

THE SUMMER BOOK

directed by CHARLIE MCDOWELL, written by ROBERT JONES,
based on the novel by TOVE JANSSON



Finland, United Kingdom / 90min

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SYNOPSIS

Based on Tove Jansson's beloved novel, *The Summer Book* tells the story of Sophia, a nine-year-old girl who is growing up fast, and her grandmother, who is nearing the end of her life. Together with Sophia's father, they spend time at their family's summer home on a tiny unspoiled island in the Gulf of Finland, exploring the islet, talking about life, nature and everything but their feelings about Sophia's mother's death and their love for one another. By the end of the summer, emotional wounds are healed, bonds are deepened, and the grandmother can leave this life peacefully.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I first discovered Tove Jansson's *The Summer Book* when I was in my early twenties. Growing up as an avid fan of the Moomins, I was already familiar with her work but I wasn't familiar with any of her adult novels. While reading *The Summer Book* I was immediately transported back to my childhood where I spent every summer on an island off the coast of Massachusetts. Her words allowed me to relive my own experiences with my family and deeply connect to the familiar feeling of island life in the summer. *The Summer Book* finds a way to tap into all of your senses. For me, I could distinctly remember what a blackberry tasted like on the exact day it was ready to be picked, the smell of the air after a violent storm had just passed through, the sight of my grandmother's hair as it curled in the humid wind when we took our small motorboat to the beach, the sound of the loud creaks in our old wooden floorboards as I tried to get to my bed without waking up my parents and what it felt like to dive into the ocean on that first day of the season. Tove's writing is so unique and special in that way. She has a truly distinct voice and yet she still allows you to relate to her stories through your own experiences.

How I experienced reading Tove's work is how I hope my film adaptation of *The Summer Book* feels. I want it to be a visceral stimulation of all our senses, allowing an audience to have experiences similar to those of the characters on this island, through both their light and dark moments, their joys and pains. I hope it allows them to embrace their sense of adventure and freedom, but also acknowledge the dangers and claustrophobia existing in this place. I believe there's a profound way to connect and explore the emotional state of the characters to what's happening on the actual island, which is a primary character in and of itself. There's a beautiful visual and emotional film to be made with this story, one bathed in meditation on what it means to truly live and one focused on the deeply rooted connection between humans and nature, from life until death. Death is ultimately a part of life and therefore, not something that should be feared but instead, embraced.

There are three main characters in this story: Grandmother, Sophia, and Father. The narrative explores their relationships with each other while illuminating their different stages in life. Photographically I want to subtly shoot their points of view to reflect their individual experiences. Grandmother is nearing the end of her life and therefore, in a stage of acceptance and reflection. The way in which I capture Grandmother will feel less exploratory and more grounded. The shots will hold on her longer as we witness her examine her life and pass along her knowledge to Sophia. The camera moves will feel smooth and purposeful, welcoming us into the point of view of a character who knows exactly who she is.

Sophia, on the other hand, is young, vibrant and inquisitive. She's like a sponge soaking in life's experiences and lessons learned from Grandmother. The camera will ebb and flow with Sophia through her discoveries of the summer. In her point of view we will feel exploratory and without rules. Her emotional state will be slightly exaggerated within the actual moments we are witnessing. Much like how a child might be scared by the idea of something more than the actuality of it or how diving off a rock can feel so much higher than it actually is. The audience will feel connected to Sophia on her journey of discovery. We will remember what it feels like to be a child again.

Lastly, Father is stuck in his own head, unable to deal with his grief, and finds himself stagnant and mainly focused on completing tasks. I want to photographically capture Father's tunnel vision, how he's spending the summer on this beautiful island with his family around him and yet, chooses to find focus and connection with his work. But through Grandmother's knowledge and Sophia's sense of adventure, we witness and feel Father reconnect with his surroundings and the people closest to him.

Although the island isn't a typical character portrayed by an actor, it will be a vital part in telling this story. It's what connects and binds our characters together as they experience the summer. The island will serve as a metaphor for the span of someone's life. I may show waves coming in and out on a shoreline to mimic the repetition of a person's heartbeat. The intensity of a storm passing through will feel like an insurmountable obstacle in someone's life.

Because there are so few characters in this story the casting is even more crucial to bringing it to life. It is my honor and privilege to get the opportunity to work with Glenn Close in the role of Grandmother. I've wanted to work with her for many years and I can't imagine a more perfect actress for this part. I've always been so impressed by how much information and emotion Glenn conveys without even saying a word. An audience must feel they have known her for years and yet, are also just experiencing her stories for the first time as she walks this new phase of her life. Glenn has a stoicism, immense depth and presence about her that I feel is necessary and unique in telling Grandmother's story. I'm also very excited that Anders Danielsen Lie will be playing Father. He's an incredible actor and based on my discussions with him, has a close connection and understanding of the character. The final missing piece of the film's main trio is Sophia. She is such a vital part of telling the story and I look forward to the process of discovering this young actress. Our casting directors will be searching for her in both Finland and Sweden as well as looking for Finnish talent to portray the film's remaining supporting roles.

I'm very excited about the creative team I'm putting together to help me bring this story to life. I'm working again with DOP Sturla Brandth Grøvlen, who I collaborated with on my second film, *The Discovery*. Sturla shoots with a sensitive eye and has a great love for character and story. His images are not just captivating to the eye but are always motivated by the narrative and emotional journey of the characters. They are as visually arresting as they are deeply moving. I will be working with PD Lina Nordqvist for the first time after having been an admirer of her work for a while. I feel like she's the perfect person to envision and physically help build this world.

I'm currently in the process of setting up meetings with some highly recommended and established Finnish heads of department: editing, costume make up and hair, and music. There's some incredible talent based in Finland, both in front of and behind the camera, and I'm very excited to tell this story with them.

I know how beloved The Summer Book is for Finland and I certainly don't take my role in the film's adaptation lightly. It's a huge responsibility and one that I accept whole heartedly. I want to do it justice with every ounce of my being because it has been such a pivotal story in my life and has helped shape me into who I am as a storyteller. After having re-read the book over the years and spending invaluable time the last couple summers in Finland and other Nordic countries, I feel more deeply immersed in the culture and acclimated to the terrain as well as even more closely connected to Tove's words. I am extremely honored and humbled to be the director for this film and I promise to do all I can to celebrate Tove's work and pay tribute to your beautiful country. Thank you so much for your consideration and support.

CREDITS

Free Range Films / Stille Productions
High Frequency Entertainment
Helsinki -filmi
Production

In Association with
Case Study Films
MUV Capital

In Association with
Finnish Impact Film Fund
Mediefondet Zefyr AS

In Co-Production with
Eye Eye Pictures
In Association with
Yle

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Finnish Film Foundation
Nordisk Film & TV Fond

Glenn Close
Anders Danielsen Lie
Introducing Emily Matthews

Based on the book by
Tove Jansson

Written by
Robert Jones

Directed by
Charlie McDowell

A Film by Charlie McDowell
Written by Robert Jones
Based on the book by Tove Jansson
Produced by Kath Mattock
Kevin Loader
Alex Orlovsky
Duncan Montgomery
Aleksi Bardy
Helen Vinogradov
Glenn Close
Charlie McDowell

Executive Producers Lily Collins
Jack Selby
Rick Covert
Victoria Castelli
Arthur Farache
Niki Leskinen
Petri Kemppinen
Ari Tolppanen
Magnus Thomassen
Harald Fagerheim Bugge

Co-Producers Dyveke Bjørkly Graver
Andrea Berensten Ottmar

Director of Photography Sturla Brandth Grøvlen DFF

Sound Designer Micke Nyström

Editor Jussi Rautaniemi F.C.E.

Costume Designer Tiina Kaukanen

Production Designer Lina Nordqvist

Composer Hania Rani

Make up Designer Riikka Virtanen

Line producer Sanna Langinkoski

Casting Minna Sorvoja / Filmona

Maggie Widtstrand

Associate Producers Ronald Santos

Lisa Hannusch

Lisa Richardson

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Sophia	Emily Matthews
Grandmother	Glenn Close
Father	Anders Danielsen Lie
Eriksson	Ingvar Sigurdsson
Mr. Malander	Pekka Strang
Mrs. Malander	Sophia Heikkilä
Tofer	Theo Zilliacus

Special Thanks To	Tom Wentzel
	Salma Sarkola

Body Doubles for Emily	Milja Sarnikorpi
	Seela Vänskä
Stunt Double for Emily	Erin Huovila
Unit Production Manager	Suvi Korpela
Production Manager	Majjaliina Nylund
Production Coordinator	Sharissa Holopainen
Production Assistant	Alisa Aarniomäki
	Samuli Pere
	Sofianna Koivuniemi
Production Trainee	Eeva Sallinen-Simard
Runners	Mikael Myyryläinen
	Felix Bardy
	Eetu Turkka
	likka Pätsi
	Topi Stirkkinen
Assistant to Mr. McDowell & Mr. Orlovsk	Oyona Wuolijoki
Assistant to Ms. Close	Abby Pierson
1st Assistant Director On Set	Joona Mielonen
1st Assistant Director Scheduling	Laura Heikkilä
3rd Assistant Director	Emeri Abel
Script Supervisor	Otto Metsämäki
Additional Script Supervisor	Miranda Kranck
Acting Coach for Ms. Matthews	Miina Turunen
Dialect Coach for Ms. Close	Irina Björklund
1st Assistant Camera	Matti Poutanen
2nd Assistant Camera	Petra Kirvesniemi
Additional 2nd Assistant Camera	David Martin
	Teemu Rosenqvist

Video Assistants	David Martin
	Riku Tuomilehto
Loaders	Janina Witkowski
	Tuomas Kallio
	Valpuri Lindberg
	Charlie Jansen
Digital Image Technician	Akseli Koskinen
B camera DOP & Still Photographer	
	Roxana Reiss
1st Assistant Camera / B Camera	
	Iddo Soskolne
	Mikko Manninen
	Riku Virta
Key Grip	Juha Niska
Additional Key Grip	Tommi Tikanoja
Grip Assistant	Eemeli Sarka
Additional Grips	Sami Virolainen
	Olli Kukkonen
Extra Grip for B Unit	Mikko Virtanen
Gaffer	Aslak Lyttthans
Best Boy	Tatu Tuominen
Additional Best Boy	Arto Kultalahti
Electrician	Jaana Viertola
Additional Electricians	Valtteri Halonen
	Marko Pyykkönen
	Henry Pajanen
	Eemi Lehto
Art Director	Juha-Matti Toppinen
Construction Coordinator	Mika Kotiranta
Set Decorator Supervisor / Graphic Des	
	Jigonnenra Luostari
Set Decorator / Greens Supervisor	
	Mia Määttä
Set Decoration Buyer	Oona Koriala
Prop Master / Standby Props	Jasmin Valjas
Prop Buyer	Fíona Geary
Additional Prop Buyer	Heidi Jokinen
Stand-by Prop Assistant	Riho Vahtras
Picture Vehicles Manager	Reijo Karvonen
Picture Vehicles Assistant	Niko Kariluoto
Gardener	Päivi Purtilo-Uski
Assistant Gardener	Marjukka Järvinen
Storyboard Artist	Sune Elskær
Special Prop: Mouse	Anu Sallinen
Books and Paintings	Sam Vanni: Trees By The Lake

	Unto Koistinen
	Gottfried Keller: Viheriä Heikki - WSOY
	Eino Krohn: Hiljainen Piiri - WSOY
	Georges Simenon: Maigret kotikylässään - Otava
Father's Drawings	Sune Elskær
Construction Unit 1	
Construction Manager	Markku Karpeeki
Carpenters	Maarit Sannelvuo
	Jami Haara
	Sampo Ollilla
Construction Unit 2	
Construction Managers	Jouni Rantala
	Jukka Anttonen
	Jussi Lähteenmäki
Additional Carpenter	Damjan Krebl
Head Painter	Anni Mansikka
Painter	Ruut Mantila
Assisting Set Dressers	Iida-Liina Häkkinen
	Anna Pesonen
Demolition Laborer	Jere Henriksson
Additional Art Department Assistants	
	Milla Lähtevänoja
	Gretel Kivioja
	Pasi Lampu
Additional Art Department Runner	
	Niko Länsiö
Key Costumer	Maria Sirén
Costumer	Dora Lehtinen
Additional Costumer	Johanna Arhipoff
Make Up Artist	Kati Anttila
Make Up Artist for Ms. Close	Chloe Sens
Hair Stylist for Ms. Close	Curtis Foreman
Old Age Make Up by Autonomous FX	
Prosthetic Designer	Jason Collins
Shop Supervisor	Mike McCarty
Sculptors	Eric Koo
	Len Burge
Moldmakers	Aaron Globerman
	Jim McGloughlin
Silicone Appliance Runner	Steve Haggiag
Office Coordinator	Anthony Ortiz
Shop Runner	Kevin Gonzalez
Wig Maker for Ms. Close	Martial Corneville
Dentures provided by Fangs FX	
Sound Recordists	Svante Colérus

	Anssi Kainulainen
1st Boom Operators	Marius Stanescu Jussi Rantala
2nd Boom Operator	Eetu Ojutkangas
Location Manager	Aleksi Niinivirta
Assistant Location Manager	Jukka Rosendahl
Location Assistant	Tuomas Guseff
Additional Location Manager	Keijo Saxholm
Additional Assistant to Location and Art	Duelipuasr Stmoersnat
Additional Assistant to Location Department	Neicnot Borg
Basecamp Planning	Joonas Tammi
Basecamp Maintenance	Jani Tulokas
Location Security	Teemu Toivonen Mikko Blomqvist SOL Turvallisuuspalvelut
Medic On Set	Mikko Seppä Jaakko Hämäläinen
Location Scout	Lauri Vänskä Anni Mattila
Additional Location Scout	Vesa Niinivirta
Pre-Production Location Scout	Ilkka Mukkala
Cook	Hrund Heidrúnardóttir
Crafty	Tiina Aikio
Catering Assistant	Siiri Honkonen
Additional Catering Assistant	Anni Honkonen
SFX Supervisor	Konsta Mannerheimo
Special Effects Foreman	Jakke Huovinen
Special Effects Technician	Raine Toikkanen Juri Siljamäki Jarmo Hietamäki Kristjan Pütsep Marcus Lindström Amain Kassam
Supervising Animal Wrangler	Tuire Kaimio
Animal Coordinator	Minna Tallberg
Cat Trainer	Vivian Valli
Fishermen	Teemu Tast Reijo Piipari
Stunt Coordinators	Reka Kontio Oula Kitti Ville Seivo Andreas Falk

Water Safety Supervisor	Jani Piispa / Aeria Kalle Mäkelä Sampsa Eloranta Tatu Mikkola
Wintershoot Line Producer	Eerika Vermilä
Wintershoot Production Manager	Suvi Korpela
Wintershoot Cinematographer	Jesse Jalonen
Wintershoot 1st Assistant Camera	Eino Leskinen
Wintershoot Location Assistant	Jani Piispa
Post Production Manager	Maarit Mononen
Edit Assistant	Akseli Koskinen
Film Laboratory National Film Institute Hungary Filmlabor	
Negative Developing	Sandor Leder, Laszlo Barcsik
Negative Assembling	Erzsebet Vass
Chemical Supply for Developing	Miklos Danok
Analogue Studio Manager	Miklos Pallagi
Dailies and 2K Image Scan	Albert Mate, Janos Polyak
Lab Coordination	Robert Nagy, Eva Haraszin
Test Colourist	William Kjarval Løkken
VFX Studio Rebel Unit	
VFX Supervisor	Theodor Flo-Groeneboom
Lead VFX Artist	Samuel Karlsson
VFX Artist	Jon-André Hakvåg Olav Bergsvik
Additional VFX	Pieter Van Houte
Image Post Production	James Post Oy
Online Editor	Ville Pätsi
Colourist	Pasi Mäkelä
Mastering	Katariina Liukkonen
DCP Mastering	Tommi Gröhn
Post Production Producer	Petteri Linnus
Sound Studio	Meguru Film Sound Oy
Dialogue Editor	Anssi Kainulainen
Sound Editors	Pekka Karjalainen Haruna Nakada
Foley	Tapio Liukkonen / Kaamos Sound Oy
Re-recording Mixer	Micke Nyström
Additional ADR	Jeremiah Slovarp / Jereco Studios Artlab
Music Producer	Hania Rani

Music Editing	Hania Rani
Music Recording and Mixing	Greg Freeman
Keyboards, Synths, Vocals	Hani Rani
Clarinet, Bass Clarinet	Jacek Dziołak
Flute, Alto Flute	Łukasz Jankowski
Violins	Karolina Gutowska Kornelia Grądzka Jan Pietkiewicz, Marta Piórkowska Marta Piórkowska
Viola	Paweł Czarny Tomasz Rosiński
Cello	Dobrawa Czocher Marianna Sikorska Mateusz Błaszczak
Double bass	Maciej Dobrzański
Source Music Consultant	Jan Forsström
Graphics Designer	Hermann Suppanen / Brosmark
Archival footage of Tove Jansson: super 8 mm footage by Tuulikki Pietilä, © Moomin Characters ™	
Publicist	Sanna-Maria Rantanen / HYPR Agency
Sponsorships	Laura Sutinen Aino Jolkkonen
Rehearsal Co-Actress to Ms. Matthews	Maija Paunio
Ms. Matthews' Chaperone	Tim Rose
Production Accountant	Max Toikka
Controller	Johannes Videbæk
CFO	Joni Ihantola
Financial Consultant	Lars Warelus
Legal Counsel	Ina Lindström
Accountant Finland	Tilitehdas / Kaisa Huttunen, Petri Tuomainen
Payroll Finland	Talousverkko
Production Auditor	BPO / Risto Ekholm
Accountant US / High Frequency Entertainment	Kaiantmhye Millsap
Payroll US	Spring Sutter
Equipment	Valofirma Kamerafirma
Film Stock	Elokuvakonepaja / Mutascan
Rental Cars	Vuokraamo Hyypiä Finnrent
Insurances	IF Lähitapiola
Completion Bond	Film Finances Susanne Tiger

Karin Wallqvister

Songs

LAULU MERIPOJILLE

Dallapé-orkesteri, Harmony Sisters

Composer & Lyrics: Elbe / Käyhkö Häkkin

SATAMAN VALOT

Harmony Sisters

Composer & Lyrics: Hugh Williams, Jimmy Kennedy

Finnish translation: Aimo Mustonen

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PILVEN PÄÄLLÄ TAIVAAN ALLA

Harmony Sisters

Composer: George de Godzinsky

Lyrics: Eine Laine

© Warner Chappell Music Finland Oy

SULLE SALAISUUDEN KERTOJA MÄ VOISIN

Harmony Sisters

Composer: George de Godzinsky

Lyrics: Ela

© Warner Chappell Music Finland Oy

THANKS TO

Tove Jansson Estate and Moomin Characters

Sophia Jansson, Roleff Kråkström, Thomas Zambra, Hanna Ahlström,

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Ekami Etelä-Kymenlaakson ammattiopis

Jtoonas Koivula

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Marja Korpela

Extramarine Oy

Ben Kramer

Helkama

Hendrik Krinal

Iittala

Lotte Laitinen

Uimaseura Aquila

Antti Lahtinen

Geoff Armstrong

Franklin Latt

Shaheen Baig

Hanna-Leena and Juha Lehtinen

Joakim Berndtsson

Birger Larsen

Oskar Berndtsson

Nils Landin

Marc Chamlin

Laine Montgomery

Chris Collins

Don D. Montgomery

Abe Coelho

Cassius Montgomery

Marissa Fobes

Lochlan Montgomery

Stephen Gans

Rachel Mikolyski

Inka Hietala

Mark Munden

Kevin Huvane
Ilkka Huovila
Dome Karukoski
Henni Kiri
Cathy King

Piia Nurminen
Anki Oksanen
Catherine Olim
Miles Orlovsky
Daniel Orlovsky

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Theresa Bennett-Lader
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Nordisk Film & TV Fond
CEO
Senior Advisor Fiction

Föreningen Konstsamfundet & Svenska Kulturfonden

South-East Finland Film Commission

In association with

Yle

Film commissioner

The filmmaker would like to dedicate this film in the loving memory of Leone Webster

Based on the novel The Summer Book by Tove Jansson, © Moomin Characters ™

BFI, SEFFC, CURSOR, CITY OF KOTKA, iittala, HURST, ZEFYR, FFF

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STUDIOS, CHARADES**

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