

NEW NORDIC CIRCUS NETWORK

NORDIC NEWSLETTER VOL 3 /2009

10.6.2009

This is the fifth edition of the Nordic circus newsletter by the New Nordic Circus Network (NNCN). The letter is in two formats, this pdf file and a webversion at nordic-circus.org/newsletter/.

Visit the site of the NNCN to find out more on the network and it's members and partners:
www.nordic-circus.org

The newsletter is edited in Helsinki by Finnish Circus Information Centre and is distributed to circus artists and organisations in each country by the member organisations. The letter reports on the activities of the network and informs on major events in the field of contemporary circus in the Nordic countries. To subscribe the newsletter, please contact the network member in your home country (contacts listed in the final part of the letter).

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1. NEWS FROM THE NORDIC NETWORK

Juggling the Arts arts presented in Helsinki

The Nordic network members gathered in Helsinki in May 8–10 at Cirko Festival and participated in the meetings of Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe (JTCE). Also the Juggling the Arts (JTA) project by the Nordic network was presented at the festival for an audience and the jury of the Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe.

The Juggling The Arts works are: Human Timing by Niclas Stureberg (SE), Petit Mal by Petri Tuominen, Rauli Kosonen & Kalle Lehto (FI), Somewhere/ Nowhere by Mille Lundt (DK) and Goldfish is meant for dying by Rudi Jensen (NO).

A 15 minute extract of all four works-in-progress were presented for an enthusiastic audience. The jury of JTCE discussed with each group of artists prior and after the performance.



Here the artists of Petit Mal, Kalle Lehto, Rauli Kosonen and Petri Tuominen, are interviewed by the jury. Photo: Phillippe Cibille.

The jury of the JTCE consists of 15 persons from leading European contemporary circus organisations.



Members of the jury present at the Helsinki meeting: (from left around the table) Ivan Kralj (Festival Novog Cikusa, Croatia), Jan-Rok Achard (Canada), Verena Cornwall (Arts Council Ireland / Circus Development Agency UK), Kiki Muukkonen (Subtopia, Sweden), Sverre Waage (Sirkunst, Norway), Koen Allary (Flemish Centre for Circus Arts, Belgium), ..., Tilde Björfors (Cirkus Cirkör, Sweden), Camilla Damkjaer (Stockholm University), Rachel Clare (Crying Out Loud, England), Jean-Michel Guy, Mathilde Osch and Fred Cardon (Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe, France). Photo: Phillippe Cibille.

The JTA projects have been developed in the artistic laboratories of the JTA project by the NNCN during autumn 2008 at Subtopia/ Cirkus Cirkör, Sweden.

Juggling the Arts forms the Nordic Pole of the multinational EU-project Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe (JTCE).

Find out more on Juggling the arts at www.nordic-circus.org/projects/juggling-the-arts/



Find out more on Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe at jeunestalentscirque.org

Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe - Open call for projects

Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe is an artistic support program for emerging creators in the circus arts field in Europe.

If you are emerging in your professional area with a new creation project and interested in developing your career in circus arts you can apply for assistance from Jeunes Talents Cirque Europe.

Dead line for applications is September 25, 2009.

For more information and the application form at jeunestalentscirque.org

The circus book project

NNCN is currently working on a publication on contemporary circus with a Nordic perspective. The main body of the book is written by Tomi Purovaara and will also contain articles by Kiki Muukkonen & Camilla Damkjaer, Sverre Waage and Stine Dagerbøl.

The book with the title *Contemporary Circus – Introduction to the development of circus art* will be published in autumn 2009 by Stockholm University. It outlines the new circus sector in the Nordic countries, including an overview to the development of the art form.

Network meetings

Latest network meeting of the NNCN was on June 8 in Copenhagen hosted by Copenhagen International Theatre.

The next meeting gathers the writers of the book project to Stockholm on week 38 in September.

2. CIRCUS NEWS BY COUNTRY

News from Finland

Performances

Jakob's Circus is a new contemporary circus company that tours the country this summer with a small big top and performances

Jakobin Sirkus & Zirko Pazzi Ragazzi

1.5.-7.6. Tampere

2.-6.7. Kajaani (Kajaanin Runoviikko Festival)

7.-12.7. Jyväskylä (Jyväskylä Summer Festival)

22.-25.7. Turku (Tall Ships Race)

28.7.-2.8. Kuopio (SirkusSoppa Youth Circus festival)

17.-23.8. Kurikka (LuopaFest)

26.10.-15.11. Hämeenlinna City Theatre

www.jakobinsirkus.com



TaikaOulu Festival (Magic Oulu) 5–6.6.

A brand new city festival that combines magic to different other art forms and utilizes new technological innovations.

www.taikaoulu.fi

MedAndraOrd: HELMI & Karhuryhmä: KUNINGASOHJUS

11.–14.6. Korjaamo Teatteri, Kulmasali, Helsinki

A double bill with two solos by

contortionist Henna Kaikula (MedAndraOrd) and

juggler Samuli Männistö (Sirkus Supiainen/ Karhuryhmä).

www.korjaamo.fi



Dancetheatre Hurjaruuth performs a hilarious one man show for children

Sirkus Helium by Heikki Leppävuori at summer festivals in Jyväskylä 8.-10.7. and Kotka 17.7.

www.hurjaruuth.fi

Finnish Diabolo Convention FDC-09 in Eräjärvi 31.7-2.8.

www.supiainen.com/fdc

Cirkus Cirkör visits Tampere Theatre Summer 7.–8.8. with Inside Out.

www.teatterikesa.fi



Circo Aereo: Rust and Circus

A speedy outdoor show with a van and three men for the whole family that never lacks velocity, vibration or spark. Tours the summer festivals in Finland: Jyväskylä region in July and Hippalot Arts Festival for Children in Hämeenlinna 30.7.-2.8.2009.

www.hippalot.net

Circo Aereo: Un cirque plus juste by Jani Nuutinen at Helsinki Festival 22.-23.8.

Venue: Kulttuuritehdas Korjaamo, Helsinki
www.helsinkifestival.fi



Circo Aereo's new production for children

The Circus of Mr. Bartok

will be premiered at Helsinki Festival and performed during 14.-30.8.

Venue: Theatre Museum at Cable Factory, Helsinki
www.helsinkifestival.fi



Sirkus Finlandia, Finland's oldest and biggest traditional circus, and **Sirkus Florentino & Sirkus Caliba**, smaller traditional companies, all tour the country.

www.sirkusfinlandia.fi | www.sirkusflorentino.com

Association WHS is performing on puppet theatre festivals in France and Brazil this summer.

Their latest production *Tree's Vault* was performed in May in Paris at 5ème Biennale Internationale des Arts de la Marionnette. In June they will perform on two international festivals of puppet theatre in cities Belo Horizonte and Canela in Brazil. In September they will perform again in France with their show *Discussions* at Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes in Charleville-Mézières. More on WHS: www.w-h-s.fi

All circus performances in Finland and Finnish circus abroad:

please visit the GIG GUIDE at www.sirkusinfo.fi

A database on Finnish circus artists, companies and productions – visit the Sirkka database at www.sirkusinfo.fi/sirkka

Editor of news from Finland: Johanna Mäkelä, Finnish Circus Information Centre
johanna.makela@sirkusinfo.fi

News from Norway

Circus education

There are a lot of different activities around the few community cultural schools that teaches circus in Norway. In Trondheim, as in Tromsø, a professional milieu starts to build up around the community cultural school, with artists like Kristian Wanvik, Axel Immler, Lea Moxness, Julie Grønnby Heir og Helene Dahl.

In Tromsø Company KULTA has developed circus education in the Kulturskole for children and youth over 10 years. They opened in 2007 a subject at Gymnas/Videregående in new circus for 5 students. The Kulta Productions also produce professional new circus performances for touring in schools. For the time being the education, production, touring and events are making it possible for 6-8 circus artists to live and work in Tromsø.

Performances

Kulta Produksjoner opens a new circus performance "1moment" the 5th of June in Tromsø. They will also perform it at The Market for Stage Art in Sandefjord the 9th of June. The performers are: Aaro Kontio, Tiina Laine and Senja Korkkula (stepped in in the last moment for a injured Camilla Therese Karlsen).

Cirkus Khaoom do corporate events this summer and go on a short visit to Portugal in the autumn with the performance "Wings", Chapitó in Lisboa the 27th-29th of November, 3 performances and a workshop.

The Circus Village

17th – 30th of August 2009 in Oslo

The Circus Village is an open arena for development of circus in Norway. Two circus tents and five circus wagons sets the frame for two weeks of playing, training, teaching, production and presentation of performances and acts. Come and join the Circus Village!

Sirkus Cirka – The World Smallest and Best Circus!

For the first time in the world history: Tigers from Bengal, swedish clowns, spanish acrobats, italian musicians, dancers from Egypt, arabian horses, two elephants and a snake enters the manege in Torshovparken in Oslo. A performance with children and guest artists. Suitable for all children to see from 3 to 100. Special offers for kindergardens and schools. Phone 41402314 or mail to: sunniva@cirkusxanti.no Monday – Thursday 17th – 20th and 24th – 27th of August at 12.00

Cirkus Xanti will set up a big top in a park in the middle of Oslo, 15th to 30th of August to do social circus with kids, research on a new performance and also offer a space for the circus artists and buffs living in Oslo and Norway, or whoever pass by, to gather, train and....we will see what happens. A try out the last half of August this summer, hoping it will be a longer run and a bigger and more complex Circus Village next year. To be a mobile circus village in Norway during the summer season. The 22nd of August there will be a circus party, performances, open stage etc arranged by Sirkunst and Cirkus Xanti aiming to gather as many of the Norwegian circus scene as possible.

Rudi Skotheim Jensen has gotten a travel grant to go to Singapore with The Goldfish project developed through Juggling The Arts. He is going to have a premiere of the Goldfish project in Singapore in August 2009 .

In Norway there is traditional circus's left with animals. One traditional circus company, **Cirkus Agora**, quitted animals this year and do a half season and without animals. Additional information on the traditional circuses in Norway: www.cirkusvenn.no/cirkus_stoff.htm

Editor of news from Norway: Sverre Waage, Circus Xanti/ Sirkunst
sverre@cirkusxanti.no

News from Sweden

Shows and premieres

SIRQUS ALFON TO EDINBURGH Swedish Sirqus Alfon are for the first time performing at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival from Aug 10 to Aug 31.

The readers of this newsletter are hereby invited to the show: *This invitation entitles you to two free tickets* for the performance EUROTRASH, at the Debating Hall, Gilded Balloon, the first three shows: Aug 10-Aug 12 at 5.30 pm.



Please confirm the number of tickets you would like and state the date on which you want to attend, by e-mail to martin@sirkusalfon.com.

Sirkus Alfon was founded in 1997. After many years of experimenting on the streets of Europe they took a staged show in 2004 on tour in Germany. Since then they have been touring around the world from Chinese theatres to refugee camps in Palestine to burlesque clubs in New York. EUROTRASH is live music, absurd acrobatics, crazy clownery, hip hop moves and video-projections. Sirkus Alfon deliver their own style of old-school slapstick in a new-rave context. For more info see www.sirkusalfon.com.

KOLLEKTIV VIFIRA will during the fall and spring tour with the show BLÅSTÄLL, a duett with and by Viktor Gyllenberg and Malin Stattin.

Places and dates: 11 Aug Stockholms Kulturfestival, 15 Aug Finspång, 12 Sep Nyköping, 14-26 Sep tour with Dans i Västerbotten 18 shows, 5-16 Oct tour with Dansspridning in Värmland and Gävleborg 20 shows, 17-18 Oct Dansmuseet, 5-7 Nov Sundsvall 5 shows, 14 Nov Järfälla. Next spring tour with Sörmlands Musik och Teater and Dansspridning, more dates to come.

Kollektiv Vifira is a collective that strive towards creating circus and dance working from a collective process. Kollektiv Vifira was founded in 2008 and has from the start toured two full length shows, NOTARIEGATAN 17B and BLÅSTÄLL, and also created the site specific TELGENESS for Södertälje municipality. Kollektiv Vifira is Viktor Gyllenberg, Malin Stattin, Sergi Parés and Peter Åberg. More info soon at www.vifira.se

CIRKUS I GLASRIKET (Circus in the Kingdom of Crystal) is a project where the art forms circus, glass art and music meet. This meeting is presented as a show in Kosta Glass Center in the summer 2009, premiering July 1 and to be played until Aug 9. Cirkus i Glasriket is an interaction between culture and enterprise with the ambition of artistic renewal and development.

Artists: Rune Andersen, slack rope. Gry Lambertsen, pole and clown. Daniel Granström and Nina Westman, glass blowers. Carin Blom and Catharina Backman, specially created glass ware music. Åsa Johannisson is project manager, script writer, director and guest researcher at The Dramatic Institute in Stockholm. For more info see www.cirkusiglasriket.se

RUBY ROSE show THE BIG ASS BBQ was chosen to represent Sweden at the Harare International festivals of the Arts in March.

Ruby Rose reports: "It is a great festival and it all went so good. We did 7 shows both on the festival site and on the streets of Harare. We also had workshops with two acrobatic show groups, Zim boys and Zimba wembe, and we did a 6 days workshop in clown and stage presence. We also spent some time in Cape Town networking with producers for a return to the southern parts of Africa. Now the Big Ass BBQ will tour in Sweden at festivals all over the country."

Ruby Rose Productions produce outdoor events this summer, such as Hallaballo i Skå, Tangopalatsi, Louisiana Crawfish Party, Wanda Jackson at Berns. See www.rubyrose.se for more details.



VARIETÉ HABLINGBO at Gotland presents the show TUMULT, a circus nostalgic show and a free fantasy around Ivar Lo Johansson's short story "Dvärgen och Primadonnan" (The Dwarf and the Primadonna). Written and directed by Stina Oscarsson. Artists: Henrik Agger, Louise Bjurholm von Euler, Viktoria Dalborg, Linda Hed, Shannon Savage, Petter Wadsten.

Venue: Crêperiet at Hablingbo, Gotland
Dates: July 10 – Aug 9, Tuesday to Sunday at 7 pm
Tickets at Gotland Turistbyrå or www.ticnet.se
More info at www.hablingbocreperie.com.

CIRCUS ARTS and BURNT OUT PUNKS present GARDEN OF PASSION DE LUXE, premiering at the Peace & Love Festival in Borlänge 22-27th of June. The show is an old dream coming alive; Circus Arts has rounded up several companies and acts from Sweden and Europe in creating a festival within the festival. With emphasis on circus and street shows, the Garden of Passion De Luxe will be built as a carnival area with lots of art and spectacular acts. This concept will tour to other countries in Europe in 2010.

Participants are Burnt Out Punks (Swe), Big Ass Barbeque (Swe/US), Diesel Karaoke Party Bus (CH), Kakaboom Kakaboom Kakaboom (Swe), Magmanus (Nor/Fr), Sideshow artists Roc-it (Ger/US), PapaDave (Aus), Sideshow Kal (Swe), Rasmus Wurm (Swe/Ger), Tobias Thörnell (Swe) and more. More info soon at www.circusarts.nu.

CIRKUS CIRKÖR will tour their production INSIDE OUT internationally, starting in August in Tampere Finland, and ending in Caen in France. They will guest West End in London for 3 weeks, BAM in New York, Oslo and Moscow. There will also be 11 shows at Dansens Hus in Stockholm in August. See the whole tour plan at www.cirkor.se.

June 15-July 3 Cirkus Cirkör will tour the show RÖKT! for young people in parks and yards in the municipality of Botkyrka. July 29-Aug 9. RÖKT! continues touring with Parkteatern around outdoor venues in the Stockholm area. Artists: David Eriksson, Fouzia Rakez, Anthon Hansson and Robin Karlsson.



See the whole tour plan at www.cirkor.se or www.stadsteater.stockholm.se

NORDIC FRINGE FESTIVAL

Manegen, the Swedish federation for circus, variety and street performance, has the great honor to present a 4 day showcase at the first edition of Nordic Fringe Festival 27-30 Aug. 26 shows and cabarets with almost 70 performers of different styles and genres will be represented at venue Lokomotivet in Eskilstuna (about 1 hour drive from Stockholm). Never before have so many Swedish circus and variety acts been shown under the same roof!

See the whole program on www.manegen.org/fringe.

Tickets are available on www.ticnet.se. For more info contact coordinator Axel Adlercreutz: info@manegen.org.

Training, workshops and education

AUDITIONS AT DANSHÖGSKOLAN/UNIVERSITY OF DANCE, PROGRAM IN CIRCUS

June 7-12 auditions for the next circus promotion at the Danshögskolan/University of Dance in Stockholm take place. Out of 130 candidates that applied this year, 85 are invited to audition. The candidates represent 10 nations worldwide, from various artistic and sports backgrounds. 16 new

talented circus students will become students of Danshögskolan's circus education and are to graduate in 2012.

The current promotion includes 18 students that are to graduate in 2010. Next audition for the program will be in spring 2011.

Programme in Circus, 180 ECTS

There is exciting development taking place in circus involving greater artistic and interdisciplinary forms of expression. This programme provides basic skills for a professional career in the fields of circus and drama, together with disciplinary and artistic expertise at an advanced international level and scope for personal development, independence and critical reflection.

The programme offers basic training in acrobatics, equilibristics, aerial techniques and juggling, as well as advanced training/development in at least one discipline for each student. In addition the programme includes other forms of art as well as theoretical studies and scope for reflection required for personal artistic development.

Danshögskolan, University of Dance

The University of Dance is the only school of its kind for dance and circus in Sweden's system of higher education. This prestigious institution has sole responsibility for instructing an expanding student body in a broad range of dance-related fields: Dance Performance, Circus, Dance Pedagogy, Choreography and Dance Therapy.

At the University of Dance tradition is challenged by innovation and experiment. It is a meeting place for art, pedagogy and science, old and new theoretical concepts. Popular traditions gain new meaning, and new artistic careers develop to change our ideas about what is known. The school aims not to train people for today's demands, but for that which will come. "Our students and their visions will challenge the present and change the world!"

For more info contact

Walter Ferrero, Head of Department Circus walter.ferrero@danshogskolan.se

Marie-Andree Robitaille, director of artistic studies marie.a.robitaille@danshogskolan.se

Jan Rosen, director of discipline studies jan.rosen@danshogskolan.se

www.danshogskolan.se

SHOW OFF - AN EXCHANGE OF THE ARTS At SHOW OFF artists will work with artists in a mixture of talking, doing and watching.

There are two ways of taking part in Show Off:

- As an artist you bring a show and a workshop - the show can be a full show, a work in progress, a film or something else you would like to share.
- As a participant you can either join the workshops or watch the performances - or both. The cost as a participant is 200 SEK per day or 400 SEK for the whole weekend.

Place: U-huset, Norrtälje (1 hour by bus from Stockholm), Sweden

Date: Aug 7-9 2009

Send an e-mail entitled "Show Off" to ulfulf@ulfulf.se for more info and application form. SHOW OFF is produced by ulfulf produktion.

LAUGHTER WITHOUT BORDERS The Stockholm Academy of Dramatic Arts, in cooperation with Clowns Without Borders of Sweden, plan to offer a Masters Program for artists who want to work in the spirit of Clowns Without Borders. The program would be led by the founder of CWB Sweden, P. Nalle Laanela (clown and circus director) and its vice president Pelle Hanæus (actor and director).

A formal decision is not taken, but the plan is to offer the program in English, for artists and actors

internationally. The program would run for one year, from August 2010 until June 2011. For further information and to communicate an interest to apply, please contact the program secretary, Saara Printz Werner (saara.printzwerner@teaterhogskolan.se) For information about the academy, please see www.teaterhogskolan.se

SUBTOPIA will be open during the summer for training, courses and circus camps. STUNTS AND BRUISES 15-17th of June is a course in stunt technics, led by circus artist and stunt man Martin Zetterlund. For more info on Subtopia, see www.subtopia.se

Organizational and financial news

MANEGEN – CENTRUM FÖR CIRKUS, VARIETÉ OCH GATUPERFORMANCE is a newly formed Swedish national association for professionals in the fields of circus, variety and street performance. When the first annual meeting of Manegen was held in Subtopia the 26th of April about forty professionals gathered to elect a board. Thorsten Andreassen was elected President of the Board. Kiki Muukkonen has been elected Vice President of the Board. Board members are Ivar Heckscher, Jacob Westin, Joel Lindh, Josefin Karlsson, Manne af Klintberg, Marie-Louise Masreliez and Tobias Gisle.

Manegen reports that the newly appointed board has started to work on Manegens activity plan. The website is already launched at www.manegen.org (only in Swedish at the moment).

Would you be interested in becoming a member, or in supporting the organization? Send an e-mail to info@manegen.org and you will receive instructions.

TRAVEL FUNDS TO CIRKUS PROJECTS/ARTISTS In May the Swedish Artistic Foundation (Konstnärsnämnden) awarded travel funds to 50 projects or artists in the performing arts and film field. Out of these 4 were to projects or artists in circus: Fransesca Lissia and Celso Pereira Arizaga for travel to Belgium, Siri Hamari for travel to Belarus, Ukraine and Moldavia, and Kiki Muukkonen for travel to France.

Seminars and research

MICHAEL MOSCHEN IN STOCKHOLM World renowned juggler Michael Moschen visited Stockholm in May. The 24th of May he held a lecture demonstration at Danshögskolan/University of Dance. Moschen was invited to Danshögskolan to teach at the course Juggling and Music (JAM) that has been held during the spring. This course was the first circus course on advanced level at the University of Dance, focusing on the relation between juggling and music. Seven jugglers on advanced level from five countries participated (USA, Canada, Scotland, Finland and Sweden). For more info see www.danshogskolan.se

CIRKUS EVENINGS AT C/O STADSTEATERN is a co-operation between Cirkus Cirkör and Tilde Björfors' research project at the University of Dance in Stockholm.

19 and 20 of September audience is invited to look behind the scenes of circus creation, to understand more about the driving forces underlying the creation of the perfect number of a wire walker, trapeze artist or pair acrobats. These evenings are a mixture of circus show, work in progress presentation, music, and maybe some film.

Artists involved are among others wire walker Molly Saudek, pair acrobats Henrik Agger and Louise Bjurholm, and French jugglers Guillaume Martinet and Minh-Tam Kaplan in Compagnie deFracto. The evening will be hosted by Tilde Björfors, founder and artistic leader of Cirkus Cirkör and professor of circus at Danshögskolan/University of Dance, where she conducts her research project "New circus transcending boundaries in arts and society". In her research, she works

together with companies and artists who create their art from a specific circus discipline. More info soon at www.cirkor.se and www.stadsteatern.stockholm.se

Editor of news from Sweden: Kiki Muukkonen, Subtopia
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3. NEW NORDIC CIRCUS NETWORK

Established in 2007 the New Nordic Circus NETWORK (NNCN) is an overall development programme for New Circus in the Nordic countries as well as the name of the partnership we established with the aim of placing new circus on the cultural map of the Nordic countries.

New Nordic Circus Network has six partners:

- Cirkus Cirkör Lab, Sweden <http://www.cirkor.se/> & Subtopia <http://www.subtopia.se>
- Københavns Internationale Teater, Denmark <http://www.kit.dk>
- Sirkunst N, nettverk for nysirkus i Norge, Norway, contact: sverre@circusxanti.no
- Finnish Circus Information Centre <http://www.sirkusinfo.fi> & Cirko Centre for New Circus <http://cirko.net>

The overall goal of New Nordic Circus is to develop a supportive and active Nordic network of artists/companies, producers, presenters/venues in order to improve the conditions and the opportunities for the new circus sector in the Nordic countries.

Find out more at: www.nordic-circus.org

The network has received support from Kulturkontakt Norden/ Nordic council of Ministers.



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Nordic Council of Ministers

The Nordic Newsletter comes out four times a year. It is distributed by the network partners. The next newsletter comes out in October 2009.

For subscriptions and further information on the topics, please contact the network partner in your country:

- **Denmark:** Københavns Internationale Teater www.kit.dk
contact: Katrien Verwilt kv@kit.dk
- **Finland:** Finnish Circus Information Centre www.sirkusinfo.fi
contact: Johanna Mäkelä johanna.makela@sirkusinfo.fi
- **Norway:** Sirkunst, nettverk for nysirkus i Norge
contact: sverre@circusxanti.no
- **Sweden:** Subtopia www.subtopia.se
contact: Kiki Muukkonen kiki@subtopia.se