



CIRCUS

I LOVE YOU

Annual report 2022

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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

4 different performances touring Europe

Year 2022 was the most active of Circus I love you since the start of the company. The tour continued with Circus I love you and Utopia, and the repertoire of the circus grew by two new creations. In the 500-person circus tent, I love you two premiered in May in France, and for the 150-person circus tent Beauties was created and premiered in September in Finland.

Circus I love you managed to finally close the file of postponed contracts from Covid times. The performance in June of Circus I love you in Göteborg, originally booked for 2020, was the last remaining of the performances pushed further in the future.

Audience

During 2022 a total 5 different performances were touring in France, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden and Finland.

2022 was an all time high on reached audience, surpassing the previous record of 2019 by about 4000 spectators. During 2022 the company reached over 28 000 people. In total the company had 41 weeks of activity with the crew on site during the year, out of which 8 were spent in residency working on new performances, 4 simultaneously working on a new performance and performing, 4 working in the office with the production team, and the rest playing performances.

Artists and programmers

For networking with the field, the most notable events were residencies to create I love you two. The company worked on the new creation hosted by La Ferme de Buisson and Les Passerelles in Pontault-Combault near Paris, by Cirk'Eole in Montigny-les-Metz, Le Palc in Châlons-en-Champagne and Les Transversales in Évres. The stays strengthened the connection made already in 2018 with the Northeastern French professional circus field.

The production team travelled to Circa -festival in October to meet with possible programmers and collaborators. The focus of the trip was to meet targeted professionals during the festival program and promote especially the new show I love you two to the European circus market. To strengthen the local anchor of Circus I love you, the company was participating in New Horizons Leadership Summit organized by Cirkus Syd in Lund in December.

A collaboration with Vintercirkus Helsingborg and Malmö was carried out during November and December. All of the tents of Circus I love you and the technical crew worked to co-organize the event lasting 4 weekends before Christmas.

Press

Circus I love you made a record in press visibility during the 2022 season. Especially the tours of Utopia in Finland, and Beauties in Sweden inspired a lot of press coverage. The press release sent to Finnish newspapers caught interest well, and articles about the Finnish tour were published in nine different Swedish and Finnish speaking Finnish newspapers. The Swedish speaking media also showed special interest in interviewing artist Oskar Rask about his life with Circus I love you. The Beauties tour was written about in four different Swedish newspapers. I love you two received its first review, 4 and a half stars out of 5, from Concert News in Belgium from the Zomer Van Antwerpen performance series. Circus I love you was mentioned in the newspaper in Rochefort, Göteborg and Menen.



Larger tent on tour - France, Belgium, Sweden

Circus I love you was the first creation of the company. The performance has toured now for 4 seasons: 2018, 2019, 2021 and 2022. The performance has visited so far cities in Sweden, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany and Lithuania. In 2022, Circus I love you performed at Festival Circo Nova in Quimper, La Ferme du Buisson & Les Passerelles in Pontault-Combault, Festival Tadam at Théâtre de la coupe d'or in Rochefort, Göteborgs Dans och Teaterfestival, CC De Steiger in Menen, and self-production in Chaumont.

Even though the company does not attempt to create tours in the middle of the winter season, in January 2022 there was an exception made by travelling to France to play in Circo Nova festival. This performance was postponed to 2022 because of Covid, and the company judged it important to value the made contract and be present at the festival, even though the longer winter tour that was originally planned around the performance did not happen.

The touring season started in Spring with the company driving to Pontault-Combault for the performances of Circus I love you at the end of March. Directly afterwards the focus was put into creation of I love you two, the new show to tour with the 500-seat circus tent. After the performance run the tent stayed rigged up for a week of residency, and residency periods at Le Palc in Châlons-en-Champagne and Cirk'Eole in Montigny-les-Metz followed. I love you two premiered in Festival Nuits d'Eole 6.5. and was welcomed by an excited and supportive audience.

As the crew on tour with I love you two and Circus I love you are nearly the same, it was possible during the 2022 season to play the two shows throughout the season with some of the artists travelling in and out from the tour. After the premiere of I love you two, the performance was seen self-produced in Grand-Quevilly and Tours, at Les Transversales in Évres, Festival des 7 Collines in St. Etienne and Zomer Van Antwerpen. The ten performances at Zomer Van Antwerpen was the largest contract for I love you two in 2022.

The tour of the big tent ended at the end of July in Belgium. From there the convoi headed back to Klippan to change directly into touring with the small tent in Nordic countries.

Smaller tent on tour - Finland, Sweden

The small tent set on tour in Finland in the beginning of August. Circus I love you organized in collaboration with long time partner Sirkus Aikamoinen a tour for the performance Utopia, that was created during the Covid-restrictions in spring 2021. The tour was supported by Alfred Kordelin -fund, Wihuri fund, Svenska Kulturfonden and a development fund of Helsinki City.

The 5 weeks of tour were an important step in many ways. It the first time Circus I love you performed in Finland, which was an important step as many members of the company have grown up in Finland, and the company has collaborated closely with Sirkus Aikamoinen since the beginning in 2017. The tour consisting of only self-produced events was also taking Circus I love you further in its development as an event organizer, continuing the process started with the Utopia tour of 2021.

Utopia played 5 shows a week in Mariehamn, Naantali and Hyvinkää, and 3 in Raseborg and Loviisa. Simultaneously with the performances of Utopia, a second crew was on tour with the small tent in addition to the crew of Utopia. With them, the creation of Beauties happened during the Finland tour at the times when Utopia was not performing. The aim of Beauties was to create a performance for the small tent that can come back to perform in the towns in Nordic countries where Utopia has already played, continuing the process of installing Circus I love you as a known circus and making the visit of the circus an anticipated event.

Beauties premiered 3.9. in Loviisa, and continued directly to Sweden to tour for 4 more weeks in Linköping at Agora Kulturcentrum, in Ystad and Klippan in collaboration with Klippans Kommun. The attempt was also to create a second crew, who could independently tour with the small tent, creating a possibility of the two tents of the company touring at the same time. During 2022 the 4 new artists Morgane Stäheli, Sébastien Klink, Jùlia Campistany and Oscar Quevedo were taught by the Utopia crew to handel the tent. Three "original" crew members remained on tour in Sweden to provide for a soft transition; Thibaud Rancoeur, the composer and musician of Beauties, administrator Pelle who worked also as the show's technician, and harbinger/producer Julia. Currently the plan of the tents touring simultaneously has not yet become reality, but the company keeps working in that direction on logistic and human resources levels.

The tours of Utopia and Beauties did not yet make the company break even, but were a clear step forward in the direction of 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,, Circus I love you is optimistic for the future success, and will continue developing and learning during the tours of Beauties in Finland and Utopia in Sweden in collaboration with Riksteatern in 2023.

What motivates the actions of Circus I love you?

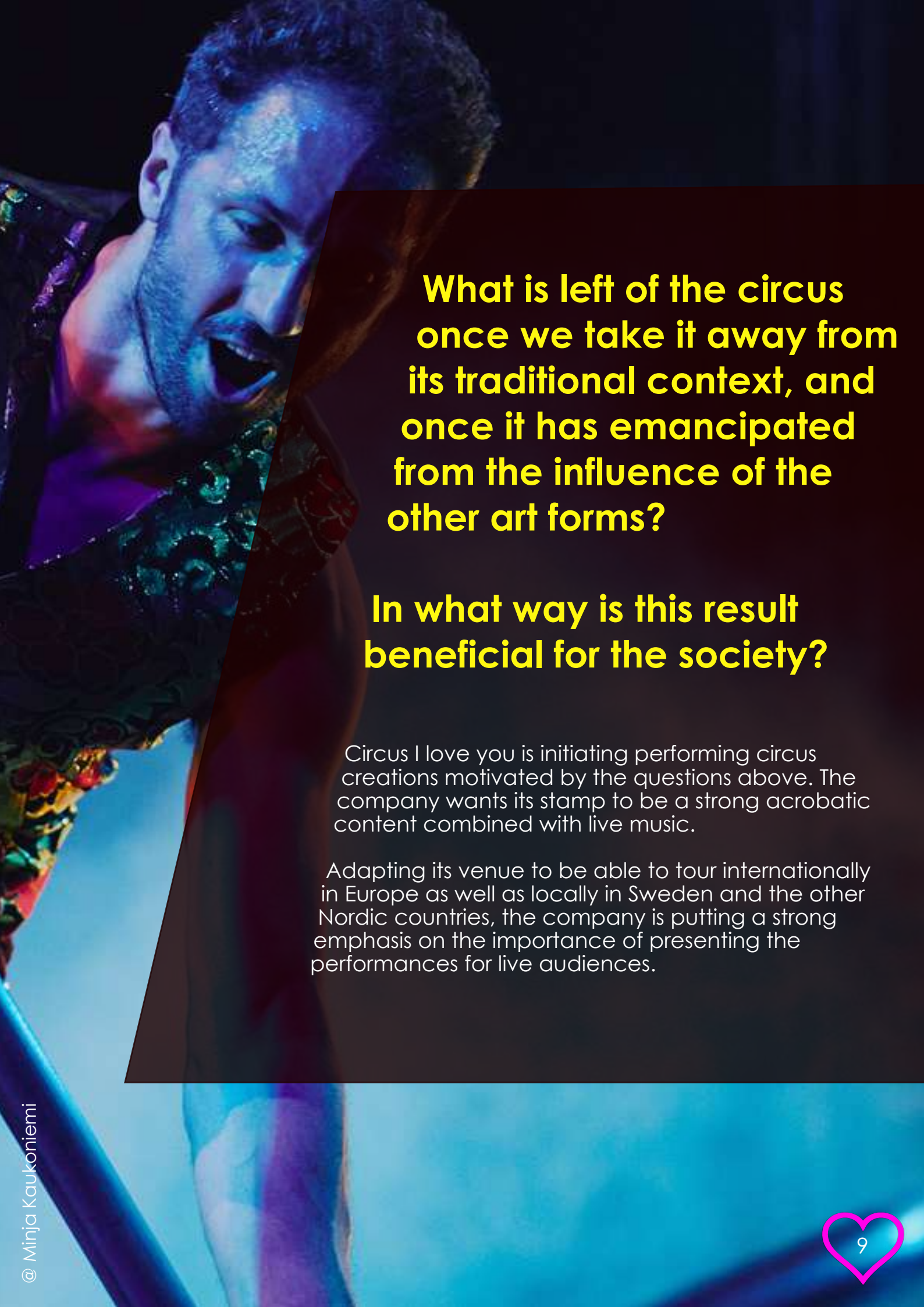
Showing reality / Not hiding is the major quality of the circus performer. Circus cannot fake high stakes. The performer cannot pretend to be or to do anything else than what is happening.

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 2022 the most popular activity was Julia Simon visiting schools with her lecture of circus and the activities of Circus I love you, preparing the class in question to come see the performance.

These visits were most common as part of the 100% Circus Bretagne tour, where Simon gave her lesson to 17 different classes who were coming to see the performance afterwards. Simon also organized several guided visits of the tent and circus camp for audience members wanting to deepen their understanding of the touring life in Rochefort and St. Etienne.

After school performances of 100% Circus, the crew stayed on stage to answer the questions of the audience. Circus workshops were rare during the 2022 tour, there was one organized in Quimper and another one in St. Etienne.

A photograph of two men on a stage. The man on the left has a beard and is holding an acoustic guitar. The man on the right is in a dynamic pose, leaning forward. The background is dark with many small, colorful lights, resembling a starry night sky or a glitter curtain. The floor is dark and reflective.

The last performances of 100% Circus

100 % Circus got to perform the planned 2021 tour postponed by Covid during 2022. The performance visited cities in Bretagne-France, Belgium and Denmark, playing 13 times in 7 different theatres. The performances of December in Séné, France were the last ever of 100% Circus, as Mikkel expressed a wish in the spring to cut his hair and stop to hair hang in 2023.

An audience member of the last performance wanted to buy the scenography of the show, the large glitter curtain, for a performance space/ associative cafe project in Bretagne. The other equipment of the show keep on being used in the other performances.

100% Circus, 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.

Continuing the international success

The creation process of I love you two 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. The project was presented for the circus field professionals and programmers at Circa Festival in the Artcena project presentation in October 2021.

For 2022, Circus I love you had gathered an important support from the previous collaborators of the French Grand CIEL network, consisting of a 4 week residency period at Le Palc, 2 weeks of residency and premiere at Cirk'Eole, and 1 week of rehearsals and performances at Les Transversales. For Circus I love you, continuing collaborating with the venues that had supported the creation of Circus I love you in the past was a sign of trust gained in the international field of contemporary circus. As the competition in the circus field has even tightened with the Covid-years having created even more scarcity in an already undersupported field, it brings Circus I love you great hope for the future to feel that some of the company's previous supporters follow up with the new creations of the company.

Other venues who trusted the work of Circus I love you and booked I love you two without having seen the performance were Festival 7 Collines and Zomer Van Antwerpen. A new collaborator who decided to step in as a co-producer was Europe's largest contemporary circus festival, Biennale International des Arts du Cirque in Marseille. I love you two was booked to perform at the Biennale in January 2023. The visibility for the international field of circus programmers brought to I love you two by performing in Marseille will play a big role in defining the touring possibilities of the new creation for the future.

As the economy of Circus I love you is still heavily relying on selling the performances of the bigger circus tent for festivals, theaters and events, the company is very happy to see that I love you two was successfully created to be a quality performance of international standard, inspiring standing ovations and sold out performances.

I LOVE YOU TWO

@ Minja Kaukonen

Collaboration with Vintercirkus Malmö & Helsingborg

Circus I love you had another attempt at winter activity during 2022. Circus I love you co-organized performances in collaboration with Vintercirkus and Albin Ganovic. The Vintercirkus event took place during two weekends in Malmö in November, and two weekends in Helsingborg in December.

Circus I love you was responsible for the logistic and technical aspects of the event, providing all of its circus tents to welcome the audience, Thomas Fabien, Sade Kamppila and Julien Auger to work as the light designer and technicians of the shows and Benoît Fauchier to work as responsible of rig up. Ganovic was responsible for marketing, performance, catering and production of the events.

The weather provided challenges for the event, as temperatures during the Vintercirkus period circled around 0 degrees, dropping below zero at many occasions. Luckily the two occasions it was snowing, the crew managed to keep the tents snow-free by heating the tent and manually shaking the snow down.

The event gathered an average of 300 people per performance. Circus I love you had a ticket income deal with Vintercirkus, so at the end the collaboration became a financial success for Circus I love you.



The company's parking lot in Klippan, Sweden has proved to be a great investment for the development of the company. Year 2022 started with upgrading the equipment on tour to create a better working environment for the whole crew:

-The company bought a module that can be transported in the semitrailer truck and loaded with the new forklift in the beginning of 2022. During february this module was transformed into a functioning kitchen with a stove, oven, fridge, washing machine and other necessary kitchen appliances. The construction was done in the company's winter quarters in Klippan.

-To upgrade the quality of life of the crew working in Klippan, the land was connected into the water and sewage networks. This made it possible to use the company's portable kitchen and toilet modules also while on site, making stays of longer working periods possible.

-To provide added shelter and working space during the cold months, Circus I love you invested in a office container. The container was brought to the winter quarters in Klippan in September, and served well during the first office residency organized in the container office during November.

2022 - upgrading the 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 had bought a tractor unit and a semi-trailer in the end of the tour of 2021.

-As the company hopes in the future to be able to tour simultaneously with the larger and the smaller circus tent, a third portable module was bought in October 2022. The plan is to transform the module into a second functioning shower and toilet.

-During the tour of 2021 Circus I love you organized a significant number of self-produced performances in Finland and Sweden, and some in France. It became evident that the old website of the company was not functioning well enough to work as a multilingual ticket selling platform. Circus I love you employed web designer Nicolas Mantran to completely recreate the site www.circusiloveyou.com. This update features a separate site for general audience and the professional circus field members, both available in English, French, Swedish and Finnish, equipped with its own ticket shop operated by the company itself.



Performance repertoire part 1

Utopia (2021)

THE TEAM

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

PHOTOS: Jan Tillö

CO-PRODUCERS: Sirkus Aikamoinen

SUPPORT / RESIDENCIES: Gävle Kommun / Gasklockorna

100% Circus (2017)

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)

Beauties (2022)

THE TEAM: Morgane Stäheli, Sébastien Klink, Jùlia Campistany, Oscar Quevedo, Thibaud Rancoeur, Julia Simon, Pelle Tillö, Sade Kamppila, Julien Auger, Oskar Rask, Benoît Fauchier.

PHOTOS: Mikko Pirinen

CO-PRODUCERS: Sirkus Aikamoinen

FUNDING: Region Skåne

Performance repertoire part 2

Circus I love you (2018)

THE TEAM: Sade Kamppila, Oskar Rask, Julien Auger, Benoît Fauchier, Mikkel

Hobitz Filtenborg, Saana Leppänen, Thibaud Rancoeur, Andil Dahl, Kert Ridaste, Periklis Dazy, Jose Carlos Ferrer, Thomas Fabien, Julia Simon, Pelle Tillö

PHOTOS: Minja Kaukoniemi & 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

I love you two (2022)

THE TEAM: Sade Kamppila, Oskar Rask, Julien Auger, Benoît Fauchier, Philomène Perrenoud, Felix Greif, Thibaud Rancoeur, Periklis Dazy, Thomas Fabien, Julia Simon, Pelle Tillö

PHOTOS: Minja Kaukoniemi

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 2022

100% Circus

months on tour: 1
cities: 7
performances: 13
audience reached: 2326

Utopia

months on tour: 1,5
cities: 5
performances: 21
audience reached: 2433

Circus I love you

months on tour: 2
cities: 6
performances: 19
audience reach: 6493

Beauties

months on creation and tour: 2
cities: 4
performances: 30
audience reached: 3078

I love you two

months on creation and tour: 4
cities: 7
performances: 25
audience reached: 8848

Social actions

circus workshops: 2
school visits: 21
VIP visits of tent: 3
audience reach of activities: 830

Vintercirkus Helsingborg & Malmö

cities: 2
performances: 13
audience reached: 4675

Total audience reached: 28 683 people.

CIRCUS

I LOVE YOU

Circus I love you

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