

# SOVIET HIPPIES

FLOWERS AND HAIR GROW EVERYWHERE

## LOGLINE

Thrilled by the rock music, inspired by the love and peace cult, the young long-haired drop-outs were craving for freedom and created their own system in the Soviet Union despite the strict regime of 1970s.



## SYNOPSIS

A wild flower power ride on the footprints of the Soviet hippie movement take you into the psychedelic underground of 1970s. In search of freedom and happiness under the thumb of political regimes a colorful crowd of artists, musicians, freaks, vagabonds and other long-haired drop-outs created their own system in the Soviet Union. Years later, a group of eccentric hippies from Estonia take a road journey to Moscow where people still gather annually on the 1st of June to commemorate a tragic event in 1971, when thousands of hippies were arrested by the KGB.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Title:** Soviet Hippies

**Title in original language:** Nõukogude lillelapsed

**Premiere:** 2017

**Length:** 52/75

**Format:** HD; archive

**Screen ratio:** 16/9

**Sound:** Stereo; 5.1

**Color / BW:** Color & BW

**Film Genre:** Documentary

**Languages:** Estonian, Russian, English

**Subtitles:** English, Estonian, Russian

**Dubbing:** German



**DIRECTOR'S BIO**

Terje Toomistu (\*1985) is an Estonian documentary filmmaker with background in anthropology. Her work often draws from various cross-cultural processes, queer realities and cultural memory. She holds double MA degrees (cum laude) in Ethnology and in Communication Studies from University of Tartu, where she is pursuing a PhD degree in anthropology. In 2013-2014, she was also a Fulbright fellow in UC Berkeley, U.S. In 2017-2018, she is a visiting researcher at University of Amsterdam. She co-curated a multimedia exhibition about Soviet hippies, which has been exhibited in museums and galleries internationally.

**DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

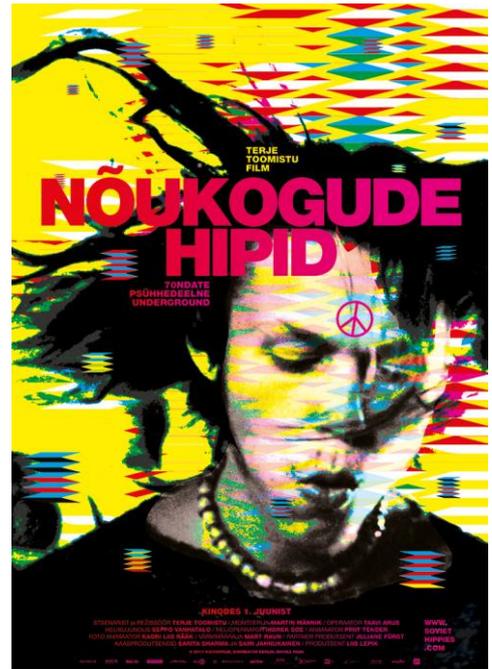
Recent rise of authoritarianism, setbacks in the struggles for social justice and the occurrence of wars – also in Ukraine – demands public discussion on the idea of non-violence. The documentary sheds light on the history of the pacifist movement in Russia and Eastern Europe, and proposes an alternative trajectory in global cultural memory, demonstrating the vast creative potential that emerged within the totalitarian regime.

The story of Soviet hippies raises important points about the workings of power and the politics of ecstasy, tackling the question of freedom and self-fulfillment. Is freedom an outward-looking social quality achieved via means of protest and active engagement? Or is it eventually always an inward-looking journey, an escapist lonerism, a spiritual path? Soviet hippies struggled for their sense of freedom in many ways, but their active engagement with politics either ended up severely or didn't change anything for better. In the socio-political landscape of contemporary Russia, these questions reoccur in frightening clarity.

The story of the main protagonist, Aare, suggests that being trapped by a body which is ill leaves little choice but to focus on the vast potential of internal dreamscapes. But how to deal with the feeling of being trapped by a society which is ill?

**CREDITS:**

**Director:** Terje Toomistu  
**Screenwriter:** Terje Toomistu  
**Producer:** Liis Lepik  
**Co-producers:** Sarita Sharma, Sami Jahnukainen  
**Cinematographer:** Taavi Arus  
**Sound design, editing and mixing:** Seppo Vanhatalo  
**Sound recordist:** Indrek Soe  
**Editor:** Martin Männik  
**Animator:** Priit Tender  
**Photo animator:** Kadri Liis Rääk  
**Colorist:** Mart Raun  
**Associate producer:** Juliane Fürst



**Produced by:** Kultusfilm (Estonia)

**In coproduction with:** Kinomaton (Germany), Mouka Filmi (Finland), MDR (Martin Hübner), YLE (Erkko Lyytinen)

**In collaboration with:** ARTE

**Financed by:**

Estonian Film Institute (Kaarel Kuurmaa), Estonian Film Endowment, Estonian Gambling Tax Council, AVEK (Outi Rousu), crowdfunding platform „Hooandja“.

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