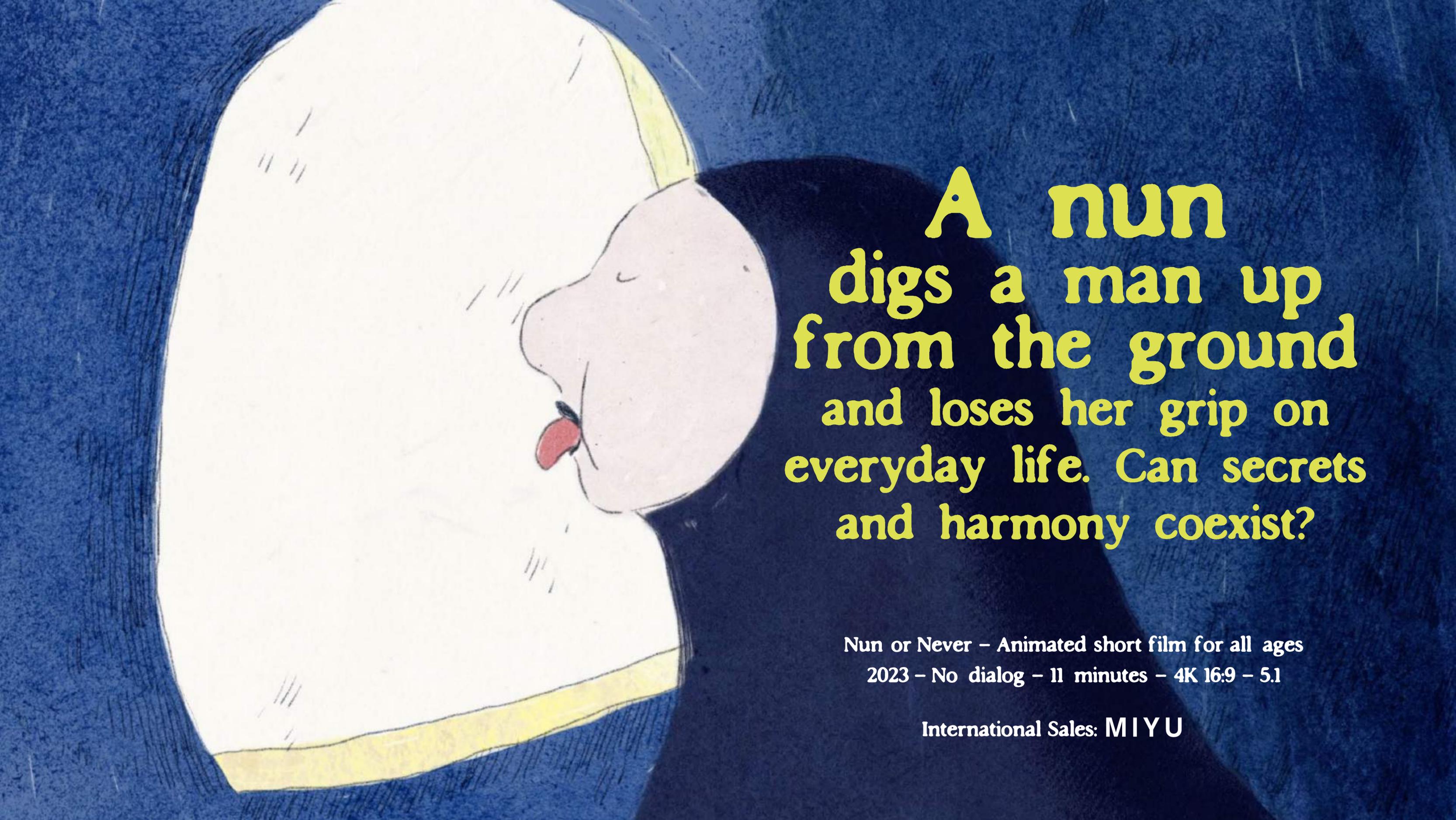


**NUN OR NEVER!**



**A FILM BY  
HETA JÄÄLINOJA**



**A nun  
digs a man up  
from the ground  
and loses her grip on  
everyday life. Can secrets  
and harmony coexist?**

Nun or Never – Animated short film for all ages  
2023 – No dialog – 11 minutes – 4K 16:9 – 5.1

International Sales: MIYU

An illustration of a convent hallway. Two nuns in black habits are walking towards the viewer. The nun in the foreground is larger and has a red nose and a small mustache. The hallway has blue walls and arched windows that let in bright light. There are some scribbled lines and shapes in the air, possibly representing thoughts or a chaotic atmosphere. The overall style is whimsical and hand-drawn.

# Synopsis

**The nuns living in the convent are happily melted together. When one nun finds a man in the garden, the harmony breaks and she loses the shared rhythm.**

Muistiinpanot

Muistiinpanot

Muistiinpanot



**Watch  
the trailer**



## Director's word by Heta Jäälinoja

**“We are all crazy and handicapped”,** my colleague once said. Yet we may often feel that we are the only ones feeling different. The film *Nun or Never* deals with the feeling of standing out from the crowd in an unwanted way. It's a film about secrets that we all carry with us, more or less hidden.

In the film, Nun N. who is identical to the others, falls in love and no longer feels like she belongs to the group of other nuns. She assumes everyone else is decent. In the end, it becomes clear to her that everyone

has their own inner world and hidden peculiarities that do not prevent belonging to the community. In fact, the peculiarities form it.

The idea for the film started back in 2015 with a joke of going to the convent and starting to live as a nun. The nuns as characters kept fascinating me and slowly I started to craft a story around them. The feeling of shame is no stranger to me so it came along very naturally.

For a long time, I tried to keep the man out of the script. In the end, I realized that he gives me the possibility to handle a fantasy that would be best left as a fantasy. Also, the great character design by Karin





Paumer helped to lure him in. Through man's character, I deal with the experience of a crush that cannot withstand reality. The nun's bath in tulips, her private reverie, is the best part of the love experience.

Nunnery is a confined place where certain disciplined behaviour is assumed. The silence of the nuns suits my film narrative. I want to show things through body language and explore the tensions that arise in silence. Under the robes, one can hide things that are considered shameful to reveal. With the help of animation, a windy landscape or flock of sheep can be revealed from under the robes. I have left out religious references because the nunnery is mostly a symbolic space in my film.

The situations I deal with are sad and even unpleasant, but I treat the characters with tenderness. I want to bring to the end a momentary liberation from shame for both the characters and the viewer. Although the nunnery only serves as a stage for humanity in the film, the final message of the film is: All is forgiven.



## Heta Jäälinoja Biography

Heta Jäälinoja was born in 1989 in Vantaa, Finland. She got interested in weird animation when her mother took her to Tampere Film Festival when she was 13.

Heta studied animation at Turku Arts Academy and finished her MA in animation at Estonian Academy of Arts in 2016. Her graduation film Penelope won multiple awards in festivals and was nominated for “Finnish Oscars”, the Jussi statue, for the best short film in 2018.

In filmmaking, Heta is interested in rhythm and conveying the atmosphere of small moments. She tries to find humour and comfort in imperfection and disappointments. She’s balancing between coherent narrative structures and a feeling-based, intuitive approach. In a perfect world, she would work without computers. She’s inspired by artists around her, puppet theatre,



live-action cinema, music, poetry and dance.

Heta works with simple yet expressive pencil lines, in both still and moving images. Usually, the first fast sketches become the final compositions and characters. They have the carelessness and amusement that's hard to achieve by conscious planning.

Her characters express themselves more through pose and action, rather than through facial expression. Heta studied to make non-dialogue animation, but because she really likes words, she's dreaming of making a dialogue-based film someday.

Heta has been animating in short films and has made animation for theatre and museums. She's also a beginner printmaker, but she swears she will never get into stitching or ceramics. Since 2016, she teaches animation and mentors animation students at Aalto University, Metropolia University of Applied Sciences and Estonian Academy of Arts.

# **Heta Jäälinoja**

## **Filmography**

**2023 Nun or Never, 11 min**  
Premiere Annecy 2023

**2016 Penelope, 4 min**  
Grand Prix National Competition,  
Tampere International Short Film Festival  
Best New Nordic Voice, Nordisk Panorama  
Best Student Film, Monstra Festival of Animated Film  
Best Student Film, Kinoproba International Film Festival  
Best Student Film, TOFUZI International Animation Festival  
Audience Award, Silhouette Festival  
Special Award, SICAF International Student Short Film Festival  
Anca Student Prize, Fest Anca  
Jury Special Mention, Animakom International Animation Festival  
Student Jury Award, Etiuda & Anima 2016

**2013 Omelette, 3 min**

**2012 My Baby Don't Love Me, 4 min**

# Credits

## Written and directed by

Heta Jäälinoja

## Design

Heta Jäälinoja

Sanni Lahtinen

Karin Paumer

## Animation, colouring, compositing

Sanni Lahtinen

Roope Heimonen

Heta Jäälinoja

Niko Niemelä

## Production

Jani Lehto

## Sound design, foley & mix

Jani Lehto at Böhle Studios

## Music composing & production

Jukka Herva

## Editing

Heta Jäälinoja

## Editing consultant

Outi Hyytinen

## Graphic design

Pauliina Vesterinen

## Visual development

Karin Paumer

Aggie Lee Pak Yee

Sanni Lahtinen

## Story development

Kamila Kucikova

Heinrich Sepp



## Contact info

### Director, author

Heta Jäälinoja  
[heta.jaalinoja@gmail.com](mailto:heta.jaalinoja@gmail.com)  
+358 44 258 2088

### Producer

Jani Lehto  
Böhle Studios  
[jani@bohlestudios.com](mailto:jani@bohlestudios.com)  
+358 44 530 5536

### Sales & distribution

Miyu Distribution  
[sales@miyu.fr](mailto:sales@miyu.fr)  
[festival@miyu.fr](mailto:festival@miyu.fr)  
+33 (0)4 4867 9009

# B''

© 2023 Böhle Studios



Taiteen edistämiskeskus  
Centret för konstfrämjande  
Arts Promotion Centre Finland

MIYU

