

To Swallow a Toad

BY JURĢIS KRĀSONS

2D animation, 2010, 10'



SHORT FILM
competition
FESTIVAL DE CANNES

If someone strikes you on the right cheek, you can turn the other one or turn away...

The film is played around polarities of madness, depression, frustration - the invisible facets of Latvian or even European life. In a humorous style Jurģis Krāsons has created a visually engaging and highly daring look at the ways individuals evolve and adapt. *To Swallow a Toad* is what Latvians say meaning to tolerate the intolerable: dad, mom, and son are trapped in city life of endless humiliation. They've been bullied by violent schoolmates, monstrous neighbors, and legitimized shallowness, but still are teaching each other to "swallow it". This poignant story takes us into a spiral of mutual destruction, asking the question: "What happens when the last toad will be swallowed?"



Once some "round" intellectuals lived in a small town. They were smart, kind, farsighted and successful. The reason for their success – they could swallow toads and endlessly tolerate things. But some who were "square" also lived in the small town. They were pragmatic realists – good was repaid with good, evil with evil, and no toads were ever swallowed. They lived in peace until one day a "square" discovered that the "rounds" swallow toads...



Jurģis Krāsons – (14/02/1970) was born in Latvia. He has graduated from Latvian Academy of Arts where he got a MA in Arts. Ever since 1998 Jurģis Krāsons has been working as a production designer in Latvian and international film projects. He has taken part in more than 20 film productions including work as a set designer in *Invincible* (2001; dir. Werner Herzog), as an art director in *Honey Baby* (2004, dir. Mika Kaurismaki), *Hostage* (2006; dir. Laila Pakalniņa). Co-working with film directors he has also been invited to act for several parts - as Rody in *Invincible*, Man in Black in *Honey Baby* and others. Since 1994 he has also been working as an exhibition designer, artist-expositor for more than 300 exhibitions in Latvian Art Museum and foreign art exhibition halls. One of his youth passions in the late 80's was playing in underground alternative rock bands protesting against Soviet politics. At the beginning of 90's he made video-art and performances.

Original title: Norīt krupi
Director: Jurģis Krāsons
Script: Ivo Briedis
Designer: Jurģis Krāsons
Cinematographer: Mārtiņš Veļa
Music: Andris Barons
Producer: Vilnis Kalnaellis
Production Company: Rija Films



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Films from Latvia

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