

Eila Kaarresalo-Kasari (born 1942, Finland) is a **filmmaker, nonfiction writer** and **jazz journalist**.

Ms. Kaarresalo-Kasari moved to New York in 1964, attended The City College, and it's Film Institute earning a B.A. majoring in film. She lived in New York over ten years working in the field in small film companies such as Filmex Inc. and distributors like Cinema Dimensions and Jerry Gross' Cinemation Industries.

In Finland she has produced and directed three short films:

- *Would Momma Allow?* (1968)
- *Ampumarata (Finnish Frustrations)*, 1969)
- *Kotimaani ompi Suomi (Finland My Sweet Home)*, 1972)

Ampumarata received **the Special Prize of Jury at Tampere Film Festival 1970** and **the Jussi Diploma (Filmiaura)** the same year. A small American distribution company Odeon Films, Inc acquired its distribution rights in 1971. The French La SEPT/ARTE-TV purchased the broadcasting rights in 1996. (<https://eilakk.tripod.com/>)

Ampumarata/Finnish Frustrations opened at First Avenue Screening Room (later Art East Cinema) in New York together with the Cuban feature *Memories of Underdevelopment* in 1973. Jim D'Anna of WRVR-RADIO said in his review. "*Finnish Frustrations* by Eila Kaarresalo-Kasari deals with the feminist movement. I rarely review shorts, but I call this one to your attention because qualitatively and in terms of dramatic impact it is cinematic gold. In six minutes Ms. Kaarresalo isolates an aspect of *sexual inequality* with a narrative starkness that recalls the paintings of George Grosz. It is a mature, finished work, rich beyond its brevity." (<https://cinematreasures.org/theaters/9502>)

There was also a review in New York Post by Archer Winsten. www.cinefiles.bampfa.berkeley.edu/catalog/24560

<https://eilakk.tripod.com>

Ms. Kaarresalo-Kasari is included in the book *Women Who Make Movies* (Hopkinson & Blake, New York 1975). (<https://archive.org/details/womenwhomakemovi00smit>)

The film raised interest and attended numerous international film festivals in the 70's. The list includes Cork International Film Festival 1970, The First International Festival of Women's Films New York 1972, Paris International Women's Film Festival 1975, Sydney International Women's Film Festival 1975, Fourth Annual Film Festival in Annenberg 1975, and The International Women's Film Festival in Tehran 1976. The film was the fourth most shown at Tampere festival from 1971-2020 as well as numerous times on Finnish TV.

Especially honour it got when invited to CINEMA 100 (1895-1995) Hundred Films Hundred Years Festival du Court M trage, France (<https://eilakk.tripod.com/festme.pdf>). #Me Too movement made the film up to date and it was included at Tampere Festival 50 Year Jubilee, which again was shown in Film Kunst Festival, Schwerin and in Shorts International Film Festival, Trieste, 2022. Tampere 2023 and Turku Finnish Film Festival showed it in 2024. WIFT Finland (10 vuotta) Naisten vuoro, Ladies' Turn in Helsinki the same year. (<https://www.wift.fi/lyhytelokuvailta>) This year it is

scheduled to be shown at *Pentti Saarikoski- päivät* in Valamo orthodox monastery, in North Karelia. Today this motivational film is considered to be *a classic* and the *forerunner* of the Finnish feminist cinema.

Pentti saarikoski-päivät www.epressi.com/media/userfiles/160159/1729684893/saarikoskipaivat-2025-juliste.pdf

Kino Regina <https://eilakk.tripod.com>

After moving permanently back to Finland in 1977 Ms. Kaarresalo-Kasari started a new career as a **motivational speaker** giving courses in *small talk and flirting*. She published her self-help guide *Silmänisku, flirtin ja valloitustaidon opas* (WSOY 1998) on the topic. Her flirting tips have been recognized also outside Finland. (<https://eilakk.tripod.com/ulko.pdf>)

Ms. Kaarresalo-Kasari became a **jazz journalist** for Finnish *Jazzrytmi* in the 1980's and still keeps writing to its online version together with her husband, media consultant, and saxophonist **Heikki J. Kasari, Ph.D.** The Finnish *Jazzmuusikot ry* named Ms. Kaarresalo-Kasari **the Jazz Digger of 2009**. Her memoir *Jazztyttö* (Aviador 2020) tells about her years in New York and the decades long friendships with jazz icon **Ornette Coleman** and film director genius **Elia Kazan**.