

# Verddet - Advisory group

As part of the collaboration agreement between Walt Disney Animation Studios and the Sámi people, an advisory group of Sámi experts was established that could assist filmmakers of Frozen 2 in the proper, respectful, and appropriate use of Sámi cultural properties as well as help in navigation of Sámi rights and culture. The group was named 'Verddet' to show the friendly, beneficial, and dependant nature of the relationship between WDAS and the Sámi people in this production.

## The Verddet consisted of:

### **Karen Anne Buljo**

Author, playwright, composer and joiker (traditional Sámi musician) from Máze (Sámi Village in Norway). Karen Anne writes poems for Sámi artists and books for children and youth in all genres. Three of her books will be presented by Norway as the Guest of Honour at Frankfurter Buchmesse 2019. She will even contribute to the Frankfurter Buchmesse events with a joik and poetry. Karen Anne was nominated for the Nordic Council Literature Prize for Children and youth 2019. She has extensive knowledge on Sámi values, stories and traditions related to Sámi culture.

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### **Veli-Pekka Lehtola**

Professor of Sámi Culture in the Giellagas Institute at the University of Oulu, Finland, with a focus in the history of the Sámi and Sámji, in modern Saami art, as well as in the development of the Sámi representations. Veli-Pekka has published thirteen books and over a hundred scientific articles mainly concerning the Sámi people. He also has an extensive history of academic projects and has been involved with developing the Research Services of the Sámi Culture Archive of University of Oulu, and the Culturally and Socially Sustainable Museum projects. He is also an accomplished author, having been awarded the Finnish Association of Non-Fiction Writers award for high-standard works.

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### **Cecilia Persson**

Managing Director of Åarjelhsaemien Teatere AS (the South Sámi Theater) in Mo i Rana. Her family comes from a small mountain village in Jämtland, Sweden. Cecilia has been working as an actress, producer, storyteller, and scriptwriter since January 1985, with at least four television being based on Cecilia's storytelling. She has a master degree from Umeå University in traditional expressions and storytelling structures within Sámi theater and film. She has a special regard of the Vuelie- south and Umesámi Joik, as an important expression in modern Sámi stage-art.

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### **Ánne Laila Utsi**

Managing Director of International Sámi Film Institute since 2009. She has a background as a filmmaker, and was one of the founders of the Institute. Ánne Laila has extensive experience in filmmaking and management. International Sámi Film Institute represents a watershed in Sámi film production, and Ánne Laila has, through ISFI, guided a new generation of Sámi filmmakers. Before joining the Film Institute she was director of a Sámi film festival and also a documentary filmmaker and she has a bachelor degree in documentary film from Lillehammer University College.

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### **Piia Nuorgam**

Lawyer and PhD student at University of Lapland from Utsjoki, Finland, currently working at the Sámi Parliament of Finland. Piia has worked for over 10 years in the Sámi political and cultural world and extensively in the areas of indigenous rights, human rights, and their interaction with intellectual property. She has experience leading projects in the areas of cultural properties and cultural property protection, including the Revitalisation of the Duodji certification mark project, and the Copyright and traditional music project, as well as being an accomplished author and editor of both scientific books and articles, and childrens' books.

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### **Christina Hætta**

Head of Cultural Unit of the Saami Council, Christina has a background from 15 years as a cultural producer and curator in the Sámi and indigenous cultural- and art world. Prior to taking over as the head of the Saami Council's Cultural Unit she produced a number of Sámi cultural festivals including the Easter Festival in Kautokeino, Riddu Riđđu festival in Kåfjord, and Sámi productions for Festspillene in Harstad. Christina brought a balanced approach to the Verddet that bridged the cultural and artistic worlds with the societal and political needs.

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