

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 sees not all resources and infrastructure in place yet, 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 Baranauskaitė, 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





The circus tradition in Latvia goes back to the 18th century and Riga has been long known for its beautiful historical building of Rīgas cirks built in 1888. 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 Re Riga! 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 Sansusī, 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.



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 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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Three circus artists from three different countries – Finland, Lithuania, and USA – 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 “Epircirq 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

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN WAYS TO DEAL WITH PRESSURE

WORK IN PROGRESS

There will be three of us in a small space. Too small for us. You will look at us and we will look at you. You will have some expectations. We will try to live up to them. There will be pressure to be the best. Pressure from inside or outside. We will press hands, heads, bodies, objects. We will press each other while climbing, grabbing, jumping, catching. We will pressure you to applaud and pressure ourselves to show the best we can do. There will be a lot of pressure. We prepared a list of how to deal with all this pressure, so it's easier for you. We don't know what to choose. Maybe number 19, escaping? Or number 101, faking an illness?

We want to start our new circus project "Pressure", as it relates to the circus mentally as well as physically. In circus pressure as an action plays a large role in our training – the contraction of muscles, the squeeze of the silks in a complicated wrap, tension and release, the weight of the equipment, flying, floating, exploding. During our creation process we will research these movement qualities and the physical embodiment of pressure and how they relate to our personal relationships with circus and dealing with pressure. How do physical and mental pressure interact in the field of circus? How does physical activity help to release pressure? What are the other ways to deal with pressure? Is it only in our heads or does it come from outside?

Artists: Kęstas Matusevičius, Aino Mäkipää, Lyla Goldman

Team: composer Umiko Kotori, mentors Celso Pereira & Francesca Lissia, producer Ugnė Užkurėlytė

Disciplines: Bounce juggling, partner acrobatics, object manipulation, clowning, possibly aerial acrobatics

Duration: 45" / **Age:** all / **Language:** none

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

Technical requirements: Indoor black box or space with lights, outside possible if lights are available, floor: 3 x 3 m, ceiling: 5 m




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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 Yasen Yasilev. In 2019 graduated from contemporary circus school „Flic scuola di circo” Torino, Italy where 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

MOOD

The performance is an acrobatic expression of a passive state. In social media the term „Mood“ is used to describe recognizable situations in which emotions exceed all limits of human logical behavior. The creative process focuses on the action of falling and the images it raises, as well as the “depressive body”, its recognizability in the physical and psychological sense and how such a passive body affects active disciplines of performing arts.

Artist: Džiugas Kunsmanas

Team: Dramaturgy: Gildas Aleksa, Composer: Jokūbas Tulaba

Disciplines: Contemporary dance, acrobatics

Duration: 30” / **Age:** all / **Language:** none

People on tour: 1 artist

Technical requirements: Indoor or outdoor options, dance floor: 8x8m;





DŽIUGAS KUNSMANAS & ADRIAN CARLO BIBIANO

WHERE DO I CONNECT?

Recent events in the world made most of the people 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



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Author and director Marija Baranauskaitė is a contemporary circus artist and performer. After graduating from Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Marija studied clownery at École Philippe Gaulier in France and at International School of Theatre LASSAAD' in Brussels. Always eager to challenge herself, Marija was inspired by contemporary artists who are already making shows for pets or plants and decided to take one little step further while researching audiences without any consciousness at all.





THE WORLD AROUND SOFA

The creative process of “The World Around Sofa” began with the global pandemic. This is a continuous creative process of the solo project “The Sofa Project”, launched by Marija Baranauskaitė in 2018, which explores the possibilities of creating performances for audiences composed of furniture instead of people. One of the main goals of the project is to visit local sofas from different countries, but once the pandemic struck, a quick solution has been found – 7 artists from different continents are taking care of the well-being of local furniture in their countries. How to travel around the world after a pandemic starts? Is it possible to create not only for sofas but also for other things? Could this alleviate the anxiety of artists who are afraid of losing their audience? How and why should we create together? During the performance, live audiences watch how artists present their art for furniture online – through the screen in the space.

Artists: Amada Méndez-Piedra Paredes, Dávid Fekete, Danielo Amaya, Estela Lapponi, James Adamson, Leonie Kuipers, Vincent Owoko

Team: Author and director: Marija Baranauskaitė, Performers: manager: Evita Mikalkėnaitė, Movement assistant: Eglė Nešukaitytė

Disciplines: contemporary circus, interdisciplinary art

Duration: Min 1 hour, can last 1 week too – as an installation;

Age: 14+ / **Language:** English / **People on tour:** 4

Technical requirements: Inside space, with a possibility to have a complete darkness, performance can be held in various places. The size of the audience depends on space. For example – 20 people can attend the show in a room/ studio, min. 100 m²

The crew is open to the best solution regarding all the furniture and objects.



TAIGI CIRKAS LT

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Contemporary circus company “Taigi Cirkas” formed in 2016. Currently their company consists of two artists Konstantin Kosovec and Elena Kosovec and different collaborative artists from Baltics and abroad. The main purpose of the group is to tell honest, laconic, simple and very personal stories using circus disciplines.





TAIGI CIRKAS / KONSTANTIN KOSOVEC

ENDURANCE

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Last minutes of an ultramarathon, the peak of a mountain is within reach of a hand, the limit of human abilities is being pushed. That frozen moment, the feeling of time is gone, the space is being distorted. “Endurance” is a project happening at a crossing three fields: vertical rope by contemporary circus author Konstantin Kosovec / Taigi Cirkas, experimental electronic music by Maximilianas Oprishka / Fume and light and scenography by Arvydas Buinauskas / AB Light. Exploring body, sound and light. “Endurance” project is a part of the Atvira Erdvė program by Arts Printing House. Premiered on August, 2021 in Arts Printing House, Vilnius.

Taigi Cirkas artist Konstantin Kosovec has been practicing contemporary circus since 2010, rope discipline – since 2005. Participated in many circus and dance productions and workshops in Lithuania and abroad. One of the most important experiences are times at FLIC and Rogelio Riv-el circus schools, workshops with Robert Magro, Alexis Akrovatakis, William Thomas. In 2019 – 2020 he attended Instructors e-learning course at École Nationale de Cirque, Montreal. In 2020 – 2022 he is doing his master’s studies of Contemporary Circus Practice at Stockholm University of the Arts.

Artist: Konstantin Kosovec

Disciplines: Aerial acrobatics on a rope

Duration: 30” / **Age:** 6+ / **Language:** none

People on tour: 1 artist

Technical requirements: Blackbox around 7 m height, 12 x 12 m floor. One rigging point for vertical rope in the middle. The audience is located in a circle around the center. Possibility to rig lights in any part of the space. Dance floor not needed.



TAIGI CIRKAS / ELENA KOSOVEC

NIONIA

WORK IN PROGRESS

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“One night I decided to find an inner child inside my head...”. The idea of the show “Nionia” first appeared when the author was unexpectedly confronted by the concept of “inner child” and its impact on her everyday life. During the creative research she thoroughly analyzed this concept, searching for references in literature and mythology, collecting the popular stereotypes and scientific research materials on that matter in order to transform it into a physical experience on stage.

Elena Kosovec is a contemporary circus artist from Vilnius, Lithuania her main discipline is aerial rope. In 2016 and 2019, learned rope technique in Rogelio Rivel circus school, Curso Profesional de Cuerda and OMIC Gravity circus course in Barcelona. In 2016, created Taigi Cirkas company. Since 2018 Elena is the head and a co-founder of Contemporary Circus Association of Lithuania. In 2019, she obtained the circus dramaturgy certificate from ESAC (Belgium) and CNAC (France) circus schools. Elena’s main passion is raising awareness of mental health and breaking the stigma around it, this topic has a huge influence on her creative work. Elena’s main creative focus is authenticity.

Artists: Elena Kosovec / **Disciplines:** Aerial rope / **Duration:** 20 min.

Age: Open for all ages, recommended from 10-12 years old

Language: written English text is used in the show

People on tour: 1 performer, technician from the hosting organization needed.

Technical requirements: Black box or other space dark enough to use the projector. At least 5 m height, floor 8 x 10 m, 1 rigging point, projector and a wall/ screen for visuals, crash mat suitable for aerials (around 2 x 2 x 0.4 m)





TAIGI CIRKAS

UP TO THIS POINT

Laureate of “Baltic Circus on the Road”

Showcased at “Epicirq 2021”

The show “Up to this point” is a collaboration between circus artists Konstantin Kosovec (Lithuania), Elena Kosovec (Lithuania) and Aleksey Smolov (Latvia). “Up to this Point” is researching connection points between the various practices of circus artists. When everybody is looking for their artistic way in harsh conditions – what do their bodies feel and how do they change? What influence do the changes in the body have on the psyche and vice versa, how do thoughts surface on the bodies?

*I was hanging there tangled, framed and limited
I was rolled on and over, spinning in and out,
Bruised and healed, crushed and resurrected
With breath taken
and heart lost
ALIVE*

Artists: Konstantin Kosovec, Elena Kosovec, Aleksey Smolov

Team: Artistic mentor Pau Portabella

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

Duration: 30” / **Age:** 6+ / **Language:** none / **People on tour:** 3 artists

Technical requirements: hard, even, smooth and clean surface covered with dance floor of optimal 8 x 8 m of working area. Ceiling points suitable for rigging the aerial rope, at least 6 m high. Need 2 pc of 1 x 2 x 0.4 m mats or equivalent that can be arranged by artists or local mats can be used.



INDRĖ MICKEVIČIŪTĖ- PETRAUSKIENĖ & JUSTĖ LIAUGAUDĖ (LT)

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Indrė Mickevičiūtė-Petrauskienė – freelance artist, performer, creator working on various theater, TV, movie, educational and circus projects. She graduated from the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theater with a degree in acting and pantomime. Certified clown in the “RED NOSES Clown doctors” organization since 2012. Constantly expanding her clowning and physical theater knowledge at the “International School of humor” in Vienna. Indrė has worked with such creators as Gela Kandelaki, Zara Antonyan and others.

Justė Liaugaudė – contemporary clowning and physical theater artist. Constantly expanding her clowning and physical theater knowledge at the “International School of humor” in Vienna. Working as an actress and art director in the “RED NOSES Clown doctors” organization for over 10 years. Justė has worked with such creators as Aitor Basauri Barrueta, Sergi Estabanell and others. She has been on several missions in Eastern Ukraine with an international clowning team, where they created performances for families experiencing the effects of war.





INDRĖ MICKEVIČIŪTĖ-PETRAUSKIENĖ & JUSTĖ LIAUGAUDĖ

FLIGHT

Probably many of us have felt that anxiety while boarding the plane for the first time as well as our hearts skipping a beat during a slight shake and the first thought popping up: “WE’RE FALLING!”. Someone laughs, someone’s frightened, but no one is indifferent. During this performance, a clown duo plays with the spectators’ emotions, allowing the audience to get to know themselves better and laugh at themselves. “We invite you to an extraordinary flight! Enthusiastic, unexpected, maybe slightly absurd but full of faith that everything is going to be fine”, – flight attendants Grilda and Raža say.

Artists: Justė Liaugaudė and Indrė Mickevičiūtė-Petrauskienė

Team: mentor: Sergi Estebanell / music design: Domas Morkūnas / manager: Simona Nemeikšytė

Disciplines: Clownade show / **Duration:** 40” / **Age:** 14+

Language: English (Lithuanian, but can be performed in English)

People on tour: 4 people go on tour: 2 actresses, a sound technician and manager. We would ask the host organization for a lighting technician

Technical requirements: Performance is created for inside venues. It might be a black box, training room, galleries, factories, airports and so on. The minimum space requirements are 60 m², there are no restrictions on the height of the space, the performance takes place at the same height as the spectators (not leveled up).



IZABELĖ KUZELYTĖ (LT)

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“Assume the cow is a sphere in a vacuum. Non-existing is a sufficient but not a necessary condition. With all conditions met I am an artist.”

Izabele has participated in contemporary circus workshops and seminars across Baltic and Nordic region since 2016, learned technical knowledge in circus courses in Spain – Gravity circus and Lab rope Creative in 2019 and graduated from a circus school Flic Scuola di Circo in Italy, 2021. Worked as a freelance performer and a teacher since 2018.





IZABELĖ KUZELYTĖ

LIFE OF CREATURES

WORK IN PROGRESS

We adapt to the world as the world adapts to us. Every organism has to change and evolve to reach its needs. A plant, an insect... a human. A show based on aerial acrobatics inspired by laws of nature and perplexities of life.

Planned development of the performance is to enact the main laws of nature using circus equipment, the everyday organism reactions and processes which we don't control.

Artists: Izabelė Kuzelytė

Disciplines: Aerial rope, aerial hoop

Duration: 15" / **Age:** all ages / **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.



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Aleksey Smolov is a Latvian contemporary circus performer and teacher, currently living both in Latvia and Lithuania. Aleksey co-created the first Latvian contemporary circus and dance performance “Faux Pas” that toured in Baltic and Nordic region, Europe and Japan.

Aleksey’s professional activities started as a specialist in medical gymnastics, but his desire for freedom of artistic expression through the language of circus has moved to the forefront. Aleksey regularly complements and deepens his skills and knowledge by participating in various master-classes, from movement research to specific circus disciplines, making training trips to European circus schools (DOCH (Sweden), AFUK (Denmark)), attending courses organised by international circus organisations, and continuing to improve himself daily. Aleksey participates in various circus and interdisciplinary projects, shows and concert shows (“Cabaret O”, “Cabaret Absinthe”, “Svalbard Cabaret Night”, “Carmina Burana”), as well as solo performances, both in Latvia and abroad.

A Cyr wheel has become an apparatus of his passion in this ongoing adventure and a medium to explore the outer and inner worlds. Aleksey takes the audience to this journey to share insights and images of real and surrealistic, deep and playful, misleading and sincere.





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 Wörnheim

Disciplines: Cyr wheel, Live music

Duration: 30 / **Age:** 5+ / **Language:** none / **People on tour:** 2

Technical requirements: Floor: hard, even, smooth and clean surface covered with black dance floor of optimal 8 x 8 m of working area + preferably at least 1 m on the sides of the work area.



ALEKSEY SMOLOV

FAUX PAS

 [izradeFAUXPAS](#)

In Faux Pas, the symbiosis between the two art forms of contemporary dance and circus weaves delicate metaphors in a story about the private invisible side of people's relationship. The Cyr wheel becomes a platform for storytelling and the imagination.

The artistic company was born when the artists met to combine their experiences in contemporary dance, circus and state-of-art music in joint creation. Eventually, the "Faux Pas" was presented to the audience. The piece has been immediately recognized in Latvia receiving invitations to perform within several notable dance and circus festivals (e.g. "Time to Dance", "ReRiga!" Contemporary Circus and Street Arts festival 2018 – Baltic talent contest first prize winner). During 2018-2019 the company was invited to present their work abroad – in Hungary, Japan and Sweden

Artists: Aleksey Smolov, Laura Gorodko, Edgars Spudins aka Abra

Team: Choreographer – Jana Jacuka, live/recorded music by Edgars Spudins aka Abra

Disciplines: Cyr wheel, contemporary dance

Duration: 20" / **Age:** 8+ / **Language:** none / **People on tour:** 3


Technical requirements: Indoors and outdoors both work perfectly, Stage requirements: Workspace 10 x 8 meters (1.5 meters safety zone for audience required), Surface Marley floor (floor for ballet, dance, theatre) or wooden floor also works fine. The entire stage floor must be smooth, even, clean, free of imperfections.






VALERY KOMISARENKO LV


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Valery Komisarenko, better known as ValeryElastic or Iguana Man, is a master and juggler of the plastic acrobatics genre, 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 – Valerijs Komisarenko, who is better known as Valery Elastic or Iguana Man – a circus artist of the original genre, a master of the plastic acrobatics genre – contortionist, “rubber man” or “boneless man” and a juggler. Alīna Kešāne – 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 ages / **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: +372 5656 4308**

Anna Krazy 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 Theaterhøjskole 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 “Epircq 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 (Peterson)

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

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

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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

ETERNAL DINNER

A humorous circus spectacle about life, changes, loneliness and dreams offers beauty for the eye, amazement for the mind and gives comfort in what many might fear – the elderhood. A story about two elderly ladies, the former dazzling stars of Soviet circus, who by now have reached the golden years. Once every year they meet for a feast in a restaurant, allowing them to escape in memories one more time... it feels just like yesterday, still young, still beautiful, still desirable...

The story is told through circus elements (aerial acrobatics on hoop, hammock, bambuk, pair acrobatics, optical illusions) and theatre. The show doesn't have text but instead uses musical solutions and visual art (projections).

Artists: Grete Gross, Lizeth Wolk

Team: idea/production Big Wolf Company, choreography/outside-eye Kaspars Jancis, Kaja Lindal, scenography Maarja Roolaht, producer Karmen Aasanurm

Disciplines: Aerial acrobatics

Duration: 50 minutes + pause of 10-15 min between acts

Age: 5+ / **Language:** none

People on tour: 3 people: 2 performers and a producer. If the presenter finds it necessary, can also come with their own light technician, otherwise a technician is asked to help with sound and video set up and play during the performance.

Technical requirements: Minimal spacing: depth 8 m x width 6 m, height to the rigging beams/points: 6 m; optimal spacing: depth 9 m, width 10 meters, height to the rigging beams/points: 7 m; exceptions for outdoor performing according to the rider. At least 5 rigging points





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.




LIZETH WOLK EST

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Lizeth Wolk was born and raised in Estonia, Tallinn. After many years of being involved with visual arts and music, she found the circus world through a youth circus studio in Tallinn (Folie). In 2012, life brought her to Finland to study in SaSak Circus Education to become an aerial artist. In 2015, she finished the school specialized in aerial hoop. As her earlier background involves music and art, Lizeth is keen on creating visually interesting and technically clever solutions for the performances. She is also a co-founder of the first Estonian professional circus company – Big Wolf Company. Through-out her professional career Lizeth has performed in groups and as a solo artist around the world. Starting from Europe and finishing in Kongo, Africa and Dubai UAE.





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 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

DRÜAAD

Drüaad takes the audience to the land of fairy tales, where trees dance along with their inhabitants, where leaves offer nests and cover for the loneliest and where the hidden wonders become revealed. Inspired by nymphs and stories of forest fairies, it is a journey for the believers of magic or for those who need a reminder of its existence. Drüaad is a site-specific performance built around a “home-tree”, where aerial hammocks will be hanged. In addition to that, the show is created together with (preferably local) musicians, finding locations on spot to use for creating an interactive walking journey in the performance area.

Artists: Grete Gross

Team: Various musicians and co-creators changing for every performance

Disciplines: Aerial hammock

Duration: 40” / **Age:** all ages


Language: Estonian/English or non-verbal, depending on location


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


Technical requirements: Outdoor show. The piece can be performed on one tree or many trees, where at height of 3 to 10 meters rigging possibilities can be found (branches, carriage of 500 kg weight is needed). The best are big trees with many branches, such as oaks, maples, alders etc.




SYLVAIN POMME / SYPOCIRCUS EST

 sypocircus.com

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 [sylvainoulala](https://www.instagram.com/sylvainoulala)

 booking@sypocircus.com

 +372 5815 8366

Sylvain was born in France. After he graduated with his engineer diploma, he realised that office work was not the life he wanted. So he moved to an unknown country: Estonia! Very quickly he fell in love with the country and stayed there from 2014 to present. He developed his street show by performing on the Townhall square.

Sylvain now is a world-wide street performer who has amazed the crowd in more than 25 countries and 3 continents. Able to make the best of any situation – just get him a square, and there's no doubt he will fill it with a massive smiley audience full of awe and sparkles in their eyes regardless of their age, gender, cultural background or religion.





SYLVAIN POMME / SYPOCIRCUS

OULALA

Showcased at “Epircq 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 Pomme

Disciplines: clowning, mono bike, juggling

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


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


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

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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 Runo-
viikko 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 ages / **Language:** none / **People on tour:** 2

Technical requirements: 8 x 8 m, flat ground.




CIRCUS SABOK EST

 duosabok.com

 [circus.sabok](https://facebook.com/circus.sabok)

 [circus.sabok](https://instagram.com/circus.sabok)

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 Kert Ridaste: +372 5849 0222

Circus SaboK was founded in 2018 by Kert Ridaste and Saana Leppänen. Kert and Saana are a new generation of circus artists who graduated from Stockholm Circus University DOCH in 2018. The journey of both acrobats is more than two decades long. SaboK's main goal is to consolidate contemporary circus in the Baltics and to contribute to its further development in the Nordic countries. They aim to create holistic work that reflects the values of young art professionals.





CIRCUS SABOK

DON'T LEAVE ME HANGING

Don't Leave Me Hanging celebrates the human body – its beauty and strength. Its flowing choreographies feature a vertical rope, a Cyr wheel and dynamic pair acrobatics embedded in warm and intimate lighting and a fiercely emotional folk-inspired soundscape. Individuals explore hidden emotions through their close-knit friendship. The performative, heightened energetic nature creates a counterbalance between the courage to be delicate and the performers' physical insanity for the circus. To dare to take the leap is not only about courage and preparedness to fail but about the trust in your surroundings.

Artists: Saana Leppänen, Kert Ridaste, Thibaud Rancoeur

Disciplines: vertical rope, Cyr wheel, hand to hand, hair hanging and perch pole

Duration: 55" / **Age:** all ages / **Language:** none

People on tour: 3 artists. In case of Circus SaboK's truss usage – help of ~8 people for 10 minutes during build up and build down.

Technical requirements: Width: minimum 8 m – 10 m, Depth: minimum 7 m – 10 m, Height: minimum 6 m – 9 m. Either one attachment point in the ceiling (working load 500 kg) OR a rigging possibility for a Circus SaboK truss (open for different possibilities either: 4 floor points, 4 wall points, 4 weights of 1 cubic meter of water gallon container).



CIRCUS SABOK

HIPPOPOTAMUS

Laureate of “Baltic Circus on the Road”

The second creation of the young Baltic company Circus SaboK continues the research on choreographic hand to hand acrobatics combined with dynamic aerial rope. After graduating from Stockholm’s University of circus and dance in 2018, Saana Leppänen and Kert Ridaste have committed to building the field of Baltic contemporary circus. Their creations, though accessible for all audiences, are not afraid to address more vulnerable subjects affecting the humans of today.

You will see the first work in progress of Hippopotamus, which is planned to premiere in 2022. On stage, two characters take us through an emotional journey filled with acrobatics as they take action to leave their baggage behind. Good might keep on getting better, but how to coexist with the worst versions of ourselves wanting to join the party? Some things are as hard to hide as a hippopotamus in a room.

Artists: Saana Leppänen (FIN), Kert Ridaste (EST)

Team: Artist & director: Saana Leppänen (FIN), Kert Ridaste (EST), Dramaturge: Sade Kamppila (FIN), Julien Auger (FR), Sponsors: Taiteen Edistämiskeskus, Sirkus Aikamoinen, Co-producer: Sirkus Aikamoinen

Residency support: Rīgas cirks (LV), Tanssiteatteri Hurjaruuth (FIN), Koidu Seltsimaja (EST), Circus I love you (SE)

Disciplines: aerial rope, Cyr wheel, pair acrobatics

Duration: 30-45” / **Age:** 12+ / **Language:** none

People on tour: 2, with a van preferably

Technical requirements: Indoor and outdoor possible; height: minimum 6 m x length: minimum 6 m, depth: minimum 6 m; floor: preferably black dance floor cover.





RIGA CIRCUS

🌐 cirks.lv
📘 [VSIARigascirks](https://www.vsiarigascirks.lv)
📷 [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.cirkaskola.lv)
📷 [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)
📷 [nextdoorcircus](https://www.instagram.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
- arts_printing_house
- menuspaustuvelt
- info@menuspaustuve.lt

Arts Printing House (Menų spaustuė) – 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
- arts_printing_house
- menuspaustuvelt
- info@menuspaustuve.lt

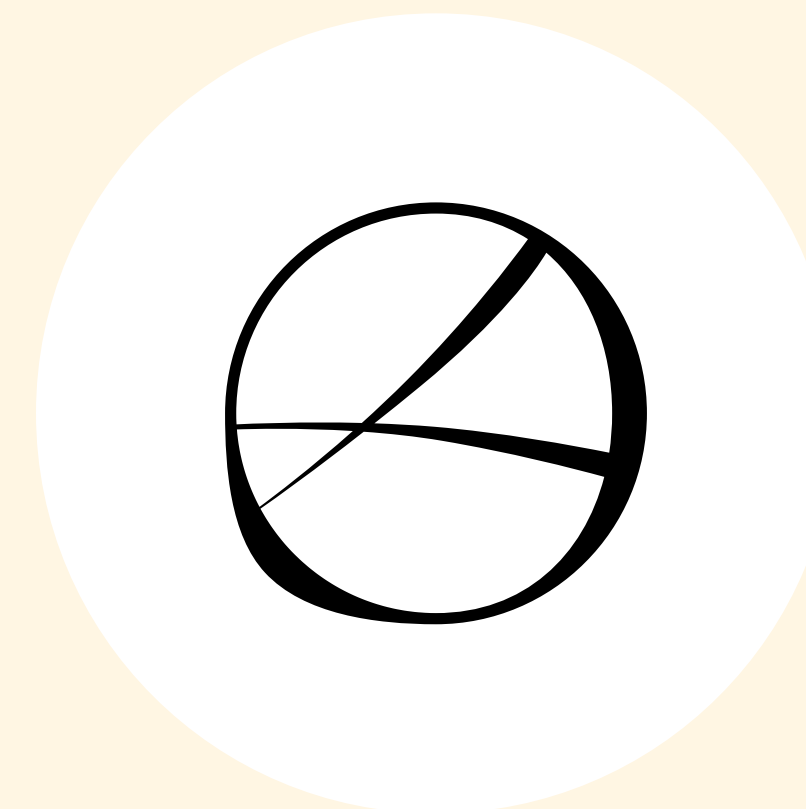
Helium is the first and so far the biggest festival dedicated to contemporary circus in Lithuania. Each year, the festival presents internationally acclaimed contemporary circus artists from all over the world.



TEATRONAS

- teatronas.lt
- teatronas
- teatronas
- teatronas
- 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
- 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.





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.



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.



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.

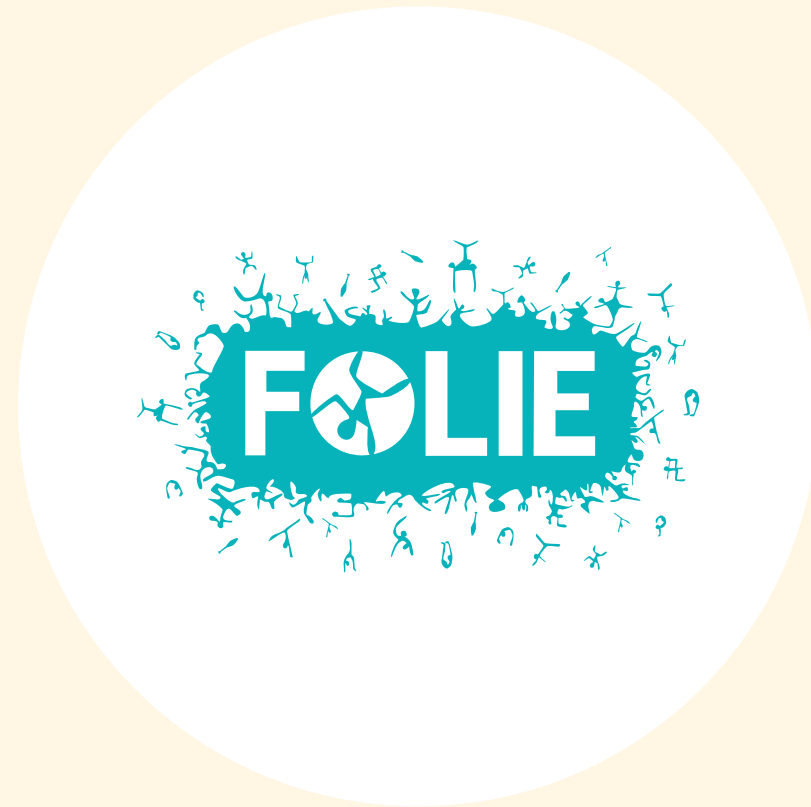
Eesti Kaasaegse
Tsirkuse
Arenduskeskus

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 – BALTIC CIRCUS ARTISTS' NETWORK

 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

Culture



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

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