



**BALTIK
CIRCUS
ON THE
ROAD**

BALTIC CIRCUS ON THE ROAD

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LIST OF BALTIC CIRCUS ORGANIZATIONS

There could not be a better moment to release a compilation of Baltic circus works and artists. In the last 5 years we have seen a great surge in momentum concerning circus development. With the rise of institutions such as Rīgas cirks, creation of the Grassroot – Baltic circus artists' network, the formation of festivals like "Cirkuliacija", schools such as Cirko sapiens and artists migrating back to their native countries after studying at international schools, it seems not a day goes by without a possibility to discover something new.

Despite the challenging reality, which has highlighted the lack of resources and infrastructure in place, Baltic circus is flourishing. What makes this particularly exciting is that we discover formations of new national, cultural and artistic identities. New iterations and interpretations, helping us understand the world better one somersault at a time. It is with tremendous pleasure that we introduce these artists and their works to you. They come highly recommended!



Contemporary circus appeared in Lithuania 15 years ago when the first edition of "New Circus Weekend" was held at the Arts Printing House. Back then, Lithuanian spectators got the opportunity to get acquainted with contemporary circus for the first time. Fifteen years later, this genre is still not quite established in Lithuania.

But lately, contemporary circus in Lithuania has been on the rise – a couple of years ago the Association of Contemporary Circus was established, there are already two strong circus festivals in the country – "Helium" (formerly "New Circus Weekend") and "Cirkuliacija" that introduce contemporary circus to Lithuanian audiences. Lithuanian Dance information centre added contemporary circus as a discipline to their activity spectrum. Furthermore, a circus school "Cirko sapiens" has been established in 2020, artists like Kęstas Matusevičius, Marija Barauskaitė, Džiugas Kunsmanas and others come back after finishing circus schools abroad and make a decision to reside in Lithuania.

So, it is just the beginning! For this reason, we want to support our artists and give them as many opportunities as possible that would motivate them to continue creating and developing their work further, thus laying a solid foundation for the Lithuanian and Baltic contemporary circus field.

CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS IN BALTICS



LV

The circus tradition in Latvia goes back to the 18th century and the historical Rīgas Cirks building, built in 1888, has been the home of this tradition. Just relatively recently Latvia has seen an important rise of the contemporary circus field. During the last twenty years contemporary circus performances were occasionally introduced by the theatre organisation New Theatre Institute of Latvia. These developments can largely be contributed to the contemporary circus and street art festival “RERIGA!” founded in 2013. Since then, the festival takes place every August and brings a great number of circus performances and workshops helping to change the image of circus as well as working with local authorities in order to advocate circus as an art form. The festival has joined international networks to foster development of the circus in Latvia.

Today, contemporary circus has charmed the audiences and inspired many artists, gradually more and more circus organisations and artists are emerging, and circus arts are becoming a stable part of multi art festivals such as “Sansusi”, “Komēta”, and others. The important change happened in 2017 when the state circus organisation Rīgas Cirks changed its strategy and shifted from traditional circus towards becoming a multifunctional art centre for contemporary circus arts showcasing performances, providing creation and education opportunities and advocating for circus arts locally and internationally. Rīgas Cirks intends to become a centre of contemporary circus in the region.

EST

Estonian contemporary circus has built its strong base during the last decade mainly with the efforts of two schools: “Circus Studio Folie” and “Eksperimentaalse Liikumise Keskus”. Today there are 7 schools teaching circus in Estonia with 50 workers and 900 pupils altogether.

The base of professional circus artists in Estonia has been gradually growing since 2015 when Grete Gross and Lizeth Wolk – the founders of the first Estonian contemporary circus troupe “The Big Wolf Company” – graduated from SaSak Circus School in Finland along with Kert Ridaste who graduated the Stockholm Circus University DOCH in 2018 and established “Circus SaboK” together with Finnish artist Saana Leppänen. The above mentioned and other young professionals including Ireen Peegel, Laura Kivistik, Helga Ehrenbusch and Anna Kristin Peterson-McCarthy now prefer residing in Estonia and creating an active circus community to carry on the important work of development of the art form in their homeland.

In 2014 the Estonian Contemporary Circus Development Centre was founded and has today 12 members. Their biggest event is the Baltic professional circus showcase EPICIRQ, founded in 2018. The biannual festival welcomes local and foreign producers and regular audiences to discover the uniqueness of Baltic contemporary circus. Since 2015 the annual Street Art Festival TaDaa has been organised, started locally in Tallinn, it has travelled around Estonia and lately to Latvia as well, developing the Street Art field in Estonia and the Baltics. The interest by local audiences and support by the government for contemporary circus has been growing during the last 20 years and so has the community, which definitely has a lot to say and to share with the world.



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Circus artists Kęstas Matusevičius and Aino Mäkipää met at SaSak circus school in Lahti, Finland, where they worked together on numerous productions before forming their own company in 2019. They aspire to create entertaining but thought provoking circus with a multi disciplinary approach that combines aerial acrobatics, Chinese pole, object manipulation, and physical comedy. Through the circus they create a world, where the everyday is extraordinary, and the real becomes surreal.





KANTA COMPANY

CLOTHES AND US

LAUREATE OF “BALTIC CIRCUS ON THE ROAD”
SHOWCASED AT “EPICIRQ 2021”

Clothes. We wear them every day. They come in all sizes, colors and patterns. We spend countless hours buying, washing, drying, folding, wearing, and removing them. In this show clothes will take over the world. You will see fabrics change shape and come alive. Human shaped hoodies, silk draped ghosts, monsters and moving piles of clothes — all this creates a world ruled by clothing, surreal but recognizable in its proximity to everyday life. What do clothes mean to us? Who are we without clothes and how do they change us? Can they protect us? What do they hide? As clothes take over our world, we attempt to undress the layers we hide behind to reveal our true identity.

Artists: Kęstas Matusevičius, Aino Mäkipää, Lyla Goldman

Disciplines: Aerial silks, Chinese pole, object manipulation

Duration: 55” / **Age:** 6+ / **Language:** None / English

People on tour: 3 artists, asking a local light and sound technician

Technical requirements: Inside or outside with rigging possibilities for aerial silks and Chinese pole. Even, hard, smooth and clean floor surface, preferably covered with dance floor. Minimum of 8 x 8 m of working area, aerial rigging points 6 m (height).





KANTA COMPANY

DEAR PRESSURE

WORK IN PROGRESS

Contemporary circus piece “Dear Pressure” is a letter to the pressure that we face in our everyday lives due to social norms. The duet performance of two young circus artists Kęstas Matusevičius and Aino Mäkipää explores the topics of dissatisfaction with body image and internalized gender roles.

The artists point out that difficult problems shouldn’t scare us away. “Dear Pressure” explores the topics in front of the audience so they could have a good laugh and feel more relaxed and less alone.

Artists: Kęstas Matusevičius, Aino Mäkipää

Team: Composer: Mantvydas Leonas Pranulis, Outside eye: Jason Dupree, Light designer: Pijus Vasiliauskas

Disciplines: Partner acrobatics, acro-dance, bounce ball juggling, Chinese pole

Duration: 40” / **Age:** 12+ / **Language:** None / **People on tour:** 2

Technical requirements: indoor space, 3 rigging points for Chinese pole, floor: 6 x 6 m, ceiling: 5 m



DŽIUGAS KUNSMANAS (LT)

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Graduated from Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania in 2017 with theater and cinema acting specialty. During the studies was an active member and performer in the theatre group “Teatronas” and contributed to the organisation of circus festival “Cirkuliacija” in Kaunas, became a member of the Contemporary circus association of Lithuania. Was awarded with “Fortūna diploma” – a theatre award of Kaunas City for a physical performance in “Nutricula” directed by Yassen Yasilev. In 2019 graduated from contemporary circus school „Flic scuola di circo” Torino, Italy where he studied acro partnering and acrobatics. For the last several years, he works more with the contemporary dance and Brazilian dance art Capoeira. He is now working as a freelancer actor, acrobat, dancer.





DŽIUGAS KUNSMANAS & ADRIAN CARLO BIBIANO

WHERE DO I CONNECT?

Recent events has created a world where people have become distant from each other, the rhythm of life has changed, we're forced to find communication alternatives, and avoid physical contact. In light of these events Džiugas Kunsmanas and Adrian Carlo Bibiano are looking for a non-verbal contact between an acrobat and a dancer. Contact, in the sense of touching, doesn't really exist in physics — on an atomic level feet and floor can never really touch each other. Nevertheless, we can still feel the hug of a person that is close to us. Using different languages of movement, artists discuss this topic and try to create an unusual but honest dialog among the audience.

Artists: Džiugas Kunsmanas, Adrian Carlo Bibiano

Disciplines: Contemporary dance, acrobatics

Duration: 30'' / **Age:** 5+ / **Language:** None / **People on tour:** 2 artists

Technical requirements: open / public spaces 10 x 10 m



TEATRONAS LT

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The main organisation in Lithuania that works with strategic development of contemporary circus in the country. Starting from 2024, the artistic creation of Teatronas — previously theatre productions — now include local circus artists in order to bring new language into the Lithuanian scene and to present the merge of theatrical tradition with contemporary circus to international audiences.





TEATRONAS

ITCH

WORK IN PROGRESS

Anxiety, a rush to achieve something, social isolation, conflict – these are just a small part of the common symptoms of our time that can actually hide as the terror of death. In the current contexts of pandemics, wars, ecological disasters and other unexpected events, it is a good time to speak of this very natural fear. The performance is influenced by the “Staring at the Sun: Overcoming the Terror of Death” (Irvin D. Yalom) and “Man’s Search for Meaning” (V.E. Frankl) to kickstart the artistic research. Literature is only used as an inspiration for the creation of an absolutely new circus and theatre dramaturgy.

Artists and authors: Kasparas Bujanauskas, Džiugas Kunsmanas, Milda Jonaitytė

Team: Direction: Gildas Aleksa, Music: Jokūbas Tulaba

Disciplines: Juggling, acrobatics, aerial harness

Duration: 45” (outdoor), 60” (indoor) / **Age:** 13+ / **Language:** English

People on tour: 5

Technical requirements: Aerial rigging point for the harness (4 m) and 8 x 8 m black stage space



MARIJA BARANAUSKAITĖ- LIBERMAN LT

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Marija Baranauskaitė-Liberman is one of the first professional contemporary circus creators in Lithuania. She started her career on stage as a contemporary dance performer and later graduated from the Philippe Gaulier clown school in Paris. For 11 years she worked at RED NOSES Clown Doctors as an actress and lecturer and for some time also as its artistic director. She co-founded the Contemporary Circus Association in Lithuania and has created and collaborated on a dozen dance, theater and circus performances and compositions.





MARIJA BARANAUSKAITĖ-LIBERMAN

MATERIA 2.0: FOR MATERIA

Marija Baranauskaitė-Liberman won the audience vote of the international project “The Sphere”, that conducted an artistic research: how to create a film for non-human, polystyrene audience. This is a human friendly movie screening. Before entering the screening area, people will receive instructions on how to behave during the film in order to create a maximally empathic atmosphere for the being and agency of polystyrene.

Artists: Marija Baranauskaitė-Liberman, Markas Liberman

Team: Director of the film: Filip Jacobson

Disciplines: Conceptual clown

Duration: 20” per showing / **Age:** 12+ / **Language:** English

People on tour: Minimum one. Depends on location and specifics.

Technical requirements: Any space that allows for the screening of a film.





MARIJA BARANAUSKAITĖ-LIBERMAN

THE DUCK SHOW PERFORMANCE

What does it mean to look and be looked at? During the show a pond of ducks unexpectedly becomes the center of attention. It encourages looking at the relationship between animals and humans with new eyes. The reasons for this decision and its post-human underpinnings are presented in a performative lecture that sets the framework for the excursion. The audience then embarks on a journey through the city to reach the stage of the actual performance. An extremely meaningful and appreciative preparation for the climax at the pond!

Artists: Marija Baranauskaitė-Liberman (LT), Markas Liberman (LT), Joe Kent-Walters (UK)

Team: Director of Duckumentary: Filip Jacobson

Disciplines: Conceptual clown, acrobatics

Duration: 120' / **Age:** 12+ / **Language:** English

People on tour: 3+1, In-house technicians to help set up


Technical requirements: A space with ducks present. Another space can be adaptable.



MARKAS LIBERMAN

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Markas Liberman has completed his master's studies in Arts Cognition and focuses on exploring the intersection of body and environmental psychology through the lens of circus. Subsequently, he transitioned to the practical side of circus, collaborating with creators in the vibrant Baltic contemporary circus scene. Liberman has finalized his studies at the international school of clowning "Ecole Philippe Gaulier" in Paris. Currently, he is actively engaged as a freelance creator and educator, continuously delving into the dynamic interplay between circus practice and research.





MARKAS LIBERMAN

PLAYCES

“PLAYces” is a solo musical-circus performance by Markas Liberman, which invites the audience to experience children’s playgrounds as a performative, circus-friendly space. What happens when a swing becomes a circus tool, a musical instrument? What life metaphors do game objects reveal? “PLAYces” is an experiment that intertwines music and acrobatics, art and everyday life, childhood and maturity, it is a story about transformations and eternal searches for identity, about the desire to grow up and the ability to preserve the most fragile qualities of childhood.

Artist: Markas Liberman

Team: Dramaturgy: Marija Baranauskaitė-Liberman

Disciplines: Conceptual Clown, Acrobatics, Music

Duration: 40” / **Age:** All / **Language:** English

People on tour: 2, in-house technicians needed for setting up.

Technical requirements: A space with a playground and electricity. Min. 3 days for adapting the show to a specific playground.



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Contemporary circus company “Taigi Cirkas” was formed in 2016 in Vilnius, Lithuania. Its name can be loosely translated from Lithuanian as “But it’s a circus!” – meaning that it is something that doesn’t have to be explained. The main purpose of the group is to tell honest stories emerging from their individual and collective experiences using circus disciplines as a medium to share and connect. The company consists of Elena Kosovec and Konstantin Kosovec and collaborative artists from Baltics and abroad.





TAIGI CIRKAS

UP TO THIS POINT

LAUREATE OF “BALTIC CIRCUS ON THE ROAD”

SHOWCASED AT “EPICIRQ 2021”

Three circus artists met each other on a rise of pandemic with a wish to research the connection points between their practices, finding their artistic way in limiting and harsh conditions.

How do their bodies change, how does it affect their mental and emotional states? How do their thoughts translate to their bodies and how does the way of communication transform? What they can propose to each other and where this proposition can bring to?

A breathtaking journey leads one to a search of self-identity, another to a new way of self-acknowledgement. All results of building a new reality with objects losing their conventional meaning and becoming a beautiful metaphor of connection, support and communication.

Artists welcome the audience to enter the universe of imagination and dive into worlds created through physicality, sensitivity, materiality, vulnerability, textures and geometry.

Artists: Konstantin Kosovec, Elena Kosovec (LT), Aleksey Smolov (LV)

Team: Pau Portabella (ESP) – artistic mentor, Monika Šerstabojevaitė (LT) – lighting designer

Disciplines: acrobatics, contemporary dance, aerial acrobatics on rope, Cyr wheel

Duration: 50” / **Age:** 8+ / **Language:** None / **People on tour:** 4

Technical requirements: Space: W:8-10m x L:10-12m x H:7-8m

Rigging: 2 rigging points (human weight dynamic load, over 2000 kg MBL) 0.7-0.9 m apart. 4 rigging points (up to 100 kg load).





TAIGI CIRKAS

INTENSE

WORK IN PROGRESS

InTENSE is a contemporary circus show that dives deeply into physics and philosophical aspects of tensegrity. This creative project is based on tension, contraction and bending — all concepts that unite circus equipment, architecture and human anatomy. A building, a body, a society can be analyzed from different perspectives but using the same method. By analyzing the tensegrity structure in micro and macroscopic perspectives we find the same tendencies whatever object it would be. Contemporary circus is moving forward and not only erases the line in between art disciplines, but also in between art, science, politics and human everyday life.

Idea and creation: Taigi Cirkas

Artists: Izabelė Kuzelytė (LT) Elena Kosovec (LT) Konstantin Kosovec (LT)

Disciplines: rope acrobatics, areal disciplines

Duration: ca 30 min / **Age:** 7+ / **Language:** None

People on tour: 3; In-house technicians needed for setting up.





TAIGI CIRKAS

SAUCISSON

WORK IN PROGRESS / FINALIST OF CIRCUS NEXT 2024

The main creative approach of “Saucisson” is de-sacralising the circus object and de-heroizing the circus artist. Yet, there are few underlying topics that are also spoken about – sexuality, feminism, consumption, value of human life and freedom of expression of every single body. This project came to life out of the depths of artists’ creative personas and is by far the most authentic representations of them. With this project they are hitting the spot of being borderless yet straight to the point, metaphorical yet extremely concrete and corporal.

Artists: Izabele Kuzelyte & Elena Kosovec

Team: Composer, singer: Egle Radaviciute, Rigger: Konstantin Kosovec

Disciplines: Areal disciplines

Duration: 40” / **Age:** 16+ / **Language:** None / **People on tour:** 2

Technical requirements: Black box with light equipment. Min ceiling height 5 m, 2 rigging points for human load, 5 rigging points for decorations, min stage 6 x 6 m.



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Izabelė Kuzelytė is a contemporary circus artist and performer of aerial acrobatics and dance, who contributes to the promotion of contemporary circus and its development in Lithuania. Originally from Vilnius, Lithuania, she started her circus path in teenage years in a local aerial acrobatics studio. Later learned circus skills in Gravity Circus course and graduated FLIC scuola di Circo in 2021. Izabelė also participated in training hosted by various international festivals and projects (Baltic Nordic Circus network, New Circus Weekend, Lab Rope Creative, etc.) which contributed to her experience and knowledge in stage arts. In her performances and creations she merges previous background in various dance styles and circus technique to achieve fluidity and fragility in her movement style.





IZABELĖ KUZELYTĖ

LIFE OF CREATURES

“Life of Creatures” creates a universe where the spectator may observe the average day of different beings. It is a contemporary circus show based on the concept of theater of the absurd. It focuses on ideas of existentialism, challenges the viewer’s perspective by shifting focus from physical inputs to philosophical interpretations, playing with the human “disease” of trying to find meaning everywhere. By using circus disciplines to express existentialist ideas I bring the audience a modern contemporary circus interpretation of théâtre de l’absurde.

Artists: Izabelė Kuzelytė

Disciplines: Aerial rope, aerial hoop

Duration: 15” / **Age:** All / **Language:** none

People on tour: 1 artist on tour, and 1 technician in need at the venue for rigging and music.

Technical requirements: Indoor or outdoor, a place with no direct sunlight (also might be outdoors, towards the evening or at night). Minimum ceiling height 6m, floor size 8 x 8 m, two rigging points one next to another, a safety mat (at least 0,5 m thick). This show can also be presented on an aerial rig.



ART FOR RAINY DAYS LV

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“Art For Rainy Days” is a performance collective made up of a circus artist, a dancer and a dramaturg. Combining perceptions, the aim is simple: to be inspired by each other’s artistic standpoints and to create by melting brains. “Art For Rainy Days” is a slow breakfast, scribbles in a notebook, a daydream, an unproductive day. “What’s a rainy day without some delicious coffee-flavored loneliness?” — *Sanober Khan, “Turquoise Silence”*.





ART FOR RAINY DAYS

HOW A SPIRAL WORKS

WORK IN PROGRESS

“How a spiral works” is a live contemporary circus performance using aerial rope and a dance. Two performers, one from each discipline, explore to see how their worlds merge. A relationship between falling, flying, and catching yourself. Ground and air collaborating in order to find the tether that connects them.

The research tries to find new ways of representing contemporary circus, stretching the boundaries of it, uniting with dance and digital arts. Searching for new perspectives and innovative applications while still maintaining the beauty of simplicity.

Artist: Izabelè Kuzelytè, Alise Madara Bokaldere

Team: Jason Dupree – Collaborator

Disciplines: Aerial Rope, Hair Suspension , Contemporary Dance

Duration: Current 25”, finished 50” / **Age:** All / **Language:** None

People on tour: 3

Technical requirements: Black box preferred. Covered by a black dance floor Can be performed with a flat audience or 360.

Rigging: 1 single point on a 3-1 lifting system in the centre of the stage. Minimum height – 6 meters; Maximum – 8 meters; Stage: 10 x 10 meters minimum (smaller space to be negotiated in advance).



ALEKSEY SMOLOV (LV)

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Aleksey Smolov is a contemporary circus artist from Latvia. The Cyr wheel is an apparatus of his passion. He has been acquiring knowledge mostly in an autodidact way and through independent studies in the Stockholm University of the Arts. He is a co-creator of the first Latvian contemporary circus and dance performance and a first prize winner of the contemporary circus acts contest “Cyrkulacje 2021” in Poland. Aleksey Smolov participates in various interdisciplinary creations and performances, currently working with Taigi cirkas (LT), Big Wolf Company (EST), Rīgas cirks production “Pienene”. He combines a highly technical, expressive and authentic interaction using Cyr wheel, together with surprising movements of dance acrobatics finding the perfect balance of physicality, musicality and humanity. A member of the board of a Latvian non-profit organization “Next Door Circus” which conducts inclusive circus events for people of various social groups and capabilities.





ALEKSEY SMOLOV & MARCUS WÄRNHEIM

OL' THAT

Showcased at "Epicirq 2021"

"Ol' that" started out as the solitary research on the relationship between a circus performer Alexey Smolov and his apparatus – Cyr wheel. Eventually, he crossed paths with a Swedish musician Marcus Warnheim with his own inquiries about his instrument – saxophone.

Marcus' expression ranges from minimalistic exploration of timbres to explosive free jazz with a particular interest in performative arts and transdisciplinary collaborations.

"Ol' that" has turned into an expressive circus music piece for the two people and their two metal tubes. The artists experiment, through improvisational methods, with the distributed power between objects and humans. The two artists together with a Cyr Wheel and an Alto Saxophone engage in a physical encounter to uncover the potential that resides in materiality, breath and touch. An elege to spontaneity, sensuality and to the beauty that resides in the attempt to communicate and become together.

Artists: Aleksey Smolov, Marcus Warnheim

Disciplines: Cyr wheel, live music

Duration: 30" / **Age:** 7+ / **Language:** None / **People on tour:** 2

For technical requirements: contact the artist.





ALEKSEY SMOLOV

DANDELION

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“Dandelion” is a contemporary circus performance about the crossroads we are facing. In a climate and biodiversity crisis, what pathway do we take? What does the future look like?

Exploring different realities through spectacular acrobatics, dance, music and the voices of Latvian youth, “Dandelion” creates imagery of what the world could become. Taking inspiration from a dandelion, which can survive and spread its seeds despite harsh conditions, humanity has a chance to survive when we start collaborating, supporting and creating together. The performance is aimed at youngsters to spread awareness on how our actions matter. Dandelion is a collaboration between Rīgas cirks and Acting for Climate. The performance builds on a series of workshops with Latvian youth and what they think about the climate crisis.

Artists: Aleksey Smolov, Alise Bokaldere, Maija Sukute

Team: Directed by Emma Langmoen and Amund Lindvang Bentsen and co-created with Alise Bokaldere, Aleksejs Smolovs, Maija Sukute, Michele Di Riu and Abigael Winsvold with music by Kaspars Kurdeko.

Disciplines: Cyr wheel, aerial acrobatics, contemporary dance

Duration: 40” / **Age:** 12+ / **Language:** English or Latvian /

People on tour: 3

Technical requirements: 8 m x 8 m x 6 m



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Valery Komisarenko, better known as ValeryElastic or Iguana Man, is a juggler and contortionist, who has participated in various projects both in Latvia and around the world. He has won awards at several international circus festivals. He has performed in more than 17 countries around the world – both in circus and on theater stages.





VALERY KOMISARENKO

PANTOCIRKS

The performance combines theatrical circus and pantomime. The story begins with the protagonist, a dreamer who travels through life with his suitcase. A dream is a direction to go. The dream is to be happy. Along the way, he meets an iguana and a girl – finds love and friendship that is full of play, enthusiasm and imagination.

The show includes artists – Valery Komisarenko, who is better known as Valery Elastic or Iguana Man – a circus artist of the original genre, a master of acrobatics – contortionist, “rubber man” or “boneless man” and a juggler. Alina Kesane – professional dancer, circus artist, acrobatics, juggling, assistant in magic tricks. Dmitrijs Ivanovs – professional theater actor and mime.

Artists: Valery Komisarenko, Alina Kesane, Dmitry Ivanov

Disciplines: Contortion comedy, pantomime, juggling, acrobatic bufonada and illusion (magic tricks)

Duration: 32” / **Age:** All / **Language:** None / **People on tour:** 3

Technical requirements: Indoor – a clean and flat floor. Outdoors without rain or need a roof to perform. Height 2.70 meters, width 3 meters, flat floor, no slope.



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Anna Kristin McCarthy is a street performer, contemporary circus artist and director, a mother of 2 boys and a believer in arts and beauty. Her life in the performance world started when she was born, as her family had a little theatre, where she grew up and fell in love with performance art. She specialized in circus at the age of 8 and from then on she didn't look back. The discipline, art and power behind the circus has always amazed her. Even when she tries to run away from it, she always comes rushing back and falls in love over and over again.

Anna Kristin has studied contemporary circus in Circus Studio Folie, in Musik and Theaterhojskole in Denmark and contemporary dance in Berlin and Viljandi. Her streetperformer's life started in 2016 where she discovered the magic of street festivals and took it as her aim to create a contemporary street performance that follows the guidelines of an old school show.





ANNA KRAZY

ALL STRINGS ATTACHED

Showcased at “Epicirq 2021”

The contemporary street show involves acrobatics, dance, contortion, visual theatre elements and power of word. It involves the audience in a unique way, captures their attention and leaves them wondering where all the time suddenly went. The whole show is a reminder to know that everyone is vulnerable and we are all in the same boat, going through similar fears and doubts. We need to be all in the relationships to people close to us but also to people on the streets.

Artist: Anna Kristin McCarthy

Disciplines: Acrobatics, dance, contortion

Duration: 30” / **Age:** 5+ / **People on tour:** 1

Language: Can be performed in many languages! – English, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Finnish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish etc. (Surprise me!)

Technical requirements: Indoors or outdoors, 8 x 8 m, flat ground or dance floor



BIG WOLF COMPANY EST

bigwolfcompany.net

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Lizeth Wolk: +372 5332 3568

Grete Gross: +372 5806 6199

Big Wolf Company is Estonia's first professional contemporary circus troupe. Founded in 2015 by Grete Gross and Lizeth Wolk, when the creation of the play "Eternal Dinner" began. Big Wolf Company has been active in introducing the relatively new art form of circus to Estonian audiences, developing the local circus scene and representing the Baltic circus community abroad. Joining forces of versatile artists, Big Wolf Company creates performances for every taste: from stylish retro comedies to touching solo productions. The troupe moves towards a common goal, to make the whole Estonia fall in love with circus and to make the international circus world fall in love with Estonia.





BIG WOLF COMPANY

THREE SISTERS

Showcased at “Epicirq 2021”

Laureate of “Baltic Circus on the Road”

How strong legs does one need to break a log? What is needed to give birth in the middle of a field? And what is there to be done, if there are no men on sight and the whole future a woman sees ahead is work, more work and the company of one’s envious, vicious and yet incredibly loving sisters. Inspired by folk songs and stories, “Three Sisters” is a performance that talks about the great women of the Nordic countries – of their tenderness, strength, convictions and fears.

The project is based on aerial disciplines (hammock, hoop) and handstand / acro-dance combined with witty comedy, spiced up with social criticism and danced away by epics. While creating the show the team researched old nordic traditions about marriage, women’s role in the household, what type of a woman was desired during the old times and how has it changed (or not) these days.

Artists: Grete Gross (EST), Lizeth Wolk (EST), Ghia Lumia (FIN)

Disciplines: aerial acrobatics

Duration: 45” / **Age:** all ages / **Language:** English

People on tour: 3 performers

Technical requirements: Outdoor height 6 m, area 8 x 9 m; indoor space: height 8 meters, stage 10 x 10 meters. No extra rigging points needed. Rigging construction will be brought by the artists and built up with the help of 4 local technicians. Rigging will be done by the artist.





NOT TO BE MENTIONED

WORK IN PROGRESS

The performance is exploring the topic of single parenthood through self-analysis, accessing memories (cognitive and material) of childhood and finding the ways to embody, transpose and communicate findings through artist's artistic practices and points of interaction.

What are we searching for in a partnership? Why do we continue hanging on to a sinking ship or why do we quit so easily? How does one show that the love that they once had for the other has disappeared? How does one show love?

Artists: Aleksey Smolov (LV), Lizeth Wolk (EST)

Disciplines: Cyr wheel, aerial acrobatics, acrobatics

Duration: 45' / **Age:** 10+ / **Language:** None / **People on tour:** 2 artists

Technical requirements: hard, even, smooth and clean surface covered with dance floor of optimal 6 x 6 m of working area. Two ceiling points suitable for rigging at least 6 m high.



LIZETH WOLK EST

[lizeth.wolk](#)

lizethwolk@gmail.com

+372 5332 3568

Lizeth Wolk graduated Salpaus Further Education- Circus department (Lahti, Finland) in 2015, where she specialised in aerial hoop, and has been actively working as an artist ever since. As her earlier background involves music and art, Lizeth is keen on creating visually interesting and technically clever solutions for the performances. Lizeth has been performing all over Europe and further with solo pieces and in circus companies. She is the co-founder of the first Estonian contemporary circus troupe Big Wolf Company and a board member of the Estonian Contemporary Circus Development Center (2020). She is passionate about developing the artform in her country and creating performances that would speak with the audience and give something to think about after the public has left the theater.





LIZETH WOLK

THERAPY

“Therapy” is a spectacle that talks about loss, devastation, stress and emptiness through the eyes of six people.

They did everything they could to help them recover from these harsh emotions and heal their souls. Hoping that we are strong enough to carry the burden on our own, without really noticing you are slowly falling apart, might lead us to drown the problems into the weirdest places just to get away from our own thoughts. Anything goes as long as it gets your mind away from the emptiness. Grab a drink or five, dance a little, watch through all the seasons of some TV series, work out until you get a nosebleed, run away from yourself.

Artists: Lizeth Wolk

Disciplines: Aerial acrobatics / **Duration:** 30” / **Age:** 12+ / **Language:** None

People on tour: 1, technical assistants necessary for build up and during show

Technical requirements: indoor or outdoor venues, 8 x 8 m dance floor, 2 rigging points



GRETE GROSS EST

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grete.gross@gmail.com

+372 5806 6619

Grete Gross is a woman, a sister, an artist, a creator. She's playful and on a continuous journey of learning and discovering new areas that excite her. Her base is in a history of 18 years with contemporary circus, started at the age of 9 at Circus Studio Folie and then continued at SaSak Circus School in Finland after high school. Her circus knowledge has been enriched by her practice as a yoga teacher, her sharing as a musician, her joy in cooking, travelling, moving, writing and above all – sharing from heart to heart, no matter what the best tool for it in the very moment happens to be.





GRETE GROSS

KEHAKÕNE

WORK IN PROGRESS

Kehakõne is a piece that walks on the borders of a ceremony and a performance, opening up the space of sincerity and intimacy. A storytelling, a journey, a gathering. The space of Kehakõne is a tipi-like tent that welcomes 40 people at once. The audience will be sitting, standing up, walking and laying down as guided through the show. The aim has been to build a space that feels safe, warm and cozy. A space of care from the first moment an audience member enters. A space to slow down, land, and meet oneself. A space of softness that would ease the sharp corners of each on the journey.

Artist: Grete Gross

Team: Scenographer Kristel Maamägi

Disciplines: Aerial hammock, aerial tissue net

Duration: 65" / **Age:** 9+ / **Language:** Estonian, English or Finnish, local translators can be used

People on tour: 2 + from organiser: 2 people prior and during the show, 4 people needed for build up and taking down the rig, light and sound technician;

Technical requirements: Indoors with minimum 6.5 m height and 8x10 m space. The show is built on an aerial rig that is covered with fabrics to build a tent. From Summer 2024 also an outdoor version is created.



SYLVAIN OULALA (EST)

sylvainoulala.com

[sylvainoulala](#)

[sylvainoulala](#)

booking@sypocircus.com

[+372 5815 8366](tel:+37258158366)

Born in France, graduated with an engineering diploma. However, realized that office work wasn't the life Sylvain wanted. So, he made a radical turn and 10 years ago moved to Estonia to start a new chapter as a circus performer. Today, as an adventurous spirit and content creator, Sylvain wears multiple hats. From organizing his own festival in Estonia to conquering a 3000 km unicycling journey from France to Estonia. His passion for unique experiences knows no limits and this is only the beginning of the journey.





SYLVAIN POMME / SYPOCIRCUS

OULALA

SHOWCASED AT "EPICIRQ 2021"

Welcome to the only high energy circus show in the world, where you can see a Frenchy smiling and speaking foreign languages as if they were juggling props. If you have a love for the circus, then this is the show for you, from high level diabolo & juggling routines to the death defying 3m unicycle. Sylvain no-doubt impresses people of all ages by creating happiness and laughter throughout the whole show. A show that guarantees that none will leave disappointed!

Artist: Sylvain Pomm

Disciplines: Clowning, unicycle, juggling

Duration: 30" – 45" (flexible on request) / **Age:** 5+

Language: multilingual (mainly – English, French; also possible a bit of Latvian, Estonian, Lithuanian, Russian)

People on tour: 1

Technical requirements: Preferred – outdoors, public space, a flat area of 10m x 12m to perform. No electricity supply needed. Safe storage less than 500 meters from the performance pitch or an assistant to help bring the props on the pitch.



CAROUSEL COMPANY EST

📷 [companycarousel](#)

✉ companycarousel@gmail.com

A circus duo based in Estonia. Ireen Peegel (EST) and Jaakko Repola (FIN) met each other in 2014 at the Lahti Circus School (SaSak). Jaakko Repola specialized in circus ladder, contact juggling and pair acrobatics. Before joining the magical world of circus Jaakko was studying theatre in Finland for three years. Ireen Peegel specialized in Cyr wheel, handstand and pair acrobatics. Before professional circus education Ireen trained for 13 years in Circus Studio Folie, Tallinn. Beside training at the circus, Ireen studied theatre for three years in Tallinn. Carousel Company loves to combine circus with different art forms — physical theater, dance and live music. Their heavy metallic equipment stays and spins strongly on the ground. Their pure and magical world on stage can take audiences to the realest spin ever had. In the year 2017 Carousel Company won the New Baltic talent — competition with “Carousel Night” in “ReRiga!” festival — Riga, Latvia.





CAROUSEL COMPANY

CAROUSEL NIGHT

The small moments that count. Creates a beautiful world that is at the same time abstract and recognizable. Performance leaves space for viewers' own breath, experience and memories. The first public work in progress won the prize for best show in Short theatre festival, Kajaanin Runoviikko 2016 in Kajaani, Finland: "Carousel night was physically extremely talented dialogue between two incredibly present performers. This sensitively tuned show was magical to watch and it succeeded in what very few artwork can do, to stop the time." — Eino Saari, member of the Jury, director.

Artists: Ireen Peegel and Jaakko Repola

Disciplines: Pair acrobatics

Duration: 30" / **Age:** All / **Language:** None / **People on tour:** 2

Technical requirements: 8 x 8 m, flat ground.



ACCOMPANY ME (FR)

monika-neverauskaite.com

meaccompany.me@gmail.com

Accompany ME is a circus company formed by Monika Neverauskaite and Elena Damasio working now on their first show together. The performers originate from Italy and Lithuania, both educated and trained in The Netherlands and both living and working in Toulouse, France. The title “Accompany ME” underlines the importance of the presence of a dear person next to us. Through their work, the two authors aim to offer their audience a moment of lightness in counterbalance with the more serious themes which they handle. The company pursues the theme of gender equality as it is created and performed by two women, in an equal and non-hierarchical relationship.





ACCOMPANY ME

PACES

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Accompany ME” got inspired by the English word “pace”, as it indicates the rhythm, the step, the cadence. It recalls the sharing of a journey with another person, it is a positive and heartwarming message. The piece is orientated towards the normalisation of Love in its many forms. “Paces” offers a glance over the intimate space of a relationship. It shows the teamwork that is necessary to make things work... The goal is to keep on going, together. The show will premiere in June 2024 as part of the “Cirkuliacija” festival in Lithuania.

Artists: Monika Neverauskaite, Elena Damasio

Team: Music composers: Eric Pollet and Valentin Avoiron. Outside eye and dramaturgical help: Marie Vela, Clémentine Dilé. Special thanks for the help: Gildas Aleksa, Stephen Rappaport.

Disciplines: Cyr wheel

Duration: / **Age:** 8+ / **Language:** English, Lithuanian, French, Italian (depending on the performing country)

People on tour: 3

Technical requirements: Venue options are a black box, indoor, outdoor, The floor area should be hard, flat, even and clean, covered by a black marley dance floor. 8x8 m and 3,5 m ceiling.





RĪGAS CIRKS

- cirks.lv
- [VSIARigascirks](https://www.facebook.com/VSIARigascirks)
- [rigas_cirks](https://www.instagram.com/rigas_cirks)
- bit.ly/3CL6da2
- cirks@cirks.lv

The Rīgas cirks is becoming a multifunctional, contemporary art centre – a place where different disciplines of art come together. It is a centre which aims not only at offering important and topical circus performances to an ever-expanding public, but also promotes the development and visibility of the circus industry in the Latvian society and Baltics in the long term. Rīgas cirks promotes international visibility and creativity by working with international networks of circus professionals and organising a programme of artist residencies.



RIGA CIRCUS SCHOOL

- [cirkaskola](https://www.facebook.com/cirkaskola)
- [rigascirkaskola](https://www.instagram.com/rigascirkaskola)
- skola@cirks.lv

The Rīgas cirks School was founded in 2017, and its primary task is promotion of circus education and its accessibility both in Latvia and the Baltic States. The school offers regular classes and sessions for children and families on its premises and at outing sessions, and organises training for circus professionals.



RERIGA! FESTIVAL

- reriga.lv
- [rerigafestival](https://www.facebook.com/rerigafestival)
- [re.riga](https://www.instagram.com/re.riga)
- info@reriga.lv

“Re Riga!” is an international contemporary circus and street art festival taking place annually in August since 2013.

RE RIGA! was included in the official program of Riga – the European Capital of Culture 2014.

The organizer of the festival is a non-profit organization “Pievilcīgas pilsētvides biedrība” (Society for Attractive Urban Environment) which involves creatives and managers from few companies that have successfully managed projects with local and international importance.



NEXT DOOR CIRCUS

- nextdoorcircus.org
- [nextdoorcircus](https://www.facebook.com/nextdoorcircus)

Next Door Circus is a platform for contemporary circus and street art development in Baltic States.





ARTS PRINTING HOUSE

- menuspaustuve.lt
- [menu.spaustuve](https://www.facebook.com/menu.spaustuve)
- [arts_printing_house](https://www.instagram.com/arts_printing_house)
- [menuspaustuvelt](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
- info@menuspaustuve.lt

Arts Printing House (Menu spaustuve)
– is an umbrella institution for non-governmental arts organizations, established in a former printing house in 2002 and still the only venue in Vilnius, Lithuania which works in contemporary performing arts field – dance, circus, street theatre etc.



HELIUM FESTIVAL

- EX NEW CIRCUS WEEKEND
- menuspaustuve.lt
 - [menu.spaustuve](https://www.facebook.com/menu.spaustuve)
 - [arts_printing_house](https://www.instagram.com/arts_printing_house)
 - [menuspaustuvelt](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
 - info@menuspaustuve.lt

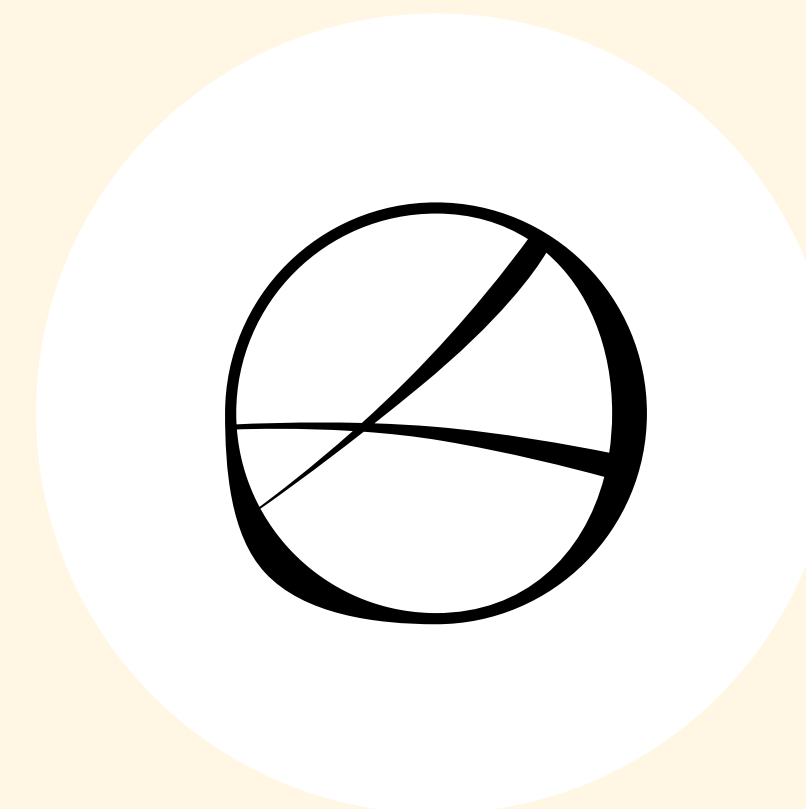
Helium is the first and so far the biggest festival dedicated to contemporary circus in Lithuania. Each year, the festival presents internationally acclaimed contemporary circus artists from all over the world.



TEATRONAS

- teatronas.lt
- [teatronas](https://www.facebook.com/teatronas)
- [teatronas](https://www.instagram.com/teatronas)
- [teatronas](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
- info@teatronas.lt

The well-established performing arts theater “Teatronas” has been organising the International circus festival “Cirkuliacija” for 6 years and therefore has been a successful representative of Baltic circus artists to local and international audiences.



CIRKO SAPIENS

- teatronas.lt/en/circus-sapiens
- [cirko.sapiens](https://www.facebook.com/cirko.sapiens)
- [cirkosapiens](https://www.instagram.com/cirkosapiens)
- monika@teatronas.lt

The main activity of the contemporary circus centre is the continuous contemporary circus education for people from age 5 and up, as well as for adults.



The logo for Cirkuliacija Festival, featuring the word "CIRKULIACIJA" in a stylized, thin-lined font where the 'C' is a large circle.

CIRKULIACIJA FESTIVAL

- teatronas.lt/lt/cirkuliacija
- [cirkuliacija](#)
- [cirkuliacija](#)
- info@teatronas.lt

A contemporary circus festival in Kaunas that has grown bigger since 2015 and attracts new and various audiences each year. The main goal of the festival is to introduce contemporary circus to more people – its subtle and unique language, as well as its educational and social capabilities.

The logo for Contempo Festival, with "Con" in red, "Tem" in red with a dot above the 'e', and "po" in red.

CONTEMPO FESTIVAL

- contempofestival.lt
- [contempofestival](#)
- [contempo_festival](#)
- info@contempofestival.lt

An international festival of performing arts, initiated by “Kaunas – European Capital for Culture 2022”, organized in Kaunas since 2019 has been helping the city and the district to move firmly from the temporary to the modern capital.

The logo for the Lithuanian Contemporary Circus Association, featuring the text "Šiuolaikinio Cirko Asociacija" and a stylized "VSC" symbol.

LITHUANIAN CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS ASSOCIATION

- newcircus.lt
- [newcircuslt](#)
- newcircuslt@gmail.com

The Circus Association was established in 2018, founded by Lithuanian circus artists Elena Kosovec, Marija Baranauskaitė, Konstantin Kosovec with aims to develop and popularize modern circus in Lithuania and abroad. The aim of the association is to create an active, constantly improving and cooperative modern circus community and to protect the rights, freedoms and interests of members of the modern circus community, as well as to create conditions for modern circus professionals to work and improve in Lithuania.

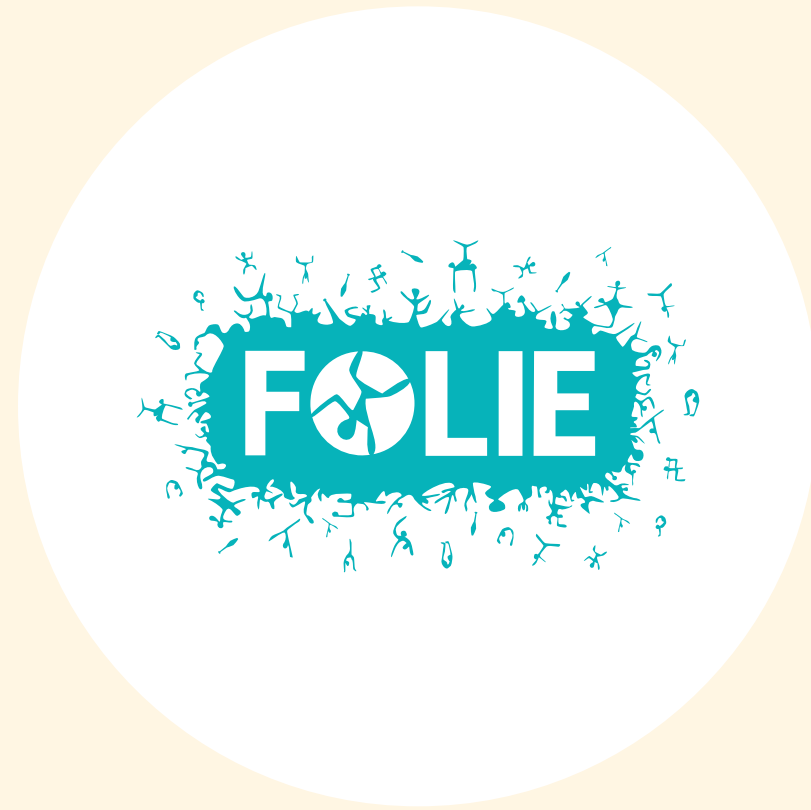
The logo for Eesti Kaasaegse Tsirkuse Arenduskeskus, with the text in white on a blue rectangular background.

ESTONIAN CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

- tsirkusekeskus.ee
- tsirkusekeskus@tsirkusekeskus.ee

Estonian Contemporary Circus Development Center MTÜ was founded on September 12, 2014 by Estonian contemporary circus organizations and artists with a mission to achieve the prominence, high level and recognition of the Estonian contemporary circus at home and abroad.





CIRCUS STUDIO FOLIE

- tsirkus.ee
- [tsirkusestuudiofolie](https://www.facebook.com/tsirkusestuudiofolie)
- [tsirkusfolie](https://www.instagram.com/tsirkusfolie)
- info@tsirkus.ee

Circus Studio Folie is a circus organisation that is running a youth circus and developing contemporary circus in Estonia.



EPICIRQ

- epicirq.com
- [Epicirq](https://www.facebook.com/epicirq)
- [epicirq_showcase](https://www.instagram.com/epicirq_showcase)
- info.epicirq@gmail.com

EPICIRQ is a showcase for presenting the Baltic professional contemporary circus with the aim of increasing interest, exposure and export of the field within the region and at an international level.



TADAA! FESTIVAL

- tadaafestival.org
- [tadaafestival](https://www.facebook.com/tadaafestival)
- [tadaa_festival](https://www.instagram.com/tadaa_festival)
- info@tadaafestival.org

TaDaa! Festival started in 2015 as a simple two-day street performance festival in Tallinn, Estonia. The festival is a lively mix of (but not limited to) music, theatre, dance, circus and anything and everything that embraces the street environment.



BALTIC NORDIC CIRCUS NETWORK

- balticnordiccircus.com
- [balticnordiccircus](https://www.facebook.com/balticnordiccircus)
- [balticnordiccircusnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/balticnordiccircusnetwork)
- info@balticnordiccircus.com

BNCN is a collaborative network of 23 circus arts organisations in the Baltic and Nordic countries. The network works to strengthen the regional collaboration and development of the circus sector.



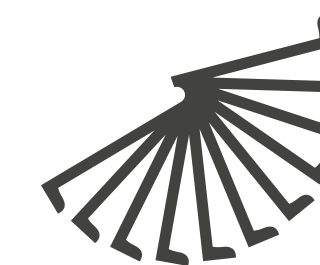


GRASSROOT – BAL TIC CIRCUS ARTISTS’ NETWORK

[🌐 cirks.lv/en/grassroot](https://cirks.lv/en/grassroot)

[📘 balticcircusgrassrootnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/balticcircusgrassrootnetwork)

Grassroot network started in 2021 to ensure the possibility for Baltic circus artists to meet, to work and to grow together with main support of Nordic Culture Point and other partners. Main goal of the network is that artists take an active part in the decision making process to create the necessary boost for the artistic community. With the aim to provide opportunities for growth, collaboration and improve the professional capacity of operating artists, at the moment the initiative includes leading Baltic circus arts institutions and umbrella organizations as well as professional circus artists and artistic companies.



**Nordic-Baltic
Mobility
Programme
for Culture**

**COORDINATED & PRODUCED BY
RĪGAS CIRKS WITH ACCEPTANCE,
HELP AND INVOLVEMENT OF
MENTIONED BAL TIC CIRCUS
ARTISTS AND ORGANISATIONS.**

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