

Press release 19.9.2018



The performances at Baltic Circle festival radiate intimacy and the fragility of life

The international theatre festival Baltic Circle takes place in Helsinki again November 13-18, 2018. The program consists of premieres from Finnish theatre reformers, international guest performances and co-productions from Australia, Canada and Russia, poetry and spoken word as well as performative club nights.

“This year at the festival we embrace vital vulnerabilities: the artworks make visible the vulnerability of humans, society and ecosystems and therefore call to be met with empathy and care. At the core of these works lie the body and body politics – different past, present and future bodies with their desires, struggles and possible manifestations”, says **Satu Herrala**, artistic director of Baltic Circle.

Premiering at the festival, the installation-performance *Thresholds* arises from uncanny experiences that surpass our everyday experience. A team of pan-Nordic performance artists brought together by **Sinna Virtanen**, **Anni Klein** and **Heidi Soidinsalo**, entices the audience to view their everyday surroundings differently and to embrace the uncanny. Letters deriving from a multidisciplinary research project, *The Mind and the Other*, led by professor **Marja-Liisa Honkasalo** serve as source material for the piece.

Baltic Circle’s other Finnish premiere draws likewise from everyday life. Dramaturg and director **Katariina Numminen’s** piece *Asu (A Rhyme for the Stage)* inspects dressing and undressing as basic functions of life and performance. Intimacy, care, erotics and performance itself weave into the relationship between body and garment.

Documentary theatre piece *Death at Work* by theatre director **Semion Aleksandovsky** from St. Petersburg and visual artist **Ksenia Peretrakhina** from Moscow combines two distinct rituals: a funeral and a theatre performance. Premiering at Baltic Circle, the piece approaches the subject of death via routines and practicalities. It brings different professionals working with death and the dying such as a gravedigger, priest, cantor and a funeral home worker on stage.

This year Baltic Circle collaborates with Espoo City Theatre for the first time. *All the Sex I've Ever Had*, a piece by Canadian-German collective **Mammalian Diving Reflex**, features local seniors, who share stories and wisdom about past and present loves, sexuality and its developments, as well as challenges and pleasures that come with romantic relationships.

The festival is a platform for resistance through dreaming and writing. *We Should All Be Dreaming* by **Sonya Lindfors** and **Maryam Abdulkarim** functions as a strategic base for soft resistance, making way for communal coexistence. It invites the participants around the dinner table to imagine radical utopian futures together. These themes will also be discussed in a *WSABD* public talk on the closing day of the festival.

In her work, the poet **Athena Farrokhzad** addresses issues of language, desire and heritage in the contexts of revolution, war, immigration and racism. Her texts will be heard in a reading organized in collaboration with culture magazine Kontur, which then continues as a club night dedicated to poetry and spoken word. Farrokhzad, who lives in Stockholm and is invited to Helsinki by the theatre group **Blaue Frau**, will in addition direct a workshop where writing as a possibility to change individuals and communities is examined.

In addition, Baltic Circle brings to Finland the Sydney-based dancer and choreographer **Angela Goh** with two solo works, *Desert Body Creep* and *Uncanny Valley Girl*, in which apocalyptic beings and techno-feminist hybrid bodies operate. This is the first time these pieces are shown in Europe.

The collaboration of Baltic Circle and *What the Cirk?* programme of Cirko – Center for New Circus continues this year in the form of a club night. Located in Cirko's Maneesi space, at night the festival center transforms into a club with program from **Recover Laboratory**, known for their immersive shows, and **MYÖS**-collective, which develops diverse and inclusive club culture. **Maija Hirvanen's** *Carnaval*-project will tune the festival-goers into the week at the Opening Event on Tuesday.

The program as a whole can be explored on the festival website www.balticcircle.fi

Baltic Circle is an international theatre festival, which creates intensities into the city, takes a stand on current issues and ignites dialogue. The festival offers a space for artists to imagine and experiment what theatre and performing arts could be and the audience a possibility to encounter the rising tides in performance. The main organizer of Baltic Circle, which was formed in 2000, is Q-teatteri.

Ticket sales for Baltic Circle at Tiketti and Q-teatteri has begun.

Tickets 20 € / 12* €

Festival Pass (incl. 6 tickets) 105 € / 60* €, for sale until 26.10.

* student, pensioner (excl. *All the Sex I've Ever Had*), unemployed, conscript / civil servant, arts professional

Excluding the Death at Work -performance, when purchasing through Tiketti, the prices do not include the service fee. Other single tickets from Tiketti 13,50-22,50 eur.

balticcircle.fi

facebook.com/balticcircle

instagram.com/balticcircle

Press images:

balticcircle.fi/media or by e-mail johanna@balticcircle.fi

For more information:

Johanna Salmela

Communications Manager

johanna@balticcircle.fi

+358 40 572 3213

Interview requests and press tickets:

Sebastian Hornborg

Press Officer

sebastian@balticcircle.fi

+358 44 086 6955