

# MOOMINS on the RIVIERA

BASED ON TOVE JANSSON'S  
ORIGINAL COMIC STRIPS



PRODUCED BY  
HANNA HEMILÄ

DIRECTED BY  
XAVIER PICARD



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# THE RETURN OF THE BELOVED SCANDINAVIAN MOOMINS IN A NEW FEATURE FILM



A 2D HAND-DRAWN  
ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

Moomins on the Riviera, features the entire Moomin clan as they embark on a hilarious adventure on the glamorous Riviera. Snorkmaiden is dazzled by the attention of a playboy and Moomin learns that jealousy's sting can be terribly painful. When Moominpappa befriends an aristocrat and adopts the name 'de Moomin', an exasperated Moominmamma retires to the relative calm of their trusty old boat, to wait for her family to come to their senses. For the very first time, the unity of the Moomins is threatened.



# SYNOPSIS

The Moomins are struck by the sudden inspiration to take a vacation from Moominvalley.

They set sail by moonlight, are thrown off course by a typhoon and end up on the Riviera. The Moomins quickly mistake the finest hotel, Le Grand, for a privately owned mansion. Eager to fit in, Moominpappa decides that the family will from now on be "de Moomins". Whereupon, they are promptly offered the royal suite. Moominpappa and Snorkmaiden are delighted with the high life on the Riviera, although Moominmamma and Moomin do not share their delight with this glamorous lifestyle.

To Moomin's chagrin, an international playboy, Clark, has designs on Snorkmaiden. To fit in with the jet set, she tries her luck successfully at the Casino. Moominpappa and his new best friend Marquis Mongaga share a common interest in mischief, and in the wee hours of the morning, they replace the Governor's statue in the town square with one of Mongaga's massive elephant sculptures. Sensing the effect this high life is having on her family, an exasperated Moominmamma moves with Moomin to live under their old boat, and wait for the others to come to their senses. A slight calm prevails, until Moomin spots Snorkmaiden flirting with Clark and immediately challenges him to a duel. Moomin miraculously wins the duel, regaining Snorkmaiden's heart. Meanwhile, Moominpappa is arrested for disorderly conduct, and escapes to the beach, where Moominmamma has prepared their quick getaway. Homeward bound, a fierce storm threatens to wreck their little boat. The Moomins become lost at sea. From a cliff top in Moominvalley, Snufkin spots the tops of Moominmamma's tropical plants ; «Only Moominmamma would grow a forest out at sea.

They're coming home!», he exclaims and promptly launches a lifeboat. That night, the Moomins celebrate their safe return to Moominvalley, and Snorkmaiden feels right at home – next to Moomin.







# MAIN CHARACTERS



## MOOMIN

Though good-natured and enthusiastic, Moomin is as unpredictable and moody as any 'teenager' with a short fuse. He views simple pleasures with wonder and leaps in where the less adventurous fear to tread, often without knowing where he will land. Moomin finds 'NO!' the hardest word to say. Something he's been working on for some time.

## MOOMINMAMMA

Moominmamma is both high-minded and open-minded, a rare combination. She understands the value of learning through mistakes, a principle she applies often to her own family. Never pushy, she invariably, wins the day. Although it may take time for others to come around to her unique way of thinking.



## MOOMINPAPPA

Though unquestionably loyal to his family, Moominpappa can behave irresponsibly or selfishly, especially when led astray by dubious acquaintances and fine old whisky, or, quite simply, when the mood takes him. A dreamer and an irrepressible spinner of yarns, Moominpappa fancies himself a great adventurer.

## SNORKMAIDEN

Moomin's girlfriend. Slightly vain and often carried away by romantic fantasies, Snorkmaiden is periodically grounded by Moomin. She has no compunction about using her feminine charms - curves and guile - to get her own way. Yet, beneath the surface, insecurities lurk.





# OTHER CHARACTERS



**AUDREY GLAMOUR**  
Movie star, Snorkmaiden's idol.

## MARQUIS MONGAGA

Wealthy, aristocratic, big-hearted Mongaga is a secret sculptor of great talent with limited imagination. Though he yearns for a bohemian lifestyle, he will never be more than a passing visitor. Mongaga finds it impossible to shed his heritage of privilege, including comfort and tea on demand.



## SNUFKIN

Moomin's best friend, Snufkin is a carefree drifter with no interest in worldly possessions, save his hat and harmonica. Snufkin, is a free thinker and something of a philosopher. He believes that 'One can never be entirely free', yet his travels are an endless search for freedom.



## THE VALLEY CRITTERS

A collection of lovable creatures residing in Moominvalley.

## CLARK

A puffed-up, predatory English playboy, who basks in the reflective glow of the rich and famous.



## MYMBLE

Little My's sister. A hopeless but happy romantic, she falls in love at every opportunity. Mymble is quite simply in love with love.



## LITTLE MY

Despite her flippant and often defiant attitude - « rules are made to be broken » - Little My has a disarmingly positive outlook on life. She speaks her mind, telling it how it is, even when the truth is best left unspoken. But, when push comes to shove, you would want Little My on your side.



## WHITE SHADOW

A secondary character appearing from time to time, especially in emergencies.



## BLACK SHADOW

White Shadow's cousin and stand-in.



## PIMPLE

A sweet, shy dog with a dark secret: he prefers cats.

## UGLY WORDS

An audiovisual representation of 'ugly words' tossed into a box by someone who has given up swearing.











## ABOUT THE FILM

In 2010 Finnish film producer-director Hanna Hemilä and French animation film director-producer Xavier Picard joined forces and began developing Moomins on the Riviera. The film will be released in October 2014, the 100th anniversary of Tove Jansson's birth.

Moomins on the Riviera is for a family audience. Many of today's teens and young adults, especially in Scandinavia and Japan, have grown up with the beloved Moomin stories and their enchanting world. The Moomins embrace cross-cultural understanding and tolerance while addressing universal themes, such as freedom, fear, sensitivity and optimism. Moomins on the Riviera is sure to captivate a broad worldwide audience.

Moomins on the Riviera is created in an unique hand-drawn animation technique inspired by the original comic strip design. We are using a reduced color scale for the backgrounds, and have carefully adapted the strips for a modern audience. The artistic work, preproduction, lay-out, compositing and postproduction will be done in Helsinki and Paris, the animation in Asia.





# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

My intention is to pay homage to Tove Jansson's original works by adapting them for their original audience: the child inside each adult. Based on the original story «Moomin on the Riviera», the main character – Moomin – is torn between the simple life of Moominvalley, and the luxurious showbiz lifestyle that his beloved Snorkmaiden craves.

In Jansson's strips, each vignette is constructed with exceptional artistic skill, which serves as direct inspiration for the composition and rhythm of Moomins on the Riviera. Frame by frame, each scene is hand-drawn. In every sequence, a dominant color will be broken down into a sophisticated monochrome palette (in French: camaïeu). The audio universe will consist of composed music, voices and a mixture of realistic and abstract sound effects in the style of Jacques Tati.

My ambition is to extend the work of Tove Jansson, while keeping in mind her motto: "Live in peace, plant potatoes and dream".











## XAVIER PICARD

French-born writer, director and producer Xavier Picard's prolific international film career includes over 300 hours of animation with i.a. Jean Chalopin (The Bot's Master), Hanna Barbera (Jonny Quest), Luc Besson and Mamoru Oshii (Valerian). Xavier's work has been distributed in more than 100 countries by Avi Arad, Bohbot Int., Nippon Animation, TF1 Int. and Freemantle Media. Xavier Picard directed seven animated short films for the French pavillon at the World Expo Shanghai 2010 and he was a faculty member of the prestigious CFT Gobelins Animation University in France.

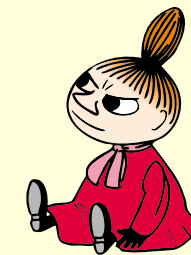
In 2000, Xavier Picard co-founded Pictak with the Japanese Producer Takashi Masunaga. Pictak produces and co-produces animated films and series for worldwide markets. Pictak collaborates with animation studios in Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Canada, as well as with premier 3D and 2D studios in France. Some of Pictak's most notable co-productions include Marcelino, Odd Family and Valerian.

## HANNA HEMILÄ

Finnish film producer and director Hanna Hemilä's career highpoints include her role as the line producer on Aki Kaurismäki's Le Havre (winner of the International Critics' Award at the 64th Cannes Film Festival) and producer of the universally acclaimed and multi-award winning family feature film, Pelicanman by Liisa Helminen (Berlinale, 2005), as well as numerous documentaries, animated films and multinational cinema co-productions.

Hemilä made her directorial debut with the Finnish-American documentary feature Paavo, a Life in Five Courses (opening the 2012 Eurodok film festival, Oslo). Hemilä's notable productions include the features Bad Family (Berlinale/Panorama 2010), Wolf, a Swedish-Finnish-Norwegian film starring Peter Stormare (2008), Guarded Secrets, a Hungarian-Austrian-Finnish film (2004) and the period movie Gold Fever in Lapland (1999); the internationally acclaimed and multi-award winning animation series Tootletubs & Jyro (2001) and Urpo & Turpo (1996); the documentaries Tove and Tooti in Europe (2004) and Haru, the Island of the Solitary (1998) about the legendary author and creator of the Moomins, Tove Jansson, and her partner Tuulikki Pietilä.

Hanna Hemilä received the Finnish State's Art Award in 2001. Hanna was nominated in 2005 for Best Film in the national Oscars (Jussiaward) and, in 2004, for the Film-Finlandia award.





# THE MOOMINS' CREATOR, TOVE JANSSON



TOVE JANSSON

The Moomins are the quintessential Scandinavian heritage property. The heartwarming, zany adventures of the Moomins have delighted audiences young and old for generations. The Moomins are a loveable, naive, eccentric family who often find themselves in hilarious situations. Created by world renowned Finnish artist, Tove Jansson in 1945, the Moomins' adventures include numerous books (**translated in over 44 languages**) novels, comic books, comic strips for major newspapers and a Japanese animated television series.

In 1954 Tove Jansson began the Moomin comic strips. Her target audience for this social and political satire was adults, who were quickly hooked on Jansson's clever observations of everyday life. The world's largest newspaper at that time, London's "The Evening News" was the first publisher of the celebrated Moomin comic strip, reaching up to 20 million readers daily in over 40 countries. **800 Moomin comic strips were produced over the next 20 years.**

1959 the first Moomin television series was aired in Germany. A number of other Moomin television series for children followed with the Japanese animation TV-series (1990) broadcasted in 124 countries.

The Moomins enjoy an international multigenerational audience, hungry for more Moomin adventures. Moomins on the Riviera, is the first ever feature film based on Tove Jansson's beloved Moomin comic strips.



## MOOMINS AROUND THE WORLD



The animated tv-series has been broadcast in 124 COUNTRIES!



Moomins Café Tokyo, Japan



90% brand awareness in Scandinavia



Moomins a worldwide brand



Moomin Park, Naantali, Finland

10 MILLION  
BOOKS SOLD IN  
44 LANGUAGES





# SCHEDULE & TECHNICAL INFORMATION



## MAIN CREDITS

**Production :**  
Handle Productions Oy, Finland  
([handleproductions.com](http://handleproductions.com))  
Pictak Cie, France  
([pictak.com](http://pictak.com))

**Producer :**  
Hanna Hemilä  
**Co-producer :**  
Xavier Picard

**Associate producers :**  
Sophia Jansson  
Vesa Harju

**Based on :**  
Tove and Lars Jansson's books "Moomin,  
the complete Tove Jansson Comic Strip"

**Screenplay :**  
Leslie Stewart  
Annina Enckell  
Hanna Hemilä  
Xavier Picard

**Director :**  
Xavier Picard

**Co-director :**  
Hanna Hemilä

**International Sales :**  
Indie Sales, France  
**Scandinavian Distributor :**  
Nordisk Film  
**French distributor :**  
Gebeka Films

**Other financial partners :**  
The Finnish Film Foundation  
YLE  
Nordic Film & TV Fond  
Moomin Characters  
Svenska kulturfonden  
Media Programme  
Föreningen Konstsamfundet  
Svenska folkskolans vänner

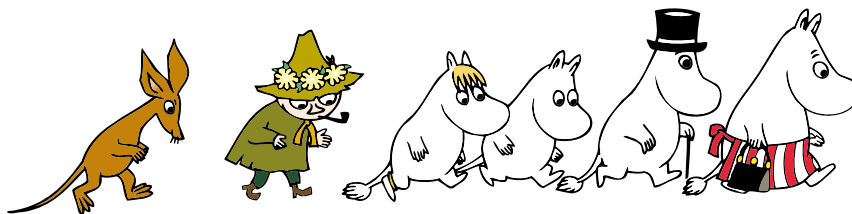
## PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

In production  
Delivery : September 2014

## TECHNICAL ASPECTS

Running time: 80  
Screen ratio: 1:1.85  
Animation technique:  
2D hand-drawn animation  
Resolution: 2K  
Sound: Dolby Digital  
Languages: English, French, Swedish,  
Finnish





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