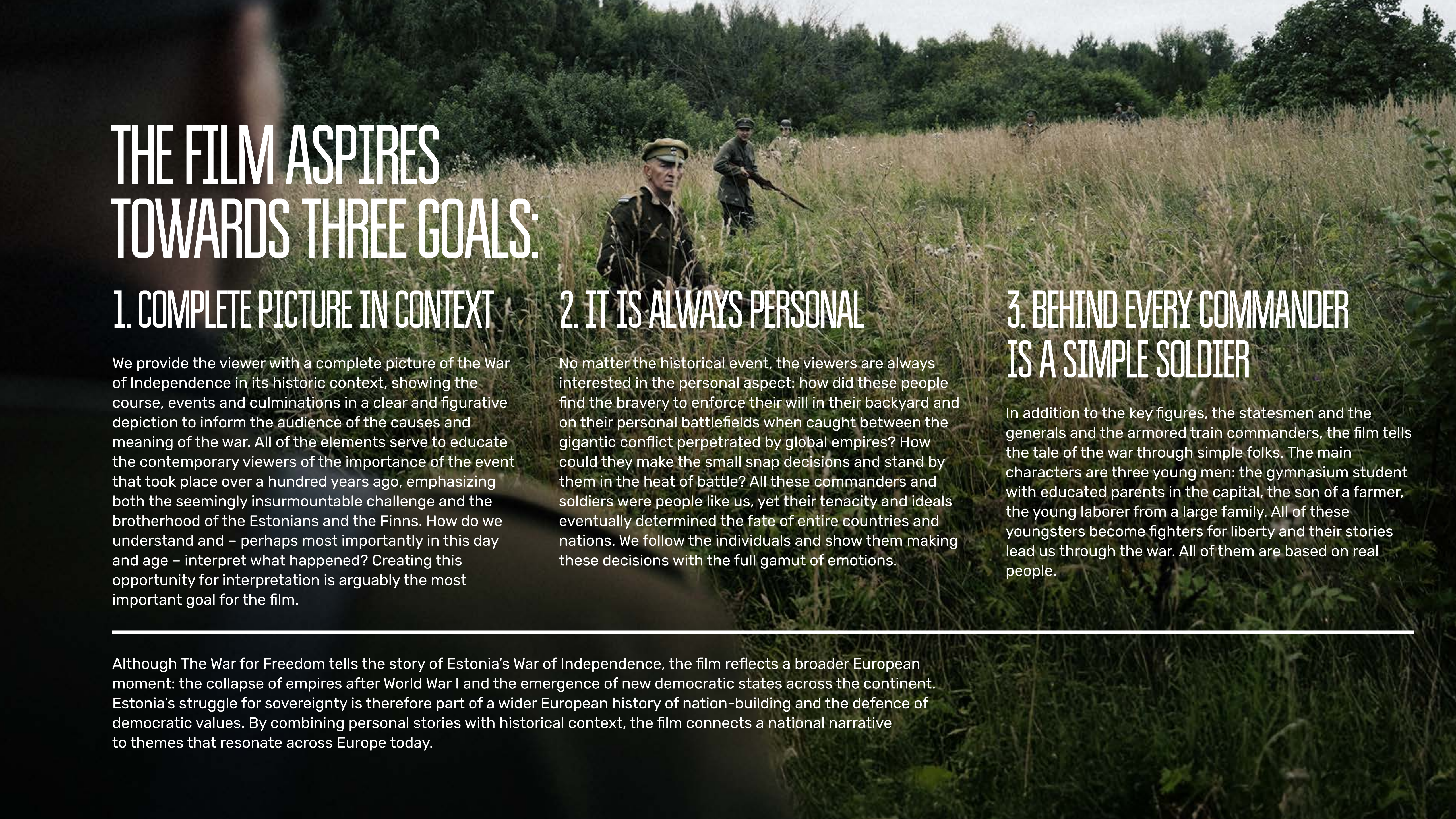
The dramatized scenes are integrated with digitized original photographs and introductions of the real individuals who participated in the historical events depicted in the film. The film provides a complete historical documentary-style overview of Estonia's War of Independence and its broader context, intertwining recreated scenes with authentic archival material.

The recreated portions focus on the most critical turning points in the war through three main characters. All three are fictional characters based on actual youngsters who fought in the war, and their stories carry the viewer through the war alongside historical figures. All recreated scenes – the battles, government meetings, training exercises and other key moments are rooted in historical accuracy and fact.

One of the three main characters is also the main narrator. As a denouement, we see his death in the film, which explains his “all-knowing” retrospective narration. In addition to him, several other historical persons narrate events in the film through actors’ voices.

The prototypes for the three main characters were created by Mart Laar, the creator of the film’s historical script and the author of several books on (Estonian) history. Mart Laar is one of the leading Estonian specialists in this historical era and also served as the Prime Minister of Estonia (1992–1994, 1999–2002).



A film still showing soldiers in a field of tall grass with a forest in the background. The soldiers are in period uniforms, and the scene is set in a natural, outdoor environment.

THE FILM ASPIRES TOWARDS THREE GOALS:

1. COMPLETE PICTURE IN CONTEXT

We provide the viewer with a complete picture of the War of Independence in its historic context, showing the course, events and culminations in a clear and figurative depiction to inform the audience of the causes and meaning of the war. All of the elements serve to educate the contemporary viewers of the importance of the event that took place over a hundred years ago, emphasizing both the seemingly insurmountable challenge and the brotherhood of the Estonians and the Finns. How do we understand and – perhaps most importantly in this day and age – interpret what happened? Creating this opportunity for interpretation is arguably the most important goal for the film.

2. IT IS ALWAYS PERSONAL

No matter the historical event, the viewers are always interested in the personal aspect: how did these people find the bravery to enforce their will in their backyard and on their personal battlefields when caught between the gigantic conflict perpetrated by global empires? How could they make the small snap decisions and stand by them in the heat of battle? All these commanders and soldiers were people like us, yet their tenacity and ideals eventually determined the fate of entire countries and nations. We follow the individuals and show them making these decisions with the full gamut of emotions.

3. BEHIND EVERY COMMANDER IS A SIMPLE SOLDIER

In addition to the key figures, the statesmen and the generals and the armored train commanders, the film tells the tale of the war through simple folks. The main characters are three young men: the gymnasium student with educated parents in the capital, the son of a farmer, the young laborer from a large family. All of these youngsters become fighters for liberty and their stories lead us through the war. All of them are based on real people.

Although The War for Freedom tells the story of Estonia's War of Independence, the film reflects a broader European moment: the collapse of empires after World War I and the emergence of new democratic states across the continent. Estonia's struggle for sovereignty is therefore part of a wider European history of nation-building and the defence of democratic values. By combining personal stories with historical context, the film connects a national narrative to themes that resonate across Europe today.



TUULEDRAAKON FILM AND AIN MÄEOTS

Ain Mäeots is an acclaimed Estonian film and theatre director, actor and producer known for large-scale historical storytelling. Through his company Tuuledraakon Film, he focuses on cinematic projects that combine dramatization with documentary storytelling, bringing important chapters of Estonian and Northern European history to contemporary audiences.

Tuuledraakon Film is Mäeots' creative production company - young but ambitious. The company produces films, television projects and dramatized documentaries with a strong cultural and historical focus, including the widely viewed historical documentary "The Legend of Pitka" and the upcoming film "The War for Liberty."

The company aims to expand international co-productions and historical storytelling projects for global audiences, developing new series and feature documentaries in collaboration with partners in Finland and Germany.

Co-Producer Aili Maarja and Ajafilmid
Executive Producer Jevgeni Supin (jevgeni@zolba.ee)

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DOCUMENTARY DRAMA

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