

SPANDEX SAPIENS PRESSKITT

Spandex Sapiens (dir. Oskari Pastila)

Michael is a bullied son of a pentecostal preacher whose worst enemy is a transgender upstart Jessica Love. Jessica is threatening Michael's conservative values. Action-packed film Spandex Sapiens follows also the colourful lovelife of Michael who is fantasizing about the return of stoneage (or even the 80s) relationship politics.

Synopsis

The son of a Pentecostal preacher, Michael is a bullied boy from Canada. He finds his own world in the spandex-clad heroes of comic books and professional wrestlers on TV. After building his body Michael's finally able to don the spandex tights himself and introduce pro-wrestling to faraway Finland. But at 40, injuries and age start to cast shadows on his career, while the conservative and old-fashioned Michael still dreams of being the hero. Suddenly a young transgender wrestler, Jessica, infiltrates his wrestling company, contesting him both physically and ideologically. Anger and frustration get to lonely but uncompromising Michael, who's still searching for a wife. He is looking for love, but first must learn not to hate.

Audience Award - Night Visions Festival, Helsinki

Critic's Choice - DocPoint - Helsinki International Documentary Film Festival

"Enchanting, Herzog-like...Finnish documentary film at its most original" - Kalle Kinnunen, Kuvien Takaa/Suomen Kuvalehti

"Real life 'The Wrestler'" (Aronofsky / Mickey Rourke) - Film-O-Holic

"Brutally honest and constantly funny" - Film-O-Holic

★★★★★ EPISODI

★★★★★ METRO

★★★★★ KATSO

Trailer:

YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YM2MUVZISY>

VIMEO (downloadable): <https://vimeo.com/170757745>

VIMEO EMBED CODE:

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<iframe src="https://player.vimeo.com/video/170757745" width="640" height="360" frameborder="0" webkitallowfullscreen mozallowfullscreen allowfullscreen></iframe>
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YOUTUBE EMBED CODE:

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<iframe width="640" height="360" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/2YM2MUVZISY" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>
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Stills

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0ByzUcF1G8QXcYXBON0J0em1WOUE>

Poster:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6lm6k31f9lgddn2/](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6lm6k31f9lgddn2/AAApAbvpK4CMLzLJVKg4H8Yxa/spandex_sapiens_70x100_eng.pdf?dl=0)

[AAApAbvpK4CMLzLJVKg4H8Yxa/spandex_sapiens_70x100_eng.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6lm6k31f9lgddn2/AAApAbvpK4CMLzLJVKg4H8Yxa/spandex_sapiens_70x100_eng.pdf?dl=0)

www.spandexsapiens.com

<http://www.facebook.com/spandexsapiens>

https://www.instagram.com/spandex_sapiens/

Director's Biography

Oskari Pastila is Helsinki-based director and producer. His first feature-length documentary Basket Case (Täynnä Tarmoa) was released in Finland in 2009. His second film Knucklebonehead was released 2013 and most recent one Spandex Sapiens in 2016. He received his BA from Goldsmiths - University of London and MA from University of Art and Design, Helsinki.

Director's Filmography

2016 Spandex Sapiens

2013 Knucklebonehead

2009 Basket Case (fi. Täynnä Tarmoa)

Knucklebonehead (2013, dir. O.Pastila)

<http://www.knucklebonehead.com>

Screeners (dur. 73min):

<https://vimeo.com/77097740>

password: request from info@emgate.biz

Trailer (dur. 1:49min):

<https://vimeo.com/77562500>

Logline:

Oscar is 40 years old teacher whose Jekyll and Hyde lifestyle starts to cast a shadow on his family life. Just when he is starting to show signs of calming down following the birth of his firstborn, new mortgage and several visits to psychiatrist, his manager lures him back into his old life as rock'n'roll lunatic and to an apocalyptic three week tour in China.

Press:

★★★★★ TURUN SANOMAT "..Best music film made in Finland since 1970."

★★★★★ SEISKA "One of the best Rock-films ever and a compulsory for anyone considering a relationship with a rock-person."

★★★★★ ILTALEHTI "A fascinating dive into the contradictory psyche of an eccentric artist. One of the best premieres of this crowded year of Finnish documentaries."

★★★★★ MTV3 "In our era of eternal youth, the stumbling calming down of 40-year-old Oscar is "falling within the responsibility of adulthood". His

therapist sees catharsis in his angst tricks - during the journey also the viewer get's purified and get's a portion from its beat-up joy of life."

Basket Case (2009, dir. O.Pastila)

Screener (dur. 75min):

<https://vimeo.com/18052419>

password: request from info@emgate.biz

Trailer (dur. 1:29min):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lob2BEtXoTU>

Basket Case is a story about big plans in a little town. After Finnish Basketball Association removes all foreign player limitations, a local club suddenly doubles its' budget. The club hires a new manager and a coach unaware of their very inflamed history together. The duo quickly creates an airlift to America, Europe and even Africa and this small coastal town becomes a cultural hotspot. The film reveals what's behind the scenes in the sport business and goes under the skin of Finnish society. It's a tragicomic story of what happens when sense of reality is wiped aside by flashy ideas.

Press:

★★★★★ AAMULEHTI

★★★★★ METRO

★★★★★ ME NAISET

"One could say it's the anti-Hoop Dreams...universal propensity for the mayhem and bad behavior that accompanies unmitigated greed. - - With a sharp eye for off-the-wall vérité and a directorial presence that, obviously, garners great trust, Pastila observes these grown men at their absolute worst. - - A morality tale, to be sure. This one happens to be Monty-Pythonesque in nature –absurd, tragic and very, very funny."

– Pamela Cohn, Still in Motion

"One of the funniest Finnish films ever ..Basket Case rises among the pinnacles of its' genre.." - Kalle Kinnunen, Suomen Kuvalehti

"The Office was fiction, Basket Case is as true as it gets. David Brent has come to life as the Manager of the film.." - Kalle Kinnunen, Suomen Kuvalehti

"Basketball-farce of all times" - Mika Seppänen, IS Magazine

"Even the Greek poets would recognise the rise and fall of 'Tarmo' - a perfect Farce." - Liisa Lehmusto, DocPoint -magazine

"Even if you can't write a script for a documentary, this film has a perfect dramatic arc - much more touching

and efficient than most fiction films do.." - Markku Halme, SUE -magazine