



# DISCO INFERNO

Surrealist circus dive into Nordic nightlife

**Disco Inferno** (working title) brings to life the absurdity that is the social culture in the deep dark north. The different circus skills bend the barrier between seemingly normal and weirdly spectacular. Approaching real life situations through awkward humour shows how things aren't always that serious, that it's ok to laugh at ourselves, even at our worst.

A new Nordic circus creation by The Nordic Council

Premiere 1st of february 2024

60 minutes play time

Created for black box theatres and circus tents

Age recommendation 10+

Created and performed by: Merri Heikkilä, Jakob Jacobsson, Bjarni Árnason

Directorial input by: Olli Vuorinen & Roberto Magro

Co-production: Nuua company (FI) and Dynamo Workspace (DK)

Supported by: Tjarnarbío (IS), Subtopia (SE), Nordic Culture Point, Nordisk Kulturfond, Taike Arts Promotion Centre Finland

## Disco Inferno (Working title)

Disco Inferno is a contemporary circus performance about the, at times, complicated relationship Northerners have to alcohol. The show is not a lecture, but a selection of tableaux that all allude to social contexts and situations that are relatable to the northern audience. Through these images the audience can recognise themselves or others around them in an environment where they will feel amused, not judged. The show will use circus techniques and comedy to alleviate the seriousness of the topic, and to create space for the audience to reflect on their own habits and traditions.

By combining circus disciplines such as juggling, aerial rope and floor acrobatics with physical theatre and live music we aim to create scenes around these topics and images to evoke a feeling of self-recognition in the audience. '*We've all been there*' is a feeling that permeates the performance, as the trio stumble their way through the scenes of the highs and lows of Nordic nightlife. Aiming to capture the feeling of these moments and abstracting them through circus, the show will allow the audience to fill in the gaps with their own experiences and relate to the material from a highly personal perspective.

Three northern artists come together to collaborate on their collective heritage, coming from Iceland, Sweden and Finland, there's space for them both to share the similarities, but also to express the differences.



**Format:** Disco Inferno (working title) will be a one-hour contemporary circus performance including juggling, live music and acrobatics. The show is created for medium sized, black box theatres and will tour the Nordic region and mainland Europe. The show is aimed at adult audiences, but does not contain any material that makes it unsuitable for children. The show will be able to play in both tents and theatres.

**Creation:** The creation (so far) has been facilitated by Dynamo Workspace (DK), Tjarnarbío (IS) and Sirkus Faktori (FIN), and financially supported by Nordic Culture Point, Nordisk Kulturfond, and Taika Arts Promotion Centre Finland.

The process started in February 2022 and it will premiere in the winter 2024. The creation process is a collaborative artistic effort between the three artists, who work by directing themselves and each other during the early stages of the creation. Once the material is created the company will receive compositional guidance from Olli Vuorinen to assemble the show as a whole.

In 2023 we will finish the creation with three residencies. The three residencies will take place in Dynamo Workspace (DK), Frölunda Kulturhus (SWE), and Subtopia (SWE). Last residency and the premiere will happen in Dynamo Workspace in January-February 2024.





**Technical needs:** As a circus show containing aerial acrobatics, this show will require some special circumstances to play. The show requires rigging points strong enough to hold a person (WLL 400kgs).

The show requires black linoleum dance flooring, and the ability to fully black out the performance space.

Preferred stage dimensions: 8m wide x 6m deep with a minimum height of 6m to the rigging points.

Estimated duration of final piece: 60 minutes.

Audience age restriction: 10+

Set-up time: 8hrs


Break-down time: 2hrs

Show material and ensemble travels by van and will require parking on the location, as well as accommodation for 4 people (three artists plus a technician).

**More info:**

<https://www.thenordiccouncil.com/work/discoinferno>

**Trailer 'Three men from the North'**

 Nordic Council, Three men from the North, trailer

**Contact**

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