

A FEATURE DOCUMENTARY BY  
**ARI MATIKAINEN**

# THE GAME OF CHAOS

WHERE INTELLIGENCE SHAPES THE BATTLEFIELD

**KINOCOMPANY**  
FIN

**TRAUMFABRIK**  
EST

**INITIALIZE FILMS**  
UK

# SYNOPSIS

The Game of Chaos is an intense and captivating documentary that delves into the ingenuity and resilience of small nations navigating the chaos created by global powers. The film explores how countries like Finland and Estonia respond to constant uncertainty and turmoil by leveraging technology, international collaboration, and bold innovation. Chaos manifests through hybrid threats, disinformation campaigns, and cyberattacks aimed at undermining democratic institutions and destabilizing societies.

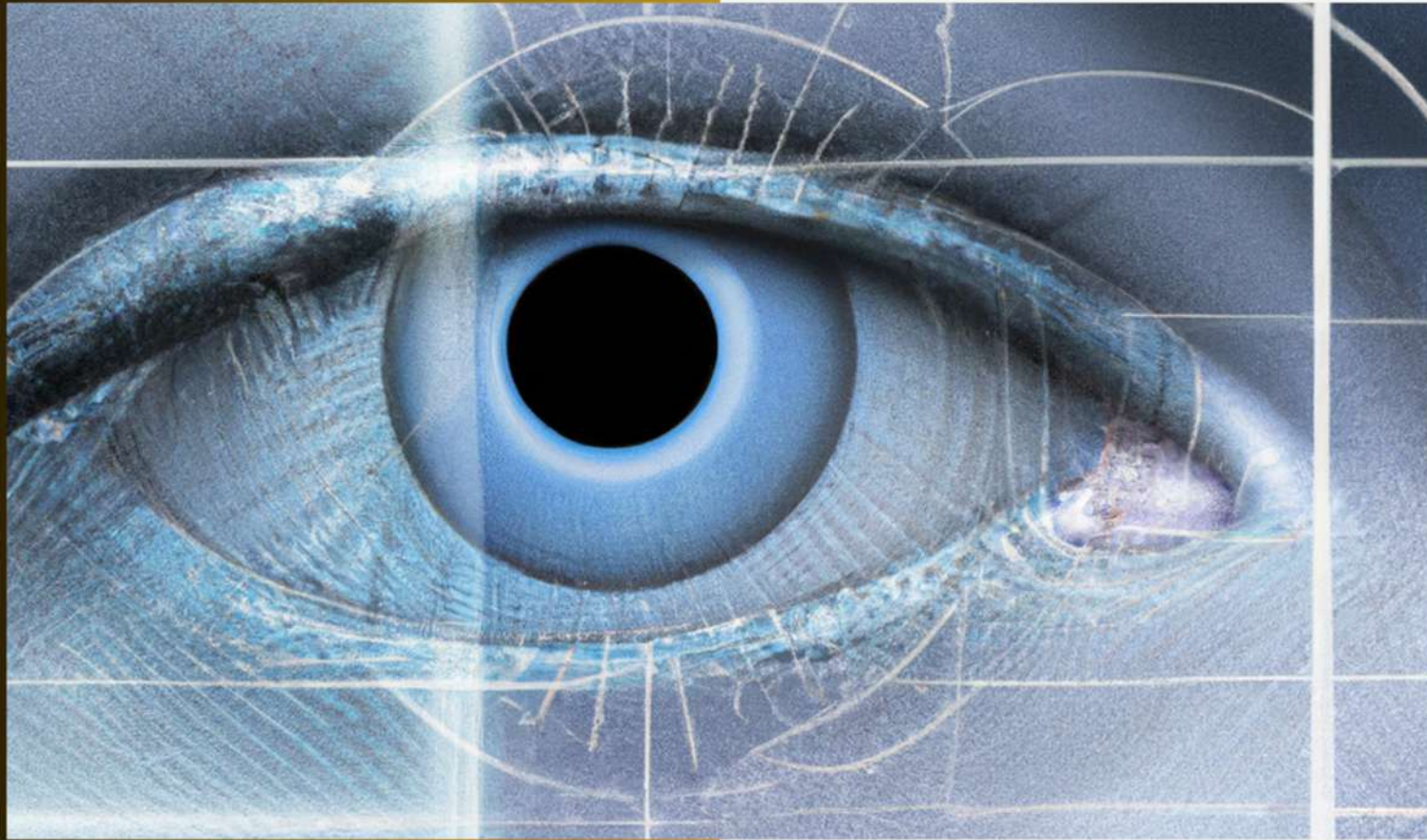
Eastern Finland focuses on developing digital border security and seeks solutions to ongoing challenges through partnerships with startups. The documentary features experts and technology developers from Finland, Estonia, and the United Kingdom, offering fresh perspectives on cybersecurity and the role of AI in modern conflict.

Estonian cybersecurity expert Anett Numa succinctly captures the strategy of small nations: "We will never win by strength, but we can win by intelligence. The key lies in speed, collaboration, and using technology in ways larger nations do not expect." NATO DIANA Innovation Lab leader Kadri Tammai emphasizes: "Innovation is the secret weapon of small nations. We need to think agilely and boldly because cyber threats won't wait."

At the heart of the film is a poignant story of Jaanika Merilo's work using AI to trace Ukrainian children forcibly relocated to Russia and reunite them with their families. As Jaanika states: "This work is not just about technology – it's about hope for those who have lost everything."

The film also features Finnish experts such as Saara Jantunen and Heidi Ruotsalainen, who shed light on the realities of hybrid and cyber threats and the military and ethical challenges of the future. Contributions from British startup developers add an international perspective and innovative approaches that challenge traditional notions of warfare.

The Game of Chaos provides a realistic look at how nations survive and respond to the challenges posed by global powers. The documentary demonstrates that small nations can not only defend themselves but also shape the future battlefield.



# BACKDROP

Innovation in the Midst of Chaos. Finland and Estonia, small Baltic nations sharing a border with Russia, have a long history of balancing their independence against the backdrop of a superpower that thrives on creating and exploiting chaos. This chaos manifests in hybrid threats, disinformation campaigns, and cyberattacks aimed at destabilizing societies and weakening democratic institutions. For centuries, both nations have adapted to survive under the shadow of Russia's geopolitical ambitions.

Finland, known for its historical neutrality, and Estonia, fiercely pro-Western since regaining independence in 1991, have experienced seismic shifts in their security landscapes. Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 was a wake-up call, but the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 redefined the region's political and military dynamics. Finland formally ended its military non-alignment by joining NATO, standing alongside Estonia, a long-standing member.

In this volatile reality, both countries are leveraging their expertise in digital innovation, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity to navigate the challenges of living next to an unpredictable neighbor. These small nations are turning vulnerability into strength, developing cutting-edge solutions to counter disinformation and protect their borders from hybrid warfare.

Women leaders in AI and cybersecurity are playing a critical role in this transformation, demonstrating how resilience and innovation can empower even the smallest nations to thrive in an era of chaos. Their work not only ensures their countries' safety but also redefines the possibilities for modern defense and international collaboration.



# THE EXPERTS



## JAANIKA

### **AI Innovator and Child Rescuer**

Jaanika Merilo, an Estonian-Ukrainian IT expert, leads a groundbreaking mission in Kyiv. Using AI-powered facial recognition technology, she works tirelessly to locate and rescue Ukrainian children forcibly deported to Russia.

Collaborating with the Ukrainian Human Rights Commissioner, Merilo's innovative approach demonstrates how AI can be a powerful tool for humanitarian efforts in modern warfare.



## HEIDI

### **Finland's Cybercrime and Military Intelligence Expert**

Dr. Heidi Ruotsalainen, a Senior Inspector at Finland's Cybercrime Prevention Centre, bridges digital defense and military history. Her doctorate in Military Science, focusing on intelligence history, provides unique insights into warfare's evolution. In "Faceless War,"

Ruotsalainen's expertise illuminates how AI-driven strategies are reshaping traditional espionage and combat tactics.



## KADRI

### **Estonia's Digital Defense Strategist**

Kadri Tammai, an Estonian cybersecurity expert, plays a crucial role in shaping her nation's digital defense strategies. As part of Estonia's forward-thinking approach to national security, Tammai focuses on leveraging AI and cutting-edge technologies to protect against cyber threats.

Her work exemplifies how small nations can become global leaders in the new landscape of digital warfare.



## SAARA

### **Finland's Defense Expert on Information Warfare**

Saara Jantunen, a Finnish defense researcher, specializes in information warfare and psychological operations. Working with the Finnish Defense Forces, she analyzes and develops strategies to counter disinformation campaigns and hybrid threats. Jantunen's work sheds light on the invisible battlefields of modern warfare, where perception and information are as critical as traditional military assets.



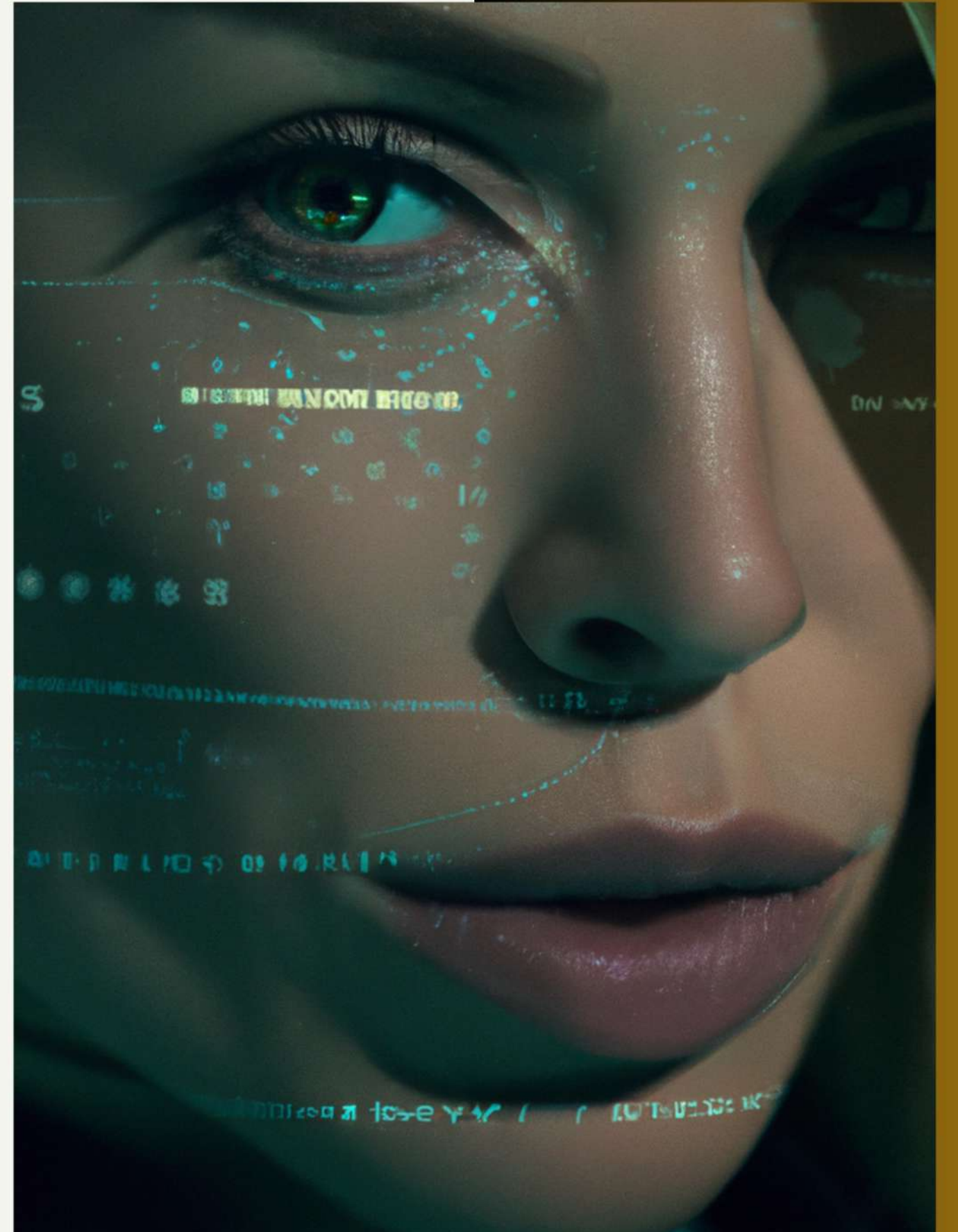
## ANETT

### **Estonia's Digital Defense Innovator**

Anett Numa, an Estonian digital transformation expert, is at the forefront of her country's innovative defense strategies. As a key figure in Estonia's e-governance and cybersecurity initiatives, Numa focuses on integrating AI-powered systems and drones into national defense. Her work exemplifies Estonia's pioneering approach to digital security and its collaboration with NATO in preparing for future conflicts.

# FORMULA

As pioneering women in defense craft AI-driven military strategies, they uncover a stark reality: the battlegrounds of tomorrow will be shaped by algorithms, not armies. Tasked with redefining warfare in an era where intelligence outweighs brute force, they must navigate ethical dilemmas, geopolitical tensions, and the evolving nature of power.





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**There are 3-5 years to prepare.**

*- Kaja Kallas*

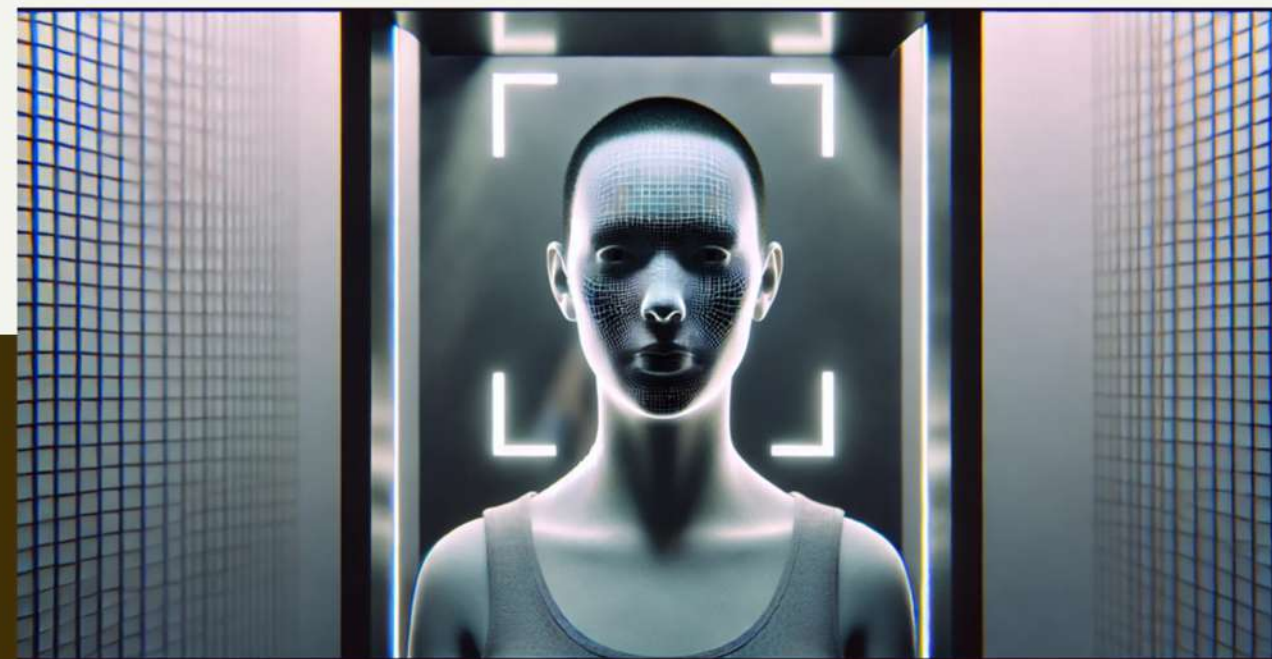
EU foreign affairs chief,  
Estonian Ex-Prime Minister

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*As a documentarian with over two decades of experience exploring war, technology, and societal change, I see *The Game of Chaos* as the culmination of my life's work. This film captures a pivotal moment in history: the integration of AI into warfare, a transformation as profound as the introduction of nuclear weapons. Drawing on my experience from films like *War & Peace of Mind* and *Russian Libertine*, I aim to illuminate the unseen forces shaping modern conflict—particularly the strategic chaos orchestrated by global powers—and the ethical dilemmas it brings. At the heart of this story is the crucial role of women leaders, whose innovation and vision redefine the future of defense. By examining the intersection of AI, warfare, and human decision-making, *The Game of Chaos* challenges us to confront the complexities of preserving humanity in an era of algorithmic power and faceless conflict.*

*This isn't just a documentary—it's a call to action, a vital historical record, and a platform for urgent global dialogue about how we navigate the fragile balance between technological advancement and ethical responsibility.*

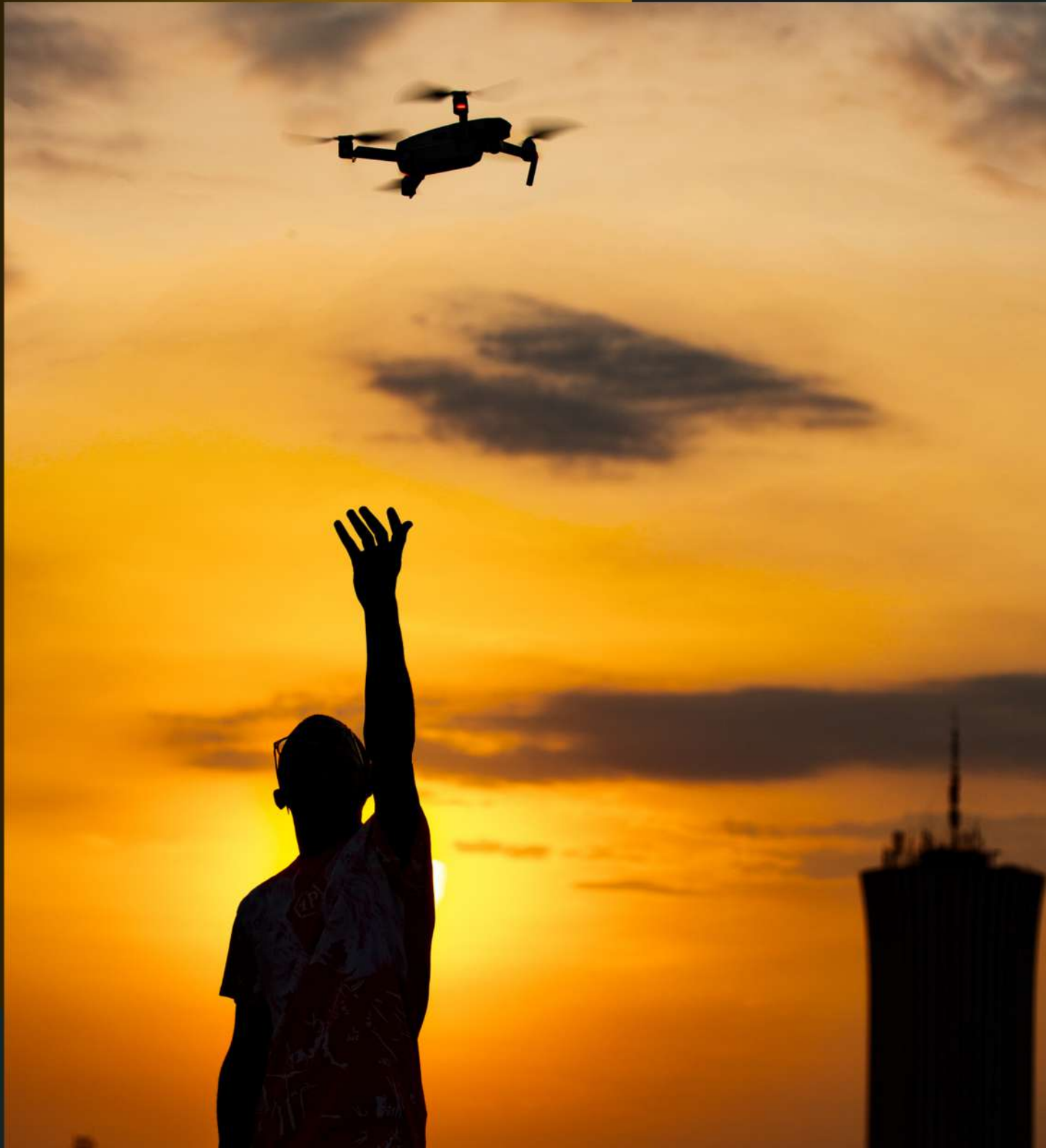
*- Ari Matikainen -*



# TONE

The documentary will seamlessly weave observational footage, in-depth interviews, and stylized graphics to unravel the complexities of chaos in modern warfare, driven by AI and hybrid strategies. The color palette will visually reflect the duality of the narrative: cool blues and greys will dominate when illustrating the algorithmic precision and anonymity of AI-driven conflict, while warmer, more human tones will emphasize stories of resilience and ethical contemplation amidst the disorder.

Dynamic editing will mirror the unpredictable nature of chaos, maintaining a compelling pace and clarity even when delving into intricate technical details. Split screens, layered visuals, and data-driven animations will vividly depict the scale and interconnectedness of the issues, immersing viewers in the complexity of this shifting battlefield.





# MOOD

Tomorrow's wars won't be won  
by muscle



We will use virtual production to create future reality

# MOOD

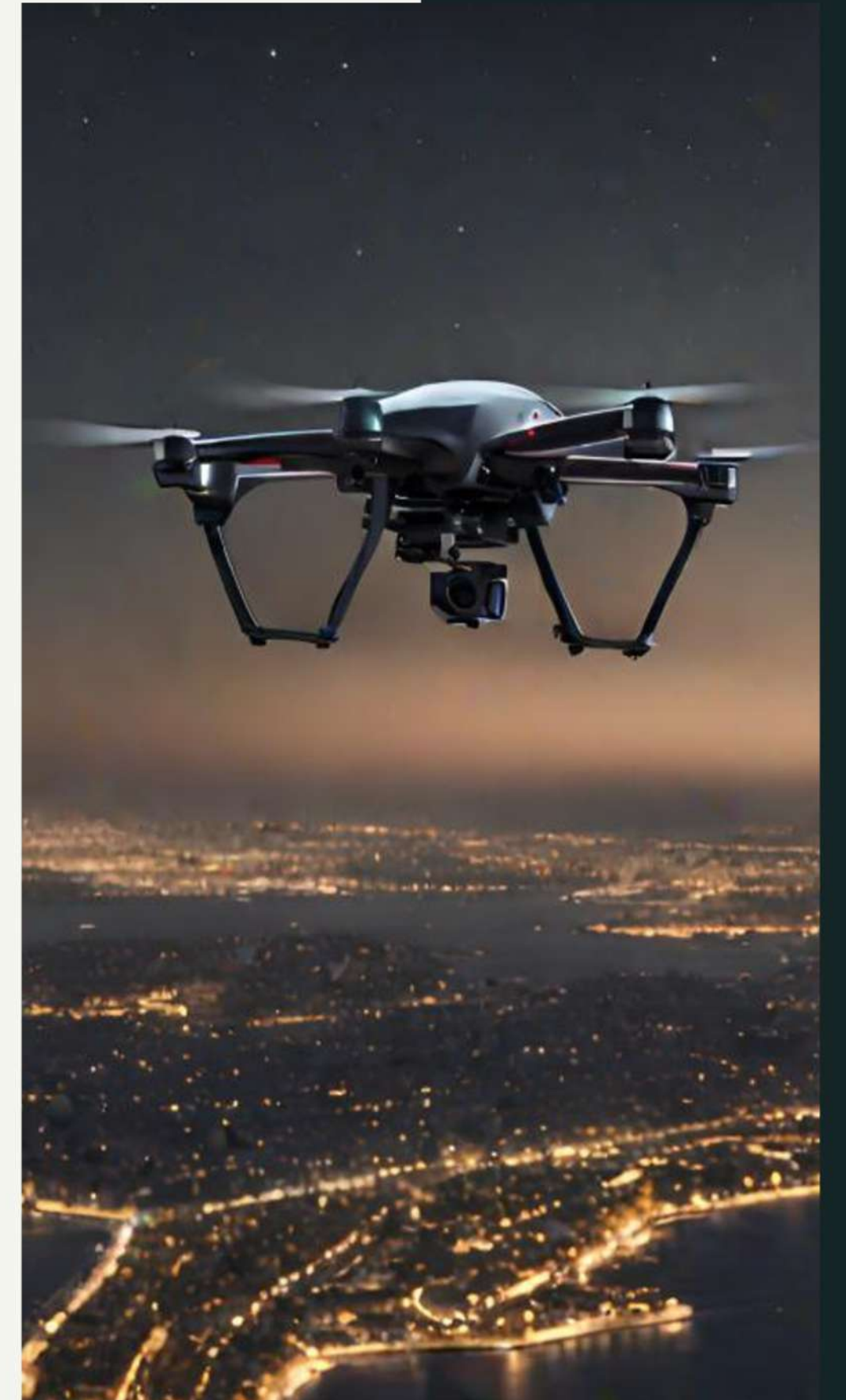
In the shadow of digital frontiers, the future of warfare unfolds.



# A WORD FROM THE WRITER - PRODUCERS

Our previous collaboration, RODEO, was celebrated as “a keen-eyed portrayal of a transformative era in Estonia.” With *The Game of Chaos*, we are once again exploring a pivotal moment in history. The integration of AI into warfare represents a shift that surpasses even the profound changes we documented in the 1990s. Just as RODEO captured the essence of post-Soviet transformation, *The Game of Chaos* seeks to shed light on the revolutionary impact of AI and hybrid strategies on modern conflict. This is not merely a story of technological advancement but an exploration of chaos—a state of engineered instability reshaping the global order in ways that demand attention.

With years of experience creating impactful documentaries, we have honed the ability to navigate complex and challenging subjects while keeping audiences deeply engaged. With *The Game of Chaos*, we are committed to delivering a film that is both thought-provoking and accessible—a captivating exploration of the new realities of warfare that will spark critical conversations about the balance between innovation, ethics, and resilience.





# THE DIRECTOR & PRODUCER

**Ari Matikainen** is an award-winning Finnish filmmaker with over 20 years of experience in producing and directing documentaries. His recent work "Spy from a Distance" (2024) delves into modern espionage, while earlier films like "War and Peace of Mind" (2016) explored war's psychological impacts. A Jussi Prize recipient and EAVE graduate, Matikainen specializes in crafting serious yet engaging documentaries that capture pivotal moments in history. With "Brains over Brawn", he continues his exploration of how technology reshapes conflict and society.

[Ari Matikainen IMDb](#)

[Kiur Aarma IMDb](#)

## CO-PRODUCER & WRITER

Kiur Aarma is an Estonia producer, director and screenwriter at his company Traumfabrik. Among his films are “The Gold Spinners”, “Lotman’s World”, internaMonally awarded “Disco & Atomic War” (with Jaak Kilmi) and RODEO - Taming a Wild Country, a documentary about Mart Laar’s first government, which he co-produced with Ari Matikainen in 2018.

[WATCH RODEO TRAILER](#)



**Ian Davies IMDb**

**CO-PRODUCER UK**

Ian has worked as a consultant, executive producer or producer on a number of award-winning films including THE ENGLISH SURGEON (Emmy winner), THE ISLAND AND THE WHALES (Emmy nominee), GOD HELP THE GIRL (winner Special Jury Prize Sundance), THE BLACK POWER MIXTAPE (Sundance winner, Best Editing), '71 (British Independent Award Winner), MOON DOGS (BAFTA Cymru winner), OFF THE RAILS (British Independent Film Awards nominee), VILLENEUVE PIRONI (Doc NYC) and upcoming films CARL LEWIS and SNOW LEOPARD SISTERS.

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