



CIRCUS

I LOVE YOU

Annual report 2021

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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

The circus meets the audience again

After the Covid-19 restrictions temporarily killed all of performing arts during 2020, Circus I love you managed to get back on its feet during 2021. While international touring was still on hold in the beginning of the year, the company initiated a new creation into its freshly bought 13-meter round circus tent during the spring season 2021. Utopia premiered in May in Gävle. The larger tent of the company was brought out of hibernation in July, as Circus I love you started its tour again in Biscarrosse, France. Within just 2 weeks, the company's agenda went from being completely empty to being full booked until the end of November!

Audience

During 2021, Circus I love you toured with 2 different performances and the concert in 4 countries. In addition to these performances, the crew created a special all night event for La Nuit du Cirque Brussels #3 in collaboration with UP - Circus & Performing arts.

The audience reached was somewhat smaller from the last active tour of 2019, totalling over 12 000 people. This is explained by the various audience restrictions because of Covid-19 that were active during the company's tours.

In total the company had 28 weeks of activity with the crew on site during the year, out of which 10 were spent in residency working on new performances, and the rest playing performances.

Artists and programmers

Circus I love you was present at the two most valuable networking opportunities of the European circus market for the company during 2021, Subcase Cyber online event in February and Circa-festival in Auch, France in October.

At Subcase Cyber, which was extraordinarily organized online because of Covid, Circus I love you presented the upcoming performance Utopia as a pre-recorded video pitch. At Circa, the company presented a pitch of project in creation, I love you two, at the Artcena project presentations with the project's supporting venue's representative (Catherine Magis from UP - Circus & Performing arts).

Both events allowed the company to find future collaborators and raise interest in the upcoming projects of Circus I love you.

Press

Circus I love you made it into the newspapers and radio several times during the 2021 season.

The first action inspiring media coverage was the company's installation in Klippan. Circus I love you bought a parking lot in Klippan to be used as a logistic center and storage, and the local newspaper Helsingborgs Dagsblad and radio P4 Klippan came to welcome the first local circus company with an interview.

HD wrote also about Utopia playing in Kvidinge, Gefle Dagblad and local radio P4 about Utopia in Gävle, and Circus I love you was written about in Biscarrosse, Szenic- and Wochenblatt-newspapers in Karlsruhe and MAD-, Le Vif- and La Libre Belgique-newspapers in Brussels.



Circus I love you - tour continues

Circus I love you was the first creation of the company. The performance has toured now for 3 seasons: 2018, 2019 and 2021. The performance has visited so far cities in Sweden, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Lithuania. In 2021, Circus I love you performed in Festival Rue des Etoiles Biscarosse, Cirk! Festival Aalst, Atoll Festival Karlsruhe, Briscope Brignais, and UP - Circus & Performing arts.

The resurrection of the performance did not seem certain at the beginning of the year, since the project had a gradual flow of cancelled contracts since March 2020. However, the planned commitments the performance had managed to fit in the moments when the specific countries were taking away their Covid-restrictions! The tent was rigged up after 19 months of no use in July in France, and during the tour of August-September the company managed to build a 1,5 month long collaboration with UP -Circus & Performing arts in Brussels for October-November.

During the tour of 2021 the performance was sometimes played to restricted amounts of audience, and depending on the performance place and current protocols there were sometimes testing or controlling of Covid-QR-codes. Circus I love you was greatly adapting to all these different situations of audience management in collaboration with the organizers.

The collaboration with UP - Circus & Performing arts was the most noteworthy contract of the company for the season 2021, as the performance Circus I love you was played 16 times, the company stayed in residency for 2 weeks to create I love you two, and created during one week with the local artists a special all night -performance for the international multi-venue contemporary circus event La Nuit du Cirque #3 Bruxelles.

"Our performance is a cross-composition of live music and circus arts, using the composition tools of long musical pieces like progressive rock, jazz or classical music. The performers of Circus I love you are 8 swiss army knife -acrobat/musicians from all corners of Europe. Our circus is absurd, death defying, simple and happy. We direct our power of action into a family friendly show promoting peace and love."

Utopia - installing a local touring circus

Circus I love you noticed during the tour of 2018, that in order to invade Sweden with their tent-tours, a new approach was necessary. The logistic plan and necessary audience outreach to make the tour with the large tent economically sustainable did not match with the current reality in Sweden. This is why in 2020 the company invested in a 13m round circus tent for 150 audience members.

Inside this new smaller tent, a new performance aimed specifically for Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway was created. The touring crew would be 7 people, who would take care of everything from performing, rigging up and down to harbinging and contacting the municipalities. The performance would play 7 times each week, creating a sustainable rythm and an adequate audience reach to finance the tour in the future. The tour with the small tent is inspired by the way traditional circuses work, aiming to also function without the support of other culture organizations, connecting directly with the audiences.

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

Utopia, the first performance to tour with the 13m round tent, was created in residency at Gasklockorna Gävle during April and May 2021. The performance premiered during the moment when a maximum of 50 people were allowed in the audience due to Covid-19. The performance toured during May and June in Gävle, Bollnäs and Mariestad, and later in August with an audience restriction of 90 people in Kvidinge, Landskrona and Eslöv.

This tour did not yet make the company break even, but was a promising start to Circus I love you self-producing performances and taking over the Nordic Countries. As the company is still in the phase of gathering marketing knowledge, and as audience restrictions also made breaking even impossible, Circus I love you is optimistic for the future success, and will continue developing and learning during the tour of Utopia during 2022.

The creation of Utopia was supported by Sirkus Aikamoinen's development project for touring modalities in the Nordic Countries. The collaboration with Sirkus Aikamoinen is continuous, as both companies share the same ambition of organizing sustainable circus tours in the Nordic Countries and reviving the tradition of the circus coming to town.

What motivates the actions of Circus I love you?

Showing reality / Not hiding is the major quality of the circus performer. Circus cannot fake high stakes. The performer cannot pretend to be or to do anything else than what is happening.

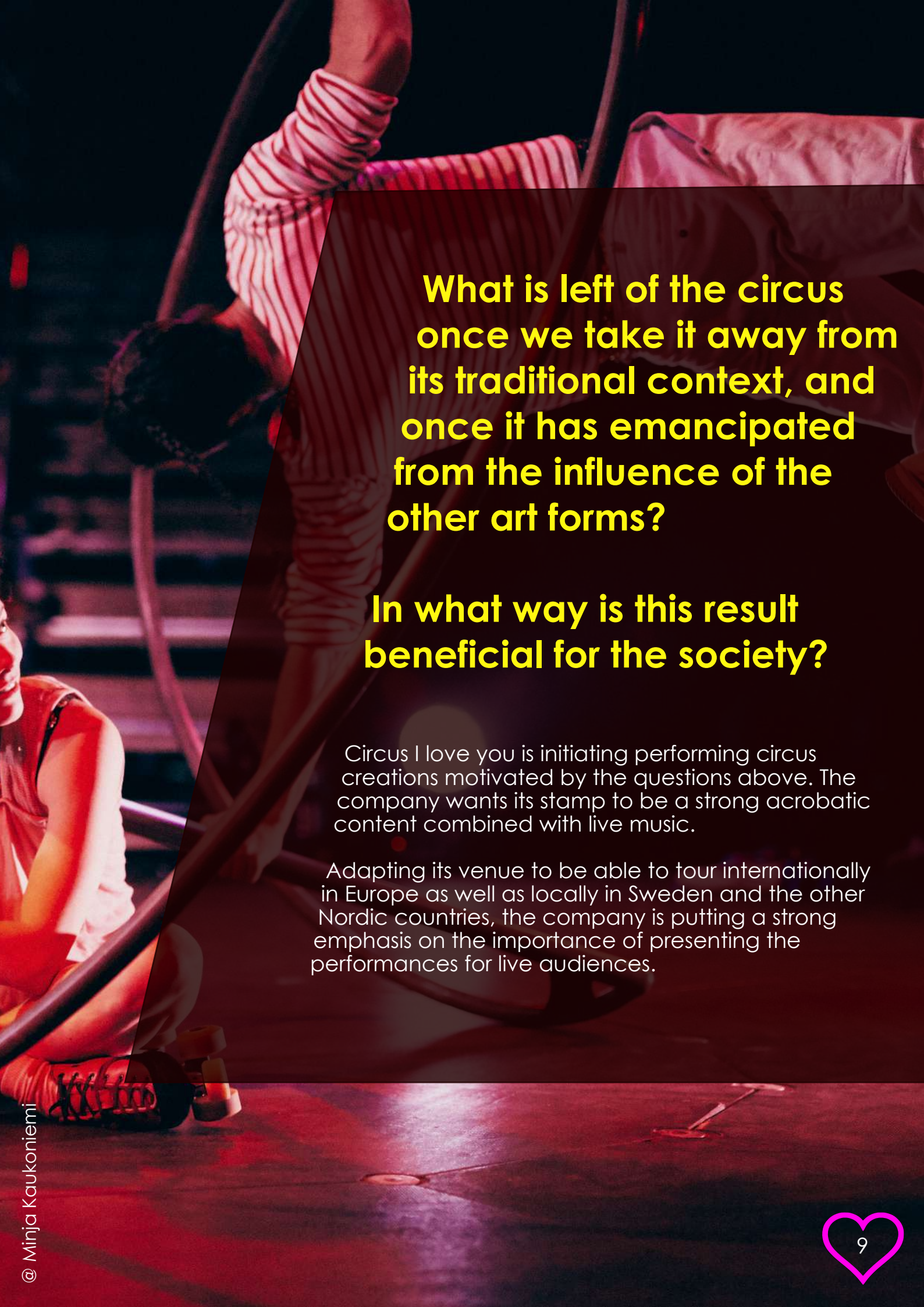
Questioning people's relation to death and failure / If circus cannot fake high stakes, it can make it happen for real. This is why the tension towards failure has been in a big focus in circus performances. It could be just related to pride (a juggler dropping an object), but also about death (an acrobat performing a physical stunt). We believe that the fear of failure prevents people from trying. The fear of the unknown prevents people from initiating adventures, or demonstrating what they believe is important. The acrobat is a Joker, a mirror to every people in the audience that can question what is important in life.

Love / If circus can be a tool for making people reflects on their life, then, the main high stake that we want to display on stage is love. The love will not be acted, the audience does not need to understand it. It will be present and shown, and the audience will feel it.

Music & Circus / Music and circus have many similarities. Both carry a long learning process to master the discipline, both work with the body and with objects (instruments) outside the body. Both communicate emotions, energies, and ideas wordlessly, and can thus provide an easy access for enjoying the show to a wide audience whether you are an expert or a first timer.

Travel / Circus I love you states for creations in circus tents. By the nomad life-style and by having an own mobile venue, we have a mean to reach new audiences, a space welcoming artistic research and proposition of a new action model for contemporary circus.





**What is left of the circus
once we take it away from
its traditional context, and
once it has emancipated
from the influence of the
other art forms?**

**In what way is this result
beneficial for the society?**

Circus I love you is initiating performing circus creations motivated by the questions above. The company wants its stamp to be a strong acrobatic content combined with live music.

Adapting its venue to be able to tour internationally in Europe as well as locally in Sweden and the other Nordic countries, the company is putting a strong emphasis on the importance of presenting the performances for live audiences.

Additional activities



Circus I love you proposes to the organizers booking the company's performances a palette of other activities to happen on the side of the performances. During 2021, these add-ons were quite popular! Julia Simon visited schools in Brignais, delivering to the students a class about Circus I love you, the elements of circus present in the performance and participative activities. Simon also organized several guided visits of the tent and circus camp for audience members wanting to deepen their understanding of the touring life.

After school performances, the crew stayed on stage to answer the questions of the audience in Brignais and Brussels. In Brignais the municipality hosted in collaboration with Circus I love you a VIP-breakfast gathering for the elected municipal politicians and culture actors of the region.

As the crews of the Circus I love you shows are composed of acrobat/musicians, the company is also proposing to organizers to book a concert. The crew has rehearsed a repertoire mixing traditional balkan and klezmer music with some rap, swing and calypso to guarantee a dancing mood and good party vibes.

During 2021, the concert was played at Festival Rue des Etoiles in Biscarrosse, France. For La Nuit du Cirque Brussels #3, the company created a special event of the concert continuing into a karaoke evening hosted by Circus I love you.

2021 - Still a few Covid-19 cancellations

100 % Circus was finally the only performance of 2021 that got cancelled because of the pandemic. The performance was supposed to tour Bretagne in France, and Denmark, but the performances were all postponed to Spring 2022.

The show by Mikkel Hobitz and Julien Auger, both members of the original Circus I love you crew, premiered on the 27th of January 2017 in Landskrona. Circus I love you took over in 2019 the administration of the show 100% Circus. The performance is steadily playing around 20 performances every winter season in theaters.



@ Minja Kaukonieni

I love you two

The creation process was started during September 2021 in residency at Espace Peripherique, Paris, France. The company met for 4 weeks with the new team, worked on researching acrobatic technique, composing music and rehearsing the concert setlist together. The creation continued in UP - Circus & Performing arts in Brussels, Belgium in November 2021 for 2 more weeks. The project was presented for the circus field professionals and programmers at Circa Festival in the Artcena project presentation in October 2021.

What can be expected

This creation named I love you two is a combination of 3 different 20 minute duo performances accompanied each by live music.

The crew of Circus I love you two will remain nearly the same for this second creation for the large circus tent of the company. The crew contains two newcomers, Philomène Perrenoud and Felix Greif, who have previously worked in Cirkus Cirkör's performance Bloom, directed by Auger and Kamppila from Circus I love you.

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. The performances will not include text to avoid language barriers. The live band will consist of all the acrobats not currently performing their duo. The gradin and music platforms of the tent will be re-arranged in a horseshoe shape, providing a different interior design compared to Circus I love you. All the duos will participate in the rig up and down of the circus tent and join the tour in their caravans.

Currently the creation is initiated with 3 duos: Philomène Perrenoud and Felix Greif, Sade Kamppila and Julien Auger, Benoît Fauchier and Oskar Rask, and the musician duo Thibaud Rancoeur and Periklis Dazy. As the crew is similar to Circus I love you touring crew, the company has the possibility to tour both performances simultaneously.

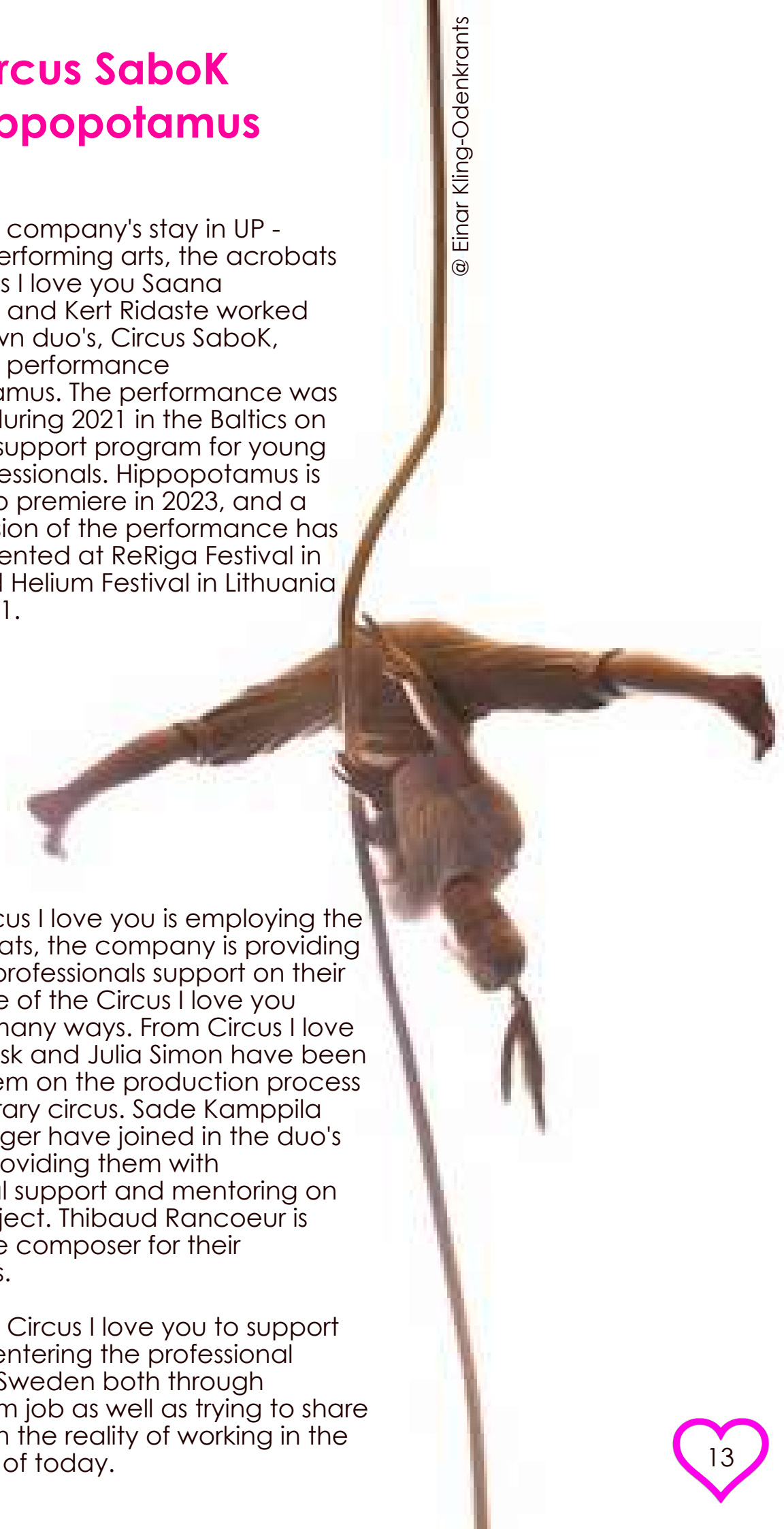
Circus Sabok Hippopotamus

During the company's stay in UP - Circus & Performing arts, the acrobats from Circus I love you Saana Leppänen and Kert Ridaste worked on their own duo's, Circus Sabok, upcoming performance Hippopotamus. The performance was selected during 2021 in the Baltics on the road -support program for young Baltic professionals. Hippopotamus is planned to premiere in 2023, and a demo version of the performance has been presented at ReRiga Festival in Latvia and Helium Festival in Lithuania during 2021.

As well as Circus I love you is employing the duo as acrobats, the company is providing these young professionals support on their career outside of the Circus I love you company in many ways. From Circus I love you, Oskar Rask and Julia Simon have been mentoring them on the production process of contemporary circus. Sade Kamppila and Julien Auger have joined in the duo's residencies providing them with dramaturgical support and mentoring on leading a project. Thibaud Rancoeur is working as the composer for their performances.

It is the aim of Circus I love you to support young artists entering the professional circus field in Sweden both through providing them job as well as trying to share information on the reality of working in the circus market of today.

@ Einar Kling-Odenkrants



To be able to tour completely independently with both the 500-seat as well as the 150-seat circus tent, Circus I love you needed to upgrade its logistic plan. This has led to investments:

-The biggest investment of the year was the company buying a parking lot in Klippan, Skåne. The 4000 m² lot includes a 2500 m² fenced area partially covered with tarmac to store the company's trucks and tents when not on tour. The company installed also a container for safe and weather proof storage of equipment. As Circus I love you is at the moment touring with only one project at a time, it was essential to upgrade the storage plan of the company.

The location is perfect for an internationally touring Swedish company; a 15 minute drive to road E4 provides quick access to the rest of Sweden, and both the bridge towards Denmark as well as a ferry connection to Travemünde and thus further South in Europe are less than 2 hours of drive away. Klippan is also a 2 hour train ride away from Copenhagen's international airport, and the parking of Circus I love you is walking distance from the train station, making it accessible for the employees even without a car.

2021 - investing in logistics

-The truck that served 2019-2021 as the transporter of circus equipment, the kitchen and the shower-toilet was decided to be sold in the beginning of 2022. Instead of this vehicle the company bought a tractor unit and a semi-trailer.

-All the loading of the trucks of the company happened by hand until the end of 2021. In the end of 2021 the company invested in a Manitou telescopic forklift to carry out the loading and unloading of the trucks and help with the tent rig up. From the beginning of 2022 the plan of loading was done again, packing all of the belongings of the company on pallets.

-As the forklift allows the company to unload heavier objects than before, Circus I love you invested in two new small containers that pack inside the semi-trailer. One was a small kitchen container, the other a sanitary container with a shower and a toilet.

-These investments both improve the quality of life on tour of the crew, make the rig up and down of the circus tents less heavy for everyone participating, as well as turn the performances of Circus I love you more attractive to programmers, since the technical demands and additional costs of the company for the organizer decrease radically.



Performance repertoire part 1

Circus I love you (the show)

CIRQUE / MUSIQUE (CREATION)

Sade Kamppila, Oskar Rask, Julien Auger, Benoît Fauchier, Mikkel Hobitz Filtenborg, Saana Leppänen, Thibaud Rancoeur, Andil Dahl

CIRQUE / MUSIQUE (INTERPRETATION)

Sade Kamppila, Oskar Rask, Julien Auger, Benoît Fauchier, Kert Ridaste, Saana Leppänen, Thibaud Rancoeur, Periklis Dazy

COOK: Davide Arra

TECHNIQUE: Jose Carlos Ferrer

PRODUCTION: Julia Simon

ADMINISTRATION: Pelle Tillö

PHOTOS: Minja Kaukonen & Mikko Pirinen

CO-PRODUCERS: Sirkus Aikamoinen, Möjlighetsministeriet, Kozh productions, Le Manège - scène nationale de Reims, CIEL - cirque en Lorraine, Théâtre Firmin Gémier / La Piscine

SUPPORT / RESIDENCIES: Wintervuur Festival - Antwerpen, Subtopia / KKNord - Stockholm, Le Manège - scène nationale de Reims, Theater op de Markt - Neerpelt, Cirk'Eole Montigny-lès-Metz / Les Transversales - scène conventionnée cirque de Verdun, Cirkus Cirkör - Stockholm, Cirko - Helsinki, Bing Bang Circus - Rennes

FUNDINGS: Arts Promotion Centre Finland, Institut français / Région Bretagne, french institut of Sweden and finnish institut of Sweden, The Swedish Arts Council, The city of Stockholm, Region Stockholm, Svenska Kulturfonden

100% Circus

BY AND WITH: Mikkel Hobitz and Julien Auger

MAGIC EYE: Etienne Saglio

POET: Kajsa Bohlin

PHOTOS: Sade Kamppila, Julia Simon, Thor Hauknes

TECHNIQUE: Sade Kamppila or Moa Autio

BOOKING: Julia Simon

RESIDENCIES:

La Cascade, Pôle national des arts du cirque (France), L'Onde Théâtre centre d'art, Vélizy (France), Landskrona Theater (Sweden), Theater Maskinen, Riddarhyttan (Sweden)

Performance repertoire part 2

Utopia

ARTISTS

Sade Kamppila, Oskar Rask, Julien Auger, Benoît Fauchier, Thibaud Rancoeur, Pelle Tillö

PRODUCTION: Julia Simon

ADMINISTRATION: Pelle Tillö

PHOTOS: Jan Tillö

CO-PRODUCERS: Sirkus Aikamoinen

SUPPORT / RESIDENCIES: Gävle Kommun / Gasklockorna

I love you two

CIRCUS / MUSIC (CREATION & INTERPRETATION)

Sade Kamppila, Oskar Rask, Julien Auger, Benoît Fauchier, Philomène Perrenoud, Felix Greif, Thibaud Rancoeur, Periklis Dazy

COOK: Elizabeth Kunkele or Emma Laule

TECHNIQUE: Thomas Fabien

PRODUCTION: Julia Simon

ADMINISTRATION: Pelle Tillö

PHOTOS: Minja Kaukonieni

COPRODUCTIONS : Sirkus Aikamoinen, Réseau Grand CIEL, Les Transversales - Scène Conventionnée Cirque de Verdun, Le Palc - Pôle National Cirque Grand Est - Châlons-en-Champagne, Cirk Eole - Montigny-lès-Metz, UP - Circus & Performing arts - Bruxelles, Archaos - Pôle national cirque - Marseille

SUPPORT / RESIDENCIES : Les Transversales - Scène Conventionnée Cirque de Verdun, Le Palc - Pôle National Cirque Grand Est - Châlons-en-Champagne, Cirk Eole - Montigny-lès-Metz, Espace Périphérique, La Vilette - Paris, UP - Circus & Performing arts - Bruxelles FUNDING : Swedish Arts Council (Kulturrådet) Sweden

Statistics 2021

Circus I love you (the show)

months on tour: 3

cities: 5

performances: 30

audience reached: 8482

Utopia

months on tour: 3

cities: 6

performances: 37

audience reached: 2277

100% Circus

months on tour: 0 (shows cancelled because of Corona)

cities: 0

performances: 0

audience reached: 0

I love you Orchestra

cities: 2

performances: 3

audience reached: 630

Social actions

DuoJag in elderly homes: 3

circus workshops: 43

school visits: 12

after show talks: 1

guided tour of the circus: 2

VIP visits of tent: 2

audience reach of activities: 1539

Total audience reached: 12 298 people.

CIRCUS

I LOVE YOU

Circus I love you

www.circusiloveyou.com

info@circusiloveyou.com