

PODNIEKŠ' SPACE-TIME CATALOGUE



PODNIEKŠ' SPACE-TIME

The titles of films available online are in blue; clicking on them will open the corresponding link. To see a larger selection of Juris Podnieks films look [in *filmas.lv*](#) (most are unfortunately only available in latvian). To find and read more about latvian movies with english subtitles that are also available worldwide, look in this link: www.filmas.lv/en/latvian-film-classics/

For thirty years, Juris Podnieks' (1950 – 1992) film materials were stored at his cousin Ināra Zeltiņa's summer house in Langstiņi. In the summer of 2023, during renovations, several more boxes were found in the attic of Ināra's house, containing Juris Podnieks' photo negatives, slides, photographs, film reels, magnetic tapes, cassettes and other materials, which were saved during the renovation with the help of Diāna Elizabete Golubecka and Dainis Lazdāns. The exhibition PODNIEKŠ' SPACE-TIME was created to mark the 75th birthday of film director Juris Podnieks. The materials found have been digitized, and some of them are now included in the exhibition. The centerpiece of the exhibition (which you can enter and watch from the middle) is a 35-minute, 360° projection – a montage of excerpts from Juris' films, interviews, photographs and various newly discovered materials. It is structured as forty short stories, covering his entire life and providing an insight into the society and events of that time.

We would like to express our immense gratitude to everyone who helped and preserved these culturally and historically significant materials for the exhibition!

The materials were compiled using:

Ināra Zeltiņa's collection;

Edgars Mucenieks' collection;

Juris Podnieks' family collection;

Latvian State Archive of Audiovisual Documents;

Juris Podnieks Studio materials;

Latvian Film Museum collection.

Juris Podnieks' diary footage is taken from the film:

***Podnieks on Podnieks* (2024)**

Directed and written by Antra Cilinska, Anna Viduleja, Cinem. Gints Bērziņš



1. 1950 – 1968

00:00 / 1:24

In the photographs, we meet Juris in 1950, shortly after his birth, recently born. Next we see Juris with his parents — announcer Boriss Podnieks and dental technician Brigita Kuhtarska, as well as other photos from his childhood.



Juris with his parents.

1. **"Soviet Latvia" No.7** (1955), Dir. Aleksandrs Jevsikovs, Cinem. Inna Korecka, Vadims Mass. A unique fragment showing Juris Podnieks as a child. This is the only one where he is filmed together with his mother.



Juris and his mom try on new shoes.

Excerpts from the first letters written by Juris are also shown. Juris continued to write regularly and keep a diary for most of his life.



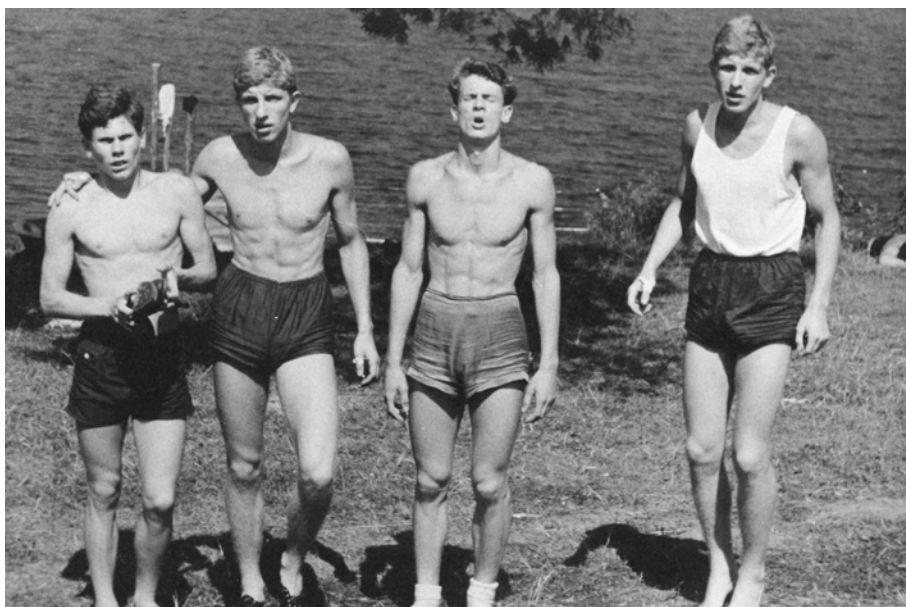
~~Ar~~ šisvars nosauca par silpumu. Es
 tās savā runā ar moka grūti
 un gandrīz neatlaidu atpakaļ šīsīvi.
 Šeit galvenā nodarbošanās ir gulēt
 un ēst. Izņemot arī no bagātas glabātu
 ves savas jaunās jūru vesītes. Citus
 Es tā bez jums skumstu, ka gribās
 kārtis, tomēr ceru nāvēties. Grūti
 vēl redzēt jūs visus. Pasaki Uldim
 Vai viņš man abi uzausta visu
 kas jauns klasē, bet ja ne viņš tad
 kautrāi Tu. Es protams rakstu
 pa algebras stundu. Mums tagad
 algebra un geometrija ir atsevišķi.
 Man vispār iet labi. Trūkst
 nemaz nav. Bet, lūdz, lūdz
 redzēt ka es pārķīrošas. Es
 vienmēr palikšu īst, latvietis.
 Latviski runāt mums neatkāp, jo
 es varu viņus visādi lamāt, ko
 es arī daru. Vienreiz vadītājam
 taisni acis latviski pateicu, ka viņa
 ir stulba gars. (protams latviski)
 Es vispār esm iemācījies daudz
 labu vārdu. Krievu valoda tāču
 ir prieks lamāšanās. Pasveiciņu
 savu mīto māsiņu, mammīņu
 un lūdz arī mazo kaustliti
 Uldi! Esi tik laba un pamurksī
 kaut ko arī vēnei, tikai protams
 galanti. Vispār izplati ko sar tālāk,
 un piedomā kaut ko arī klāt.
 Ne ka man iet ļoti labi ut.t.
 Dodot sveiciņu subriktam
 Gunāram. Darbūt es arī viņu
 tūtu maēbas tagad parācis, ja
 man nebūtu tik labas atāmes
 pašā sakumā. Ar karstu gaisu
 sveiciņu!
 Jūsu nerātnis,
 Juris

The photograph shows an excerpt from a letter written by Juris to his classmate Vita Ozoliņa, then known as Grolle.

01:24 | 0:40

Juris's collection of photographs from that time includes shots of his teammates during pentathlon training, the city of Riga and his friends living there. Later, Juris made a film about teenagers who train in pentathlon and their coaches:

2. Boys, to the horses!
 (1979) (not in the exhibition)



Juris with his modern pentathlon training partners.

Dir., Cinem. and Scr. by Juris Podnieks. In the newsreel footage, we see Juris with a camera in his hands, photographing children in Rauna, near the kindergarten building.

3. "Soviet Latvia" No. 34 (1968), Dir. Laima Žurgina, Cinem. Anatolijs Pjatkins, Guntis Silis, Valdis Kroģis.

2. Heinrihs Pilipsons

2:04 / 0:20

Shortly after finishing 9th grade, Juris was hired by the Riga Film Studio.

Initially, he worked as a lighting assistant. The pictures show Juris Podnieks' first teacher of cinematography, cinematographer Heinrihs Pilipsons (1936 – 2014). Juris stands next to him during the filming of *When the Rain and Wind Knock at the Window* in 1968. Another photo shows Juris behind a spotlight on the set of the film *Rays in Glass*. The photo next to it, as well as some film clips, show female employees of the film studio's laboratory.



Heinrihs Pilipsons and Juris Podnieks on the film set.



Rays in Glass film set.

“Soviet Latvia” No. 28 (1965)

Dir. Aloizs Brenčš, Cinem. Gunārs Indriksons, Jānis Celms, Laimons Gaigals, Mihails Poseļskis, Ralfs Krūmiņš, Rūta Urbaste.

3. With Camera No.1

02:24 / 0:13 This is where Juris's first relationship with the camera began, which became an important part of his life — both in photography, cinema and videography. He continued to carry it with him throughout his twenty-five years of professional life and a period that has greatly influenced who we are today.

Perhaps he is carrying a film under his coat. Glasses. Juris. 1968.



4. The film is being made...

02:37 / 0:45

In 1969, Juris worked as an assistant on the film *Jānis Sudrabkalns*. He created a beautiful series of portraits and work moments featuring film director Laima Žurgina and cinematographer Dāvis Sīmanis. It was probably during this project that Juris Podnieks first met poet Imants Ziedonis (1933 – 2013), with whom he later developed a long-lasting friendship.



Laima Žurgina



Laima Žurgina and Dāvis Sīmanis. Photo: Juris Podnieks

Jānis Sudrabkalns (1969)

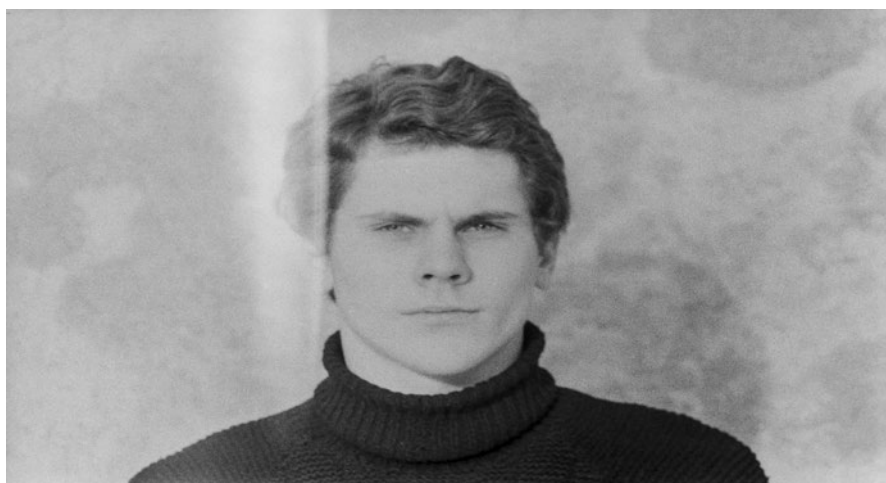
(not in the exhibition)

Dir. Laima Žurgina,

Cinem. Dāvis Sīmanis
(senior), Rūta Urbaste.

5. Portraits

03:22 / 0:25



Interestingly, Juris was already taking selfies – self-portraits around 1969. We will see them in later materials as well.



Boriss Podnieks. Photo: Juris Podnieks

6. Army 03:47 | 1:08

As an army photographer, Juris created a rich collection of images reflecting the life of the army unit during this period. Juris was

also, a postman and responsible for the radio station. His friend, journalist and writer Pjotr Vails (1949 - 2009), served with him.

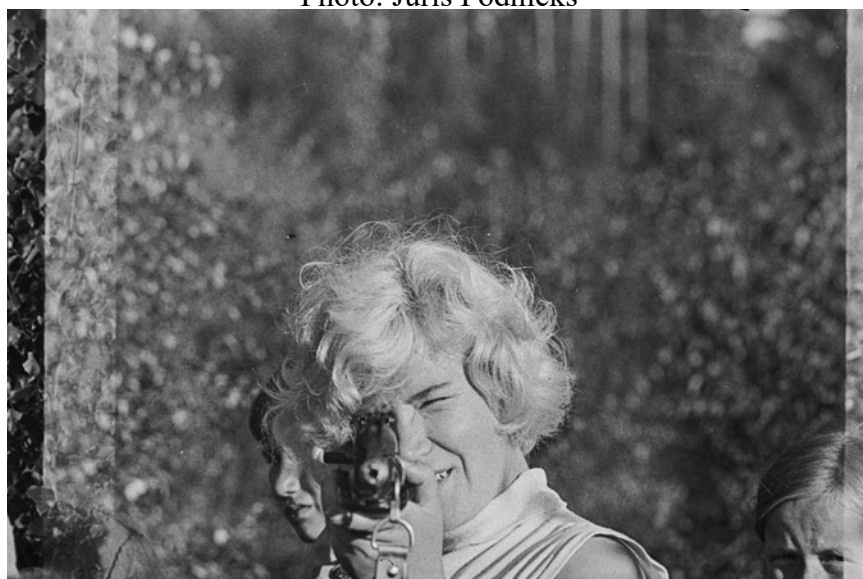
In the 1970 newsreel *Soviet Latvia*, Juris is seen as part of the Soviet army:

"Soldier" No. 4 (1970)

Dir. Arnis Akmenlauks,
Cinem. Gunārs Indriksons,
Ralfs Krūmiņš, Rūta Urbaste,
Uldis Brauns, Valdis Kroģis.



Photo: Juris Podnieks



7. Streets

04:55 | 0:15

Views of various streets.

It is not known exactly but it is highly likely that the photographs were taken in Moscow while he was studying at the All-Union State Institute of Cinematography.



Both photos: Juris Podnieks

8. Ļudočka

05:10 / 0:35

Recently discovered, previously unseen photographs by an unknown photographer. Juris is captured in shots with a girl in a café, in Dome Square and kissing her in a beautiful courtyard in Old Riga. Next is Juris with another girl. Based on his letters, it is believed that this is Ļuda.



9. With Camera No. 2

05:45 / 0:15

Around 1973, we return to Juris with the camera. The camera now belongs to the Riga film studio, and Juris, as a cameraman, is entrusted with increasingly more serious film projects.



Juris' notes are also visible.

10. Nature 06:00 / 0:38

In these fragments of early works, created together with director Vadim Mass, we see Latvian nature. They introduce us to the most beautiful examples of Latvian flora and fauna and call on us to protect living nature. In the second fragment, nature shines just as brightly the following year in a newsreel showing the gathering of linden blossoms in the Ventspils district, in the park of Pope Castle.



Still from the newsreel "Pionieris" No. 3 (1973)

- 1. Protected flora of the Latvian SSR** (1972) Dir. Vadims Mass, Cinem. Juris Podnieks, Scr. by J. Vimba.
- 2. Protected fauna of the Latvian SSR** (1972), Dir. and Cinem. Vadims Mass, Cinem. Juris Podnieks, Scr. by Māris Kundziņš.
- 3. "Pioneer" No. 3** (1973), Dir. Laima Žurgina, Cinem. Juris Podnieks.

11. Sport 06:38 / 0:20

Excerpts from:

1. [“Sports Review” No. 2](#) (1973)

Dir. Laima Žurgina, Cinem. Juris Podnieks. The Dinamo youth team prepares for the start of academic rowing competition.

2. [“Sports Review” No. 1](#) (1974)

Dir. Biruta Veldre, Cinem. Juris Podnieks, Ralfs Krūmiņš.

Opening of the 3rd Winter Spartakiad of the Peoples of the USSR and alpine skiing competitions. Filmed at the Bakuriani ski resort in Georgia. Juris was particularly proud of this newsreel and received one of his first awards for his work at the All-Union Sports Film Festival.

3. [“Pioneer” No. 3](#) (1973)

Dir. Laima Žurgina, Cinem. Juris Podnieks. *Golden Moped Competition* at the Bieriņi racetrack.



Stills from *Sports Review, No. 1* (1974)



12. Forbidden Zone 06:58 / 0:25

[Forbidden Zone](#) (1975)

Dir. and Scr. by Hercs Franks, Cinem. Juris Podnieks, Sergejs Nikolajevs.

The film tells the story of the harsh life in the Cēsis juvenile colony. Photographs from the filming process are also shown. Podnieks' first feature-length documentary film as a cinematographer.

With his work on this film, he earned a degree in cinematography from the All Union State Institute of Cinematography in Moscow.



Filming of the film *Forbidden Zone*.

13. Wedding and son Dāvis

07:23 | 0:41



In 1974, Juris Podnieks married Elga Zandmane, later Elga Podniece.

The video was found and preserved in the Ivars and Maija Seleckis' Fund of Latvian State Archive of Audiovisual Documents. The author is unknown.

Soon, Dāvis Podnieks was born.

14. With Camera No. 3

08:04 | 0:15

Life continues with the camera by his side (1976 - 1980).



Photo: Uldis Briedis, 1976.

15. The men of Liepāja

08:19 | 0:53

Photographs taken by photographer Uldis Briedis during the making of the film *The Men of Liepāja* and excerpts from:

1. [*The Men of Liepāja*](#) (1976)

Dir. Imants Brils, Cinem. Juris Podnieks, Scr. by Armīns Lejiņš.

The film tells the story of metal smelting brigade in Liepāja's factory *Red Metallurgist*.



2. [*"Soviet Latvia" No. 14*](#) (1976), Dir. Aleksandrs Gribermans, Cinem. Rūta Urbaste, Vladimirs Gailis. Juris Podnieks gives an interview about his current work and films during the 5th Congress of the Latvian Filmmakers' Union.

16. Mom's funeral

09:12 | 0:21

Early May 1976.

Mother Brigita Kuhtarska Grūbe
with Juris as a child.
Photo: Boriss Podnieks



17. The Fourth Dimension

09:33 | 1:12

Excerpts and photos from the film *The Fourth Dimension* and its filming. Including a dialogue between composer Imants Kalniņš and Ojārs Vācietis; the band *Menuets* performing at the second *Imantdienas* festival with the song *Five Ballads about Matison*, written by Ojārs Vācietis.



From the left: Imants Kalniņš, Ojārs Vācietis, Juris Podnieks.

[The Fourth Dimension](#) (1977) Dir. and Scr. Laima Žurgina, Cinem. Juris Podnieks. A cinematic portrait of the poet Ojārs Vācietis. The film tells the story of Ojārs Vācietis' multifaceted poetry and the socio-political resonance of his work.

18. Dailes Theatre 11:46 | 0:49

J. Podnieks captured the relocation of the Dailes Theatre to its new premises and his son Dāvis watching it with his camera. His photo also shows film director Laima Žurgina and cameramen capturing this historic event in footage that was not filmed by Juris himself. Excerpt taken from:

["Soviet Latvia" No. 7](#) (1978)

Dir. Laima Žurgina, Cinem. Andris Seleckis,
Rūta Urbaste, Zigurds Uldis Dūdiņš.

Dāvis Podnieks in 1978,
with Ansis Epnars in the
background.

Photo: Juris Podnieks



19. Raimonds Pauls

12:35 | 1:26

A cinematic portrait of composer Raimonds Pauls with music, songs and candid conversations about popularity, lightheartedness and

seriousness. In this excerpt, the composer is seen composing at his home. This is followed by fragments from the 1977 Latvian Song Festival.

[Raimonds Pauls. Portrait with Music](#) (1977) Dir. and screenplay by Laima Žurgina, Cinematography by Juris Podnieks.



20. Brothers Kokari and Imants Ziedonis 14:01 | 1:12

Excerpts and photographs from the film about famous Latvian choir conductors Imants and Gido Kokari.

Followed by excerpts and images from Imants Ziedonis' film portrait.



Juris films I. Ziedonis reading poetry for the film *Imants Ziedonis. Portrait in Fragments*

1. [The Kokari Brothers](#) (1978)

Dir. Juris Podnieks, Cinem. Ralfs Krūmiņš, Scr. by Arnolds Plaudis.

2. [Imants Ziedonis. Portrait in Fragments](#) (1979)

Dir. and Scr. by Laima Žurgina, Cinem. Juris Podnieks, Ralfs Krūmiņš.

21. Philippines

15:13 | 0:46

Philippines (1979)

Director: Ansis Epnors;
Cinematographer: Juris Podnieks.

The *Ave Sol* choir participated in the first International Asian Choir Music Festival in the Republic of the Philippines. The choir is accompanied on its tour by poet Imants Ziedonis. The fragment begins with photographs of the musicians and film crew, followed by a meeting between I. Ziedonis and Filipino singer Gutjeros in Manila. This is followed by excerpts from an interview with him, the audio of which, unfortunately, has not been preserved.



The Kokari brothers and an unknown woman in the Philippines.



Imants Ziedonis interviewing singer Gutjeros.

Go confidently through chaos, even hastily, knowing what peace you will find in silence. As much as you can, live in friendship with other people. Speak your truth and convictions calmly and clearly. Listen to others, even those who are ignorant and boring, for they too have their own truth. Avoid loud and aggressive people. They are tormented souls. If you start comparing yourself to others, it will always be fruitless, and you will be disappointed. There will always be people lower and higher than you.

Be satisfied with your achievements and plans. Above all, do not pretend to be something you are not (do not be deceitful). Do not be cynical in love. Amid surrounding righteousness and disappointment, this is a source of happiness. Develop spiritual powers that will protect you from unexpected misfortunes. Be happy that you exist, just like trees and stars, you were created by the Universe, and you are meant to be.

Regardless of difficulties, unfulfilled dreams and all illusions, the world is beautiful. Be attentive. Try to be happy!

Juris Podnieks. Excerpt from a 1978 diary, translated from Latvian. Perhaps twelve was the lucky number, as the entry was made on the twelfth of January.

22. Ten Minutes Older

15:59 | 0:41

In 1978, Juris, as a cinematographer, captured on film the benchmark of emotional experience — a portrait of a boy watching a performance in the film *Ten Minutes Older*.

For ten minutes, the camera does not take its eyes off a three-year-old boy watching the play *Doctor Aikāsāp* at the Puppet Theatre, and his facial expressions reveal the widest range of emotions.

[*Ten Minutes Older*](#) (1978)

Director and screenwriter:
Herzs Franks, Cinematography:
Juris Podnieks.



Stills from the film *10 Minutes Older*, 1978



23. Vija Artmane

16:40 | 0:50

[*Conversation with the Queen*](#) (1980)

Directed by
Rolands Kalniņš,
cinematographer
Juris Podnieks and
Kalvis Zalcmanis,
screenplay by
Viktors Lorencs.



Vija Artmane in the play *Elizabeth, Queen of England*.

The story of stage artist, theatre and film actress Vija Artmane (1929 - 2008). The film is dedicated to the artist's 50th anniversary. Vija Artmane was Juris Podnieks' godmother.

24. 30 years

17:30 | 1:29

A series of photographs from 1980, when Juris turned thirty. He is captured together with his loved ones at home — among them Boriss Podnieks, Andris Rubenis, Jānis Krievs, Velta Straume, Andris Slapiņš with his wife Nata, Hercs Franks, Arnolds Plaudis and his wife Ludmila, Boris' sister Nora, as well as Juris' wife Elga and son Dāvis.



Juris' voice can be heard on a recently discovered magnetic tape entitled *How I Sparkle in "Dzirkstele"*, from the radio programme for young people *Dzirkstele*, 1979. The recording was restored thanks to Dace Bušante.

25. With Camera No. 4

18:59 | 0:13

["Sports Review" No. 3](#) (1979)

Director and cinematographer: Andris Slapiņš, Cinem. Ralfs Krūmiņš. Here - Juris at the 1979 Spartakiad. The following year, 1980 was a busy time for Juris, still he could not miss out on major sporting events.



26. Olympics 19:12 | 0:30

Footage filmed by Igors Boikovs with cameramen Juris Podnieks and Valdis Kroģis in action during the Moscow Olympic Games. This is followed by footage from the 1979 Spartakiad. 1. [Riga Film Studio men Juris Podnieks and Valdis Kroģis](#) (1980), Cinem. Igors Boikovs 2. ["Sports Review" No. 3](#) (1979), Dir. and Cinem. Andris Slapiņš, Cinem. Ralfs Krūmiņš.

At the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980.



27. The Constellation of Rifleman

19:42 | 1:01

Material from the film *The Constellation of Rifleman* and its filming (1981 - 1982). The film takes a deeply personal look at the memories of Latvian riflemen. It helps to understand the common place of Latvian riflemen in history and society. Images from diving in Lake Langstiņi, while making the film *The Constellation of Rifleman* The waters of Latvia's lakes, which Juris has both filmed and photographed, will prove fateful for him.



Juris, searching for relics from the riflemen's era...

The waters of Latvia's lakes, which Juris has both filmed and photographed, will prove fateful for him.

[*The Constellation of Rifleman*](#) (1982) Director and producer: Juris Podnieks, cinematographer: Andris Slapiņš, screenplay: Arnolds Plaudis.

28. Latvia – My Home

20:43 | 0:57



Dir. Ansis Epnars and cinematographer Juris Podnieks during the filming of *Latvia – My Home*



This film, made for foreign audiences, introduces the history of Latvia and Latvians in 1983, its national character, customs and traditions. The author of many of the photos is unknown, but some of the images were captured by photographer **Leonīds Tugaļevs**.

[*Latvia - My Home*](#) (1983)

Director and screenwriter: Ansis Epnars, cinematographer: Juris Podnieks.

29. Paris 21:40 | 0:42



Triumphal Arch in Paris, 1983.

Unique, previously unpublished photographs taken by Juris Podnieks in 1983, when he accompanied Imants Ziedonis on a trip to Paris for an event organised by the Latvian SSR Friendship Committee, are now on display.

An audio cassette has been found with a partial recording of the event, which was hosted by theatre director and playwright Pēteris Pētersons. It is a concert where I. Ziedonis' poems, translated into French, were read, and Ziedonis was invited to read them in Latvian.

We hear Podnieks' audio recording, in which P. Pētersons introduces I. Ziedonis.

30. Ķemeri 22:22 | 0:20



Photographs from the filming of the music video for the ensemble Ornaments, where Juris Podnieks is the cameraman and actress is Ligita Skujiņa (with the white scarf).

31. Cinema about cinema 22:42 | 0:36

After suffering a stroke in 1983, Boriss Podnieks was no longer able to work as a narrator. In this newsreel, Podnieks takes on the role of his father, the narrator. The fragment shows Riga film studio filmed from a helicopter.



Laima Zurgina, Ansis Epnars and Juris Podnieks.

Shown also are photographs from the 1980 Song and Dance Festival, followed by footage from the 1985 Song and Dance Festival parade and concert.

Photo taken in Juris' favourite self-portrait style, 1980.

"Art" No. 3, Cinema about Cinema (1985), Dir. Ansis Epnars, Cinem. Andris Slapiņš, Rūta Urbaste, Uldis Veiss, Valdis Kroģis.

32. With Camera Nr. 5

Photo: Leonīds Tugaļevs

23:18 | 0:15

1982-1985.g.

During his short life, Podnieks lived extremely intensely, filling his days with work and remaining faithful to his professional tool – the camera.

The moments when Juris had free time were very few.

Interestingly, the camera loved him too. Juris Podnieks and his like-minded friends have been captured in numerous photos, videos and films.



33. The Stone of Sisyphus

23:33 | 0:40

Visible are fragments and photos with scenographer Arnolds Plaudis, with whom Juris had formed a close friendship, and his son Dāvis Podnieks on the ice, near A. Plaudis' home, around 1980.



Juris Podnieks during the filming of *The Stone of Sisyphus* in 1985.

This is followed by fragments from *The Stone of Sisyphus*, which is a dialogue between sculptors - Arta Dumpe, Aivars Gulbis and Oļegs Skarainis and the film's authors about the fate and mission of an artist. The film shows the sculptors creating sculptures, scenes from workshops and exhibitions, and monuments created by the artists. [*The Stone of Sisyphus*](#) (1985) Dir., Cinem. and Scr. by Juris Podnieks, Scr. Arnolds Plaudis.

34. Goodwill Games

24:13 | 0:20

A dynamic, emotional story about sports in Moscow in 1986.

[*Goodwill Games*](#) (1986)

Dir. and Scr. Ansis Epnars,
Cinematography:
Anatolijs Pjatkis,
Andrejs Apsītis,
Andris Slapiņš,
Gvido Zvaigzne,
Juris Podnieks,
Kalvis Zalcmanis,
Ralfs Krūmiņš,
Sergejs Nikolajevs,
Valdis Kroģis.

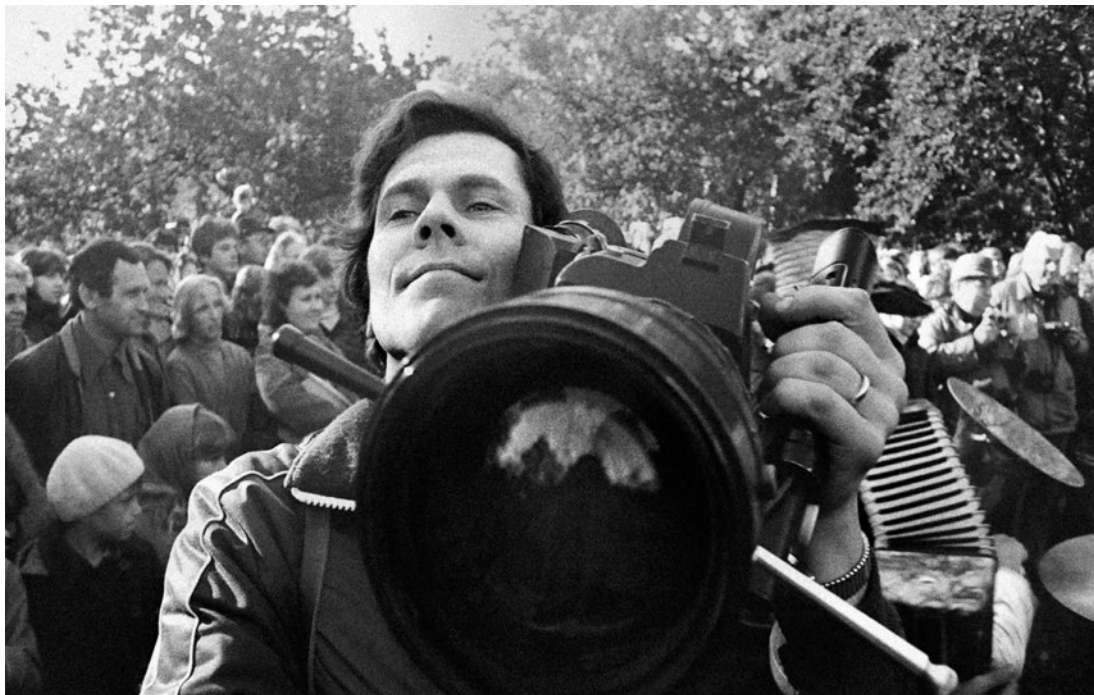


Stills from the film *Goodwill Games*

35. With Camera No. 6

24:33 | 0:13

Images starting from the 1985 *Latvian Song and Dance Festival* to approximately 1990.



36. Passport

24:46 | 1:04

Stills and photographs from the film *Passport* and its filming, as well as with Augusts Sukuts and his like-minded friends.

All-Union State Institute of Cinematography (VVKI) student Augusts Sukuts' graduation film as director.

Passport (1985)

Dir. Augusts Sukuts,
Cinem. Juris Podnieks,
Scr. Rafaels Gasparjancs

A foreigner arriving at the airport finds himself in a surreal situation while trying to prove his identity.



Stills from the film *Passport*, 1985.



37. Is it easy to be young?

25:50 | 1:25

[Is it easy to be young? \(1986\)](#)

Dir. Juris Podnieks,
Cinem. Kalvis Zalcmanis,
Scr. Ābrams Kleckins.

The film is an open and emotional story about young people searching for their place in life. It is probably the most popular of Juris Podnieks' films — a work that created a phenomenal public resonance. The film has been shown in at least 85 countries and has been seen by more than 43 million viewers.



Juris Podnieks, 6th of July in 1985, during the filming of the concert of the band *Pērkons* at the Ogre Open-Air Stage. Latvian Film Museum collection, donated by Hercs Franks.

At the beginning — scenes from the film and photographs taken at the beginning of the film during a concert by the band *Pērkons* in Ogre. They were obtained thanks to Latvian State Archive of Audiovisual Documents.



Together with some of the characters from *Is It Easy to Be Young?*

Next, we see scenes from the film and its

shooting. At the same time, we hear excerpt from Rutas Rikše's 1992 radio interview and from the programme *Cinema and Us* created by Mihails Savicko (1936 - 2024).

Why is it that sometimes we don't understand each other, what is the basis for this misunderstanding? We need to talk about this sometime. I believe that in life we need more openness and less pretence and deceitfulness.

Let's be who we are, without unnecessary games! And life will be easier. Juris Podnieks, 1987.

After Juris Podnieks' death, the life and stories of the young people featured in the film is continued in the sequels directed by Antra Cilinska, editor of several of Podnieks' films and producer at Juris Podnieks studio -

Is it easy to be? (1997);

Is it easy...? (2010).

38. Ilmārs Blumbergs

27:15 | 1:28



Photo: Gvido Kajons

Juris filmed an interview with the artist Ilmārs Blumbergs (1943 - 2016) about his new idea for a series of artworks related to the creation of the world and inspired by Hesiod's *Theogony* and *Works and Days*. The interview discusses the first artworks in this project, the beginning of the process, which led to several exhibitions and the publication of a book in 1995: *Theogony. Works and Days / Hesiod*; translated by Augusts Ģiezens; edited by Abrams Feldhūns; explanations and afterword by Ā. Feldhūns; artist Ilmārs Blumbergs. Riga: *Balta*, 1995.

EPS. Artist Ilmārs Blumbergs
(1987) Cinematographer: Juris Podnieks.



Black leg as the leg of the universe with a spiral of development. Author: Ilmārs Blumbergs. Photo: Gvido Kajons



39. Soviets 28:43 | 2:01



From the left: Russian politician Boris Yeltsin, who was interviewed in the film, Juris Podnieks and sound director of the film - Anrijs Krenbergs.

Excerpts from the magnificent documentary film by Juris Podnieks the film **Soviets** (Dir., Cinem. and Scr. by Juris Podnieks, Cinem. Gvido Zvaigzne, Scr. Ļevs Guščenko), which shows the Soviet Union shortly before its collapse (1987-1989). It is divided into five parts and was made in collaboration with *ITV*, *Channel 4*, *British Soviet creative association*. It was shown on British television with English subtitles as a five part TV series. **In this projection fragment we see:**

Documentary film "Soviets" is not only a historical event chronicle but can be considered a grandiose epic of a time of historical change. The filming of Soviets demanded an unusual courage, strength, mind and endurance to be everywhere and capture it on film. Juris Podnieks and his trusted colleagues had these qualities in abundance.
Ābrams Kleckins, film scholar. 1990



Juris with his collection of filmed material.

Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to London; unrest in Uzbekistan and Armenia after the devastating earthquake in Spitak; cleaning up of Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant after the disaster and the damage, it left behind, which in parallel, we can also see in photographs taken by cameraman **Juris Garjāns** with the film crew in Chernobyl; a protest at the Freedom Monument; the film's credits with the English title *Soviets* for screening in the United Kingdom; the film's production team; the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict; women setting themselves on fire as a form of protest in Uzbekistan; Boris Yeltsin. In the background, you can also hear excerpts from an interview with British director and producer John Willis on 9th of March 1992, in London, as well as Daira Āboliņa's interview with Juris Podnieks in 1992.

40. Homeland

30:44 | 4:36 | Finale



Stills from the film *Homeland*.

The film "Homeland" possesses freedom and harmony that only a truly liberated, genius artist can provide. This film possesses a photogenic quality that frees the image from physical reality, revealing people, events and life on a metaphysical level, transforming reality into hyperreality and sometimes even surreality. Inga Pērkone, film scholar, director of the Latvian Film Museum.



At the beginning, fragments from the film *Homeland*. An audio fragment from Rutas Rikše's 1992 radio interview with Juris Podnieks can also be heard. This is followed by fragments and photographs from the sequel to *Homeland*, the film *Postscript* and footage from the Barricades.



From left: Jānis Juhņevičs, Andris Slapiņš, Gvido Zvaigzne. Juris Podnieks..

This is followed by excerpts from: *The Moment of Silence*; the programme *Videofacts*; "Latvian chronicle" No. 16; 1980 photographs with Juris at Zvirgzdu Lake.

Fragments from the last segment of the projection, **Homeland**, taken from:

1. **Homeland** (1990)

Dir., Cinem. and Scr. by Juris Podnieks, Cinem. Andris Slapiņš, Gvido Zvaigzne. The film is an emotional story about the three Baltic states – Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia’s efforts to gain political independence and self-determination.

2. **Postscript** (1991)

Dir. Juris Podnieks, Cinem. Andris Slapiņš, Gvido Zvaigzne, Aleksandrs Demčenko, Kalvis Zalcmanis, Uldis Millers. A sequel to the film Homeland, the film Postscript tells the story of the events during the Barricades. On 20th of January, 1991, cameramen Andris Slapiņš and Gvido Zvaigzne were fatally wounded during filming at Bastejkalns park.

3. **The Hour of Silence** (1992)

Dir., Cinem. and Scr. by Juris Podnieks, Cinem. Dainis Kļava, Uldis Millers, Zigurds Vidiņš. Dedicated to the members of the Podnieks group - Andris Slapiņš and Gvido Zvaigzne, who died during the Barricades in Riga, in 1991. This is Juris Podnieks’ last film.

4. **Videofacts**

An interview conducted by journalist Sandra Freiberga in 1992. One of the last interviews with Juris Podnieks. He talks about his life and ideas.

5. **“Latvian Chronicle” No. 16**

Dir. and Cinem. Romualds Pipars, Cinem. Jānis Eglītis, Oļegs Kotovičs. Juris Podnieks’ funeral ceremony, 1992.

In the corners of the room, on four monitors, the following video materials are also available for viewing:

- **Ābrams Kleckins, Mārtiņš Brauns and Kalvis Zalcmanis on the film**
- **Is It Easy to Be Young?** — 36 min, LV/ENG.
- 1. **About the film Soviets** — 17 min, LV/ENG;
- 2. **Andris Rubenis and Arnolds Plaudis on the film Constellation of riflemen** — 14 min, LV/ENG.
- 1. **Colleagues on the 50th birthday of Podnieks** — 25 min, LV;
- 2. **Blumbergs on Podnieks’ idea for the film Joseph and his brothers** — 9:44 min, LV.
- 1. **Podnieks interviewing people in the streets** — 2 min, LV;
- 2. **About the making of clips of music videos** — 10 min, LV;
- 3. **Graduation works by Podnieks** — 19 min.

The exhibition is dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Juris Podnieks

The exhibition was created as part of the programme *Juris Podnieks' Year*, coordinated by the Latvian Film Museum of the Latvian Academy of Culture in collaboration with JURA PODNIEKA STUDIO. The exhibition is supported by SCCF, Riga City Council, LNA Latvian State Archive of Audiovisual Documents, Latvian furniture brand Nordi, RIGA IFF.

The author and curator of the exhibition is Anna Viduleja, the artist is Kristaps Eppers, and the producer is Antra Cilinska-Dombrovska. In creation of the exhibition participated Ieva Ozoliņa, Sandra Alksne, Viktors Keino, Ernests Ansons, Dace Bušante, Rūdolfs Henčels, VPT. The catalogue was compiled by Augusts Redovičs and Anna Viduleja.



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