

NEW NORDIC CIRCUS NETWORK

NORDIC NEWSLETTER VOL 1 /2009

26.2.2009

This is the fourth edition of the Nordic circus newsletter by the New Nordic Circus Network (NNCN) and the last one to appear as an attachment in email. The network will open a new website www.nordic-circus.org in middle of March and this newsletter will be published on the site from then onwards.

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 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 partner in your home country (contacts listed in the final part of the letter).

Headlines vol. 1/2009

1. Juggling The Arts. News
2. Other news from the Nordic Network
3. News from Denmark | Finland | Norway | Sweden
4. Presentation of New Nordic Circus Network

1. JUGGLING THE ARTS

The first co-nordic project of the NNCN brought together four new contemporary circus projects from four Nordic countries to two artistic laboratories in Botkyrka, Sweden during autumn 2008. During the five days of each laboratory session they worked with altogether five mentors on their artistic visions and goals. The projects were granted with a production support.

The projects in Juggling the Arts are:

Sweden: Niclas Stureberg with "Human Timing"

Norway: Rudi Jensen with project "Goldfish is meant for dying"

Denmark: Mille Engberg Lundt with project "SOMEWHERE/Nowhere"

Finland: Petri Tuominen, Rauli Kosonen and Kalle Lehto with project "Petit Mal" (working title)

Next the projects will be presented in the programme of Cirko Festival in Helsinki on May 9 for an audience and the jury of Jeunes Talents du Cirque Europe.

The programme of Cirko Helsinki Contemporary Circus Festival will be released on March 2nd at website www.sirkusfestivaali.net

2. NEWS FROM THE NEW NORDIC CIRCUS NETWORK

The network members and the mentors of the Juggling the Arts project had a meeting in Helsinki in January and discussed the feed back of Juggling the Arts and the future steps of the project. The participants of the Helsinki meeting were Stine Larting Degerbøl (KIT), Camilla Damkjaer (Stockholm university), Kiki Muukkonen (Sbtopia), Svere Waage (Sirkunst), Maksim Komaro (Cirko) and Tomi Purovaara (Finnish Circus Information Centre).

Juggling the Arts will be developed further in contact with Jeunes Talents du Cirque Europe (JTC) programme. The jury of JTC will visit Helsinki in May and meet the artists of Juggling the Arts.

The four Nordic projects of Juggling the Arts will be presented to audience within the Cirko Helsinki Contemporary Circus festival programme on May 9th.

The NNCN network will publish a website at www.nordic-circus.org.

Also addresses www.nordiskcirkus.org and www.nordiccircus.org will lead to the pages.

Check it out after March 15th!

3. CIRCUS NEWS BY COUNTRY

News from Denmark

DANISH CIRCUS ON WEB

The Danish Artist Union has updated and relaunched the website ny-cirkus.dk

An overview of the history of Danish contemporary circus since 1991 will be released during the coming months.

SHOWS AND PREMIERES

From 2nd-14th of March at Får302 **Camilla Becker Madsen & Michiel Van Leeuwen** presents **Dybt inde og meget langt væk** inspired of the characters of Harlekin & Columbine, and the fairytale of Hans & Grete. Reality and fantasy merge in this mixture of air acrobatics, dance and physical theater. Further information: faar302.dk

The Danish performance theatre **Cantabile 2** has once before presented shows containing contemporary circus, and this time they told John Gay's **The Beggar's Opera** with no words at all. The international performers and objects moves in Matrix-like manner in slow motion and reveals gravitational power laws. Instruction: Nullo Facchini. Music: Marilyn Mazur. Artists: Sifi Haff Andersen, Samuel Gustavsson, Anders Astrup Jensen, Mari Mägi, Nina Matthis, Christian Adelhorst Rossil, Michael Søbørg. Further information: cantabile2.dk

A new and upcoming contemporary circus company **Kompagni Kimone** presents **Nerd!** concerning human relationship. For all ages. 20th-28th of February. Artists: Mikkel Nannberg (chines pole, slack line and voltige/acrobatics) & Henriette Aarup (Handstand, clown, voltige/acrobatics). Further information: kompagnikimone.dk.

In October the Danish artist Lars Gregersen presented with great success his new solo Sisyphus Ascending at Kaleidoskop K2 in Copenhagen.

Choreographer John Paul Zaccarini, dramaturge Nina L. Bassett and musician Johan Segerberg are part of the artistic team. Further information: glimt.info

In December Copenhagen International Theatre hosted a group containing Bulgarian, French, Belgian and Danish artists participating in the workshop led by Cie Un L'Oup Pour L'Homme who at same occasion showed their Appris par Corps.

Just before Christmas the Danish artist Lars Gregersen set up the first of three cabarets Grotæstetik at Kaleidoskop K1 in Copenhagen. Instruction: Rudi Skottheim Jensen (N). Artists.: Mille Lundt, Michiel Van Leeuwen, Karl Stets, Stuart Lynch, Henriette Groht & Natalia Huidobro.

**For more information contact KIT/ Katrien Verwilt: kv@kit.dk
www.kit.dk**

News from Finland

PREMIERES AND FESTIVALS

Circo Aereo's newest creation **Camping** is premiered in Helsinki on March 11. The piece takes a bunch of artists and scientists to camping far away from the city lights. Concept and directing by Maksim Komaro, performed by musician Juuso Hannukainen, social psychologist Kristiina Janhunen, technician Reine Lukinmaa, dancer Kaisa Niemi, technician Timo Nurminen and author of non-fiction Osmo Tammisalo. Choreography by Sanna Silvennoinen together with the group. Production: Circo Aereo, Ateneum Hall & Cirko - Center for New Circus. Performances 11–22. March at Ateneum Hall, Helsinki.
www.ateneum.fi | www.circoaereo.net

Circus performances in Finland: visit the GIG GUIDE at www.sirkusinfo.fi

Cirko - Helsinki contemporary circus festival 6–13. May 2009

All four Nordic projects of the Juggling the Arts (a co-project of the Nordic network) will be presented among other high lights.

The programme is released on March 2nd on the website www.sirkusfestivaali.net

Check it out and head for Helsinki in May!

FINNISH CIRCUS ON WEB

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

OTHER EVENTS

A national discussion forum for the circus field and its funding bodies is arranged by Finnish Circus Information Centre on April 14 with title "Circus Today – Tomorrow" at Ateneum Hall in Helsinki. Minister of Culture Stefan Wallin begins the discussion on status of circus within Finnish cultural politics. The second session discusses educational policies of circus in Finland. Main administrators and officers have enrolled to the forum in addition to circus professionals. For more information please contact Finnish Circus Information Centre into@sirkusinfo.fi

Circus Today – Tomorrow forum is one events in the programme of the European Circus Day celebrations in Finland. The day was launched in 2008 by European Circus Association (ECA) and feted also in Finland for the first time. This year the day is celebrated on April 18 – in Finland during the week 14–18. April by youth circusses, companies and Sirkus Finlandia. Further information: www.europeancircus.info

News from Norway

ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

Sirkunst, (sirkunst.no) the network of Norwegian contemporary circus artists and organisations, is going to gather for a seminar in Fredrikstad on 31.5.2009 in connection with the performance Dråpen visiting Fredrikstad. Fredrikstad has an active new circus policy for children and youth through the City Community Kulturskole. They newly opened a black box rigged for circus.

PREMIERES, FESTIVALS & TOURS

A nordic circus festival is arranged in Oslo 28.02. – 01.03. 2009. It is a presentation of young circus artists and their acts. A workshop will also be arranged. The event is supported by the Norwegian Cultural Council. Tickets and workshops are all free of charge, but you have to register your name and number of tickets by e-mail nordic@globalbalancing.com

The multi-discipline project **Dråpen**, the 60 year Jubilee Performance of the **Riksteatret** in Norway, is the largest performance in Riksteatrets history and has 6 circus artists on stage. Sverre Waage has the Circus Direction of Dråpen. Two of the circus artists are from Sweden: Montreal based Gisle Henriette and Elon Höglund, just finished a 3 year contract on Cirque's Love in Las Vegas. Riksteatret has a cooperation specially with Canada on Dråpen, and all of the artists are connected to the circus in Montreal. Other artists are: Jinny Jacinto, contortionist and a Cirque du Soleil veteran, Krin Haglund, as some of you will know as a former main character in Cirque Eloize's Rain, Florent Lestage, juggler, won the audience price and silver medal in this year's Cirque de Demain in Paris, out of Ecole National de Cirque in Montreal in 2008 and Danica Gagnon-Plamondon, swing trapeze, also fresh from the circus school in Montreal 2008. Gisle, Florent and Danica are already engaged by the 7 Fingers for their next production starting in the autumn of 2009.

The theme of Riksteatrets Dråpen is the global warming and the ice melting in the arctic area. A fairy tale performance for families. Dråpen has premiere 5th of March in Kirkenes and tour 22 cities in Norway with last stop in Fredrikstad 31st of May. After that Dråpen has a 14 days performance period in June in a big top at Tusenfryd outside of Oslo. During the tour Riksteatret presents a very short "circus school" for children visiting schools or at the theatre.

Rudi Skotheim Jensen has gotten a travel grant to go to Singapore with The Goldfish project developed through our Nordic Circus Lab Juggling The Arts. He is going to Singapore 15th-30th of March 2009 and will have a premiere of the Goldfish Project in Singapore.

Pain Solution is starting the third year of FakirSkolen and the project is finished in December by the final exam of the Fakir School. This production is the last in the series of three Examination performances. During the year Pain Solution will head for the Final exam and in addition will perform with smaller productions in Norway and abroad. Pain Solution has been invited to Germany, Austria and USA in 2009. They will also co-operate with The Saviours (FI) and SwingShift SideShow (US) on developing Sideshow Seminar and SideShow Night. These arrangements were a big success in 2008. The goal is to support sideshow as a genre of performing arts.

The traditional **Cirkus Agora**, over 25 year on the road in Norway, is planning to start a touring circus without animals, but in a more theatrical way. Circus-theater, contemporary theater, new theater... Maybe with start in August. In March they start a tour with traditional circus, but without animals.

A new traditional circus is starting this year in Norway: **Cirkus Zeppelin** has premiere in Halden 28th of March in Halden. See www.cirkusvenn.no/cirkus_stoff.htm

NEW CIRCUS SCHOOL

Company KULTA in Tromsø 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.

Further information: Sverre Waage sverre@cirkusxanti.no

News from Sweden

SHOWS AND PREMIERES

CIRKUS CIRKÖR has recently finished their performance period with **INSIDE OUT** at The House of Dance in Stockholm with 34 almost sold out performances. They have planned a new period from August 14th to which they have released the tickets already. This spring they focus on preparations for a tour that will start in August and take them to various countries in Europe and to the United States.

Co-operations with municipalities in Sweden continue in Järfälla (north-west of Stockholm) and Landskrona. The artists continue to combine artistic and educational work together with children and youths within the municipalities throughout the spring.

For more info check www.cirkor.se

SUBTOPIA in co-operation with The Cirkör Lab welcomes foreign artists in residencies during the spring. The first company arrived already in February: **COMPAGNIE deFRACTO** with the French jugglers Minh Tam Kaplan and Guillaume Martinet, who will visit us several times during this year. During their visits they will give open work-in-progress presentations.

In March Subtopia will again present the popular concept **CIRCUS BRUNCH**. The 21st and 28th of March the brunch will be guested by **UNG CIRKÖR** with the show **BOX**. Ung Cirkör is a group of children and youths in the age 8-17 trained by Cirkus Cirkör.

For more info check www.subtopia.se

KOLLEKTIV VIFIRA has a residency at The House of Dance in Stockholm in March. The premiere for their new show **NOTARIEGATAN 17 B** will be at Hallunda Folkets Hus March 18th, with shows for schools March 18th and 19th. The show will also be played for schools in Härnösand in week 13, public performance Friday March 27th in Härnösand, public performance in Sundsvall Sunday March 29th. The show **BLÅSTÄLL** tours in schools, week 9 in Rinkeby and Husby in Stockholm, shows in Farsta in May. Week 35 and 36 in Västerbotten.

More shows are coming up. For more info mail vifira@gmail.com

TEATER TVÄSLÄRENTREDJE presents their new show **DOM KALLAR OSS TORRISAR** at Teater 3 in Stockholm, April 2-3rd and 8-9th. The show is about how to make humour, how tricks and magic really work and how to become irresistible. Pedagogues and inspiration consultants teach the audience things they didn't know that they want to know. Artists: Nils Davoust, Jonas Södergren, Camilla Högström. For tickets mail davoust@ownit.nu or telephone +46 70 545 68 69.

HENRY BRONETT presents **CIRKUSOPERA**. Henry Bronett is directing and has written a script to a cirkusopera with circus artists, opera singers and The Värmland Symphony. Premiere February 14th, until middle of March 2009.

For more info check www.varmlandsoperan.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, and in an exhibition/show in 2010. 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 mail info@scennova.se

TEATER TRIX presents the show GAGS, a show inspired by gags notes from late Swedish acrobat Bertil "Berra" Sandberg. Tricks and gags meet dance and movement in a poetic-humorous show, an ongoing investigation of laughter as a short route between two people. Artists: Bert Gradin, Per Dahlström. Premiere March 21st and 22nd at Rosenlundsteatern in Stockholm.

For more info mail teatertrix@yahoo.se

TRAINING, WORKSHOPS AND EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF DANCE has announced last application date for the circus education to April 1st. The education offers basic training in four disciplines: acrobatics, equilibrium, aerial and juggling, and advanced training in at least one individual discipline. Also education in other art and performance forms as well as theoretical knowledge and reflecting, to support the students individual artistic development.

For more info check www.danshogskolan.se
or contact Walter Ferrero +46 8 459 09 61

CIRKUS CIRKÖR The courses and training continue in Alby and Stockholm as usual for children and youths, for amateurs and professionals. In March Cirkus Cirkör will also release a book about their experiences from circus training with children with disabilities. For more info check www.cirkor.se

CIRCUS LE FOU has now started their training center for professionals, semi-professionals and amateurs in Nacka, situated in the Stockholm region. Times and prices are online at www.circuslefou.se.

STOCKHOLMS ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ARTS (Teaterhögskolan) is organizing a one-year Master's programs with the theme of „Laughter Without Borders“. This training is intended as a study of the possibility of using comedy artistry to spread laughter, joy and hope in refugee camps and disaster areas. The program is organized in cooperation with the organization CLOWNS WITHOUT BORDERS and will start in the autumn of 2009.

Teachers will be P Nalle Laanela, Pelle Hanaeus and Camilla Damkjaer.

Last day to apply is April 13th.

For more info, see http://www.teaterhogskolan.se/web/Vill_du_ga_ett_magisterprogram.aspx

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

Swedish circus artists, companies and producers have now created a national Swedish association for circus, variété and street performance, with the purpose to work for the benefit and development of professionals and organizations in these art forms. The organization has been named **MANEGEN** – Center for circus, variété and street performance. March 14th Manegen arranges a first national professional meeting in Subtopia.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact Kiki Muukkonen at Subtopia, kiki@subtopia.se

RESEARCH

New circus crossing boundaries in arts and society

Tilde Björfors is professor in circus at the University college of Dance where she runs a cross disciplinary artistic research project called: New circus crossing boundaries in arts and society. The research looks at the concept of risk and risk-taking in the circus disciplines.

Jan 26th 2009 she hosted a seminar regarding artistic research. An afternoon that pointed out the need to create such a forum. More seminars are to come.

French jugglers **Minh Tam Kaplan** and **Guillaume Martinet** (Compagnie de Fracto) are part of the research in a residency co-hosted by Subtopia. They were in Alby Feb 3rd-13th and will return several times in the spring 2009.

During Inside Out's run at the House of Dance in Stockholm an audience survey was made that will result in a report from fellow researchers Emma Stenström and Helene Båtshake - from the points of view of culture-economics and pedagogy

Another report will be written by Camilla Damkjaer on Tilde Björfors' work with developing Inside Out.

A workshop on interpretation and choreography in circus will be held in April featuring professor's and choreographer's Cristina Caprioli and Cecilia Roos.

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



norden

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 March.

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
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- **Norway:** Sirkunst N, nettverk for nysirkus i Norge
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