

NEW NORDIC CIRCUS NETWORK

NORDIC NEWSLETTER VOL 2 /2008

2.9.2008

This is the second edition of the Nordic circus newsletter of the New Nordic Circus Network. The newsletter is edited in Helsinki by Finnish Circus Information Centre and is distributed to circus artists and organisations in each country by the partner organisations. The letter will report on the activities of the network and will also inform on major events in the field of contemporary circus in the Nordic countries. To subscribe the newsletter, please contact the network partner in your home country (contacts listed in the final part of the letter).

Headlines vol. 2/2008

1. Juggling The Arts: Outline of the project structure. Presentation of the participants.
2. Country reports: Denmark | Finland | Norway | Sweden
3. Presentation of New Nordic Circus Network

1. JUGGLING THE ARTS

New Nordic Circus Network was established in spring 2008 between circus organizations in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. The first inter nordic project of the network Juggling the Arts collects young circus artists from each country to an artistic laboratory, that takes place in Stockholm this autumn. The results of the laboratory work will later be seen on tour at Nordic festivals.

New Nordic Circus Network has six partners: Cirkus Cirkör Lab and Subtopia from Sweden; Copenhagen International Theatre from Denmark; Sirkunst N – network of new circus in Norway and Finnish Circus Information Centre together with Cirko – Centre for New Circus from Finland. The Network has received support from Kulturkontakt Norden.

Artists chosen to participate in the Juggling the Arts project are:

Rudi Jensen with project "Goldfish is meant for dying" (NO)

Mille Lundt with project "Somewhere/Nowhere" (DK)

Niclas Stureberg with project "Human Timing" (SWE)

Petri Tuominen and **Rauli Kosonen** with a project not yet titled (FIN)

The project continues with laboratories in Sweden, Alby circus center at Botkyrka, Stockholm region, 15-19 September and 7-11 November 2008. The laboratories will focus on artistic research in the projects of the chosen young artists. The laboratories are mentored by **Maksim Komaro** (FI), **Tilde Björfors** (SE), **Kitt Johnson** (DK), **Sverre Waage** (N) and **Jean-Michel Guy** (FR).

Juggler, director and trainer Maksim Komaro is co-founder and artistic leader of Circo Aereo, an international contemporary circus group based in Finland and France. Tilde Björfors is the creator of Cirkus Cirkör, circus director and professor of new circus at The University of Dance. Kitt Johnson is Danish choreographer and teacher. Sverre Waage is Norwegian theatre director, a founder of Cirkus Xanti and Sirkunst network. Jean-Michel Guy is French researcher and director of new circus.

Presentations of projects in Juggling the Arts:

Sweden: Niclas Stureberg with project “Human Timing”

Swedish juggler and dancer Niclas Stureberg is developing his project *Human Timing*, which will be his first full length piece as a choreographer. The working title *Human Timing* refers to our ability to communicate and our sensitiveness and responsiveness in relation to ourselves and others. Together with three artists Niclas will explore acrobatics and handstand using insights and tools from dance and juggling. Physical monologues and conversations will be explored through improvisations on subjects and feelings that we naturally express without or beyond verbal language. The aim is to search for the moments where the artists have authentic responses and thus expanding their physical vocabulary. The artists in the project



are **Jens Engman**, **Danny Westlund** and **Methinee Wongtrakoon**, all with skills in acrobatics and handstand.

Niclas Stureberg is a self taught juggler/dancer. He's been working since 1996 with the Swedish new circus company Cirkus Cirkör in several of their shows and events. He worked as a dancer in the piece *Noodles* and some research projects with Adekwhat/Philippe Blanchard. He co-founded a new circus company Idiot Savant and created/performed in it's show *White Men*. Recently he has been seen in *Beckett Beer and Cigarettes* by German choreographer Felix Bürkle. He is currently also teaching at the University College of Dance in Stockholm.

Denmark: Mille Engberg Lundt & SOMEWHERE/Nowhere

Mille Engberg Lundt (1980) Contortion and vertical rope



Somewhere/Nowhere, a physical solo, is a bid for a contemporary circus performance. A collaboration between director **Cille Lansade**, composer **Johan Segerberg**, artist **Mille Lundt**, and scenographer **Sissel Romme**. The performance is about a young woman living in a studio flat in a city. This young woman loses her appetite for life, and struggles in her fight against anorexia. The performance merges theatre, dance, circus techniques and music. The basis for the performance is the loneliness and twosomeness, reality/the unreal and the human being's craving for the unknown. With the themes humanity and anorexia, they will work with the method devising in order to create the performance. The physical language will be researched in the scenography, where the mimimalistic and the more extreme circus techniques will be brought so close to the human

being itself as possible. The monologues will be written as they go along in a collaboration between the artist and the director. The composer will create the music as the rehearsals proceed.

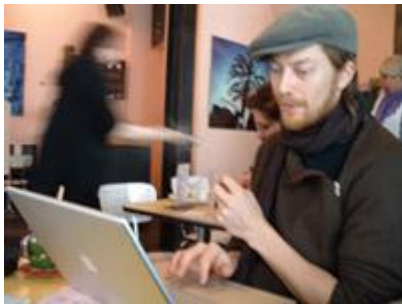
Mille started her circus education at the Academy for Untamed Creativity in Copenhagen and continued studying circus at schools in Cuba, Moscow, Kiev and finally graduated from E.S.A.C. in Brussels in 2006. Mille founded together with Johan Sergerberg the company *Royal Bones*, and performed in *Fusk* at Orienteatern/Stockholm and Kronborg Castle/Elsinore. Mille has also performed in *Peberrods suppe med fyltd kålhoved* at the Danish Royal Theatre. Both performances were directed by Lars Rudolfsson and Sissel Romme.

Norway: Rudi Jensen with project “Goldfish is meant for dying”



Goldfish is meant for dying is a solo production which deals with human ignorance, seen through the eyes and the culture of goldfish as pet.

Anything or anyone placed in the perfect context is utterly unimportant to the right person. What is unimportant and what is not, it is not for me as an artist to decide; all I can do is artistically highlight the question.



Rudi Jensen has studied circus directing/choreography at ESAC (Ecole superior des arts du Cirque) and has performed since 12 years old.

Finland: Petri Tuominen and Rauli Kosonen with a project not yet titled



Rauli Kosonen (born 1985, studied in CNAC in France) and **Petri Tuominen** (born 1982, studied in Danshögskolan in Sweden) are Finnish acrobats working with trampoline and Chinese pole as their main disciplines together with other physical skill based material. Their artistic objectives are to reflect their personal and intimate ideas, to discover the possibilities of interaction on stage as real persons with human weaknesses and strengths. With the artistic research they want to present new visions that are surreal but clear, to bring the real smell of body and soul to the focus at stage.

2. COUNTRY REPORTS

DENMARK

FINANCIAL NEWS, SEMINARS, RESEARCH

Grant from the Danish Minister of Culture for information and promotion of Danish new circus

After the seminar "Ny Cirkus Ny Kunst" organised by the Danish Artist Union, the Academy for Untamed Creativity and Copenhagen International Theatre in May 2008, the Danish Minister of Culture has given an extraordinary grant of 1 mio. DKK (140.000 euros) in 2008/09 for informative and promotional activities re. new circus.

The report on the seminar Ny Circus Ny Kunst can be downloaded at http://www.kit.dk/2008/ny_cirkus_seminar.htm. Over the summer Stine Degerbøl, M.Sc., has been working on the history of Danish contemporary circus as well as on mapping Danish new circus artists, their CVs, achievements and future projects in order to establish an overview and a database of the Danish new circus sector. Results of the research are due to be published in October 2008.

FESTIVALS

Ny Cirkus Festival, August 2008

Copenhagen International Theatre has just finished its New Circus Festival with 6 different companies, 8400 audiences to the 38 performances. With lots of enthusiastic audiences and great reviews, the organisers are tired but happy after a month long festival. Compagnie A&O/Joël Colas got raving reviews and attracted family audiences, Les Colporteurs had erected their tent in Ørestad City and got labelled "world class..." especially when the human being behind the artist appears, the Australian company Circa was a fantastic discovery, a great performance for contemporary circus and dance aficionados. Acrobat returned to Copenhagen with "Smaller Poorer Cheaper", this time performing outdoors in the beautiful courtyard of the Frederiksberg Campus, audience success guaranteed for this cult company. For Jani Nuutinen and his small tent we had chosen the garden of the Royal Library, a hidden gem in the centre of Copenhagen. Thus 750 people saw Finnish object theatre under the label of New Circus.

PREMIERES

Teater Glimt / Lars Gregersen premieres "Sisyphos Ascending" at Kaleidoskop K2 on October 23rd 2008.

FINLAND

ORGANISATIONAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS

Regional circus center to Suvilahti in 2010

An old gasworks in Suvilahti, east of Helsinki city center, will be turned into a similar cultural centre as the well known Cable Factory in Helsinki. Suvilahti is renovated and developed under the leadership the Cable Factory organisation. Cirko – Center for New Circus has made a rental contract to the Suvilahti center for a building which will amount a big rehearsal space and a stage designed for circus together with office rooms. A regional center for new circus will open in Suvilahti in the beginning of 2010 with facilities for rehearsing, performing and producing. It will also offer possibilities for residencies and a library/documentation center of circus. The Finnish Circus Information Center will have it's new premises in Suvilahti Circus Center.

Own budget line for circus in the state budget for 2009

For the first time Circus will have an own budget line in the state budget in 2009. This new money will be used for subsidies for contemporary circus companies. The section for circus arts at the Arts Council of Finland has granted project support for circus since 2000.

PREMIERES

Wood Fibre–Tree's Fault with WHS

Association WHS will present their new creation in Kiasma Theatre in Helsinki on September 11. The performance *Puun syy* (Wood Fibre – Tree's Fault) investigates the relationship between humans and paper as an ingredient of culture, a natural resource and an everyday utensil that has become so commonplace that it's almost invisible. The movement of objects is merged with video projections so that it forms narrative fragments about trees, the origin of paper, our industrial culture and its living raw materials. Performances in Kiasma Theatre during September 11-28 and October 19.

WHS circus company of juggler **Ville Walo** and magician/filmmaker **Kalle Hakkarainen** makes visual theatre and contemporary circus on the metamorphosis of objects. WHS is one of the top companies of Finnish developments in the field of new circus. It tours extensively in Europe and on other continents.

Black Lion with Circo Aereo

Circo Aereo presented a new creation *Musta Leijona* (Black Lion) at the Helsinki Festival in August. Medieval poetry, a live sound world and hypnotic dance meet in Black Lion, which is a piece for two musicians, a singer and an aerial acrobat-dancer inspired by love lyrics of the medieval Islamic poet Mawlana Jalaladdin Rumi. Next performance on September 13 in Turku, Manifesti Festival <http://www.manillantehdas.fi/index.php?hiddenAction=showArticle&articleId=74>

FESTIVALS

5-3-1 Festival of New Juggling in Helsinki October 17-19.

www.531festival.com

The festival consists of workshops and demos for professionals and two shows:

Compagnie Non Nova (FR): Jongleur pas confondre

with juggler **Philippe Menard** and director-researcher **Jean-Michel Guy**

Saturday 18.10. at 19:00 in Stoa Cultural Center

WHS: Puun syy – Wood Fibre – Tree's fault

Sunday 19.10. at 15:00 in Kiasma Theatre

A Circus Festival in Tampere October 16-18.

<http://www.circusruska.com/nuorikulttuuri>

A festival for young practitioners in the field of circus and variety organized by Circus Ruska.

LECTURES AND WORKSHOPS

Finnish Circus Information Centre (FCIC) has initiated a project to spur on writing about circus. There fore a bunch of circus lectures will be given at the Helsinki University on October 20 by Jean-Michel Guy, Tomi Purovaara, Maksim Komaro and Ville Walo. Cultural journalists as well as university students are invited.

FCIC organises also a workshop on writing about circus (art criticism) for university students and circus artists in October.

NORWAY

ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Sirkunst – netwoRk for new circus in Norway applied to the Norwegian Cultural Council for a 3 year grant for developing contemporary circus in Norway. We only got a small grant to look for a space for training and productions in Oslo.

But we don't give up, so until we can get grants for a coordinator and administration of Sirkunst, Cirkus Xanti, with **Sunniva Dring** and **Sverre Waage**, are keeping Sirkunst alive as an organisation. Håvve Fjell is handling the small grant and the search for locations in Oslo, and Helga Aakre in Fredrikstad is organizing a third try of a seminar in collaboration with Sirkunst.

The circus line, subject, at the Skarnes Videregående Skole, (High School) in Skarnes, Sør Odal, the first fully developed education on this level, could not open because of lack of students.

The Circus enthusiast, musician and former revolutionary anarchist, **Henning Dahl**, died on August 18 in Oslo, 56 years old, after a long period of illness. We will miss his fire, guts and fantasies.

SWEDEN

PERFORMANCES

CIRKUS CIRKÖR'S PERFORMANCE SECTION

Cirkus Cirkör featuring Irya's playground presents
Inside out – a circus show about something as simple as life

Inside out is Cirkus Cirkör's new big production. A second and independent part of a trilogy in which we continue to explore the possibilities and impossibilities of the human body and soul. The first part *99 % unknown*, that opened in 2004, toured over the world and took the audience on a journey among cells and neurons inside the human body. With *Inside out* we step outside the body and let the circus artists' physical abilities to balance on knives edges and challenge gravity, inspire us to new ways of looking at and meeting the world around us. *Inside out* opens in Lund (the south of Sweden) on September 13th and continues to Järna, Gothenburg and Stockholm during 2008. The show will tour in Europe, Asia and North America until 2010.

Inside out is a circus show celebrating the circus arts, its technical skillfulness, magic and way to look upon life. A performance nourished by a circus heart, sparkling of awesome live music and Cirkus Cirkör's energy, warmth and humor. The show consists of 7 multi skilled circus artists and the rock band Irya's playground playing live on stage.

The tour 2008: Lund Sept 13-Oct 11. Järna Nov 6-9. Gothenburg Nov 14-16.
Stockholm Dec 09 – Jan 27.
For more information about tickets etc please check www.cirkor.se

TRAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

CIRKUS CIRKÖR'S EDUCATION SECTION

An autumn filled with training, courses and workshops for professionals, amateurs, children and youth. Please check out the details at www.cirkor.se

The training programme includes i.e.

- Open training for professional artists four days a week.
- Open training for children and amateurs once a week.
- Open house for families
- Circus courses in Botkyrka and Stockholm every week.

Nycirkusprogrammet – S:t Botvids gymnasium

A three year high school program in collaboration between Cirkus Cirkör and St. Botvids gymnasium. More information about the program: www.cirkor.se or www.stbotvidsgymnasium.se

For more information about Cirkus Cirkör's activities this year check out www.cirkor.se

PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCES

CIRKUSÅRET – A YEAR OF CIRCUS IN BOTKYRKA

Cirkusåret in Botkyrka 2008 is a year in which the municipality of Botkyrka demonstrates and puts some extra focus on circus. People interested in and outside of Botkyrka get the opportunity to take part in Swedish and international circus performances and the circus will invade public areas like squares, back yards, community centres, schools and beaches plus be served as a Saturday brunch. Cirkusåret 2008 is presented by Botkyrka kommun, Subtopia and Cirkus Cirkör.

In the spring 2008 *Traces* with Les 7 Doights de la Main was successfully presented in the Circus Hangar, about 4000 people came to see the show.

This autumn the focus is in presenting the new generation of circus artists. Fan-Atticks, KaboomKakaboomKakaboom och Kollektiv Vifira are all new circus companies "Made in Botkyrka".

Cabaret 3 with Kakaboom Kakaboom Kakaboom

A three woman show with members from Sweden and Italy. They will perform with *Cabaret 3* in Subtopia on September 6 and 27.

Box with Ung Cirkör

Ung Cirkör – a group of children and youths in the age 8-17 trained by Cirkus Cirkör.

Their show *Box* will be performed in Subtopia on October 11.

Cage with Fan-Atticks

Fan-Atticks is a circus company with members from Sweden, UK and Switzerland who all have been educated at Cirkuspiloterna. Their new show *Cage* is performed in Hallunda on October 22 and 23.

Notariegatan 17 b med Kollektiv Vifira

Kollektiv Vifira is Sweden's first circus collective with members who all have graduated from the contemporary circus program at Danshögskolan. They will perform their new show *Notariegatan 17b* in Hallunda on November 8.

Tickets to all shows: biljetter@subtopia.se, tel. +46/8-59907 572.
Read more about Cirkusåret at www.cirkusaret.se

SUBTOPIA

PREMIERES & SHOWS

As mentioned above, the Circus Year presents shows in Subtopia during the autumn. Also Clowns without Borders, that are situated in Subtopia, present a new show in November: Habibi Habibi Habibi. For info se www.cirkusaret.se.

Other companies in Subtopia are at the moment ending their summer tours and returning home: Cirkus Arts/Burnt Out Punks, Ruby Rose Productions, Sirqus Alfon.

Ongoing events outside of Subtopia:

The successful night cabaret Salong Giraff continues with shows, presenting Swedish as well as Nordic and international artists at Orienteatern in Stockholm.

SCHOOLS, WORKSHOPS, COURSES, TRAINING

The New Circus Programme at The University of Dance and the Circus High School are starting up for the semester - the university students starting their second year. The first group of Swedish University graduates completed their education in June. Next application time for the university will be in the spring 2009.

Subtopia and Cirkus Cirkör will be hosting the workshop Juggling the Arts in September and November.

The Circus Year will present some seminars on contemporary circus with speakers like f.ex **Jean-Michel Guy** in cooperation with The University of Stockholm, Department of Theatre and Dance Science.

Ongoing outside of Subtopia:

Circus Le Fou is starting a training center for professionals and semi-professionals in Nacka, situated in the Stockholm region.

CIRCUS VILLAGE

The first Swedish circus village is ceremonially opened in Botkyrka September 7th! The circus village is a cooperation between the municipality of Botkyrka and a group of circus artists who wished an alternative way of living. Subtopia is hosting the village, that consists of six circus caravans and a house. Totally 14 people from seven different countries will live in the village. Plans are to renovate an old barn on the premises to use as training space and studio. The village hopes to attract more artists and people with dreams and ideas.

For more info, contact Kiki Muukkonen, Coordinator circus and performing arts, kiki@subtopia.se. www.subtopia.se

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.

The activities in 2008 will include:

- **Newsletter.** Quarterly e-mail newsletter presenting activities within the field of Nordic Contemporary Circus.
- **Juggling the Arts.** A program offering artistic and financial support to new Nordic circus projects (further information in an Open Call proposal)
- **Linking with the European new circus network Circostrada** and take part in the meetings.
- **Publication (in english)** which outlines the new circus sector in the Nordic countries, including an overview to the development of the art form of new circus.

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 and last newsletter of 2008 comes out in November. **Dead line is 14.11.2008.**

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 info@sirkusinfo.fi
- **Norway:** Sirkunst N, nettverk for nysirkus i Norge
contact: sverre@circusxanti.no
- **Sweden:** Cirkus Cirkör Lab www.cirkor.se
contact: Pia Keller pia.keller@danshogskolan.se