

NEW NORDIC CIRCUS NETWORK

NORDIC NEWSLETTER VOL 1 /2008

19.6.2008

This is the first edition of the Nordic circus newsletter by 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 of the network. 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 beneath).

Headlines vol 1/2008

1. Presentation of New Nordic Circus Network
2. Juggling The Arts: Open call for artistic proposals for an artistic laboratory of contemporary circus artists, choreographers and theatre directors
3. Country reports: Denmark | Finland | Norway | Sweden

Attachments: Application form for Juggling the Arts

1. 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.

The partners in "New Nordic Circus" are:

- 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.

2. JUGGLING THE ARTS

OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTIC PROPOSALS FOR AN ARTISTIC LABORATORY OF CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS ARTISTS, CHOREOGRAPHERS AND THEATRE DIRECTORS

The **Network for New Nordic Circus** founded in 2007 by contemporary circus operators of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, will organise two artistic laboratories during Autumn 2008 with the title **Juggling the Arts**. One artistic project from each country is selected by the mentor team. The artists and projects selected will participate in both laboratories and will be granted a production support. The project is funded by a grant of Kulturkontakt Nord.

The partners in **Juggling the Arts** are:

- Denmark, **Copenhagen International Theatre (KIT)**. Mentor: **to be confirmed**
- Finland, **Cirko Centre for New Circus**. Mentor: juggler-director **Maksim Komaro**
- Norway, **SIRKUNST** network. Mentor: director **Sverre Waage**
- Sweden, **Cirkus Cirkör / Subtopia**. Mentor: director-professor **Tilde Björfors**
- Guest mentor: director-researcher **Jean-Michel Guy** (FR)

The objectives of **Juggling the Arts** are e.g. to:

- offer artistic and financial support to new Nordic circus projects
- to support dialogue and building of connections and networks between Nordic contemporary circus artists and programmers
- to support the development of creativity and professionalism within the contemporary circus field

Juggling the Arts give Nordic artists the opportunity to have 2 one-week residencies to work on their project. The artistic teams have the opportunity to test ideas, to get inspiration and feedback from the mentors as well as their Nordic colleagues. Afterwards the artistic teams receive a production support as well as support from the partners of the Network for New Nordic Circus in terms of presentation and distribution aid on a national, Nordic and an international level.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. An Open Call for proposals until July 15th 2008

An open call for professional Nordic artists (circus artists, circus oriented choreographers and theatre directors) to propose their artistic projects to the mentoring team. Proposals will be given through the form included in this message.

2. Selection on July 21st 2008

The criteria for the selection made by the mentoring team will be artistic. One proposal from each country will be selected. Information of the selection will be delivered to the selected applicants on July 28th 2008 at the latest.

3. Artistic laboratories

The artistic teams of the selected projects will be invited to participate to the artistic laboratories at the premises of Subtopia in Alby/ Botkyrka in Sweden in two periods. The first laboratory will take place on **September 15th-19th** and the second on **November 7th-11th 2008**.

The travel and transportation costs as well as the accommodation and meals will be covered by Juggling the Arts.

During the laboratory periods the artistic proposals will be evaluated and supported through discussions and workshops given by the mentoring team. The results of the laboratories will be presented in an open performance at the end of the second laboratory period.

4. Development work and possibilities for performing

The artistic development continues in each country with the financial aid (2500-5000 euros) granted by Juggling the Arts.

The members of the Network for New Nordic Circus will continue to support the artistic projects by trying to provide additional production aid from national sources, by international promotion of the artistic projects as well by presenting the projects in their festival programmes during 2009.

3. COUNTRY REPORTS

DENMARK

FESTIVALS & PREMIERES

NY CIRKUS FESTIVAL by Copenhagen International Theatre (KIT) is running from August 1st to 30th 2008 in Copenhagen.

The programme includes Compagnie A&O (France) with "KaO" Aug. 1st-13th; Les Colporteurs (France) with "Le fil sous la neige" Aug. 6th-10th; Samuel Gustavsson (Sweden/Denmark) with "Night for one" Aug. 12th-14th; C!RCA (Australia) with "By the light of stars that are no longer..." Aug. 15th-18th; Acrobat (Australia) with "Smaller Poorer Cheaper" Aug. 22nd-30th; Circo Aereo/ Jani Nuutinen (Finland/France) with "Un Cirque plus juste" Aug. 26th to 30th. For more information see www.kit.dk

The Danish artist **Lars Gregersen** is working on a new solo "Sisyphus Ascending" which will premiere on October 23rd at Kaleidoskop K2 in Copenhagen. Choreographer John Paul Zaccarini, dramaturge Nina L. Bassett and musician Johan Segerberg are part of the artistic team. Lars Gregersen & co just returned from a residency in Monthelon castle, France. For more information see www.glimt.info

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Under the title "Ny Cirkus Ny Kunst", Copenhagen International Theatre, the Danish Artist Union and the Academy for Untamed Creativity organised a seminar in May giving focus on Danish contemporary circus and its potentials fighting for a recognition of contemporary circus as a performing arts form. A report of the seminar results will be available in Danish in July 2008. An overview of the history of Danish new circus as well as a mapping of Danish new circus artists will be available in September. For more information contact KIT / Katrien Verwilt on kv@kit.dk

FINLAND

ORGANISATIONS

The Finnish Circus Information Center (FCIC) was established in 2006. It contributes to the artistic development and promotes the cultural and social status of Finnish circus. FCIC's activities include service and advisory work, disseminating information about the circus field in Finland. The FCIC compiles statistics and reports, organises meetings and seminars and coordinates the circus art export project, which furthers the promotion of professional circus art from Finland to abroad. The FCIC is an umbrella organisation for professional circus groups despite their orientation and has ten member organisations at the moment (Cirko – Center for New Circus, a Helsinki based production center, is one of them). The FCIC is supported by The Ministry of Education. The circus export project is funded also by The Foreign Ministry.

For more information about circus in Finland visit www.sirkusinfo.fi

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

Finnish Diabolo Convention FDC in Eräjärvi 28.-31.8.2008 with Donald Grant and Stephen Langley. Further information: www.supiainen.com/fdc/

PREMIERES

Circo Aereo: BLACK LION

A new creation by Circo Aereo at the Helsinki Festival. Medieval poetry, a live sound world and hypnotic dance meet in Black Lion, a collaboration between four different artists on stage. With Tuomas Norvio and Petri Tiainen (music and sound design), Mirva Kuivalainen (vocalist), Mirva Mäkinen (dance and aerial acrobatics). The performance builds on the poems by Islamic mystic Mawlana Jalaladdin Rumi.

Creation: the work group
 Music: Tuomas Norvio ja Petri Tiainen
 Choreography: Sanna Silvennoinen
 Light design: Juho Rahijärvi
 Costume design: Kati Mantere

Premiere on August 21 in Ateneum Hall.
 Performances August 21-31. at Helsinki Festival

http://www.helsinginjuhlaviikot.fi/index.php?option=com_grokevents&task=show_event&catid=6&id=22&Itemid=27

Circo Aereo: www.circoaereo.net

Premiere of the new creation by Association WHS (Ville Walo and Kalle Hakkarainen) in Kiasma Theatre on September 11. www.w-h-s.fi

Visit the **Gig Guide of Circus** at www.sirkusinfo.fi to find out more about the premieres in Finland and about the Finnish performances outside of Finland.

NORWAY

FINANCIAL NEWS

SIRKUNST, network for contemporary circus in Norway, got 50 000 NOK from the Norwegian Cultural Council to investigate a possible building for the use of circus production in Oslo. The resolution was given on 9th of June.

Kulta Production, contemporary circus company linked to social circus and to production center Kulta in Tromsø, got 200 000 NOK from Norwegian Cultural Council to a produce a performance with two circus artists.

WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

The new social circus center in Fredrikstad has been opened and was organising courses this spring with teachers Sergio Pilar, educated in The National Circus School in Brasil, and Rudi Jensen, educated in ESAC, Belgium.

International clown teacher Giovanni Fusetti will lead a class in Theatre Clowning in Kristiansand, Norway this summer from June 24-July 20. The class is limited to 14 students, and there are still a couple of places available. The class promises to be highly international-- thus far they have received applications from Austria, Finland, Germany, Greece, Norway, South Africa, UK and USA. The language of the workshop is English. A basic understanding is required.

The four week program will consist of the following:

THE CLOWN "STATE"-- Play, action/reaction and fun. From the Neutral Mask to the Red Nose. THE PLAY (le jeu)-- Playing with space, objects, hierarchy. Clown numbers and le bide (fiasco). THE SKILLS -- The actor's skills in the service of the clown, The writing of a Clown Number. THE SHOW-- Devising a clown variety show, & public presentation of the show.

Tuition is 950 euros.

Further information of the program, reductions and accommodation options!
www.giovanifusetti.com/html/english/clown.norway.sch

Contact Info: Name Giovanni Fusetti, phone +39-349-7130121, eMail
giovanni.fusetti@tiscali.it

SVERIGE

PREMIERES

CIRKUS CIRKÖR: INSIDE OUT

Inside Out, Cirkus Cirkör's next large scale production, is a free-standing second part in a circus trilogy, where we explore the possibilities and impossibilities of the human body. Inside out is a circus show celebrating the circus arts, it's 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.

In Inside out we follow three people, each trapped in their own definition of safety and success. One who is terrified of failure, one locked behind logic and a third trying all he can to be hard as a rock. Their worlds are turned up side down and a tremendous journey starts when meeting with a circus company of ugly, monstrous, odd but also magical, funny, warm and elegant characters. The show consists of 7 multi skilled circus artists and a live rock band featuring Irya Gmeyner who you may recognize from the band URGA that toured with the Cirkus Cirkör show TRIX.

Artistic direction and circus direction: Tilde Björfors

Composers: Irya Gmeyner and Pange Öberg

Dramaturgist: Mia Winge

Circus company: Anna Lagerkvist (pole, teeterboard etc.), Andreas Falk (teeterboard, single wheel), Jay Gilligan (object manipulation, juggling), Mirja Jauhainen (aerial acrobatics), Sanna Kopra (aerial and pair acrobatics), Siri Hamari (tight wire, magic), Fredrik Deijfen (teeterboard, chair balancing etc.) + five musicians including the singer Irya Gmeyner.

Inside Out will perform in a big top in Lund from September 13th – October 11th and will continue to Stockholm and the theatre venue Dansens Hus from December 9th – January 27th.

Further information: producer Tove Asplind, Cirkus Cirkör. Phone: +48 (0) 8 531 998 36, + 46 (0) 70 922 99 20 or e-mail: tove@cirkor.se, www.cirkor.se

ORGANISATIONS

PRESENTING SUBTOPIA

Subtopia is a culture industry and a launching pad for people with dreams and ideas within areas such as contemporary circus, performing arts, street art, motion picture and radio. The core of Subtopia lies in collaboration between culture, education, business and social engagement. This mix leads to innovation and creativity and it makes Subtopia a place of diversity. Subtopia was founded in 2002 and since then has grown from 7 organisations to almost 40 companies, education programs and pro bono organisations. Amongst the tenants are Cirkus Cirkör, Clowns Without Borders, Fanzingo Film and The University of Dance Circus Programme. Together with those and with external collaborators Subtopia carries out projects like labour market projects for people working within the cultural sector, recording studio for kids and big suburban festivals with both street art and established culture.

Subtopia is working together with the municipality of Botkyrka, Cirkus Cirkör and circus artists to create an international circus center at Subtopia. The hub will be a stage for contemporary circus and street art. It will be a home for innovative performing arts in Sweden and a residence and guest stage for contemporary circus companies from around the world. Around this we want to build a living area for circus artists and create an alliance that supports contemporary circus artists.

Further information of Subtopia: <http://subtopia.se>, kiki@subtopia.se

YEAR OF CIRCUS IN BOTKYRKA:

The year of 2008 the municipality of Botkyrka announced as a year dedicated to circus. This is a cooperation between the municipality, Cirkus Cirkör and Subtopia. During the year circus performances from around Sweden and from abroad are presented, as well as longterm strategies likework on local, national and international networks. In the autumn 2008 projects going on are f.ex the presenting of shows by local circus companies, initiating an organisation for gathering the Swedish circus sector and also initiating a Swedish information center on circus.

The Nordic Newsletter comes out four times year. For subscriptions or further information on the topics, please contact the network partner organization in your country:

- Denmark: Københavns Internationale Teater <http://www.kit.dk>
contact: Katrien Verwilt kv@kit.dk
- Finland: Finnish Circus Information Centre <http://www.sirkusinfo.fi>
contact: Johanna Mäkelä info@sirkusinfo.fi
- Norway: Sirkunst N, nettverk for nysirkus i Norge
contact: sverre@cirkusxanti.no
- Sweden: Cirkus Cirkör Lab <http://www.cirkor.se/>
contact: Pia Keller pia.keller@danshogskolan.se