

Esildis

In English

Title	<i>Arabella</i>
Author(s)	Lauri Lippmaa; based on the novel <i>Arabella, the Pirate's Daughter</i> by Aino Pervik
Format	24x30 min; serial narrative TV series / animated series
Genre	Coming of age adventure drama
Target audience	11-15 + YA
Logline	When the rise of the Industrial Revolution forces the 'endangered species' of cut-throat pirates to relocate to mainland, a feisty teenage daughter of a dreaded pirate captain must decisively confront her beloved father, whose strict egotistical scheme to mould her into the heir of his criminal empire impedes the true emancipation of this freewheeling soul.
Synopsis	<p>In the closed-off world of a pirate ship, where the lost and hardened souls find their chosen walk of life an enjoyable business, lives an unexpected heroine – Arabella, the 15-year old daughter of the infamous captain Daniel the Lead. Despite having lost her mother after birth, Arabella has grown into an attractive young woman, who, instead of being ladylike, wants nothing more than to follow in father's footsteps, hoping one day to breathe in the free winds of sea as a female pirate captain.</p> <p>Yet Daniel is forced to take his dark business to mainland and leave his seafaring days behind him for good because the emergence of powerful navies makes pillage and plunder at sea riskier with each passing day. Since the likelihood of losing one's life in bloody scimmages is high, Daniel needs to reorganise for the expansion of his criminal empire, seeing Arabella as the secret ace in his fresh hand of cards which, for time being, he plays close to his chest.</p> <p>However, Daniel's plans of schooling Arabella to become a woman of class at a secure sanctuary don't chime well with Arabella's vision of her future at sea, thus making the clash with deadly consequences between the two stubborn family members inevitable. To spite father, Arabella has one of her most trusted crewmen, Hallelujah, save a castaway, a deed which goes strictly against the ship's unwritten code. The saved man, Hassan, claims to be a travelling philosopher whom Daniel lets live after considering his being a tutor for Arabella also serves his own agenda.</p> <p>Enter the mysterious pirate-hunting woman, Eleonora, and the ante is upped once again.</p> <p>Yet there are other, more sinister forces than the law that Daniel must</p>

	<p>beware of, namely the rival pirate captain Iron Plait, his merciless nemesis with the most cunning adviser, Judas. The pair is willing to go to any lengths to annihilate Daniel and overtake his secret treasure chamber. The events take a life-threatening turn for Arabella when Iron Plait has her kidnapped and demands unthinkable ransom that for Daniel would mean the loss of his entire fortune and his reputation amongst his senseless band of bloodthirsty pirates.</p> <p>Will Daniel overcome the fear for demons deep down inside to save the only person who loves him, his own flesh and blood, his Arabella? Will he be able, in the face of defeat, to voluntarily destroy the empire of evil that he worked so hard to build? Will Arabella manage to break free of all chains using her own resourcefulness and save her beloved father from certain death?</p>
Author's Notes	<p>Arabella is a serial narrative coming-of-age drama with elements of the Golden Age of Piracy mixed with the real world look of the early 19th century. The series marginally weaves in vague hints of magical realism, such as the presumed appearance of the legendary ghost ship The Flying Dutchman and the much-feared moving deadly sinking water that fails to maintain anything afloat.</p> <p>The series is meant to serve as a backdrop to themes of self-discovery and the search for love. Occasionally life provides us with various mentor figures who guide us to deeper understanding. However, while some of them accompany us throughout our journeys, there are also those who won't share their wisdom in troves; they enter our lives only to touch us briefly, often without even being aware of their influence. Hence, the (unknowing) search for mentors is the DNA of the series.</p> <p>The story takes place in the thoroughly deceitful pirate world. Lust for slaughter, greed, and treachery are only some of the illustrative tools in helping the audiences understand the cruel and bleak nature of evil and the irrevocability of one's actions, especially of one's crimes.</p> <p>The time period two centuries ago marked the inglorious end to the age of piracy when the navies of the larger nation states had gathered enough maritime power to oust even the last seafaring pirates, who still were holding several Mediterranean and North-East Atlantic trade routes under their terror. But the brave new world of the Industrial Revolution with all its virtues and vices lured in many a former pirate along with progressive-thinking or opportunistic merchants.</p> <p>The story world of Arabella resembles a lot today's transitional period of the information society that, too, is breaking new ground before our very eyes, changing our perception of the world and shifting its social strata. People – both back then and now – realised the new era had already begun, bearing its first fruits, yet at the same time they knew it was the beginning to something far greater. They foresaw that the true explosion of the Industrial Revolution is yet to come.</p>

What would the finished series “look like”? It should be made clear from the get-go – Arabella DOES NOT WANT to mimic the Jack Sparrow styled Hollywood blockbuster-franchise The Pirates of the Caribbean. Rather, our aim is to remain grounded in reality with only occasional hints of heightened realism. If any references were to be made, it would be perhaps the tonality and style in the vein of the Starz’s original series *Black Sails*.