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# viscult

## Viscult 2017 Celebrates the 100 Years of Independent Finland through the Theme of Autonomy

The Viscult Film Festival in Joensuu presents on 25–27 October an international series of new documentary films related to the theme of autonomy. The films deal with issues of lifestyle, individual and collective self-determination, and the preservation of traditional cultures in modern times. The film program is supported by specialist lectures to be given by University of Helsinki Professors **Sirpa Tenhunen** and **Pirjo Kristiina Virtanen**, and film related workshops.

The festival will take place in the Karelia UAS Media Studies facilities at the Joensuu Science Park. **The whole program is open and free for all.** Most of the program will also be streamed real-time in the Internet at **www.viscult.net**.

The Viscult program includes 22 fresh documentaries from around the world. Stefania Donaera's film **The Girl's Club** shows the activities of a girl's club in Mosambique. The girls learn self-defense and knowledge of their rights of self-determination, and get to know about their rights and value as girls, children and human beings. **We Must Be Dreaming**, directed by David Bert and Joris Dhert, depicts how a great number of Brazilians were forcefully evicted from the areas to be built for the FIFA World Cup 2014 in Rio de Janeiro – a thought-provoking case of imperfect autonomy. Giulia Amati's film **Shashamane** portrays the Rastafari people, who have gathered from all over the world to settle in Shashamane, Ethiopia. The film addresses topics such as slavery and its heritage, and difficulties and successes in the repatriation of Rastafarians in Africa.

Viscult screens three Finnish documentaries this year. In **Bookmark Love**, directed by Tommi E. Virtanen, autonomy means a possibility for individuals to reach out for their dreams. **The Devil and the Holy Water** is a Finnish–international production with Laura Meriläinen as producer and Toni Tikkanen as editor. The film shows how the modernizing Ethiopian society affects traditional exorcist rituals. One of the festival's workshops will focus on Antti-Ville Kärjä's film **The Boys from the Finn Band: The Story of Finn Express**. The film deals with the oral history of Finns who immigrated to New Zealand in the 1960s and 1970s, their communities and the significance of music in their adaptation to the new culture.

Viscult 2017 is organized by the North Karelia Regional Film Association together with the Karelia University of Applied Sciences, and the Cultural Studies section of the School of Humanities at the University of Eastern Finland. The student association Nefa-Joensuu is an associated festival partner.

### Additional information:

[www.viscult.net](http://www.viscult.net)

[www.facebook.com/viscultfestival](https://www.facebook.com/viscultfestival)

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