

*Reaction to Zéré Turlykhanova's film DAYSHIFT
(USA 2026, starring Sara Joel)*

CEDAR with a bucket

For a moment I thought I was alone in this dark house, but then I adjusted my hearing. Sandals slapping on the stone floor in the adjacent room, then various dragging sounds, clattering and heavy breathing were heard, until the sounds suddenly died down. I quietly cracked the door. First I saw somebody with a camera, only then another, who was taking off his flip-flops. There were rubber gloves on the ground.

A taut cedar tree was wrapped around a silver pole. I opened the door all the way and stepped in the room. At that moment, the tree was already rocking the entire house. The thousand years of the cedar were blazing. It spread a solemn peace around itself, nailed without crosses and shook away the empty attempt to explain what was really going on. The person with the camera seemed to be holding breath even when the cedar tree put on its sandals, picked up the petals of Petticoat Fire that had fallen from its hair, and slid away. I held my breath too, even though I was there until many months later.

Mox Mäkelä