

Based on Tove Jansson's original comic strips

# MOOMINS on the RIVIERA



Director Xavier Picard Producer Hanna Hemilä

Written by Leslie Stewart, Arminia Enckell, Hanna Hemilä, Xavier Picard, Beate Harjo Storyboard François Nabeux Character Design Marie Hadida  
B/S Design Anita Pettilinen, David Dany B/S Color Sophie Bacc, Heidi Packalen Animation Director Zeynep Wang Animation Supervisor Jean-Christophe Roger,  
Olivier Carval Compositing Virginia Mitchell Editor Thomas Belair Color Grading Markus Teisäke Sound Jonna Jyvä, Milla Nevalainen Mix Olli Pärnänen  
First Assistant Director Denis Walgenwitz Co-director Hanna Hemilä Executive Producer Sophia Jansson, Vesa Harjo Co-producer Xavier Picard

Producers Handle Productions, Picard  
With participation from Finnish Film Foundation, FLE Nordisk Film & TV Fond, Moomin Characters,  
Svenska Kulturfonden, Malmö Programme, Föreningen Konstnärshuset, Svenska Folkskolans Vänner  
World Sales Indie Sales Distribution in France Gabeka Film Distribution in the Nordic Countries Nordisk Film

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[www.moominsontheriviera.com](http://www.moominsontheriviera.com)

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

Length \_\_\_\_\_ 77 min  
 Format \_\_\_\_\_ DCP (24fps) 76min 42sec, 2K  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2D hand-drawn animation  
 Ratio \_\_\_\_\_ 1:1.85  
 Age restriction \_\_\_\_\_ U (Universal)



## Main Credits

Director, co-producer \_\_\_\_\_ Xavier Picard  
 Producer, co-director \_\_\_\_\_ Hanna Hemilä  
 Associate producers \_\_\_\_\_ Sophia Jansson, Vesa Harju  
 Screenplay \_\_\_\_\_ Leslie Steward, Annina Enckell,  
 Hanna Hemilä, Xavier Picard, Beata Harju  
 Music \_\_\_\_\_ Jean de Aguiar, Panu Aaltio, Timo Lassy,  
 Milla Viljamaa, Anna-Karin Korhonen,  
 Paul de Aguiar  
 Storyboarder \_\_\_\_\_ François Vataux  
 Character Design \_\_\_\_\_ Valérie Hadida  
 Background Design \_\_\_\_\_ Anita Petillon  
 \_\_\_\_\_ David Dany  
 Color Design \_\_\_\_\_ Sophie Beck  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Heidi Packalen  
 Compositing \_\_\_\_\_ Virginie Mitchell  
 Animation Supervisors \_\_\_\_\_ Jean Christophe Roger  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Ollivier Carval  
 Animation Director \_\_\_\_\_ Zeven Wang  
 Editor \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas Belair  
 Sound Design \_\_\_\_\_ Joonas Jyrälä  
 Colour Grading \_\_\_\_\_ Marko Terävä  
 Production Company \_\_\_\_\_ Handle Productions, Pictak  
 With support from \_\_\_\_\_ Moomin Characters, The Finnish Film  
 Foundation, YLE, Nordic Film and TV Fund,  
 Svenska kulturfonden, Media Programme  
 of the European Union, Föreningen  
 konstsamfundet, Svenska folkskolans vänner  
 Distribution \_\_\_\_\_ Nordisk Film (Scandinavia), Gebeka Films  
 (France), Indie Sales (Worldwide sales)



## The Film

*Moomins on the Riviera* is a hand-drawn animation feature for all ages celebrating Tove Jansson's original comic strips and the universal appeal of the Moomins. Inspired by her own visit to the Riviera with her mother, Tove Jansson created the comic strip *Moomin on the Riviera*, a charming tale which addresses aspects of life that affect us all such as finding joy in small things, the value of cross-cultural understanding and the power of optimism. *Moomins on the Riviera* is sure to resonate with viewers all around the world.

## Synopsis

The Moomins, Snorkmaiden and Little My, in search of adventures, set sail for the Riviera, where, after a journey fraught with menacing storms and desert island dangers, Snorkmaiden is dazzled by the attentions of a playboy and Moomin learns that jealousy's sting is the most painful of all.

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.

## History

In 1954, the world's largest newspaper, London's *The Evening News*, began publishing the Moomin comic strips, which reached up to 20 million readers every day in over 40 countries. For the next 20 years over 800 Moomin comic strips were produced and published. The comic strip reached out to adults with its gentle and droll sense of humour. Whimsical but with biting undertones, Jansson's observations of everyday life, including guests who overstay their welcome, modern art, movie stars, and high society, easily caught the attention of an international audience and continue to resonate today. The Moomin comic strips remain the most successful Finnish comic strips to date.

*The Moomins on the Riviera* animation feature film is the first time this original classic comic strip is being released in an audiovisual form.



## Director's Words

The Moomin comic strips by Tove Jansson are unique works of art. In their essence, the Moomin characters celebrate freedom, optimism, cross-cultural understanding and tolerance. The comic strips succeed in delighting children and grown-ups alike with their clever storylines. Our *Moomins on the Riviera* film is made for all audience; both for children and for the child that exists within each adult.

In Tove Jansson's original *Moomins on the Riviera* comic strip, the main character - Moomin - is torn between the simple life he feels comfortable with, and the luxurious movie star lifestyle that his beloved Snorkmaiden yearns to have. Each of Tove Jansson's original vignettes have been made with great artistic skill. Jansson's careful drawings have inspired the composition and the rhythm of *the Moomins on the Riviera* film. In homage to Tove Jansson's pencil drawings, we have used a traditional hand-drawn animation technique: 120.000 drawings on paper have been scanned for the film. A dominant colour has been broken down into a monochrome palette (in French: camaieau).

In addition to the actors playing the characters in the film, the audio universe of *Moomins on the Riviera* includes composed music 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 without betraying it, all the while keeping in mind her thought: "Live in peace, plant potatoes and dream".

Xavier Picard





## Producer's Words

20 years ago, when I started producing the puppet animation series *Urpo & Turpo*, my four-year-old daughter exclaimed, "Why don't you make films about the Moomins?" Time passed, and I was involved with a digital studio animation project in Finland, I produced feature films, another puppet animation series *Tootletubs and Jyro*, and two documentary features about Tove Jansson. But I never imagined that 2014 would be the year that I would release an artistically ambitious, feature length, hand drawn Moomin animation to the world – and that my then four-year-old daughter would be one of the screenwriters on the film.

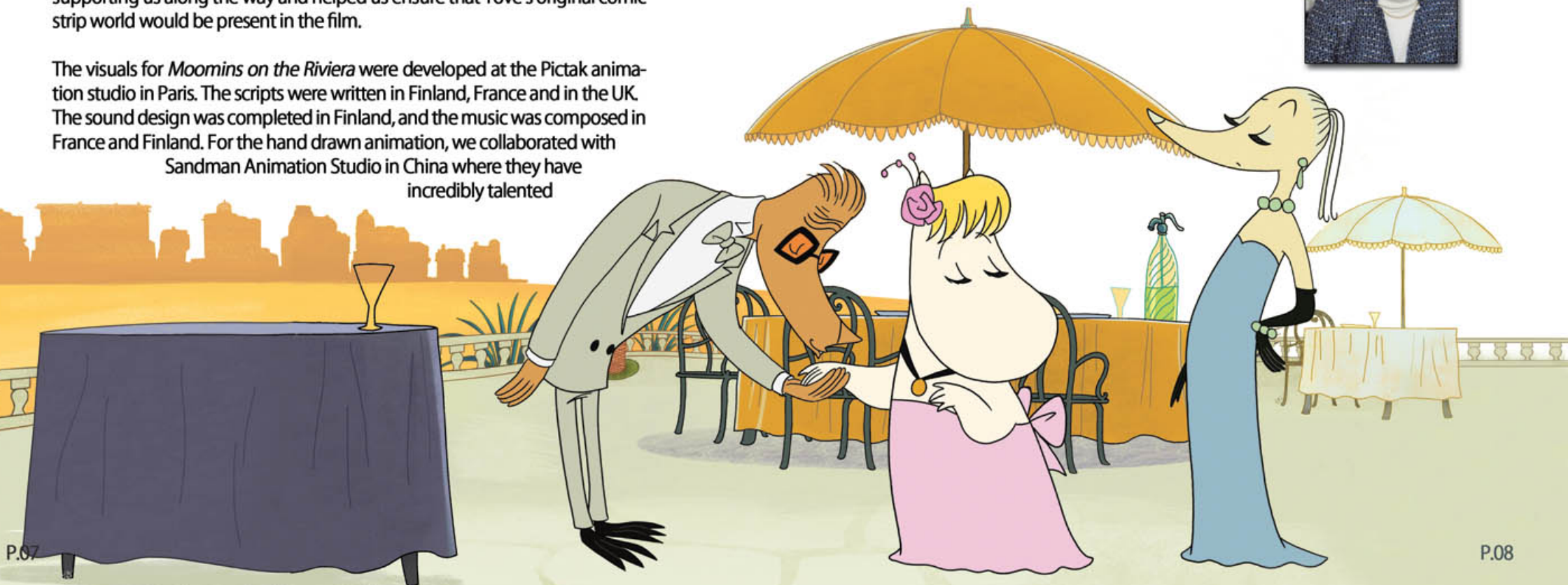
In 2010 we started to develop a visual style for the potential new Moomin film. In 2011 Sophia Jansson gave us green light to pursue the project. Entrusting us with an internationally significant, Finnish national treasure, was a grand and open-minded decision. We agreed that the film would be made under French direction, and that it would follow Tove Jansson's comic strip drawings as closely as possible. Luckily Sophia Jansson was committed to supporting us along the way and helped us ensure that Tove's original comic strip world would be present in the film.

The visuals for *Moomins on the Riviera* were developed at the Pictak animation studio in Paris. The scripts were written in Finland, France and in the UK. The sound design was completed in Finland, and the music was composed in France and Finland. For the hand drawn animation, we collaborated with Sandman Animation Studio in China where they have incredibly talented

experts in hand drawn animation. And finally we were keen to ensure that the film was completed in 2014, the year of Tove Jansson's centenary.

In 1997 I produced a documentary feature *Haru, the Island of the Solitary* – a film about Tove Jansson's and Tuulikki Pietilä's summers on the Haru-island. I had a meeting with Tove as we were preparing the documentary. She noted, in a warm and encouraging tone, that I have an extremely difficult job. *Moomins on the Riviera* has not been the easiest film to make, but I am grateful, that we were allowed to accept the challenge; privileged, to have had the chance to work with incredibly talented artists, and happy beyond belief, that we have succeeded to make a wonderful film. I am incredibly honored to be able to present Tove Jansson's smart and forever au courant humour for the young and the old in Finland and everywhere else around the world.

Hanna Hemilä









## Production Bios

### Xavier Picard – director, writer

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.

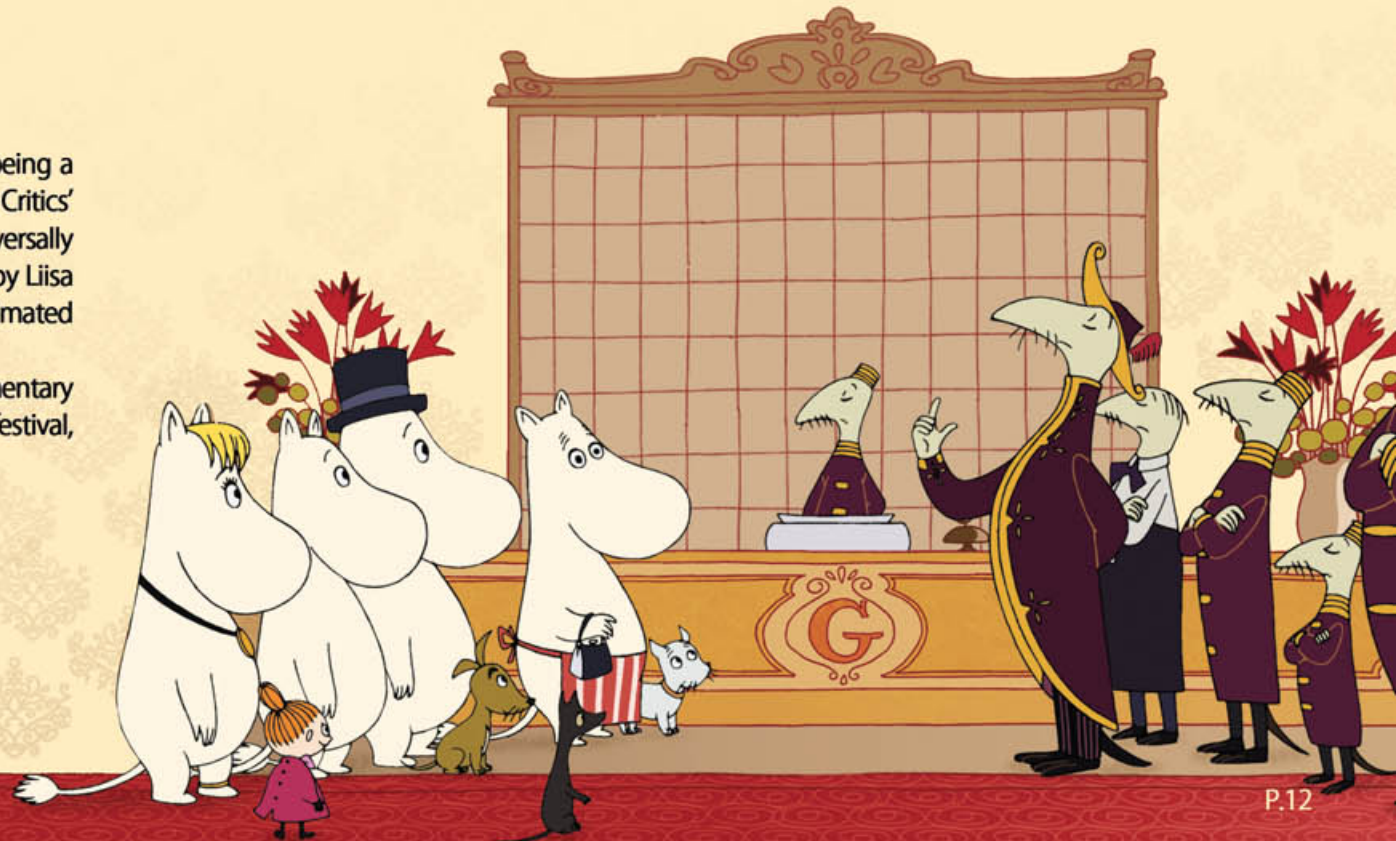
In 2000, Picard co-founded Pictak with the Japanese Producer Takashi Masunaga. Pictak produces and co-produces animated films and series for markets all over the world. Pictak collaborates with animation studios in Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, Canada, as well as with premier 3D and 2D studios in France.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

### Hanna Hemilä – producer, writer

Finnish film producer and director Hanna Hemilä's career includes being a 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 (Jussi award) and, in 2004, for the Film Finlandia award.





### **Leslie Stewart** – Screenwriter

Leslie Stewart has worked for the BBC, Channel 4 and ITV as a writer and director on some of the UK's most successful drama series, serials and films. His credits include Play For Today, Screen Two, Scene (multiple winner of BAFTA and Royal Television Society Awards), Casualty, Holby City, As If (winner of the Royal Television Society Award), Down To Earth and the internationally acclaimed Monarch Of The Glen. His work for children includes the Finnish animation series, Urpo and Turpo. Stewart is also an Ivor Novello Award winning songwriter, and has written for radio and the stage. His musical, The Little Match Girl, which he adapted for the screen, was nominated for an International Emmy Award. His mini series, Love Bytes (Fox/Shine) was nominated for Australia's Silver Logie Award for Most Outstanding Drama Series. He is a member of the British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA) and the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors.



**Leslie Stewart**

### **Annina Enckell** – Screenwriter

Annina Enckell has written plays, radio plays, and TV, and feature film screenplays for children and adults in Swedish and Finnish. She is an award-winning playwright for "De bäst anpassade" at Svenska Teatern, the Swedish National Theatre in Helsinki, and for the feature film Iris (directed by Ulrika Bengts), selected the best film at Oulu International Children's and Youth Film Festival (2011). Enckell has also adapted prose from Annika Idström, Erik Wahlström and Robert Åsbacka for the stage. She is a graduate of The Theatre Academy in Helsinki.

**Annina Enckell**



### **Beata Harju** – Screenwriter

Helsinki born Beata Harju is a filmmaker and actress. She is especially interested in comedy and has studied it at her alma mater Sarah Lawrence College, the Upright Citizens Brigade Theatre and the Magnet Theatre in New York. Moomins on the Riviera is her third project with Handle Productions, and she recently assistant directed the 24-episode TV series Tommy's Super-sofa, and directed the Finnish dubbing of the series. On stage, Beata made her national theatre debut as Honey in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" and Jane in "August: Osage County" at Svenska Teatern, the National Swedish Theatre of Finland.

**Beata Harju**





### **Milja Viljamaa – Composer**

Milja Viljamaa is a versatile professional musician with extensive experience working as a composer, music arranger, musician and producer in various areas of music. She received the notable Finnish Teosto-award in 2012 for her composing work on her solo album 'Minne'. As a keyboardist Viljamaa is known for touring with Lauri Tähkä's band (since 2011), and recently produced and arranged his upcoming Christmas album. Milja has a master's in music from Sibelius Academy in Finland.

Milja Viljamaa



### **Panu Aaltio – Composer**

Panu Aaltio is a Helsinki and Los Angeles based film composer and music producer. He has composed music for over 15 feature films since graduating from the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki and the University of Southern California in Los Angeles in 2006. Upon graduating USC, he received the Harry Warren Scholarship for Excellence in Film Scoring. Aaltio won the IFMCA Award for Best Documentary Score for Metsän Tarina (The Tale of a Forest). He also received a Best Music nomination at the Jussi Awards in Finland for the The Home of Dark Butterflies.

Panu Aaltio



### **Timo Lassy – Composer**

Timo Lassy is one of the leading artists in the vivid Helsinki jazz scene. Both a composer and sax player Lassy was recently noted as a "Rising Star" in the veritable jazz bible Downbeat, and his quintet ensemble, the Timo Lassy Band, was dubbed "one of Europe's sharpest bands" in the UK's Sunday Times. Selling out shows in his native Finland, Lassy is fast becoming a force to be reckoned with on the international jazz circuit. He is also one of the two founders and owners of We Jazz Ltd, a Helsinki-based creative agency known for their knack of introducing new ways of perceiving jazz as an art form.

Timo Lassy



### **Anna-Karin Korhonen – Composer**

Anna-Karin Korhonen is a composer and teacher and plays kantele and piano. Aside from playing the classical concert kantele, Korhonen is also known for playing the electrical kantele. Korhonen graduated with a master's in classical music from the Sibelius Academy in 2007, and with her second master's in folk music in 2012. She has worked on recordings as a musician, composer and music arranger.

Anna-Karin Korhonen







## Voice Actors

Russell Tovey \_\_\_\_\_ Moomin  
 Nathaniel Parker \_\_\_\_\_ Moominpappa  
 Tracy Ann Oberman \_\_\_\_\_ Moominmamma  
 Stephanie Winiecki \_\_\_\_\_ Snorkmaiden  
 Ruth Gibson \_\_\_\_\_ Little My  
 Philippe Smolikowski \_\_\_\_\_ Marquis Mongaga  
 Dave Browne \_\_\_\_\_ Clark Tresco  
 Shelley Blond \_\_\_\_\_ Audrey Glamour

Other roles are played by Dominic Frisby, Ian Conningham, Alison O'Donnell, Bernard Alane, Bruno Mages, Maria Sid, Beata Harju, Andy Turvey, Kris Gummerus, Glyn Banks, Lee Willis, Sanna-June Hyde, Christopher Sloan and Leslie Hyde.

**Russell Tovey** is an award winning British actor who voiced Moomin. He has numerous television, film and stage credits. Tovey is known for playing the role of werewolf George Sands in the BBC's supernatural drama *Being Human*, which started in 2008. In November 2011, Tovey left *Being Human* to work full-time on his BBC Three sitcom, *Him & Her*. Tovey is also known for his portrayal of the character of Rudge in both the original London and Broadway stage version, and later the film, of *The History Boys*. He is also known for *The Pirates! Band of Misfits* (2012) and *Grabbers* (2012) and he is now playing Kevin Matheson on the HBO original hit series *Looking*.

Russell Tovey





[www.moominsontheriviera.com](http://www.moominsontheriviera.com)

**SEE THE TRAILER**

**in English:** <https://vimeo.com/103938521>

**in Finnish:** <https://vimeo.com/104007280>

**in Swedish:** <https://vimeo.com/104007278>

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