



Epa Tamminen's Obituary

Epa Tamminen worked as a sound designer and stage manager at Kroma Productions Ltd for 28 years. Numerous works to which he made significant artistic contributions have been awarded in Finland and internationally. He collaborated with many directors and media artists, bringing his own special artistic contribution to the works of art. Marikki, and Epa's colleagues and friends in Kroma are very grateful for his friendship and significant contribution to numerous films and media works. We all miss him and his wonderful personality immensely.

R.I.P.

The Sound Designer Epa Tamminen was a Passionate Yachtsman

The sound designer and wooden boat carpenter Epa (Eero) Tamminen perished at sudden seizure, at the age of 63, on 22 November 2021.

Epa was born on 6 April 1958 in Otaniemi, Espoo, Finland. The sea that opened up from his home door drew him towards it from early on. Epa inherited love for yachting in his blood, as the summers of five children family were spent in the archipelago. The steady skipper kept the course from the age of 14 onwards, when he made sailing trips with his crews of friends. Epa's manual skills manifested themselves at the early age, when ten-year old lad wanted to participate in making a canoe and maintaining a motorcycle.

The family moved to Tapiola at the end of the 1960s, when the bubbling rock culture swallowed the youth in a blink of an eye everywhere. Epa's key experience took place at the time of Frank Zappa's visit to Helsinki. The mixer stepped from the darkness to the spot of light behind his table, with exaggerated calm, pulled white gloves to his hands while the band was waiting – and finally he pushed the sliding potentiometers to their places and music burst put. Epa now knew what he wanted to do when he grew up.

He became a road manager, sound mixer and lights expert. The first bands of the multiple expert were Tuomari Nurmio ja Köyhien Ystävät and Dave Lindholm's Bluesounds, which toured all the way to Europe. Epa was operating behind the mixing table on the tours of Lapinlahden Linnut and Topi Sorsakoski & Agents, as well as on the Finnish tour of Dead Kennedys. During the winters, this wanderer of his own ways spent his time on the Baltic Sea, fishing salmon.

The time spent during his non-military service working as a stage man at the Tikapuu Theater of the Theater Academy, led him becoming the master of lighting and sound design of the Old University House in 1981-85. At the Old University House, Epa's responsibility was, besides the music, also theater, dance and performance. From the 1980s onwards, sound production to tens of media art and film projects employed Epa ever increasingly. The productions made with his life partner, media artist Marikki Hakola, and many other directors and media artists, were often based on music, from Mozart and Sibelius to Otto Donner, and they carried him to all corners of the world.

The last works in which Epa worked as the sound designer, are the video installation "Arndt Pekurinen" (2021) and the music and dance film "Mirages" (2021) based on the music composition of Kaija Saariaho.

Epa was a skilled artisan and craftsman, and refurbishing boats and other forms of building with wood formed a parallel profession for him. He supplemented his skills in navigation and wooden boat carpentry at the seaman school of Kotka and Hamina's school of wooden boat carpentry.

Epa and Marikki moved to Porvoo old town in 1986 with three other families. The riverside storehouses were repaired and turned into a courtyard that honoured tradition, with beautiful wooden boats at its pier.

In recent years Epa worked as the dock master of the Wilenius shipyard in Porvoo, working with classic wooden boats. He had special affection for his own Utö sailing yacht Kardemumma. At the summertime he headed for weeks to the Finnish archipelago sea with his boat. Epa and Marikki descended to the peace of wide horizon and sounds of the sea.

Epa Tamminen was highly appreciated by his friends and colleagues. He was a kindly sea dog; a sensitive gentleman who respected nature and his fellow comrades.

In Porvoo, January 8th, 2022.

Timo Tamminen, Saara Tamminen, Marikki Hakola

The writers are the brother, neighbor and wife of Epa Tamminen.