

## **Annukka Kiuru: DOOR TO THE WORLD**

### **15 min. short film script (EBU)**

1. MIKKE IS MY BROTHER  
EXT, HOME ROAD, DAY  
JANI AND MIKKE

Jani and Mikke are walking side by side on their home street. Jani looks admiringly at Mikke. Mikke gives a soft thump with his fist on Jani's arm, in a brotherly teasing manner. Jani demonstrates his nonexistent biceps and hits back. Mikke laughs kindly.

2. TRIP TO THE BEACH  
EXT, VILLAGE ROAD, DAY  
JANI, SMALL BOYS

A beautiful summer day. Jani, a 9-year old boy, and two 7-year old boys, who are clearly smaller than Jani, are riding on the village road on their small bikes at a furious pace. They have towels hanging on their shoulders. The road turns into a path, the boys stop. The little boys throw their bikes carelessly to the bushes.

TITLE

Only Jani, carefully parks his bike not to scratch it.

3. JANI GETS SHOCKED  
EXT, BEACH, DAY  
JANI

The public beach is at the foot of a hill. Jani appears in the picture happily humming, with the towel on his shoulder. Suddenly he stops. He stops humming, is struck dumb and looks worried.

4. ACCIDENT  
EXT, BEACH, DAY  
JANI, LITTLE BOY 1, LITTLE BOY 2, PEOPLE ON THE BEACH

All the people on the beach are crowding in one place. Jani sees only their backs. He starts walking towards them and pushes his way through the crowd to see what happens. He sees an old man lying on his back on the ground. He recognizes the old man and is shocked. His eyes get wet and the picture blurs; it begins to flicker and sounds echo in an unnatural way. A younger man is giving the old man artificial respiration and pumping his breast.

5. CONDOLENCES  
EXT, MIKKE'S YARD, EVENING  
JANI, JANI'S MOTHER, MIKKE, MIKKE'S MOTHER

The picture moves to Mikke. It's a well-tended garden of a one-family house. Mikke, a boy of 16, is sitting in the garden swing with tears in his eyes. Jani enters through the gate with his mother. She is carrying a bunch of white roses. She goes and knocks on the door, while Jani remains standing under the apple trees, looking at Mikke.

At the door the adults are talking, too far away to be heard. Mikke's mother is weepy and Jani's mother embraces her.

Jani ventures to walk over to Mikke and sits down beside him in the swing. Various voices of summer are heard. Somewhere a cricket is chirping and a bird is singing; the swing creaks. Jani steals a glance at Mikke. The boys are sitting in silence, not a word is said.

5. JANI WON'T SWIM  
EXT, JANI'S YARD, DAY  
JANI, SMALL BOYS

Morning in the neighbourhood of Mikke's home. Jani's mother is weeding the flower bed. Small boys in swimming trunks are standing in the garden with towels on their shoulders.

BOYS:  
Let's go swimming

JANI  
I am not coming

Jani shakes his head. The boys leave.

6. JANI FLOPS ABOUT  
INT, POOL, DAY  
JANI, KING OF THE CLASS, BULLY 1, BULLY 2, OTHER SCHOOLCHILDREN,  
SWIMMING TEACHER

Schoolchildren are having a swimming class. Boys keep jumping from the springboard and crawl in the pool. Jani alone stands at the low end and holds to the edge of the pool.

The king of the class, a big and tough-looking boy, pokes his friend and points at Jani, who looks frightened. The boys laugh at him.

7. JANI IS BEING BULLIED  
EXT, VILLAGE ROAD, DAY  
JANI, KING, BULLIES 1 AND 2, MIKKE

Jani is walking home carrying his knapsack. The boys who laughed at him in the pool walk behind him, shouting and jeering.

KING:  
Hey, master swimmer!

BULLY 1:  
Wait! We want to talk to you!

Jani glances back and quickens his steps. The boys start running and catch him. The King grabs his knapsack and throws it to Bully 1, who passes it on to Bully 2. Jani jumps like a kangaroo between them trying to get his knapsack, without success. As the knapsack is thrown back to the King and

he catches it, another hand grabs the other side of the knapsack. The King turns to look behind him. The hand belongs to Mikke, who is bigger and many years older than the King. Mikke snatches the knapsack and hands it to Jani. Mikke's angry eyes are nailed on the King, who looks fearful. For a moment all the smaller boys hold their breath; what will happen, shall Mikke hit him or what... He grabs the King and forces him to dance with him. Finally Mikke lets the King go and winks at Jani; come on, let's go. They walk away together; the other boys are left standing and staring after them. . Mikke smiles and blows a kiss to him. The King and the Bullies look at each other, shocked. Jani and Mikke must laugh.

8. MIKKE IS MY BROTHER  
EXT, HOME ROAD, DAY  
JANI AND MIKKE

Jani and Mikke are walking side by side on their home street. Jani looks admiringly at Mikke. Mikke gives a soft thump with his fist on Jani's arm, in a brotherly teasing manner. Jani demonstrates his nonexistent biceps and hits back. Mikke laughs kindly.

9. MIKKE MOVES  
INT, MIKKE'S ROOM, DAY  
JANI AND MIKKE

There is a poster of Mikke's musical idol on the wall. On his bed there is a guitar in its case, or some other instrument, and a large Yankee bag, in which he is packing his clothes with enthusiasm. He takes the poster down, rolls it up and fastens the roll with a rubber band. He is humming with a smile on his lips, while Jani is sitting in the corner looking ill-used by life. On Mikke's table there is a photo of his grandpa and beside it a box of matches, which looks very old. Mikke stops humming, picks up the box and throws it into his bag. He glances at Jani and sees how miserable he is. He gives Jani one of his playful thumps, as he did in Scene 8, but now Jani pretends it hurts.

JANI:  
Ouch!

Jani rubs his arm. Mikke looks worried. He takes the box of matches out of his bag, winds a rubber band around it and hands it to Jani.

MIKKE:  
Take this.

10. MAGIC BOX  
EXT, JANI'S YARD, EVENING  
JANI, MIKKE'S FATHER

Jani steps out from Mikke's house with the box in his hand.

The door behind Jani creaks open. Mikke's father comes out, swinging his car keys in his hand. He gives a friendly nod to Jani and hurries to his car.

Mikke comes out carrying his bag, winking at Jani: Thumbs up! He gets into the car. His mother comes out to the steps. The car starts, Mikke waves goodbye, they leave. Jani and Mikke's mother glance at each other. Jani is annoyed and Mikke's mother feels almost like crying. Jani's eyes focus on the box in his hand.

#### 11. SONG EXAM

INT, MUSIC CLASS, DAY

JANI, KING, BULLY 1, BULLY 2, OTHER CLASSMATES, MUSIC TEACHER

Jani is sitting in class, nervously fiddling with his pencil case, where the box is. In front of the class, the teacher is playing the piano and a girl is standing by the piano, singing with enthusiasm. The song ends and the girl curtseys.

TEACHER:

Good...

The teacher takes a notebook and writes something down. Jani takes out the box.

TEACHER:

It's Jani's turn.

TEACHER:

Jani?

Some children laugh. Jani realizes that the teacher has called his name and wakes up to reality. He stands up, snatches the box and clutches it in his fist. He goes to the piano and the teacher begins to play. Jani stands staring at his classmates. The King and the Bullies are sitting in the back row. They grin at each other and look challenging. Jani swallows nervously. The King writes something down on a piece of paper and gives it to the girl who is sitting in front of him. The girl giggles and shows the paper to her friend, who begins to giggle. Everyone sits staring at Jani. The teacher, finishing the intro, nods at Jani smiling to encourage him. Jani thinks it is a sign for him to start singing and he starts, at the wrong place. The teacher stops playing and the class is roaring with laughter. Jani's eyes get wet; the laughter echoes unnaturally and the picture blurs and flickers. As the teacher talks to Jani the image returns to normal.

TEACHER:

Let's start all over again.

Jani nods nervously. His eyes turn to his fist, in which he is hiding the box.

The teacher begins to play again. Jani presses the box harder and strikes up the song like nothing. He sings well. The girls who giggled at the piece of paper now sneer at the Bullies and then smile at Jani. He enjoys singing and smiles too.

#### 12. BOX IN THE WRONG HANDS

EXT, SCHOOLYARD, DAY

JANI, KING, BULLY 1, BULLY 2, OTHER CHILDREN DURING BREAK

Ordinary hubbub on the school yard during break. Some children are playing hopscotch, others are jumping the rope. Some boys are kicking the ball and others are playing tag. Jani is hiding in the bushes staring at the box, amazed. He is about to remove the rubber band, as he remembers...

A hand grabs Jani's shoulder, violently. He startles and turns around. The Bullies are standing right behind him.

KING:

Hey, look at the guy, he has matches with him to school!

BULLY 2:

Show me!

Jani tries to push the box into his pocket, but Bully 2 takes it from him by force.

JANI:

Give it to me!

BULLY 2:

Come and get it!

The boy moves back and waves the box in an irritating manner. Jani hesitates and remembers...

Jani ventures to approach Bully 2, who throws the box as far as he can. Jani rushes after; the boys laugh. The school bell rings and the Bullies leave, laughing. Jani finds the box in a mud puddle, dries it with the hem of his shirt and puts it carefully in his pocket.

### 13. MOTHER SMELLS TOBACCO

INT, KITCHEN, MORNING

JANI, MOTHER, FATHER

Jani and his father are eating porridge in the kitchen in the morning. Mother comes in with a bag. He shows the contents of it - Jani's things for the pool.

MOTHER:

Trunks, goggles, towel - and don't forget the sitting underlay for the sauna!

Jani ladles porridge into his mouth in an apathetic mood. His mother feels pity for him. She comes behind his chair and tousles his hair.

MOTHER:

Oh, my dear...

Then she smells something. She stands behind father and sniffs. Jani and father look at her puzzled.

FATHER:

What is it?

Mother, making a martyr of her, goes and opens the window.

MOTHER:  
What do you think?

She makes a gesture as if she were puffing at a cigarette and glares at him murderously. He is embarrassed.

Jani stands up and puts the bag of swimming things in his knapsack.

14. JANI SWIMS FOR HIS LIFE  
INT, POOL, DAY  
JANI, SCHOOLCHILDREN, SWIMMING TEACHER

The children are queuing to dive from the springboard, each in turn, and then swim from the deep end to the low. Other boys rush forward, boisterous and brave. Jani, at the tail of the queue, feels for the box in the leg of his trunks - we can see a square bulge - it's there all right. Jani feels relieved and oddly encouraged. He performs a fine jump into the pool, but swims with fumbling strokes. He realizes that he has lost the box. He tries to locate it. He sees it floating on the water far away, get wet and sink. He swims faster and dives, picks up the box and rises.

The teacher begins to applaud and everyone joins in, but the King and the Bullies do their best to look scornful. As Jani gets out of the pool, his appearance has changed. The King whispers something to the Bullies, they look at Jani and laugh, but we can see that Jani does not care. He walks through the group of the three boys, cool as a cucumber. He steals a glance at the box in his hand.

15. JANI DRIES THE MAGIC BOX  
INT, BATHROOM, EVENING  
JANI

Jani, in his pyjamas, is drying the matchbox with a hair dryer. His swimming things are hanging in the bathroom to dry. When the box is dry, he caresses it happily. He is tempted to open it and is already fiddling the rubber band as someone knocks on the door. He quickly slips the box into the pocket of his trousers, hanging in the bathroom rack. His mothers steps in with a bundle of sheets.

Jani:  
Good night.

Mother embraces him.

Mother:  
Good night, honey.

Jani goes, mother pushes the sheets into the washing machine. She sniffs the air and wrinkles up her brows.

16. JANI GOES TO BED  
INT, JANI'S ROOM, NIGHT  
JANI

Jani goes to bed.

17. MOTHER FINDS THE MAGIC BOX  
INT, BATHROOM, NIGHT  
JANI'S MOTHER

She snaps the pair of Jani's trousers from the rack and is about to push them into the washing machine, but then remembers to check that the pockets are empty. She first pulls out an empty pocket, then another with the magic box in – the box of matches. She tears off the rubber band around it.

MOTHER:  
Timo, come here, will you!

Father looks puzzled at the door.

Father:  
What?

Father turns to look. We can see their thunderstruck expressions, not the contents of the box.

18. CONTENTS OF THE MAGIC BOX  
INT, JANI'S ROOM, NIGHT  
JANI, MOTHER, FATHER

A glaring "interrogation" light is on in room.

FATHER:  
Would you please explain!

JANI:  
Give it to me!

Jani takes the box from father. There is a half-smoked cigarette in it. Jani's eyes grow bigger and he lets out a sort of moan. He picks up the inside of the box and stares at it.

19. HOME ARREST  
INT, JANI'S ROOM, AFTERNOON  
JANI

Jani stares out of the window of his room. He sees the two little boys standing at the front door - they have returned to ask him for a swim. One of the boys carries a football under his arm. Mother shakes his head and closes the door. The boys walk away.

20. FRUGAL MEAL  
INT, KITCHEN, EVENING  
JANI

Jani, depressed, is gnawing at a piece of dark bread.

Mother wipes the kitchen sink further away. Jani glares at her angrily.

21. JANI RESOLVES THE SITUATION  
EXT, SCHOOL ROAD, DAY  
JANI, GIRL, KING, BULLIES 1 AND 2

Jani walking the school road.

Boys are heard clamouring at the distance. Jani reaches the crossing, and as he takes the next road, he sees the King and the two Bullies throwing someone's knapsack between them.

A small girl of is standing still, stiff with fear. She has dark eyes and long, dark plaits. Jani's eyes flash in anger. He rushes in. When the King catches the knapsack, another hand grabs it. The King turns to look; this time the extra hand belongs to Jani.

JANI:  
Give me the knapsack!

The King will not let go of the knapsack. The boys stand staring at each other. Jani pulls the knapsack towards him, so does the King; neither of them is prepared to let go. Mikke's song is heard on the background and, seen from a distance, it looks as if Jani were dancing with the King. The girl looks frightened. The King's pals begin to look furtively around them, passers-by cannot but laugh at the "dance show". Finally Jani gets hold of the knapsack and the King tumbles over – he does not hurt himself but it looks quite funny. The passers-by must laugh. Jani hands the knapsack to the girl.

The girl nods timidly and leaves. Jani walks to the same direction but more slowly. He digs in his breast pocket and finds a box of lozenges. He looks back and sees the King shaking dirt off his trousers, angrily. Then Jani looks at the frightened girl, hurrying in front of him with quick steps.

Jani's expression brightens up. He looks around searching, then picks up a stone from the ground and puts it into the empty box of lozenges. He spurts after the girl.

22. JANI TELLS ABOUT MAGIC POWERS  
EXT, SCHOOL ROAD, DAY  
JANI, GIRL

We see from a distance that Jani reaches the girl and hands her the box. She says something, probably "thank you". Then they start walking side by side.