

## **"LIVE LEMMINKÄINEN!" PRODUCTION**

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**SCRIPT:** Nina Holopainen (based on The Kalevala and other sources) – translation by Minna Eronen

**DRAWINGS:** Katharina Benkwitz/Capitana Art Vermilion

**MUSIC:** Tuomas Holopainen: "The Poet and the Pendulum" – instrumental version (Nightwish: Dark Passion Play)

**DIRECTED BY:** Tarja Jänis

**RECORDED/EDITED BY:** Joonas Saikkonen (and Kimmo Ahola)

**PHOTOGRAPHS:** Niko Nyrhinen, Jarkko Torni and Martti Rosendahl

### **CAST (FINNISH VERSION):**

Narrator - Pentti Holopainen

Kyllikki, Lemminkäinen's bride - Carita Hiltunen \*)

Louhi, mistress of Northland - Leila Luukkainen

Lemminkäinen's mother - Marja Kanula \*)

Master of Northland - Pertti Purmonen \*)

Women in the village - Liisa Purmonen, Marja Leinonen and Taina Käyhkö \*)

\*) Kyläparin Myllyteatteri theatre

### **CAST (ENGLISH VERSION):**

Narrator - Troy Donockley

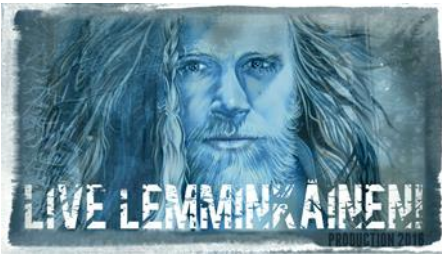
Kyllikki, Lemminkäinen's bride – Johanna Kurkela

Louhi, mistress of Northland – Floor Jansen

Lemminkäinen's mother – Catherine Rohlich

Master of Northland – Paul Fryer

Women in the village – Chloe Wells, Rach Colling and Katrina Immonen



**NARRATOR:**

Lemminkäinen is the young hero of Kalevala, a proud and courageous soldier, a wise and mighty man. He can transform himself and defeat his enemy by the power of the spoken word.

Many women are attracted to the handsome and strong Lemminkäinen. However, he is eager to marry the cheerful Kyllikki, who comes from a good family and lives on Saari, the Island.

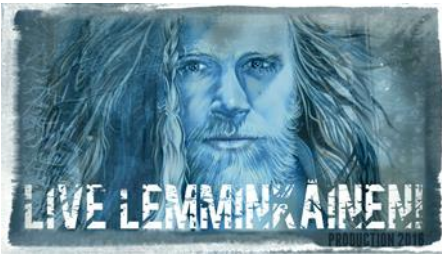
Lemminkäinen's mother warns her son of the jealous and angry men of the Island...

**LEMMINKÄINEN'S MOTHER:**

*"Woe to me, my life is wretched!  
If you mock the Saari women,  
Bring to shame the modest maidens,  
You will bring yourself in conflict,  
And a dreadful fight will follow.  
All the noble youths of Saari,  
Full a hundred skilful swordsmen,  
All shall rush on thee unhappy,  
Standing all alone amidst them."*

**NARRATOR:**

Kyllikki is not keen on a womanizer and does not want to end up as a warrior's wife...



**KYLLIKKI:**

*"Wherefore wander here, O weakling,  
Racing round me like a plover,  
Always seeking for a maiden,  
With her tin-adorned girdle?  
I myself will never heed you  
Till the stone is ground to powder,  
Till the pestle's stamped to pieces,  
And the mortar smashed to atoms."*

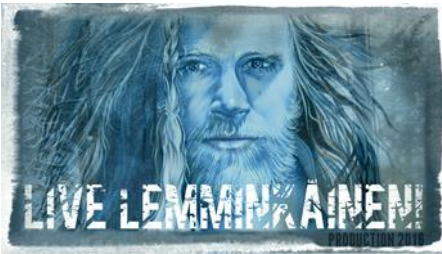
**NARRATOR:**

Lemminkäinen snatches a reluctant Kyllikki. At first, Kyllikki tries to fight back and is driven to despair about being with this worthless man, this fighter and warrior.

However, Lemminkäinen assures her that he will take good care of his spouse. Kyllikki insists that he must swear not to go to war anymore.

Lemminkäinen promises to take that oath, on one condition: Kyllikki cannot ramble about the village anymore or have fun with other men. Lemminkäinen and Kyllikki take vows together and marry.

However, Kyllikki breaks her vow and leaves. Lemminkäinen is furious and heads out on a dangerous journey to Northland to court the maiden of Northland. Louhi, the mighty enchantress of Northland, is unwilling to give any of her daughters to Lemminkäinen...



**MISTRESS OF THE NORTHLAND:**

*"Nay, I will not give my maiden,  
And you shall not have my daughter,  
Not the best or worst among them,  
Not the tallest, nor the shortest;  
For you have a wife already,  
Long the mistress of your household."*

**NARRATOR:**

Eventually, Louhi relents to some extent. She gives Lemminkäinen different tasks and promises that he will have the maiden of Northland to himself after completing them.

The first of the dangerous tasks is to ski down the elk of Hiisi, the Demon...

**MISTRESS OF THE NORTHLAND:**

*"Never will I give my daughter  
To a vain and worthless fellow,  
To a hero good for nothing.  
Therefore you may woo my daughter,  
And win the flower-crowned maiden,  
If you hunt the elk on snowshoes,  
In the distant field of Hiisi."*



**NARRATOR:**

Lemminkäinen succeeds in his mission. Secondly, he has to harness the flaming horse of Hiisi, the Demon...

***MISTRESS OF NORTHLAND:***

*"I will only give my daughter,  
Give the youthful bride  
you seek for,  
If you rein  
the mighty gelding,  
He the chestnut  
steed of Hiisi,  
He the foaming foal of Hiisi,  
On the bounds of  
Hiisi's meadow."*

**NARRATOR:**

Lemminkäinen also succeeds with his second mission. For his final task, he has to shoot the swan on the river of the Underworld Tuonela,...



**MISTRESS OF NORTHLAND:**

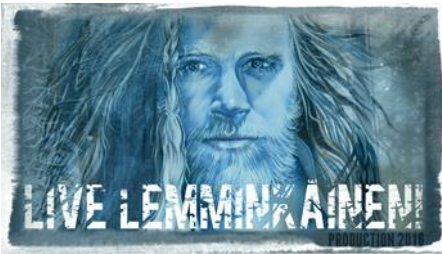
*"I will only give my daughter  
Give the youthful bride you seek for,  
If the river-swan you shoot,  
Shoot the great bird on the river.  
There on Tuoni's murky river,  
In the sacred river's whirlpool,  
Only at a single trial,  
Using but a single arrow."*

**NARRATOR:**

Lemminkäinen moves on with his bow and arrow to kill the swan.

A blind old man from Northland, a wet-hat cowherder, is watching Lemminkäinen and thrusts a water snake, made from a poisonous plant, right through him.

Lemminkäinen's body is hurled into the river of Tuonela. The son of Tuonela slashes the body thrown into the river into eight pieces with his sabre.



**NARRATOR:**

Lemminkäinen's mother receives the news of her son's death. She asks the Blacksmith Ilmarinen to forge a copper rake to gather up the pieces of her son from the river of Tuonela.

The mother asks for help from the bees. She puts the pieces of her son together with honey from the bees...

**LEMMINKÄINEN'S MOTHER:**

*"O thou bee, my own dear birdling,  
Fly thou in a new direction,  
Over nine lakes fly thou quickly,  
Till thou reach a lovely island,  
Where the land abounds with honey,  
Where is Tuuri's new-built dwelling,  
Palvonen's own roofless dwelling,  
There is honey in profusion,  
There is ointment in perfection,  
Fit to bind the veins together,  
And to heal the joints completely."*



**NARRATOR:**

After healing her son, Lemminkäinen's mother begs him to calm down and stay home...

**LEMMINKÄINEN'S MOTHER:**

*"Leave the poor swans unmolested,  
Leave the ducks a peaceful dwelling,  
Here on Tuoni's murky river,  
Here amid the raging whirlpool!  
Best it is to journey homeward  
With your most unhappy mother.  
Praise thou now thy happy future,  
And to Jumala give praises,  
That he granted his assistance,  
And has thus to life awaked thee,  
And from Tuoni's paths hath led thee,  
And from Mana's realms hath brought  
thee!  
I myself had never conquered,  
And alone had nought accomplished,  
But for Jumala's compassion,  
And the help of the Creator!"*





**NARRATOR:**

Soon a wedding is celebrated in Northland, but the troublemaker Lemminkäinen has not been invited. He arrives in Northland without permission.

The Master of Northland tries to chase the uninvited guest away from the party...

**MASTER OF NORTHLAND:**

*"Better will not be the banquet,  
Nor the guest-provision lessened.  
House for work,  
the road for strangers,  
Unrefreshed from the carousal!  
Quit this place, O scamp of Hiisi,  
Haste away from all folks' knowledge,  
To thy home, O toad the basest,  
Forth, O scoundrel, to thy country!"*

**NARRATOR:**

Lemminkäinen kills the Master of Northland in combat and escapes to the Island. There he seduces maids and widows. He notices that the jealous men of the Island are sharpening their swords and battle axes to kill him.

Lemminkäinen flees back to his home shore and sees only the ruins of his house. The people of Northland have taken revenge by destroying Lemminkäinen's home.

Again, the vengeful Lemminkäinen takes off to battle in Northland. This time he asks his friend Tiera, a masterly spear user, to join him.

Tiera has recently married and the women in the village advise him not to leave with Lemminkäinen...



**WOMEN IN THE VILLAGE:**

*"Tiera cannot go to battle,  
Nor may strike with spear in warfare.  
Other duties call for Tiera,  
He has made a lifelong compact;  
For a young wife has he taken,  
As the mistress of his household,  
But untouched is she at present,  
Uncaressed is still her bosom."*

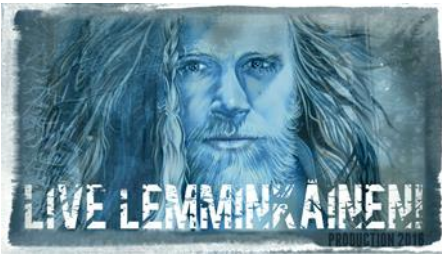
**NARRATOR:**

Still, Lemminkäinen and Tiera head out towards Northland.

Louhi disrupts their plan to battle by freezing the sea of Northland...

**MISTRESS OF NORTHLAND:**

*"O my Frost, my boy so little,  
O thou foster-child I nurtured!  
Go thou forth where I shall bid thee,  
Where I bid thee, and I send thee.  
Freeze the boat of that great  
scoundrel,  
Boat of lively Lemminkäinen,  
On the ocean's open surface,  
On the endless waste of waters!  
Freeze thou too the master in it,  
Freeze thou in the boat the rascal,  
That he nevermore escape thee,  
In the course of all his lifetime."*



## **NARRATOR:**

Lemminkäinen and Tiera are forced to abandon their boat out on the open sea. They walk along cold regions, struck by hunger, but they decide to head back home...

Together with the wise old man Väinämöinen and the Blacksmith Ilmarinen, the vengeful Lemminkäinen returns to Northland to steal the magical Sampo device of Northland, which grinds money, grain and salt.

The Mistress of Northland is unwilling to share the Sampo with anyone. Väinämöinen plays his five-stringed harp, until the people of Northland fall asleep. Once all the people are sound asleep, Ilmarinen greases the nine locks securing the Sampo. Lemminkäinen carries the Sampo to the boat and the trio escape.

Louhi is transformed into a giant eagle and gives chase. The Sampo is damaged in a violent battle and falls down into the depths of the sea. Some of the broken fragments remain as treasures of the sea, but some drift ashore as the riches of Finland and foundations of farmlands.



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## **NARRATOR:**

The different phases of Lemminkäinen's story comprise an essential part of The Kalevala, the national epic of Finland.

Elias Lönnrot was an author, researcher and doctor. During the summer of 1828, he visited Hummovaara in Kesälahti, which is currently a part of the municipality of Kitee. He was starting out on his first journey to Savonia and Karelia to gather poems. His objective was to compile the Kalevala epic.

In Hummovaara, Lönnrot met the Great Rune Singer, the peasant Juhana Kainulainen. Over the course of two days and one night, Kainulainen sang over 50 runes to Lönnrot. Most of them were hunting and healing spells.

One of the narrative runes sung by Kainulainen was Lemminkäinen's hymn, which was a basis for the dramatic tale of Lemminkäinen in The Kalevala.

The meeting with Juhana Kainulainen made a huge impression on Lönnrot. In his travel memoirs, Lönnrot described the visit to Hummovaara as being an absolute highlight of the journey.

Lönnrot continued from Hummovaara to Kitee, and to the village of Potoskavaara, where he celebrated a wedding with the villagers for three days. The roots of Tuomas Holopainen, the frontman of the internationally acclaimed Nightwish, also lie in this same village.

Similarly to Juhana around 200 years earlier, Tuomas and many other musicians, singers and songwriters have found inspiration in the local, unique nature, landscape and people. The Karelian cultural heritage still lives strong.

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Translation of poems by W.F. Kirby: Kalevala – The Land of the Heroes. 1985.