



MEANWHILE



NUVA



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Meanwhile is a world that mirrors today's culture and makes merry with all the pointless ways in which people can spend their time. It is a mix of riveting and dramatic atmospheres that combine with minimalistic comedy through juggling, object manipulation, and visual theatre.

The surrealistic and whimsical Meanwhile examines our experiences on the passage of time and the way it's used. The modern world's absurd priorities gain new dimensions, as the work praises things that are societally considered pointless to do. Two jugglers test the spectator's understanding and the way in which our values might change simply by doing something we feel is unnecessary.

Duration 60 minutes.

Direction: Olli Vuorinen

Performers: Merri Heikkilä, Onni Toivonen

Costumes: Jenni Räsänen

Lighting design: Teo Lanerva

Sound design and live-music: Konsta Leinonen

Scenography: Jenni Räsänen, Olli Vuorinen

Prop build: Kalle Oja

Production: Nuua Company

Support : City of Helsinki, Arts education center, Kone foundation, Culture house STOA, Näyttämö, Sirkus Faktori

ARTISTIC RESEARCH

Meanwhile was created in collaboration with jugglers and movers Onni Toivonen, Merri Heikkilä and director Olli Vuorinen as Nuua Company's pandemic special and its 5th creation.

It all started with the questioning of European cultural values. Juggling with its 5000-year-old cultural history, that has been found all around the world is today unfortunately overlooked as something useless and unimportant.

This sparked us to compare daily human activities, their values and how we use our time here. It made us to think what else might be considered unimportant. Since the pandemic put the whole world into a common house arrest and lots of discussions around cultural values became to rise around Europe. It felt important at this moment to make something that gives the audience an outlet for their current thoughts and concerns about a daily rat race and their values in a form of a performance.

During the creation we worked with different kinds of everyday objects that could together create an aesthetics suited for the theme. Through the magnifying glass of a juggler's perception we looked for objects and choreographies that unfolds absurd, yet relatable content that can fill the premiss.

We see juggling as an art form very close to puppetry, like an abstract form of it. In our work the symbolism of everyday objects comes together with the jugglers approach to manipulation, which creates ambiguous worlds where a precise and rhythmic object manipulation placed in a theatrical context produces a disarming, suspenseful, entertaining and yet a thought provoking experiences.

- Director, Olli Vuorinen





NUUA COMPANY

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.

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.

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

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 more receptive to new dreamlike experiences.

BIOGRAPHIES

OLLI VUORINEN - DIRECTOR

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

ONNI TOIVONEN - PERFORMER

Graduated from Stockholm University of the Arts in 2016, his original and energetic juggling has since been seen on stages in 16 different countries. Cirque de Demain special jury award winner 2017. Toivonen has been working with contemporary circus companies Cirko Aereo, Sirkum Polaris and Nuua Compnay. He created and performed his first dramatic work Amalgam in 2019. Onni is creative artist who seamlessly combines juggling and contemporary dance.

MERRI HEIKKILÄ - PERFORMER

2013 he decided to pursue professional career and was admitted to the circus department of Codarts University in Rotterdam, Netherlands, from where he graduated in June 2017. Combining movement and acrobatics with juggling, Merri seeks to create performances that offer an unique experience for the audience. Aside from working with Nuua company and Sirkum Polaris. Merri is also working on another show "3 Men from the North" with a new circus company the Nordic Council.

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 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.

JENNI RÄSÄNEN - COSTUME DESIGNER

Jenni Räsänen is a Bachelor of Art and Design graduated from Aalto University majoring in Costume Design. She is currently completing her studies in a master's degree program. Jenni has been involved in several productions of the Department of Film, Television and Scenography and the Theater Academy as a Scenographer. Räsänen is interested in the agency of the costume and the interaction between the costume, the body and the space. Her designer identity is based on Post humanist thinking and she often finds her inspiration from fine arts.

The logo for Nuua, featuring the word "NUUA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are slightly irregular and have a hand-drawn feel. The 'U's are particularly stylized, with the top curves being more pronounced. The logo is positioned in the bottom right corner of the page.

PERFORMANCE & TECHNICAL DETAILS

Stage :

Theatre space with no curtains theatrical condition are required and a complete black-out must be possible.

Audience capacity: 100-500

Minimum Set up time : 8h

Minimum Set down time: 2h

For all ages : +10

On tour: 4-5 person

2 performers, 2 technicians (light & sound)
(+1 extra technician for minimum set up times)

Set & cargo: In Finland and near by countries
by Van, other continents by freight

Preferred stage dimensions:

- Width: 10m + 1m for lights / props on each side = 12 from wall to wall
- Depth: 10m + 1m for lights / props behind = 11m
- Height: 6m of free height, 6.5m to grid / pipes

Minimum stage dimensions:

- Width: 8m + 0.5m for lights / props on each side = 9 from wall to wall
- Depth: 7m + 1m for lights / props behind = 8m
- Height: 5.5m of free height, 6m to grid / pipes

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**

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