



BORDERLINES FILM FESTIVAL

MY SAILOR, MY LOVE (PG)

Director: Klaus Härö

Starring: James Cosmo, Brid Brennan, Catherine Walker

Finland, Ireland, Belgium, 2022, 1 hour 43 minutes

Klaus Härö's was born in Porvoo, Finland in 1971, growing up in a Swedish-speaking Finnish family. His film *The Fencer* (2015) was nominated for the Golden Globes as well as Oscar shortlisted in the Best Foreign Film Category. *Elina* (2003), *Mother of Mine* (2005), and *Letters to Father Jacob* (2009) were selected to represent his native country Finland in the Best Foreign Film Category at the Oscars. Altogether Härö's films have won more than 60 prizes at festivals all over the world including The Crystal Bear at the Berlin Film Festival and the prestigious Ingmar Bergman prize.

My Sailor, My Love is Härö's first English-language film, and premiered at world premiering at the 2022 Toronto International Film Festival. It is one of his most emotional works to date, filmed on the rugged Irish Achill Island.

The story written by *Mother of Mine*'s Jimmy Karlsson and Kirsi Vikman, centres on an elderly retired sailor and widower, who unexpectedly falls in love with his housekeeper in her 60s, hired by his daughter. The latter who struggles with a mid-life crisis and strained relationship with her dad, has difficulty accepting his newfound love.

Härö was interviewed by Nordisk Film & TV Fond before the Toronto premiere.

How did the idea for the film first emerge?

Klaus Härö: We (Jimmy Karlsson and Kirsi Vikman) started brainstorming about the kind of story we could tell next and felt that many films talk about first love, but actually few about final love. In many ways, it is similar to first love. It comes unexpectedly, sometimes through a friendship that evolves, it comes creeping in and when it hits you, it does full on!

The writers then started to think of opposing that love story between this man and his housekeeper, with the story of a third person - the daughter here - who is bitter and resents what those two people have. Jimmy and Kirsi created the characters but we had all witnessed similar situations.

All my films, in one way or another, deal with relationships with children. Whether they are young or elderly. You can never get rid of your parents, and if you have a very charged and difficult relationship, it will affect the way you behave. It's only when you make peace with your own heritage, where you come from, that you can make peace with yourself. Here the father has done something horrendous-he left his daughter fend for herself and she hasn't yet dealt with this.

Preview courtesy of Signature Entertainment

Notes compiled by Simon Scott