



World Premiere | TIFF 2022

Total Runtime | 77 minutes

Countries of Production | Norway and Sweden

Sámi vs Sámi is a production of Ten Thousand Images, co-produced by Saltfilm  
Sweden, SVT & Filmpool Nord

Contact | Ten Thousand Images: [mette@tenthousandimages.no](mailto:mette@tenthousandimages.no),  
[johanna@tenthousandimages.no](mailto:johanna@tenthousandimages.no)  
Phone: 0047 91009232

Tagline ENG

"When two parties fight, a third wins"

Tagline norsk:

"Når to parter sloss, vinner en tredje»

LOGLINE ENG

In a rare Indigenous-against-Indigenous courtroom battle shaped by a long history of state oppression, Northern and Southern Sámi descendants fight over land, reindeer herding – and ultimately the right to be Sámi.

## LOGLINE NORSK

En unik rettsak viser to samiske grupper sin kamp mot hverandre. Som et resultat av statlig tvangsflytting og overgrep 100 år tilbake kjemper de nå om retten til land, reindrift og å være same.

## 500 ord Synopsis Engelsk

More than a hundred years ago, the Norwegian and Swedish states forcibly relocated Northern Sámi people to Southern Sámi territory. This led to a conflict that has lasted for over a century. Today, three generations later, descendants Erik (Southern Sámi) and Inger Ann (Northern Sámi) face each other in court, fighting over land, reindeer herding, and the right to be Sámi. This historical film reveals how state actions continue to divide a people, and how the past still shapes their future. The question remains: **Who has the right to the land?**

## KORT SYNOPSIS NORSK 500 ord

For over hundre år siden tvangsflyttet norsk og svensk stat nordsamer til sør-samisk territorium. Dette første til 100 år lang konflikt. I dag kjemper 3 generasjon etterkommere Erik (sør-same) og Inger Ann (nord-same) i retten om land, reindrift og retten til å være samisk. Denne historiske filmen viser hvordan statlige handlinger fortsatt splitter et folk, og hvordan fortiden fremdeles former framtidens deres. Spørsmålet er - Hvem har retten på landet?

## SHORT SYNOPSIS ENG

Over a century ago, the Swedish state forcibly relocated Northern Sámi families into Southern Sámi territory, resulting in a long-running conflict over land, reindeer herding and, ultimately, the right to be Sámi. Since then, the state has remained silent.

Across generations, state decisions deepened the divide, leaving third-generation descendants Erik (Southern Sámi) and Inger Ann (Northern Sámi) facing each other in three emotionally charged court.

Director Ellen Asti Lundby is a Sea Sámi descendant from Norway. This positions her outside the conflict, enabling her to explore it with a sense of belonging and perspective.

## KORT SYNOPSIS NORSK

For over hundre år siden tvang den svenske staten nordsamiske familier til å flytte inn i sør-samisk territorium, noe som førte til en langvarig konflikt om land, reindrift og retten til å være same. Siden den gang har staten forblitt taus.

Gjennom generasjoner har statlige beslutninger forsterket spittelsen, og etterlatt tredjegenerasjons etterkommere Erik (sør-same) og Inger Ann (nord-same) stående mot hverandre i tre følelsesladede rettssaker.

Regissør Ellen Asti Lundby er etterkommer av sjøsamer fra Norge. Dette plasserer henne utenfor konflikten og gjør det mulig for henne å utforske den med både tilhørighet og perspektiv.

## FILMMAKERS

### DIRECTOR: ELLEN – Astri Lundby

Ellen Lundby has worked as an independent director and producer since 1989. She gained international recognition with *Out of Place* (2001) and *The Fourth Wife* (2004), but is best known for her award-winning and widely screened documentary *Suddenly Sámi* (2009), about identity, ethnicity, and the forced assimilation of the Sámi. The film reached over 430,000 viewers on Norwegian television, screened at festivals worldwide, won multiple awards including Nepal's International Indigenous Film Festival, and continues to be used in academic settings.

Her follow-up, *Yoik Fever* (2013), premiered at *imagineNATIVE* in Toronto, the world's leading Indigenous film festival, and has been used in national educational programs in Norway. Lundby's first feature documentary, *Burning Memories* (2018), screened theatrically, was broadcast on NRK, toured extensively in the north of Norway, and won both jury and audience awards at international festivals. Her films, often exploring themes of Sámi culture, history, and resilience, have reached broad audiences at home and abroad, establishing her as a vital voice in Indigenous and human rights cinema.

## PRODUCERS:

### **Johanna Dorothea Raita, Ten Thousand Images**

After 10 years in theatre and the award-winning music video Fireball, she now runs Ten Thousand Images with Mette Cheng Munthe Kaas, as a producer, editor, and dramaturg. She has co-produced two documentaries «The Visitors» (2022) and «The Homecoming»(2023), both achieved several International awards. This year she releases three new Co-productions and is now preparing to release her first feature film, Same mot Same —already sold to NRK and SVT

### **Mette Cheng Munthe – Kaas, Ten Thousand Images**

Mette Cheng Munthe-Kaas is an Emmy-nominated producer and editor with over 25 years in documentary filmmaking. As founder and CEO of Ten Thousand Images AS, she has produced and co-produced acclaimed films such as No Word for Worry (2014), Nowhere to Hide (2016), Life of Ivanna (2021), Hidden Letters (2022), and The Dating Game (2025). She's also a member of the Academy Doc Branch.

## CO – PRODUCER:

### **Jesper Bergom-Larsson, Saltfim AB**

Jesper Bergom – Larsson has worked as script developer at SVT, the Swedish Public Service Television, as a Commission Editor responsible for short film at the Swedish Film Institute and as a regional Executive Producer for feature films and documentaries at Film Region Stockholm, at NNFS, Northern Norway Film Center and currently at Western Norway Film Center.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT – Ellen-Astri Lundby

Can there be a shared future when the past is remembered so differently?

I am Sámi, but I do not own a single reindeer. My family comes from the coastal Sámi in Finnmark, who for generations helped reindeer-herding Sámi move their herds across the fjords. That history of friendship stands in stark contrast to the bitter divisions I see today, where Sámi are fighting each other in court and even within families.

This is why I need to make this film. The conflict in Tärnaby between South Sámi and relocated North Sámi is not only about land and reindeer – it is about how state policies and colonial practices tore the Sámi apart. By telling this story, I want to expose how governments deliberately set groups against each other, a strategy that made it easier to seize Indigenous lands for power plants, mines, and tourism.

For me, this film is also about healing. I want to ask: how did it come to this, that two Sámi groups were treated so differently? And is reconciliation still possible?

The film follows both sides closely, revealing deep wounds but also the resilience of families tied to each other, their ancestors, and their land. It builds toward the final decision at the Swedish Supreme Court, which will ultimately determine the future of Sámi reindeer herding in the region of Umeå.

Sámi Verus Sámi is both an intimate Sámi story and a universal drama of displacement and belonging. It speaks to Indigenous struggles everywhere, and it is my contribution to ensuring that these stories are neither silenced nor forgotten.

## FACT SHEET

English title	SÁMI VS. SÁMI
Norwegian title	SAME MOT SAME
Length	77 min
Language	Swedish, Sami
Subtitles	Norwegian, Swedish, English
Format	DCP, ProRes 422, 25fps
Sound format	5.1 mix
Production year	2025
Location	Sweden, Norway
Director	Ellen – Astri Lundby
Producers	Johanna Dorothea Raita, Mette Cheng Munthe - Kaas
Production company	Ten Thousand Images
Co-producer	Jesper Bergom-Larsson, Saltfilm AB, SVT, Filmpool Nord
Starring	Inger-Ann Omma, Erik Östergren, Tomas Colbengtson
Cinematographer	Nils-Petter Loetherington
Editors	Erland Edenholm, Josefine Labelle, Michał Leszczyłowski
Sound design	Mikael Brodin
Composer	Georg Buljo

Distributor	Anders Tangen, North Film Distribution
Financed by	Norsk Filminsitutt. Nordisk Film og TV Fond. Svenska Filminstitutet. Viken Filmsenter, Stiftelsen Fritt Ord. Fond for Lyd og Bilde. Kulturrådet / Arts Council Norway. International Sami Film Institute. Bergesenstiftelsen