

# CIRCUS

I LOVE YOU

Annual report 2020

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**An utopian circus:** a travelling venue where acrobats gather to express a dreamed vision of the world

**An acrobatic action:** an action that combines high risk with extreme mastery of risk management leading into a complex happening

**A vegan circus :** a circus not displaying any animals, proposing vegan food for its staff and audience, and taking action to minimize the ecological impact of cultural events



# Swimming in the mud

After the great success of 2019, Circus I love you AB was prepared for an epic year 2020. The touring shows had gathered great visibility thus leading to a promising big tour for most of the following year. The team was solid and willing to continue more than ever. New projects were blooming. All this was not expecting the interference of a pandemic. Finally, only the tour of January could take place, and the rest of the year's tour got completely canceled. This is not only tragic for Circus I love you, but also to the entire field of performing arts globally.

## What is Circus I love you without the possibility of performing ?

Circus I love you works on the experience, the real, the ephemeral, the risk of failure that exists in acrobatic actions as well as in any actions performed live for someone. These qualities are in complete opposition with video work. Moreover, Circus I love you is team work, and our team is a team of acrobats and not movie makers. Therefore not giving into a certain social pressure that washed over the performing arts field, the company did not provide the internet with videos of live works.

### Sharpening the tools

There are so many things to be done on the side of performing, and the starting of Circus I love you went so fast that it was easy to find relevant things to do. So all the tools have been put on the table and sharpened one after one, including but not limited to : digital tools, logistic tools, organisational tools, further education of the crew members, networks, training, marketing tools, production tools...

### Teaching

In 2020, a bigger proportion of the work of Circus I love you went into teaching, both on the hobby level and on the university level.

### Performing anyway

It has been possible to be part and co-organize of some events despite of the context. Those performances were very light in terms of organisation, logistics and technique, and popped up at the last minute. Circus I love you was ready to jump on any occasion to get to share some circus with an audience.

### Creations and projects

No creation residency was originally planned for 2020. However, some projects started to slowly bake already in 2019. The performance I love you two, which was planned to premier in 2022, and that so far keeps this schedule, has gone very much forward on the conceptual, writing and production level.

Most of the residencies for creation are planned, and a first tour is already taking shape with our collaborators. The other new project Utopia got first planned for 2020, then postponed to 2021 because of a lack of fundings. Finally as the tour of 2020 started to disappear, this opened up possibilities to start to work on the project anyway. The economical situation still did not allow Circus I love you to organize a creation residency with the entire crew, but the composing of the music as well as the construction of the scenography went very much forward.



# CIRCUS

I LOVE YOU

PARKING DE LA HALLE  
À CHÂTEAUDUN

**ANNULÉ**

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VOS PLACES  
DÈS  
MAINTENANT

> 5  
AVRIL  
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un spectacle réjouissant  
pour toute la famille !

réservations : [circusiloveyou.com](http://circusiloveyou.com)



# Performing, performing, performing

As the company's main focus is sharing the creations, meeting with the audience and spreading its vision of circus, it had to happen in one way or another. In this context, Circus I love you has sought collaborations in places where the pandemic was less vivid, and where cultural events could still happen, like in Greece and Slovenia. The second option was to be in contact with organizers making site specific outdoor events. Since the places allowed to programme outdoor performances would firstly contact companies doing existing performances for outdoors, site specific was the only opportunity to perform while including a creation period.

In this context there was in July a "Carte Blanche" by the municipality of Rennes (FR) for performances that should take place in 4 different parks of the town. In beginning of October, a collaboration with the circus festival Rdeči Revirji of Hrastnik (SL) allowed Julien Auger and Sade Kamppila to perform a short perefiguration of the work of I love you two in the city theater and in public space. Circus I love you was also part of the Sea Clowns project for 3 weeks. Sea Clowns is a sailing circus touring the Greek islands and performing on the boat in the harbours.



# Sharing the knowledge

## Circus on the street

Every Wednesday for 3 hours between mid-June and beginning of September, Circus I love you gave circus try out for free on the streets in Stockholm. All ages were welcome, mainly kids with parents or grandparents showed up. An average of 60 people per try out showed up. The parents / grandparents were often playing just as much as the kids, sometimes even juggling or doing acrobatics together. This workshops have been organized in collaboration with the Ilcafé, with some material borrowed from Cirkus Cirkör, and was led by one of the following circus teachers at a time: Pelle Tillö, Virginia Librado, Hedvig Säterberg, Rasmus Wurm, Santiago Ruiz Albalade, Mira Leonard.

## Skapande skola

In June, Circus I love you organized 3 days of workshops led by Pelle Tillö and Franziska Kusebauch for 75 kids of the grade 2 of Ribbybergsskolan (Västerhaninge).

## SKH

During the spring, Julien Auger and Sade Kamppila have led an online management course of 2 weeks to the 3rd year BA students of the the circus department of Stockholm Kungliga Högskola. Each student would be helped to define a professional project, and would enter a role play simulating professional email communication. Julien Auger and Sade kamppila would take the role of the programmer, grant giver or other, and give answers based on real past experiences, thus giving to the students a peek on the professional field of contemporary circus.

## Tutorials

Since developing a circus is not a common thing to do, it is hard to get specific help online. Circus I love you started to make circus specific tutorials and publish them on its own website.





# I love you two

This creation named I love you two is a combination of several different 20 minute duo performances.

The duos performing in I love you two come from different paths, but all unite in having made the choice of a nomad circus life, constantly touring on the road in order to make a living as a performing artist. Some of them are romantic couples in life, others working closely together. All of them share a type of love with the other, that is also reflected in the work they do. All of them represent first generation circus nomads, living on the border of society a life different from the norm of their representative age groups due to their choice of career.

For I love you two, all the couples get to independently create their duo performance. Everyone will follow a set of tasks for practical stage arrangements, performance length and agree to create a circus performance.

## Space

The circus tent of Circus I love you, an 8 meter round circular stage with a free height of 8 meters. The performances will play for a circular audience.

## Form

A duo performance that is 20 minutes long. No age restrictions for audience. No audience restrictions due to language.

## Technical requirements

The light and sound equipment of the company are in use for every performance. All the couples will participate in the rig up and down of the circus tent and join the tour in their caravans. Aerial disciplines and rigging possibilities available. The shows cannot have a long set up or rig down time in order for them to be presented one after another.

Currently the creation is initiated with 3 duos: Philomene Perrenord and Felix Greif, Sade Kamppila and Julien Auger, Benoît Fauchier and Oskar Rask, and the musician duo Thibaud Rancoeur and Periklis Dazy. This makes that the crew on tour will be very similar to Circus I love you, creating a very convenient situation for the company to tour the two performances simultaneously.



# Utopia

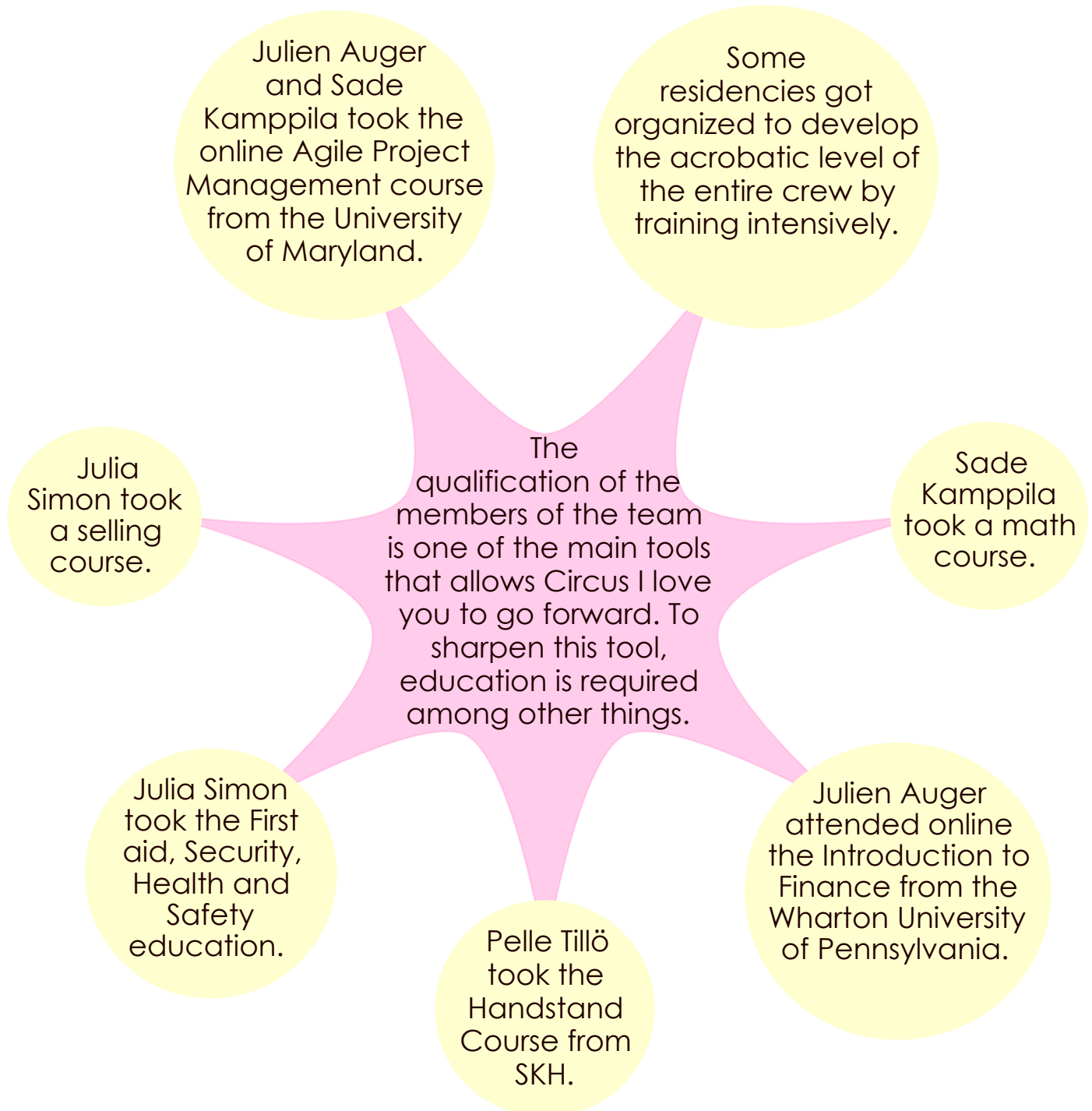
Utopia is the name of the small touring circus of Circus I love you. This show takes on the challenge of bringing as much musical and acrobatic content as possible into a very small circus tent. The main motivation of this project is to bring our circus to smaller towns and schools.

**Sweet like condensed milk,  
Cute like a bunny,  
Strong like a wild  
strawberry.**

Utopia is a new artistic creation, that uses the same concept of combining acrobatic actions with a live music composition as the performance Circus I love you. The 5 artists are this time working with the technical constraints of the new smaller circus tent Circus I love you AB bought during 2020. The 13m round tent has a stage of 5 meters and an audience capacity of 149 people, making the space ideal for creating tours in smaller cities and towns, concentrating more on school performances and working on the ground level to install circus tent tours into Sweden. As Utopia is co-produced by the long-term collaborator of Circus I love you, Finnish Sirkus Aikamoinen, a tour in Finland reaching into smaller cities is also planned.

The artists of Utopia are Julien Auger, Benoît Fauchier, Thibaud Rancoeur, Sade Kamppila and Oskar Rask. On tour will also be producer Julia Simon and administrator Pelle Tillö, the two of whom will also act as the harbingers of the tour. The circus repertoire of the show will be composed of collective acrobatics and hand to hand, roller skating, teeterboard, washington trapeze, handstands, perch acrobatics, juggling, hair hanging, cyr wheel, spiral manipulation and acrobatic usage of the musical instruments.

# Never too qualified





# A tool box shiny shiny

Here comes a quick look into the thorough work that has been going on in the organisation of Circus I love you during 2020.

## Accounting process

The accounting process of the company has been remolded in order to do the job better and faster, thus making Pelle Tillö more available for other tasks.

## Ticket selling platform

The company has now developed its own ticket selling platform both at the door and online. This took a great deal of time and energy, but should pay back very fast in the future since this allows the company to avoid paying for an external service.

## Contact list

The contact list handling of the company has been redesigned in order to do the job better and faster, thus making Julia Simon more available for other tasks.

## Video

In a time where traveling is highly restricted and that performing is impossible, it has become a necessity to have a good video edit of the show Circus I love you. This was achieved in collaboration with Double Take Cinematic Circus.

## Logistics

One necessary element to touring with a circus is toilet and shower access for the crew. This task was so far delegated to venues and festival organizers. In order to organize its own events, Circus I love you designed a portable toilet and shower module that fits in one of the trucks, and that can be pushed around even on agricultural land.

## Networking

Networking is now mostly happening online through video conferences and meetings. Circus I love you has actively taken part in all possible meetings in order to keep in contact with the field, and even find new partnerships. Circus I love you was also present for networking purposes at the festival Circa that took place (!) in Auch in October 2020.

# Marketing development

Since one of the goals of 2020 was to develop the capacity of the company to "self-produce", one mission towards that goal that was still possible to do in 2020 was to update the marketing material accordingly.

## Poster

So far working mostly under a contract with festivals and venues, the task of making a poster was delegated until now. Circus I love you has now done all the relevant actions in order to have a poster type of its own.

## A led screen

A tent in a town does not help to get audience if no one knows some basic information about it like: the name of the circus, the time and price of the show... In order to fix this, Circus I love you made from basic electronic components and programming knowledge a 4m wide led screen that will be placed on top of the arch of the tent.

## A shiny truck

Circus I love you is not a traditional circus, but it is clear that coming with a circus in a town forms certain expectations in the audience. The convoi is the first thing that is seen from the circus arriving in town. It is therefore important to give a clear and good first impression as well as to represent the company. With this logic, Circus I love you repainted the truck that is going to pull Utopia so it would look new, esthetically coherent with the circus, and so it would have the logo and the website written on it to invite people to find out more about the circus.

## Website

Circus I love you has also completely updated its website and translated it into 3 languages. The main update was to make two clear paths for the visitor in order for the right person to find the right information. One path is for the professionals of the circus field, and another path is for the audience leading all the way to a web shop to buy tickets for the show.



# Corona owards

## Quick summary of the canceled tour of 2020...

UP ! Festival - Bruxelles - Belgium - 5 shows  
Châteaudun - France - 3 shows  
Festival Le Quai - Angers - France - 3 shows  
Festival PERPLX - Kortrijk - Belgium - 4 shows  
Nevers - France - 9 shows  
Festival rue des étoiles - Biscarrosse - France - 4 shows  
Dynamo Festival - Odense - Denmark - 3 shows  
Ullared - Sweden - 3 shows  
GDTF - Göteborg - Sweden - 3 shows  
CIRK! - Aalst - Belgium 4 shows  
Muhlouse - France - 9 shows  
Atoll Festival - Karlsruhe - Germany - 3 shows  
Goussainville - France - 3 shows  
Winterfest - Salzburg - Austria - 30 shows

...and the planned ones that did not even get organized

Växjö - Sweden - 7 shows  
Höör - Sweden - 7 shows  
Svedala - Sweden - 7 shows  
Hässleholm - Sweden - 7 shows  
Muhlouse - France - 9 shows

**A total of 123 shows that did not happen for  
an estimated (based on the audience  
average of 2019) amount of 42 700 people  
that should have been reached by the  
shows !**

At the end, a lot of things have been achieved during 2020, but most of the time and energy of the company has been used into handling cancellations, postponing, renegotiating, adapting to new rules, writing and negotiation of corona clauses, etc...



# Statistics 2020

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Circus I love you (the show)

months on tour: 0

cities: 0

performances: 0

audience reached: 0

100% Circus

months on tour: 1

cities: 4

performances: 4

audience reached: 2 200

Smaller projects

cities: 4

performances: 9

audience reached: 750

Workshops

audience reached: 935

Total audience reached: 3 885 people.

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