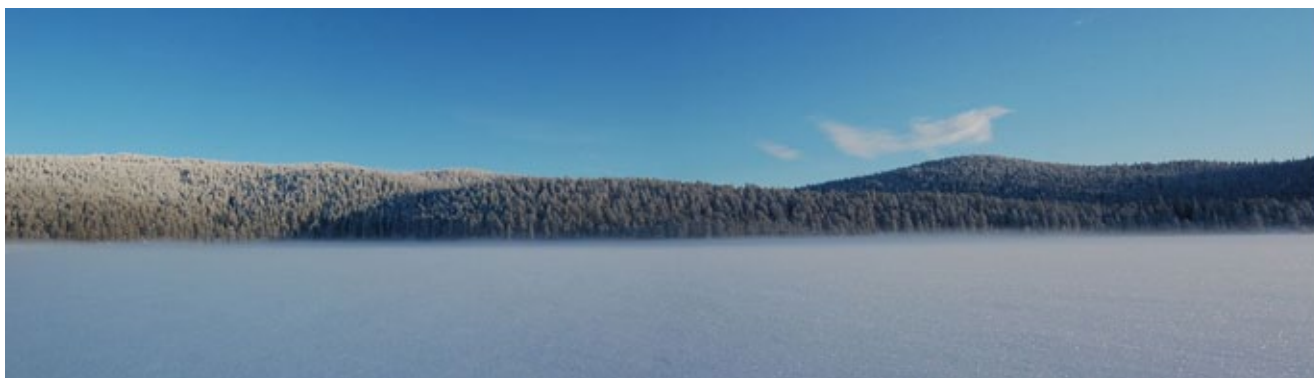


Locations: It's White Winter Again!

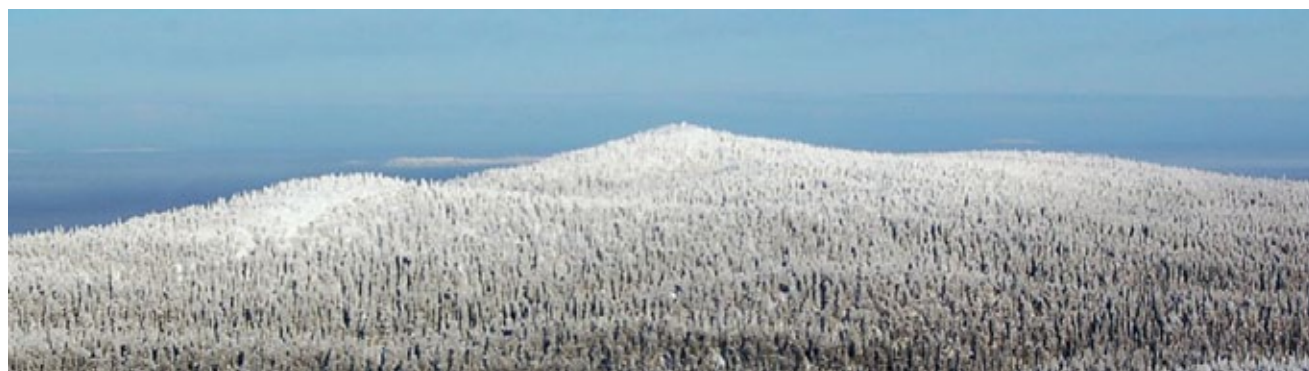


The Kuusamo Lapland region was covered by the first snow record early this year. The area has enjoyed a solid snow cover from late September. Take our word for it: Kuusamo is one of those areas in Finland where a snow cover that stays until early May is almost guaranteed. Best time for shooting is between February and April, when the snow cover is at its thickest and the daylight is abundant.

The largest ski resort in Kuusamo Lapland region, Ruka, opened its season two weeks ago, and the first slopes were ready to welcome skiers already in mid-October. Only the European glaciers beat Ruka in the race of opening for winter season during autumn, and the trails at Ruka remain open for a longer time than anywhere else in Finland. The secret to this accomplishment lies in the climate, but also in the high-quality snowmaking machinery. At full capacity, the 70 snowguns in Ruka produce 1,250 square metres of snow in an hour.



At the Ruka website, you can check out the snowy landscape in real time: www.ruka.fi/webcams/



Industry Development: New Companies Boost the Northern Production Service Cluster

New companies specialising in production services add strength to the industry cluster forming up in the North. During the past year, the supply of production services available in Northern Finland has grown to include such services as casting and equipment rental. Through co-operation initiated within the framework of NFFC's regional development project and pan-Nordic Film Arc project, the companies belonging to the cluster have also found new markets for their products and services. As Anne Laurila, Project Manager in the Film Arc project, says: "Our aim is to encourage the companies located in the Cap of the North area to meet and create pan-Nordic networks. As the infrastructure throughout the North develops further, it will translate into more international co-operation and more productions carried out in the area."

Oulu-based Klaffi Productions strengthened its supply of film production services further by introducing equipment rental functions in autumn 2009. Klaffi's co-operation partner is Angel Films, the largest film equipment rental service in Finland. "Together, Angel Films and Klaffi Productions want to provide better service for productions in the North. From our Oulu base, we can meet film equipment and production service demands anywhere in the Cap of the North area, and it all comes seasoned with our Northern experience and regional expertise," says Tapani Launonen from Klaffi Productions.

Read more on the companies, services and crew members in the area: www.nffc.fi

Productions: Shooting in the Wild, Wild East

The film *Backwood Philosopher* (Havukka-ahon ajattelija) was shot between June and August in the woodlands of Kainuu region, at the easternmost edge of the NFFC operating area. The film tells the story of two academic biologists who travel to the remote backwoods of eastern Finland. As their guide, they get Konsta Pylkkänen, an uneducated but street-wise (or should we say wood-wise) lumberjack. The three men start a journey through the woods and, along the way, learn new things from each other about science, history and the human nature. The film is directed by Kari Väänänen. "Backwood Philosopher" is based on a hugely popular novel by Veikko Huovinen.



Here's what Mikko Tenhunen, producer of the film from MRP Matila Röhr Productions, said on the selection of the shooting location: "We chose Kainuu as the location because of its breath-taking scenery, but also because of the positive experiences we had had with making our earlier films there. Perhaps the most important reason is, however, that by shooting this film at this very location we also had the chance of spending time in the milieu of Veikko Huovinen's original novel."

A wealth of Northern Finnish expertise was employed in making the film. Mediakaari Oy was responsible for constructing the sets for the film, and Hantte Oivo, director of the company, found the shooting trip to Kainuu a very successful one. "One great thing with the summertime in the North is the light, so you can work even in the middle of the night if you like," he says.

Read more on the operations of Mediakaari Oy, a one-man company specialising in constructing sets for film productions, on the NFFC website: www.nffc.fi/news

Events: Another Festival-Filled Autumn Went to Town

Oulu, the capital of Northern Finland, has again enjoyed a lively autumn full of film-related events. The first in line was the sixteenth edition of Oulu Music Video Festival in late August. Besides music videos, the silver screen was alive with music-related feature films participating in the International Music Film Contest MusiXine. This year's winner was a film by Margarita Jimeno, *Gogol Bordello Non-Stop* (USA 2008). The MusiXine contest welcomes both documentary and fiction films, as long as they have music – be it pop or classical – as their main content. Another major event taking place during the festival is the world-famous Air Guitar World Championships, totally windmilled this year by Frenchman Sylvain “Günther Love” Quimene and his winning performance.



The Irish Festival of Oulu takes place in early October each year. Besides the usual offerings of music, dancing and literary art, this year's festival programme also contained Irish films. The success of this new idea was spectacular – capacity audiences flocked to all screenings – and from next year onwards, the films will become a permanent part of the festival programme.

Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival took place for the 28th time, bringing to the city a wealth of Finnish and foreign films for the young and the young at heart. The festival ended last Saturday with a great gala event, where the Children's jury gave their award to *The Crocodiles* (*Die Vorstadtkrokodile*, Germany 2009) directed by Christian Ditter and the International Centre of Film for Children and Youth CIFEJ's prize went to *The Magic Tree* (*Magiczne drzewo*, Poland 2009) directed by Andrzej Maleszka.

NFFC works in co-operation with all these events, fostering the development of the audiovisual culture in the area.

Oulu Music Video Festival: www.omvf.net

MusiXine: www.musixine.com

Air Guitar World Championships: www.airguitarworldchampionships.com

The Irish Festival of Oulu: www.irkku.fi

Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival: www.oulunelokuvakeskus.fi/lef

International Events:

Meet the representatives of the North Finland Film Commission next at the Berlin International Film Festival in February and at Location Trade Show in the USA in April!

Our website at www.nffc.fi is the information source on everything you need in order to start a production in the region: the locations, companies, services, crew members, extras and much more.

If you want to unsubscribe our mailing list, please e-mail us at info@nffc.fi



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