



# THE ÅLAND ROUTE

HELIOS

**AN IDYLLIC  
ISLAND.**

**A DEADLY  
CROSSROADS.**

A fractured Stockholm family relocates to the idyllic Åland archipelago in Finland, hoping to rebuild. But when Anders discovers a backpack filled with drugs, cash, and a mysterious USB, their fresh start unravels. Alva, their rebellious teen, confesses she was recruited to smuggle it, then vanishes.

To save her, Anna and Anders are forced into a dangerous trafficking network spanning ferries between Åland, Finland, and Sweden. As Anna rises in the logistics chain and Anders uses his IT skills to decode the operation, they uncover a chilling truth: the drug trade is a cover for a covert hybrid campaign to control Åland's strategic position in the Baltic.

With border guard Jarmo caught between duty and loyalty, the family must navigate a shadowy world of influence, infrastructure, and survival — where every choice comes at a cost.





# WHY NOW?

**The Åland Route** is a razor-sharp Nordic thriller that captures two of the most pressing concerns in Northern Europe today: the rise of covert geopolitical influence and the surge in organized drug trafficking across maritime borders.

Set in the demilitarized and strategically located Åland Islands, the series explores how a seemingly ordinary family becomes entangled in a smuggling network — only to discover that the drug trade is a façade for something far more sinister. With Finland recently banning property purchases by non-resident Russian citizens due to fears of covert land grabs and hybrid warfare, the series echoes real-world headlines and national security debates.

Åland's central position in the Baltic Sea makes it a natural hub for both illicit logistics and geopolitical maneuvering. As narcotics flow through tourist ferries and criminal networks blur into state-sponsored operations, **The Åland Route** delivers a gripping, timely narrative that fuses family survival with the shadowy mechanics of modern power.



# MAIN CHARACTERS

**Anders Lindström (45)** Withdrawn engineer seeking redemption in Åland. Haunted by past infidelity, Anders is thrust into a smuggling ring and slowly transforms into a reluctant strategist, decoding the operation's geopolitical layers to protect his family.

**Anna Lindström (43)** Burned-out business coach turned survivalist. Anna's dream of peace collapses as she becomes the family's tactical lead, navigating criminal threats and moral compromise — all while hiding a secret alliance with Jarmo.

**Alva Lindström (16)** Defiant teen and gifted photographer. Alva's abduction forces the family into criminal entanglement. Her captivity reveals the sinister scope of the operation — and her parents' hidden lives.

**Leo Lindström (14)** Introverted drone enthusiast. Leo's curiosity inadvertently escalates the crisis, deepening sibling rivalry and exposing the family to greater danger — all while remaining unaware of the stakes.

**Jarmo Virtanen (55)** Veteran border guard with a fading moral compass. As retirement looms, Jarmo walks the line between law and crime, ultimately sacrificing himself to protect the Lindström children.



# KEY SUPPORTING CHARACTERS

**Max Nyström (38)** Guarded fisherman from Turku. After his brother vanishes into the criminal network, Max becomes a reluctant ally to the Lindströms — and a potential wedge between Anna and Anders.

**Eva Sundström (42)** Sharp, persistent border guard. Eva suspects the Lindströms from the start and races to expose the network, always one step behind the unfolding chaos.

**Irina Volkova (40)** Cold-blooded Russian crime boss. Irina runs Åland's trafficking hub with precision, masking a covert hybrid operation beneath the drug trade.

**Henrik Dahl (50)** Corrupt local politician. Henrik quietly sells off Åland's infrastructure to foreign interests, trading sovereignty for power and profit.

**Mika Nyström (34)** Max's missing brother. A pawn in the syndicate's web, Mika's failed smuggling attempt and unpaid debts make him both hostage and liability.

# SERIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN

**Format:** Fiction Television Series

**Episodes:** 8 x 45 min

**Genre:** Crime, action, mystery

**Language:** Swedish, English

**Production country:** Finland

**Production stage:** Writing of pilot script

**Timetable:** Pilot script ready November 2025

**Episode scripts:** November-March 2026

**Ready for pre-production:** April 2026

**Filming:** Summer/Fall 2026

# **REFERENCES**

# **MOOD BOARD**

Tero Molin, director of photography / 13.08.2025



# FAMILY

Ordinary family, two teenagers, upper-middle class home



(References: The White Lotus, Ozark, Oceans, Breaking Bad)



# ÅLAND

The family's life in Mariehamn seems like a beautiful idyll on the surface, but the daughter has a problem.



(References:: Euphoria, A Quiet Place Part II)

# DRUGS

The daughter's role in drug smuggling drags the family into the criminal world



(References:: Spring Breakers, Nobody, SpiderMan No Way Home)



# STOCKHOLM-HELSINKI

Drug smuggling to Sweden and growing desperation pull the entire family deeper into the criminal world, with no way out in sight.



(Referenssit: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, F9, Kiss Kiss Bang Bang, The Penguin)

# EXTERNAL THREAT

At the same time, an external threat is approaching the island, endangering national security as a whole.



(References: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Believer, Tomorrow, Elite Squad 2 The Enemy Within)



# STAKES

The family is running out of chances to survive.



(References: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Believer, Tomorrow, Elite Squad 2 The Enemy Within)

# ÅLAND NOIR



An ordinary family – an extraordinary problem



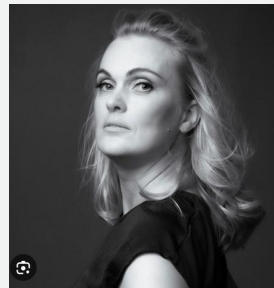
# MEET THE TEAM



**ILKKA RAHKONEN**  
CO-FOUNDER, ICS



**ILKKA HYNNINEN**  
CREATIVE  
DIRECTOR, ICS



**KAARINA LEINONEN**  
WRITER, ICS



Founded in the fall of 2022 by Finnish media veterans Ilkka Hynninen and Ilkka Rahkonen, each bringing over 20 years of experience managing media companies and productions both in Finland and globally, Ilkkas' Creative Studio (ICS) is dedicated to producing high-quality, impactful stories for the screen. Our vision is to collaborate with international creative teams, utilizing a global network model to deliver a select number of exceptional productions annually.

At ICS, we believe in the power of compelling narratives and the strength of collaboration, aiming to inspire and engage audiences worldwide through our work.

