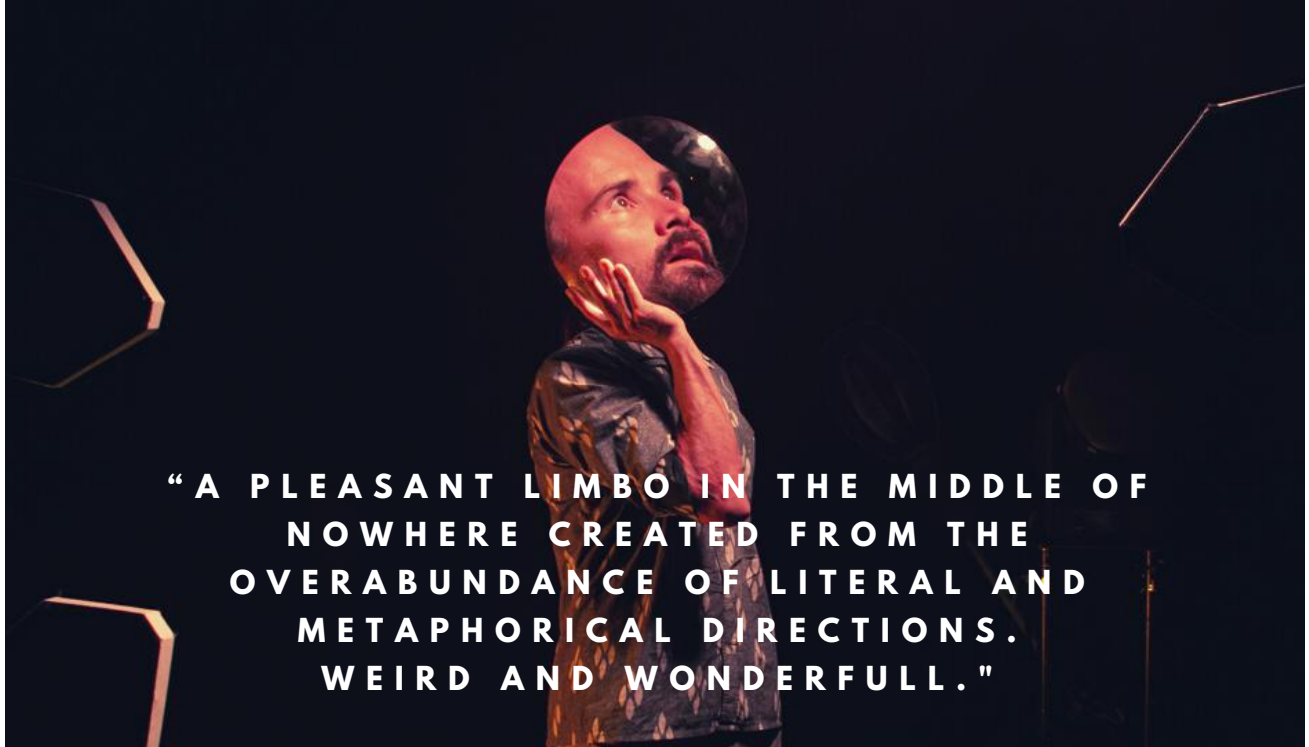


A person in a white jumpsuit is standing in a dark, blue-lit environment. They are holding a large, glowing purple and blue sphere in front of their face with their right hand. In their left hand, they hold a scythe. The person is wearing dark sneakers. The background is dark with some faint lines on the floor.

# BLUEBERRY BURDOCK

NUUA COMPANY



“ A PLEASANT LIMBO IN THE MIDDLE OF  
NOWHERE CREATED FROM THE  
OVERABUNDANCE OF LITERAL AND  
METAPHORICAL DIRECTIONS.  
WEIRD AND WONDERFULL. ”

# BLUEBERRY BURDOCK

Thom Monkton & Olli Vuorinen

Blueberry Burdock is an upcoming solo piece by circus artist Olli Vuorinen and director Thom Monckton.

It is a journey of a character overwhelmed by an abundance of options, losing himself and reality to a labyrinth of indecision. Expressed through a combination of visual theatre, object manipulation, and comical absurdity, Blueberry Burdock dances playfully in a place of limbo.

Relatably, the character tries in vain to create order out of careless chaos, losing himself further down a rabbit hole of nonsense. His body and the objects seem to have their own will constantly guiding in different directions. He gets entangled in contradictory road signs and flips solid walls like a giant puzzle where none of the pieces quite fit. He moves in a surreal world where things, places, and objects constantly change forms, giving them new interpretations.

Blueberry Burdock is a place in the middle of nowhere, at the crossroads of the mind, a combination of surreal scenes and bodily narratives that express the complexity of the lived experience. It is simultaneously everywhere and nowhere, inside and outside, still and constantly changing.

The performance draws inspiration from the states of confusion in the modern-day's hyper-connected world. It is navigating through the stream of endless options of modern life, trying to make sense of it, and searching for peace in the distractions of overabundance.



## CREDITS

**Direction:** Thomas Monckton

**Performer:** Olli Vuorinen

**Light design:** Teo Lanerva

**Sound design:** Konsta Leinonen

**Costume design:** Iida Ukkola

**Scenography:** Olli Vuorinen

**Set build:** Kalle Oja

**Production:** Nuua Company

**Co-production:** Kallo Collective

**Support:** Arts Promotion Centre Finland, City of Helsinki, Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth, Kone foundation, Tero Saarinen Company

 **TEASER VIDEO**

**NUUA**

## SCHEDULE

### PREMIERE

5-6.10.2023 Culture house STOA

### 2023

Tapanila Circus space / Helsinki  
June (2 weeks)

Culture House STOA / Helsinki  
June (2 weeks)

### 2022

Tero Saarinen company, Helsinki  
April (2 weeks)

Culture House STOA, Helsinki  
June (3 weeks)

### 2021

Dance theatre Hurjaruuth, Helsinki  
January (2 weeks)

Sirkus Faktori, Orivesi  
June (3 weeks)

### 2020

Haihatus residency, Joutsa  
September (2 weeks)

Teatteri Morphosis, Helsinki  
December (1 week)



# BIOGRAPHIES

## **Thom Monkton - Director**

Thom Monkton is a circus artist and co-director of the State Prize-winning company Kallo Collective in Finland. Born in New Zealand, Thom trained in circus in Christchurch and physical theatre at Jacques Lecoq in Paris. His performances have toured to over 30 different countries with every solo show presented at Edinburgh Fringe (The Artist, Only Bones v1.0, and The Pianist) being nominated for the Total Theatre Awards. Thom's debut solo show Moving Stationery won six awards across three festivals and garnered him Actor of The Year 2012 in Wellington's Theatre Awards.

## **Olli Vuorinen - Performer**

Circus performer, director, and founder of Nuua company graduated from a French circus school Academie-Fratellini in 2011. Vuorinen did two award-winning performances at Cirque de Demain Festival, and his company got selected in 2012 for an EU-funded Circus Next project. Alongside Nuua company Vuorinen has been working with circus and physical theatre companies like Les Objets Volants, Kallo Collective, Racehorse company, Gandini juggling, and l'Expedition. Olli Vuorinen is a very productive Finnish contemporary circus artist. In past years he has been performing over 20 different countries. Vuorinen is known for his personal approach to performing, innovative juggling techniques, and varied objects theater skills

## **Teo Lanerva - Light designer**

Teo Lanerva is a freelance lighting and video designer (MA, Theatrical Arts) based in Helsinki, Finland. He works with contemporary performances, concerts and events ranging from small underground clubs to festivals. He has been granted a säde-award and his designs have been performed in more than ten countries.

Lanerva's recent works include Cie Nuua's Vaarna at Cirko in 2021, choreographer Mikko Niemistö's solo Odd Meters at Zodiak in 2019, opera FLASH FLASH composed by Juhani Nuorvala at Musica Nova Festival 2019, and light art piece Liquid Line at Lux Helsinki 2019.

## **Konsta Leinonen - Sounds designer**

Finnish musician Konsta Leinonen fuses his experience working with film, recording studios and multiple performative arts to find new ways to bring his perception of (post-)modern living into sound and music. Leinonen merges live instrumentation with highly dynamic hands-on electronics and has a fascination for new technological frontiers via generative AI music & multimedia. At the moment working mainly in the contemporary circus field, Leinonen enjoys working closely with artists to reach a consistent, shared artistic vision.

## **Iida Ukkola - Costume designer**

Iida, who graduated from Aalto University, is particularly interested in material-based costume design. Approaching it personally by going through by her design process through materials. She thinks about what kind of productions and ways of doing this material-oriented approach is suitable for, and how material-oriented costume design could be incorporated more into the artistic processes of productions, and what opportunities material-oriented costume design gives to cinema and performing arts.

# NUUA COMPANY

*By freely mixing different performing arts, we look for an approach based on artistic versatility.*

Founded in 2012, Nuua Company is a Finnish new-generation contemporary circus and visual theater group that redeemed its place in the international field of contemporary circus with its experimental works. Nuua collaborates with various artists bringing internationally trained circus artists to Finland and creating a new vision for contemporary circus.

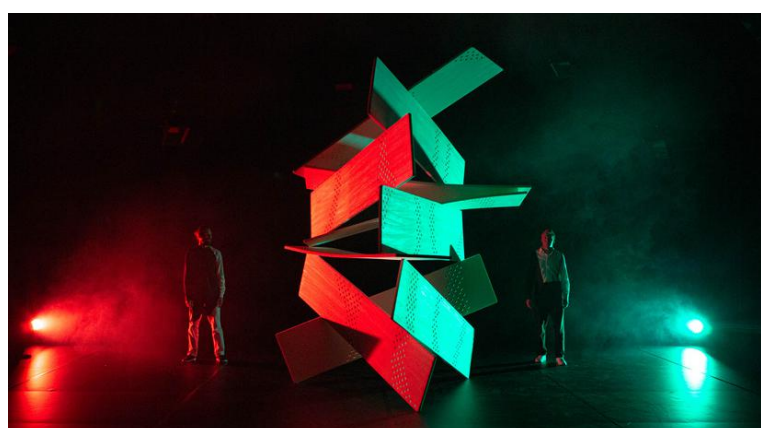
On its ten-year journey, Nuua Company has been selected for a Circus next program, Nuua's award-winning performances have received notable mentions from critics and books about the contemporary circus, and the performances have been touring in 20 countries.

We design and create our works together so that each working group member contributes to the artistic content as an equal member. Nuua wants to provide a safe environment for creative work where one can question the norms of the circus, learn new skills, and create collaboratively in a way that makes each creation rich and adventurous.

We understand circus as a unifying element of different performing art forms. An understanding of the circus as a place rather than a form. It is a place that hosts artists who do things that are new, things that we don't see anymore, or things that can't find their place anywhere else.

Nuua renews juggling as object theater, concepts connecting body and object movements, and explores circus techniques as tools of expression. Depending on the viewer's personal experiences, our multilayered performances open up to everyone differently. We are awakening the emotions, imagination, and sensitivity into an empowered state where experientiality takes precedence over narratives and the spectator becomes more receptive to new dreamlike experiences.

[www.nuua.company](http://www.nuua.company)



# PERFORMANCE & TECHNICAL DETAILS

## PRELIMINARY

### STAGE / PERFORMANCE

Theatrical conditions are required and a complete black-out must be possible. All emergency lights that are not absolutely crucial must be covered.

We use atmospheric effects and it must be possible to control the air conditioning. If it's not possible we require at least one extra hazer.

Audience capacity: 100-500

Duration: 50 min

For all ages : +7

On tour: 3-4

1 performer, 2 technicians (light,sound)

1 producer/director

### RIGGING

1 x fixed single point WWL 20kg

### CURTAINS

We require a black box with a backdrop and wings. In small spaces wings are not necessary

### SET & CARGO:

In Finland and neighbouring countries by Van, other by freight

### DIMENSIONS

Preferred stage dimensions:

- Width: 11m + 1m for lights on each side = 13 from curtain to curtain
- Depth: 9m
- Height: 4m of free height, 4.5m to grid / pipes

Minimum stage dimensions:

- Width: Width: 9.5m + 0.5m for lights on each side = 10.5m from curtain to curtain
- Depth: 8m
- Height: 4m of free height, 4.5m to grid / pipes

### FLOOR

We require a black dance marley

Dance floor is preferred

The stage surface should be stable, even and free from splinters, holes, and/or other obstructions.

The stage floor should not be angled.

### PROPS (Provided by Presenter)

- 2.5L helium tank or larger if there is many shows

### CLEANING EQUIPMENT

- - 2 x broom
- - dustpan
- - 2 x flat mop

Details and light plot on please check technical rider

Possibility for post-show conversation between the audience and the artist(s).

BOOKING DETAILS  
&  
GENERAL INQUIRIES

---

Olli Vuorinen  
Artistic director, Nuua

tel + 358 500 435 286  
email: [olli@nuua.company](mailto:olli@nuua.company)

[www.nuua.company](http://www.nuua.company)

**NUUA**