

WASTELAND

Documentary, 20 min, 2020

WASTELAND is a snapshot of a few young Swedes' existence far from the big cities. In an intimate portrayal of everyday life, we meet a group of people often made invisible in film and the media: the rural working class. Whenever they make an appearance, it is often tendentious and with a view to highlight problems such as unemployment, racism, and alienation. This short documentary paints a different picture of reality.

With this contemporary document, I want to depict rural life in a different, non-romanticized way, by offering a glimpse into the lives of a few young adults and their life choices, says the film's director Daniel Milton.

The film's jumping-off point is the thesis of Professor of Economics Kjell A. Nordström (from the Stockholm School of Economics) that the county of Värmland is a typical example of a "wasteland." *"There is no economic activity, no universities, no entertainment, no shopping, nothing, only trees."*

The film can be seen as a political, non-ideological contribution to the debate about the urban-rural divide, through the personal experiences of a few young adults living in Sweden's inland.

About the Director

Daniel Milton lives in Stockholm but grew up in the country, and is well versed in the ins and outs of growing up in a place far from the big cities. But he always felt the allure of a different kind of life, and left the rural world behind as soon as he got the chance.

It's not a choice I regret, but it has probably resulted in a kind of rootlessness, and I do envy the film's protagonists insofar as their life choices seem so simple and unambiguous. They have no desire to live anywhere else on the planet, says Daniel Milton.

Between 2016 and 2018, Daniel Milton followed the film's protagonists as a still photographer, at the time focusing on the night life of the Swedish 'raggare' culture. After countless hours spent in each other's company, a close bond was forged.

When I started the photography project, I had no ambitions beyond an exhibition and maybe a book. Later, upon hearing of this bizarre "wasteland" statement, I immediately knew this was something I'd want to address and which, in time, became the jumping-off point for this film.

PRODUCTION INFO

Production company: Barataria // www.barataria.se

Co producer: SVT (Swedish Television)

Length: 20 minuter

Director/photo/editor: Daniel Milton (mail@danielmilton.se +46 730 392554)

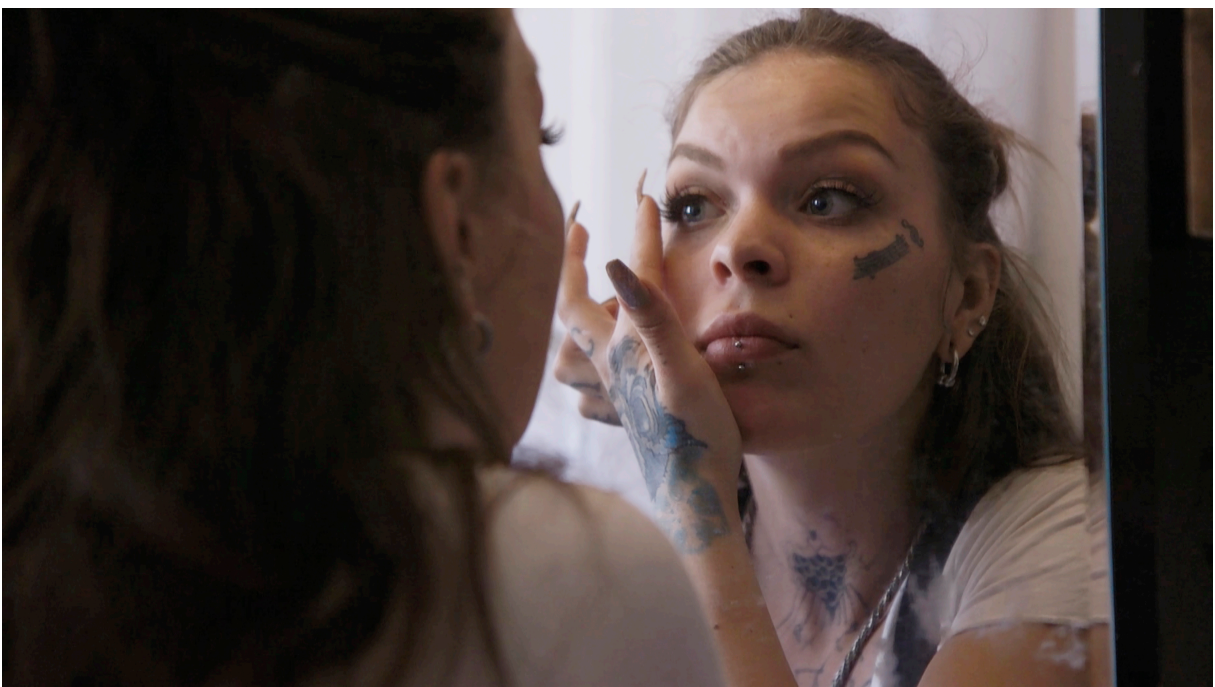
Producer: Maria Fredriksson (maria@mariafredriksson.com +46 701 4438099)

Music: Patrik Arve/Nya Krösus

CAST:



Kristoffer, 31, works at Volvo, just like his younger brother and father. Likes heavy metal and 1980s movies.



Michaela, 23, runs a beauty salon. Lives in a house with her partner Kristoffer (referenced above) and their four-year-old daughter, in Edane, outside Arvika.



Henrik, 23, skilled mechanic and owner of numerous vehicles. Has taken over and is renovating his childhood home in Bortan, outside Arvika.



Alexander, 29, Kristoffer's younger brother. Assembles heavy equipment machines at Volvo Construction. Warmhearted car buff with a big circle of friends. Lives in an apartment in Arvika.