



FILM IS DEDICATED TO THE CENTENNIAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE AT



A TANEL TOOM FILM

# TRUTH AND JUSTICE



BIGGEST BOX-OFFICE HIT IN ESTONIA EVER

BASED ON THE BEST SELLING ESTONIAN LITERARY CLASSIC

# Tagline



*Every dream demands sacrifice. Every man requires justice.*

# Logline



*TRUTH AND JUSTICE is the story of an uncompromising man whose soul is corrupted by the relentless pursuit of his dream.*

# SYNOPSIS



Estonia, 1870. Young and staunch Andres along with his wife Krõõt arrive at a farm bought on a loan to establish their new life. Desolate and neglected between the marshes, Robber's Rise must be transformed into a place that will take care of the family. All they have to do is to break the resistance of the barren land, make his neighbour cooperate, and raise an heir – a son to inherit his father's life's work. But when nature refuses to bend, the neighbour turns out to

be a roughneck rival, and Krõõt keeps giving birth to daughters, Andres struggles to find the right way. In his desperate search for truth and justice – from the court, the tavern and the Bible, he sacrifices his family, his friends and eventually himself. The beautiful dream of prosperous and nurturing Robber's Rise gives way to an obsession, resulting in none of the things Andres wanted and everything he was afraid of.

# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



Why on earth would anyone want to watch a film about a desolate marshland farm in rural Estonia? At the end of 19th century? Fair point.

But when I read Truth and Justice for the first time I was affected by how contemporary the struggles of the novel's characters were and by how strongly they resonated with my own pursuit for self-fulfillment. To suppress one's feelings and not to express what is happening inside you is a very human thing to do. Having grown up an Estonian I know well how a child learns to read subtle changes on the faces of grownups to guess what is left unsaid. The way my protagonist Andres never ceases the non-stop drudgery to acknowledge what he has achieved or to say a good word to his loved ones reminded me a lot of my father. And myself too. In this way we are like a concentrate of what being a human means - never show your feelings, stiffen your upper lip, and keep pushing on.

Elia Kazan has said that directing is turning psychology into behaviour. I wholeheartedly agree. For me it's especially interesting when the characters' behaviour is suppressed by outside factors – the customs, circumstances and restrictions of the period, or by the character themselves. On screen, these limitations create a very interesting tension – things that are not said or done linger in the looks and subtle gestures of the characters, making even a single blink loaded with meaning. Subtext becomes everything. And behaviour becomes intriguing.

What fascinated me was the opportunity to juxtapose these precise and subtle details with the passage of time, sweeping vistas of nature, epic scenes of death and character change over the course of a lifetime. This is what makes me passionate about filmmaking. Contrast between intimate and vast, psychological and philosophical, compelling rhythm and complete silence... Our goal with this film was to tell a remote story with compelling means and contemporary form, show that problems like overworking, lack of human connection, burying oneself into fulfillment of a distant dream instead of enjoying what is available now are still as actual now as they were back then. And by that hopefully answer the question why on earth would anyone want to watch a film about a desolate marshland farm in rural Estonia.

Tanel Toom,  
Writer & Director



# ABOUT THE FILM



TRUTH AND JUSTICE is a film by an Academy Award nominated (THE CONFESSION 2011) director Tanel Toom and by Academy Award (TANGERINES 2015) and Golden Globe (THE FENCER 2016) nominated producer Ivo Felt.

TRUTH AND JUSTICE was well received by critics and cinemagoers and is the all-time most viewed film in Estonia beating the previous box-office record held by “Avatar”.

The film is based on a literary classic by an Estonian distinguished author Anton Hansen Tammsaare - the book published in 1926 was the first of the five volumes of the author’s opus magnum and is considered to be one of the most important pieces of Estonian literature. Tammsaare is not just an author, but a national icon beyond comparison.

# TANEL TOOM

DIRECTOR



Tanel Toom is an Oscar-nominated director and a Directing Fiction graduate of the National Film and Television School, UK. He has directed 10 short films and around 50 commercials. His shorts have been to over 35 international festivals (including San Sebastian, Warsaw and Venice Film Festival) and won numerous awards, including Best Foreign Film at the 37th Student Academy Awards for his short film "The Confession". The same film was also nominated for an Oscar in the Best Live Action Short category at the 83rd Academy Awards.

# IVO FELT

PRODUCER



Producer and Sound Designer Ivo Felt co-founded the production company Allfilm in 1995. Ivo's productions include Zaza Urushadze's TANGERINES, nominated for the Academy Award and Golden Globe in 2015 as well as Klaus Härö's THE FENCER, nominated for Golden Globe in 2016. His current slate as a Producer includes four feature films and a documentary in production and few projects in development.

# TECHNICAL INFORMATION



Original title: "Tõde ja õigus"

Genre: drama

Running time: 149 min

Format: DCP

Domestic premiere: 20.02.2019

Screen ratio: 2.39:1

Sound format: 5.1

Language: Estonian

Director: Tanel Toom

Screenwriter: Tanel Toom

Cinematographer: Rein Kotov

Production Designer: Jaagup Roomet

Editor: Tambet Tasuja

Composer: Mihkel Zilmer

Sound Designer: Matis Rei

Main cast: Priit Loog, Priit Võigemast, Maiken

Schmidt, Simeoni Sundja, Ester Kuntu

Producer: Ivo Felt

Co-producers: Armin Karu, Madis Tüür

Produced by: Allfilm



# CONTACTS



Publicist

Tatiana Detlofson  
tatiana@mediaplanpr.com

Office: +1 310 260 2800  
Mobile: +1 310 663 3465

ALLFILM

Saue 11, Tallinn 10137  
Estonia  
e-mail: [allfilm@allfilm.ee](mailto:allfilm@allfilm.ee)  
Phone: +372 6 729 070

Producer

Ivo Felt  
[ivo@allfilm.ee](mailto:ivo@allfilm.ee)  
+372 51 76 393

Co-Producer / Public Relations

Madis Tüür  
[madis@allfilm.ee](mailto:madis@allfilm.ee)  
+372 56 911 224