

# V A A R N A

PERFORMANCE BETWEEN JUGGLING AND INSTALLATION ART



NUUA  
COMPANY



# VAARNA

Creation 2021

Vaarna is a surrealistic performance that blends juggling, installation art, and physical theatre. Hypnotic and mesmerizing to the senses, it creates a dialogue between the performer's and the spectator's imaginations by presenting lighthearted and touching images that evoke different emotions and thoughts depending on the viewers' personal experiences.

A kinetic and disorienting performance of motion and mood, Vaarna's breathtaking light design, soulful music, and the jugglers' object manipulation combine into an artistically versatile experience that is curious and playful, personal and touching – like a stream of consciousness in visual form.

Vaarna is a result of two years of collaboration between the jugglers, light designer, and sound designer interested in creating a performance that gathers their different art forms into a unifying kinetic and disorienting experience of motion and mood. Creating a performance like a visual stream of consciousness, a real treat for the eyes and mind.

# ARTISTIC RESEARCH

We experiment with objets, theatre, light and sound to make sort of interactive installations on stage. By combining the experience of visual artists view point, object manipulation of a juggler, attention guiding light design and mood imposing sound design we are putting together a new look for these art forms where they can co-exists as equal tools of expression on stage.

Light designer Teo Lanerva, senior sound professor Petteri Rajanti and jugglers Olli Vuorinen and Isak Lindberg are looking for a way to combine their practices to create

a performance which gathers our experiences and expertise together into a . The lights are used to enhance the juggling in a way that it becomes a part of the manipulation, with the technical aspects completing the image it will become possible to achieve the visual effects we are looking for. Sound design is guiding the spectator mood for more receptive state and sometimes taking a main role as an actor in the scene. Together with objets, sound- and light design gathers an aesthetique coherence to the performance, making it very detailed, well rhythmic and disorienting experience of motion and mood.



## THE SENSE IN MANIPULATING

Every objets has its own quality and sense that we are experiencing while manipulating it, for example, the thin threads that are in constant motion creates a sensation of a fragile connection between the bodies and binds together the space that they are in.

As if your always holding a fragile thin thread between your hands, controlling the movements, finding balance, and letting go. Always trying to control the situation, keeping the balance, and let the obsession within lead the way.



VAARNA WAS GRANTED SÄDE-  
AWARD FOR A WELL  
ACCOMPLISHED LIGHTS DESIGN ON  
2021 BY SVÄV.

## OUTCOME

By freely mixing different kinetic and performing arts, We look for an approach based on artistic versatility. We want to open the curiosity, playfulness, and aesthetic awareness of the audience. Awakening the emotions, imagination, and sensitivity to empower the mind and richer the ability of perception.


We want to provide aesthetics that move and sensitise by bringing the viewers imagination into a empowered state that is more receptive to new dreamlike experiences and opens up for a dialogue between the imagination of the performer and spectator. Depending of the viewers personal experiences the performance opens up to everyone in a little different ways.

## CREDITS

Concept and performing :  
Isak Lindberg, Olli Vuorinen  
Outside eye : Thom Monkton  
Light design: Teo Lanerva  
Sound design: Petteri Rajanti  
Costumes: Anne Jämsä, Elina Tuomisto  
Production: Nuua & Pragma Helsinki  
Support : City of Helsinki, Arts Promotion  
Centre Finland, Cirko - Center for new  
circus, Samuel Huber art foundation,  
Borrby Kulturgjuteriet



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



VAARNA IS AN OLD FINNISH WORD  
MEANING A WOODEN OR METAL PEG,  
THAT WAS USED TO KEEP A CIRCUS  
TENT ON IT'S PLACE

# SCHEDULE

## PREMIERE - 2021

2 - 11 SEP / CIRKO - CENTER FOR NEW CIRKUS  
HELSINKI / FINLAND

## ON TOUR

- 2-11 SEPTEMBER / CIRKO - CENTER FOR NEW CIRKUS  
HELSINKI / FINLAND
- 7 SEPTEMBER / PERFORMING HEL SHOWCASE  
HELSINKI / FINLAND
- 1-5 FEBUARY / FLOW CIRCUS / VALVESALI / OULU /  
FINLAND
- 27-28 OCTOBER / BALTOPPEN LIVE / BALLERUP /  
DENMARK
- 3 DECEMBER / LEME-FESTIVAL / BUSSOLA / PORTUGAL
- 25 MARCH / NØTTEROY KULTUSHUS / NORWAY

## CREATION RESIDENCIES

### 2021

SEPTEMBER / RACE HORSE COMPANY STUDIO / HELSINKI

### 2020

NOVEMBER / CIRKO - CENTER FOR NEW CIRKUS  
HELSINKI / FINLAND

### 2019

FEBRUARY / BORRBY KULTURHJUSET / SWEDEN  
MAY / BORRBY KULTURHJUSET / SWEDEN  
AUGUST / RHC-STUDIO HELSINKI / FINLAND

### 2018

MAY / HURJARUUTH / HELSINKI / FINLAND  
JULY / CULTURE HOUSE STOA / HELSINKI FINLAND  
NOVEMBER / BORRBY KULTURHJUSET / SWEDEN  
DECEMBER / BORRBY KULTURHJUSET / SWEDEN

### 2017

AUGUST / WRITING RESIDENCY / BARCELONA / SPAIN  
NOVEMBER / WRITING RESIDENCY / BARCELONA / SPAIN

## VIDEOS



TRAILER



FULL CAPTATION

# PERFORMANCE & TECHNICAL DETAILS

## PRELIMINARY

### STAGE:

Black box with a backdrop and wings, theatrical condition are required and a complete black-out must be possible.

### DURATION: 60 MIN

Suitable for all ages: +11

Audience capacity: 100-800

### ON TOUR: 4

2 performers, 1 technician, 1 producer

SET UP TIME : 22h including rehearsals

SET DOWN TIME: 2 h

### EXAMPLE OF A SET-UP

DAY 1 : Set-up 12h

DAY 2 : Set-up and rehearsals 10h

### SET & CARGO:

In Finland and neighbouring countries by Van, other by freight

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

### DIMENSION :

#### PREFERRED:

**Width: 14m** from wall to wall

10m + 2m for lights / props on each side

**Depth: 10m**

8m + 2m for lights / props behind

**Height: 6m** of free height, 6,5m to grid / pipes

#### MINIMUM:

**Width: 9m** from wall to wall

7m + 1m for lights / props on each side =

**Depth: 9m**

7m + 2m for lights / props behind

**Height: 5m** of free height, 5,5m to grid / pipes

#### RIGGING:

2 x fixed single point WWL 50kg

- one at the middle of the stage

- one at the side

2 x fixed single points WWL 50kg on the walls at the sides of the stage at 2m height

Details and light plot on please check technical rider



# NUUA COMPANY

Founded in 2013, 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.

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.

## OLLI VUORINEN

Juggler / Performer / Director

Olli Vuorinen founder of Nuua company graduated from a French circus school Academie-Fratellini in 2011. After the education 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. Since 2011 Vuorinen have been working with contemporary circus companies like Les Objets Volants, L'expedition, Race Horse Company, Kallo Collective and Cry me a river. Olli Vuorinen is very productive Finnish contemporary circus artists. Past years he have been performing in 21 different countries. Vuorinen is known from his personal approach to performing, innovative juggling techniques and varied objets theatre skills.

## ISAK LINDBERG

Juggler / Visual artist / Light designer

Isak Lindberg had his circus/theatre education at "Le Lido, Centre des Art du Cirque" in Toulouse and in 2008 he won the competition "JTCE" (Jeune Talent Cirque Europe) with the show "Grusvagen 7" who was placed in a new category they called the "Post- Modern New Circus". Isak started to work with Nuua company on 2012 as the outside eye the first Nuua show Lento. After four years of working as a performance artist based in France, Isak came back to Sweden on 2011 to create his own theater and culture house in Borby. Isak is a multidisciplinary creator and performer in the field of contemporary circus and visual arts. Founder of the companies Tide and Vu He have worked with surrealistic scenes, odd humorous illusions and immersive installations that priorities theatrical artifice and visual pleasure. With his background in magic and circus together he makes a captivating hybrids of performance arts.

# 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 Company'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.

# PETTERI RAJANTI

Sound designer

Petteri is a musician, sound designer, mixing and recording engineer. Since 1979, Peter Rajanti has starred in movies and series as an actor and made a number of sound designs for theater and dance performances, as well as in the movies. Rajanti has played in numerous bands since 1976 until today. He has recorded, edited and mixed a number of records since 1994. Rajanti is involved in a music collective who owns a 200 square meters recording studio.

He has taught sound design and acoustics in Tampere University of Applied Sciences in art, music and media unit, as a lecturer from 1995. Feels comfortable on stage and has been an actor in a professional theatre. Likes to work with little groups doing everything needed, composing, arranging, acting, soldering, driving a car etc.

# ANNE JÄMSÄ

Costume designer

Anne is a costume and set designer who has worked particularly with object theater, dance and contemporary circus. She have been designing costumes, props and stage sets mostly in object theater, dance and contemporary circus performances.

She has a master degree from University of Art and production design and she postgraduated with her research of object manipulation.

Anne is interested in developing visually expressive ways of using objects on stage.





BOOKING DETAILS  
&  
GENERAL INQUIRIES

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NUUA