



THE OTHER SIDE OF HOPE

(Toivon tuolla puolen)

Autumn
Season
2017

Release: 2017

Cert (UK): 12A

Country: Finland

Language: Finnish, Arabic and Swedish

Runtime: 1 hour 40 mins

Director: Aki Kaurismäki

Writer: Aki Kaurismäki

Cinematographer: Timo Salminen

Cast: Ville Virtanen, Kati Outinen, Dome Karukoski



'Finnish director Aki Kaurismäki delivers his timeliest and most heartfelt film, mixing humor, pathos, and anger in a manner reminiscent of Chaplin's 'The Great Dictator' (1940). A Syrian refugee, having lost most of his family and friends to sectarian violence, arrives in Helsinki to begin a new life; after the authorities declare that Syria is no longer a crisis zone and order him to return, he finds work and shelter at a run-down

restaurant, where he ingratiates himself with the ragtag employees. Kaurismäki offers plenty of his deadpan humor in the restaurant scenes, but the comedy never distracts one from the hero's plight, or from the failure of European nations to provide enough help for the exiled' – Ben Sachs, Chicago Reader.

To appreciate this film, we need to understand Aki Kaurismäki's style – 'He has been called an auteur,^[3] since he writes, directs, produces and usually edits the films himself, and thus introduces his personal "drollery and deadpan"^[4] style. The dialogue is famously laconic: the articulation is usually extremely unadorned, direct and in strict standard language, without showing much emotion or drama. Characters usually stand still and recite the dialogue like it consisted of eternal truths. His characters rarely smile, nod sadly and usually expect the worst, and often smoke constantly. The camera is usually still.^[5] Events are shown in a plain manner and characters are usually left alone facing the consequences' – Wikipedia.

