

the contentment

DIRECTED BY
ERNESTO REDONDO VERGARA

PRODUCED BY
RISTO PIIRNPUU

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
KOIT ROMET HALMAN

BFM PRESENTS A NOMIMONO PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH BFM "THE CONTENTMENT"

AD LAURI NIEMELA MUSIC BY KEVIN MCLEOD SOUND DESIGNER CLELIA BORGET EDITED BY ERNESTO PRODUCTION DESIGNER ERNESTO R. VERGARA PRODUCED BY RISTO PIIRNPUU

MAKEUP ELSA LEVO CO-EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JULIA VERGARA EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BFM AND NOMIMONO



A tragic escape

Thriller, Drama.

Running Time:

Directed and Written By:

Produced By:

Production Assistant:

AD:

19'23" minutes

Ernesto Redondo Vergara

Risto Pirnpuu

Evelyn Rom

Lauri Niemelä

Production Company:

Edited by:

Cinematographer:

Sound:

Bfm and Nomimono

Ernesto Redondo Vergara

Koiti Romet Halman

Clelia Borget and Tair Safiulin

The Contentment

A young girl, being overprotected and captive by her mother, struggles to find her true self.

SYNOPSIS

Elis is a young girl who works in a tea salon with her mother, who forces her to drink an strange juice. While struggling to find her true self, the conflict with her mother detonates, uncovering a terrible truth.

A fantasy thriller that digs into a parenting/ coming of age situation in an oppressive environment.



Faking the apocalypse

Spoiler Alert

The Contentment was never intended as an apocalypse film, not even a dystopia, but a sad survival story about two women who could easily exist in any area of the planet that has been suffering a war devastation. War has existed since humans have bones, but in 21st century and with the vast possibilities to access information through many channels, we have decided to block this chance. We are hiding ourselves in a cathedral of excuses so we can continue with our lives ignoring our surroundings. We have learned to be content.

During my studies at Baltic Film School, I had the chance to watch the documentary from Pirjo Honkasalo *The 3 Rooms of Melancholia* (2004) where the Chechen war is analyzed from children's perspective in both sides of the conflict. In the last chapter, one of the subjects that we can see is one Chechen child, who was gang-raped by Russian soldiers. He was left to die inside a wet cardboard box in the freezing night. The caretaker faces the difficulties to help this child after such a traumatic experience. In 2022 we are facing a new chapter of war with the Russian invasion, but sadly it won't be the last as in Chechen didn't happen for the first time. Not only in European soil, and not only in the recent present. The abominations of warfare leave violations of the most vulnerable segments of the civilian population.

As a simple viewer I was already concerned with the global geopolitical events in Africa, Middle East, South America and pretty much all over the globe. I felt horrified, but also responsible for trying to evade my attention 180 degrees to the other side. I questioned myself what are the reasons and excuses that we build in our heads (our new phones, video games, entertainments and substitutes of welfare) in order to avoid that information. I thought that we needed some medicine that kept us content. That reason made me write the story of the juice, and how two weak humans beings can survive in such an environment. How to rebuild the mind of a traumatized person who suffered horrors and how the caretaker can help her to endure. Elis and Ada represent those beings who are inside the conflict, but with the mother helping the "still wealthy" survivors to not face reality. Just as we, living in the comfortable side of the accommodated world, decide to live.



Grete Konksi as *Elis*

Grete is a Rising talent in Estonian acting scene. She studied acting in Viljandi Kultuuriakadeemia and now can be seen in several films and theater plays.



Helena Merzin as *Ada*

Helena is one of the top actresses in Estonia. She has performed in dozens of films and theater plays. Her versatility and sensibility has given Ada's role a rich depth.



Tanel Saar as *Tome*

Tanel Saar is another figure in the Estonian acting panorama. He is one of the visible heads of VAT Teater where he has performed and directed some of the most disruptive plays.



Elina Reinold as *Nela*

Elina Reinold is another top actress in Estonian acting scenery. With also dozens of films, series and theater plays in her back.



Denis Poljakov as *Mr. Mo*

Denis is a writer, poet and occasional actor that is able to catch the spirit of Mr. Mo and his uneven moods.

DIRECTOR, Intentions

Ernesto is a Spanish resident in Estonia. He finished his studies of Cinema BA at Baltic Film School in Tallinn. Previously he has approached audiovisual art by studying production design in ECAM, Spain, and cinema editing in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba.

Statement

I wanted to present a very human topic in how the over-protection in parenthood can damage the growth and stability of an already unstable person. Framing the conflict in that special environment I could play with the extremes and concentrate on the depth of the characters that walk in a very thin line in order to maintain their particular everyday stability.

With the help of the DoP and Sound designer, we worked the evolving mood that surrounds the main character. Every surface that Elis touches becomes alien to her perception. Also I wanted to concentrate all the attention on what the main character sees, following her constantly in her dream, in order to give the viewer the feeling of oppression that Elis feels during the film.

