

DOT·DOT DRAMA SHOWCASE 2026



APRIL 15-18, 2026

Helsinki, Finland

PRESENTED BY TINFO - THEATRE INFO FINLAND

WELCOME TO HELSINKI

DOT·DOT DRAMA marks a moment of encounter – between artists and professionals, practices and perspectives, Finland and the Nordic-Baltic region. From 15 to 18 April 2026 in Helsinki, TINFO Theatre Info Finland with its collaborating theatres and collectives presents ten performances, mapping current directions in Finnish contemporary theatre.

The selected shows are with two exceptions part of the theatres' repertoires this spring. Playwright Pipsa Lonka's exciting new play *PETER LIVED IN A HOUSE- a dolphin from dot to dot*, has inspired the name of this showcase, while we're exhilarated to be able to experience the world premiere of Arni Rajamäki's play *Looking for Richard* together with you. The program also features sold out shows from independent collectives, and institutions producing new drama.

On 17 April, a seminar organised with Nordic Culture Point invites us to reflect together on the contexts, conditions and futures of our work during a time of political and financial upheaval in our region.

We are delighted to welcome you and hope these days will offer both inspiration and meaningful exchange.

If you have any questions, prior or after your visit, don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Linnea, Mikko, Piia and Ella at TINFO - Theatre Info Finland

tinfo@tinfo.fi
www.tinfo.fi
FB tinfoteatterintiedotuskeskus
Instagram theatreinfofinland

Cover image: promotional photo by Johan Huimerind for *PETER LIVED IN A HOUSE - a dolphin from dot to dot*.

DOT·DOT DRAMA SHOWCASE



DAY 1

Wednesday April 15, 2026



19:00 PERFORMANCE LET'S TALK ABOUT RICHARD (PREMIERE)

Teatteri Takomo, Fredrikinkatu 18

Richard Clayderman is a French pianist best known for popularizing a romantic, melodic style of piano music often described as easy listening or romantic pop-classical crossover. Over his career, Clayderman has recorded hundreds of albums, sold an estimated 90+ million records. Despite his commercial success and devoted fan base, he has often been dismissed or criticized within classical music circles for his sentimental style and mainstream appeal—and it is this tension between popular entertainment and “high art” that the play *Let's Talk About Richard* seeks to understand.

The play, written by **Arni Rajamäki** and directed by **Anna Mari Karvonen**, explores art and entertainment, good and bad, high and low, failure in art, and the place of art in the world.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE WELCOME DRINKS

Teatteri Takomo, Fredrikinkatu 18

After the premiere, stay by the stage and hang around for pizza and bubbly with the ensemble.

DAY 2

Thursday April 16, 2026



10:00 PERFORMANCE IN MEMORY OF AGASIAS, THE DONKEY (60 MIN)

Hav-Anna Company, at Luckan, Yrjönkatu 27

A performance about ostracism, silence, and a forgotten donkey. The interactive performance *In Memory of Agasias, the Donkey* takes its point of departure from the ancient legal practice of ostracism. The democratic society of Athens was fragile. As a safeguard, citizens were given the opportunity to banish anyone perceived as a threat. But the power to vote someone out could also be abused.

A play primarily for teenagers by **Christoffer Mellgren**, with **Antonia Henn**, directed by **Meri Anna Hulkkonen**.

12:00 LUNCH AT THEATRE VIIRUS

Theatre Viirus, Välimerenkatu 14

Join us at Viirus for a lunch with presentations of their current and upcoming works (secrets will be revealed).

Joint departure to EMMA from Viirus at 14:50 and from the Ruoholahti Metro Station entrance at 15:00

AFTERNOON EXHIBIT IN SEARCH OF THE PRESENT

EMMA Modern Art Museum, Ahertajantie 5, Tapiola

Make sure you don't miss the exhibit In Search of the Present at EMMA with works by Marina Abramovic, Haruka Kashima, Kimsooja, Tarik Kiswanson, Germaine Kruij, Ken Matsubara, Lydia Ourahmane, Helen Pashgian, Jani-Matti Salo, Danh Võ, WAUHAUS x TTK (*Nurture*), Ian Wilson, and Maaria Wirkkala.

Free entrance for DOT·DOT participants.



16:00 PERFORMANCE NURTURE (30 MIN)

WAUHAUS & Reality Research Center, at EMMA, Ahertajantie 5, Tapiola

Nurture is a one-on-one performance that makes space for tenderness and vulnerability. It investigates the politics of care, gender and coexistence through the acts of caregiving and breastfeeding. *Nurture* questions social norms, softens body expectations, and calls viewers to perceive connections of a wider coexistence. It invites us to examine interactions between living things.

The audience is invited to observe the intimate encounter at EMMA. The performance is in English.



17:15 PRESENTATION AND SCREENING THE COMPANION (40 MIN)

WAUHAUS, at the Kuiskaaja Café, Espoo Theatre, Revontulentie 8, Tapiola

The Companion is a private encounter between one audience member and a robotic dog. In the performance, the robot entices the human participant into different negotiations, interactions and play. The encounter harnesses our innate curiosity and empathy towards all moving beings. What kind of agency are we willing to embrace? Are we ready to surrender and trust a non-human companion?

This time, WAUHAUS will not perform the show live, but will present a screening of *The Companion* and a discussion of the performance afterwards.



18:30 PERFORMANCE PETER LIVED IN A HOUSE - A DOLPHIN FROM DOT TO DOT (95 MIN)

WAUHAUS & Espoo Theatre, at Espoo Theatre, Revontulentie 8, Tapiola

On July 15, 1965, one of the most bizarre experiments in scientific history begins on the U.S. Virgin Islands: a dolphin named Peter starts receiving English lessons. In order to learn a human language, the dolphin and a young woman move into a house filled with water. When the experiment ends, Peter is moved to another lab, where he is placed in a small, solitary tub. Soon, he commits suicide.

Pipsa Lonka's play *PETER LIVED IN A HOUSE- a dolphin from dot to dot* ruminates on this absurd, true story, and is produced by WAUHAUS and Espoo Theatre.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE BUFFET DINNER

Espoo Theatre, Revontulentie 8, Tapiola

Stay on after the performance, meet the artists behind *Peter Lived in a House*, and enjoy a buffet dinner hosted by & Espoo Theatre.

8:15 DEPARTURE TO SUOMENLINNA ISLAND FROM HOTEL AX

The island is a 20 min ferry ride away from the centre of Helsinki.

TINFO Staff will pick you up at the Hotel Ax for a joint departure by tram 9T to the HSL ferry leaving for Suomenlinna at 9:00 from the Helsinki Market Square.

Guests at Hotel Helka will be picked up by Laura at the Goethe Institute.

10:00 SEMINAR WHO SHAPES THE STORY? PERFORMING ARTS IN THE NORDIC-BALTIC REGION

Nordic Culture Point, Suomenlinna

This one-day seminar brings together artistic directors, dramaturgs, theatre critics, cultural strategists, and policymakers from across the Nordic-Baltic region to explore new strategies for resilience in the performing arts. For invited guests only.

9:30-10:00 Arrival and Registration, Coffee and Tea

10:00-10:15 Opening Welcome Tasso Stafilidis, director, The Nordic Institute on Åland

10:15-11:00 Keynote Increasing Resilience in the Cultural Sector and Defence Planning - Examples and experiences from Estonia, **Karin Närep**, Head of Strategic Planning and Crisis Preparedness, Ministry of Culture of Estonia

11:00-12:00 Panel Resilience Through Dramaturgy: Protecting Process, Narrative and Public Meaning with playwrights and Head Dramaturgs **Mehis Pihla**, Estonian Drama Theatre, **Matīss Gricmanis**, Dailes Theatre, Latvia, and **Emma Meyer-Dunér**, The Royal Dramatic Theatre, Sweden. Moderated by **Linnea Stara**, TINFO

12:00-13:00 Lunch + Q&A with advisors of Nordic funding programs

13:00-14:00 Case Labs **Liisa Liksor** on the Freedom Festival in Narva, Estonia; **J.X.** on the Helsinki98 Collective since 2022, and **Oskar Korkman**, on the potential to strengthen the performing arts by viewing the field as an ecosystem

14:00-14:15 Coffee

14:15-14:45 Roundtable Sessions on Best Practices

14:45-15:00 Closing Plenary Tasso Stafilidis What Do We Take With Us?

Departure to the ferry at 15:15. Snacks will be distributed at the harbor to get you through the next two performances.

16:30 PERFORMANCE THE LOVELY DAUGHTER ERIKA - NOTES ON A NAME (90 MIN)

Finnish Literature Society, Hallituksenkatu 1

Performance maker **Emil Santtu Uuttu** found a recount of a local story in the archives of the Finnish Literature Society SKS. The story, written down by Mauno Malmberg, included a quote that caught Uuttu's attention: "She was pleased to be called Erika." *The Lovely Daughter Erika - Notes on a Name* explores the themes of remembering and history politics in the context of trans history. Some of the topics touched upon in the work include ethical history research, ableism, and name. In historical imagination, a representation of the past is written based on source material and previous research. The word 'imagination' describes how this representation is possible, but not necessarily true. The performance was originally seen in the archive hall of the Finnish Literature Society, where the audience consisted of one or two people at a time. This time, the audience will experience the performance together. The performance consists of an audio play and video material.





18:30 PERFORMANCE GYMNASTICS GIRLS (120 MIN)

Main Stage, Finnish National Theatre, Vilhonkatu 11

Gymnastics Girls is a performance about Aesthetic Group Gymnastics (AGG) by former gymnasts **Katariina Havukainen**, **Inkeri Hyvönen**, and **Ella Lahdenmäki**. It is an exploration of the past and present bodies of former gymnasts through practice, competition, comparison, assessment, joy, beauty, community, and unity. Created by the former gymnasts, now actors, the piece blends documentary material, humour, and moments of painful honesty, weaving together personal memories and historical archives. The performance brings together contemporary theatre, stand-up, and strong physical expression to form a deeply human and strikingly expressive whole.

As the work has grown into a cultural phenomenon, the team is expanding its artistic practice beyond theatre: a dedicated exhibition at the Sports Museum, a book, and a documentary film are currently in development. Shows sell out in hours. The collective has toured Finland extensively and performed in the Baltics.

After the performance, meet up with TINFO staff for a meet-and-greet with the *Gymnastics Girls* on the stage.

ALTERNATIVELY



18:30 PERFORMANCE MEMORIAL DAY (165 MIN, INTERMISSION)

Small Stage, Finnish National Theatre, Bergbominkuja 2

Memorial Day, written by **Elli Salo** and directed by **Riikka Oksanen**, tells the story of people who defected from Finland to the Soviet Union and disappeared in Stalin's purges in the 1930s.

In December 1931, just before the Gulf of Finland freezes over, a group of Finns sets off from Tervasaari in a smuggler's boat toward the Soviet Union. On the far shore glimmers the eastern wonderland, a workers' state that promises work, bread, and a better future for all. Upon arrival, however, the migrants are met with a very different reality. *Memorial Day* is a harrowing theatre performance about extreme fates. *Memorial Day* is a story about the past, but also about this very moment. *Memorial Day* was written in dialogue and collaboration with the National Archives of Finland's research project Finns in Russia 1917-1964. This extensive study, funded by the Prime Minister's Office, has produced significant new knowledge about the lives and fates of Finns who died in Stalin's purges.

The play is constructed entirely on the basis of the same documentary material used in the research. The text has been created from letters, diaries, memoirs, interviews, interrogation records, and personal files of the Finnish Security Police left behind by real people.

AFTER THE PERFORMANCES A LATE-NIGHT FAREWELL BUFFET

Lavaklubi, Finnish National Theatre, Läntinen teatterikuja 1

Stay on after the performances for a relaxed final late-night farewell buffet at the National Theatre Stage Club (basement on the left-hand side of the theatre) hosted by TINFO. We have invited guests from our collaborating theatres to the event as well.

DAY OF DEPARTURE

Or, if you're taking the weekend to explore Helsinki, make sure you consider these performances as well...



14:00 PERFORMANCE PETER LIVED IN A HOUSE

WAUHAUS & Espoo Theatre, at Espoo Theatre, Revontulentie 8, Tapiola

Did you miss it? You can still catch a matiné on Saturday afternoon at Espoo Theatre.

ALTERNATIVELY



14:00 PERFORMANCE ANOTHER HIGH - THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE CHILDREN OF RECESSION (180 MIN)

Q-teatteri, Tunturikatu 16

Childhood in 1990s Finland was at once a fairy tale and a dystopia. In the same picture: elementary-school ski races and endless faith in the future, devaluation, a wave of bankruptcies and half a million unemployed. A first kiss, Kurt Cobain's sexily scattered brains, Nintendo controllers sticky with ice-cream cake, and the after-school club lady who touches you strangely there. Wife-beating jokes on TV, a cigarette smoked in drizzle, and glitter makeup beautifully smudged. Life was hell, and we miss it more than anything. A play by **Anna Brotkin** and **Juho Mantere**, directed by Juho Mantere.



18:30 PERFORMANCE VERSAILLES (90 MIN)

Viirus Theatre, Välimerenkatu 14

18th-century barber-surgeons, Louis XIV's painful fistula, the court's morning rituals, the aristocrats' puzzling diaper fashion, and the palace's carefully tended orange garden meet in a theatrical fantasy about the divine and the profane.

Versailles is inspired by the court of the Sun King, Louis XIV, and lets the values and experiences of the 18th-century elite collide with our own era. Under the co-direction of **Jussi Sorjanen** and **Sinna Virtanen**, the working group reflects its own societal sore points in the Sun King's golden splendour. *Versailles* plays freely with historical sources.

The performance has taken shape through a collaborative process with fashion designer **Janette Laakso**, lighting designer **Jenni Pystynen**, sound designer **Tatu Nenonen**, and the Viirus ensemble. In this visually extravagant production, imaginatively re-created costume eras meet a scenography dominated by mirrors and gold.

In English.

WHY YOU NEED TO SEE THESE 10 SHOWS

AVAILABLE
FOR TOURS

LET'S TALK ABOUT RICHARD

This is a new exciting play by an emerging playwright, Arni Rajamäki, that hilariously explores middle-class taste. It will be staged by and with some of Finland's best performing artists, at Teatteri Takomo, an independent theatre at the forefront of contemporary, experimental Finnish theatre. Contact: takomo@teatteritakomo.fi

AVAILABLE
FOR TOURS

PETER LIVED IN A HOUSE - A DOLPHIN FROM DOT TO DOT

This is the awaited new premiere by acclaimed playwright Pipsa Lonka, produced by the internationally renowned W A U H A U S Collective. We're expecting a visually stunning performance that pushes the boundaries of our understanding of what theatre is and can be. Contact: info@wauhaus.fi

AVAILABLE
FOR TOURS

THE COMPANION

This is a performances in which you get to encounter a robot dog, and your own feelings. Simple yet spectacular, robotic yet surprisingly touching. Contact: info@wauhaus.fi

AVAILABLE
FOR TOURS

NURTURE

This is a provocative and extra-ordinarily intimate performance performed across Europe since its premiere in 2020. However, this time around we get to experience it at a distance. Contact: info@wauhaus.fi

AVAILABLE
FOR TOURS

IN MEMORY OF AGASIAS, THE DONKEY

A thoughtful and poignant exploration of ostracism by playwright Christoffer Mellgren, and produced by one of Finland's most exciting companies producing theatre for children and young people. The performance does not preach, but encourages us to come together. Contact: meriannahulkkonen@gmail.com

AVAILABLE
FOR TOURS

THE LOVELY DAUGHTER ERIKA - NOTES ON A NAME

Emil Santtu Uttu presents us with an evocative, meticulous study of a queer person in the early 20th century rural Finland, drawing on archival material and historical research. Contact: emil.uuttu@gmail.com

AVAILABLE
FOR TOURS

GYMNASTICS GIRLS

This is a phenomenon. A collective of three actors, all with a background in aesthetic group gymnastics have made a performance about their own experiences. The performances sell out in a matter of hours all around Finland, as current and former competitors gather to collectively go through their traumas and their victories. Expect an emotional night. Contact: jumppatytot@jumppatytot.fi

MEMORIAL DAY

First-hand accounts from Finns that ended up in Stalin's gulags. Elli Salo has had remarkable archival materials to work with, which Riikka Oksanen turns into a touching performance with a gripping cast.

AVAILABLE
FOR TOURS

ANOTHER HIGH

A new generation of theatre makers with Juho Mantere at their helm have made a poignant performance about their shared childhoods, that with the current cuts is as topical as ever. Contact: q-teatteri@q-teatteri.fi

AVAILABLE
FOR TOURS

VERSAILLES

This is a maximalism: a stage fantasy and a visually and physically demanding performance. A catwalk striptease and costume spectacle that relies on your willingness to let your mind wander, associate and be seduced. Contact: mirkka.maikola@viiirus.fi

TICKETS AND SUBTITLES

Download the **Subtitles Mobile app** on your phone, then use the four digit code provided by the theatres for accessing the subtitles of each performance. Remember to turn your phone on silent.



LET'S TALK ABOUT RICHARD

Register at the counter before the performance, your name is on the list.
Subtitles Mobile Code: **LETS**



IN MEMORY OF AGASIAS, THE DONKEY

Register at the performance, your name is on the list.
Subtitles Mobile Code: **ZWBE**



IN SEARCH OF THE PRESENT AND NURTURE

Register at the ticket sales counter, your name is on the list. The performance is in English.



THE COMPANION

No tickets needed for the demo. The demo will be given in English.



PETER LIVED IN A HOUSE - A DOLPHIN FROM DOT TO DOT

Tickets will be distributed on site by TINFO. Subtitles will be projected on a screen.



THE LOVELY DAUGHTER ERIKA - NOTES ON A NAME

The performance is solely for Dot Dot Drama delegates, and therefore no tickets are needed. Subtitles in English will be projected on the wall.



GYMNASTICS GIRLS

Tickets: More info on site. Subtitles Mobile Code: **6969**



MEMORIAL DAY

Tickets: More info on site. Subtitles Mobile Code: **IDAY**



ANOTHER HIGH

Reserved tickets can be found in your Info Package. Subtitles Mobile Code: **7KJQ**.
PS! Works best when connected to the wifi "Q-vieras" with the password "Q-vieras"



VERSAILLES

Register at the ticket counter, your name is on the list. The performance is in English.

USEFUL INFO

HOW TO FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE CENTRE

We recommend that you download the HSL app on your phone, and if you're arriving by plane, purchase a single ABC ticket (4.80 euros), enabling you to use it on the train into the centre, as well as around Helsinki for 90 minutes.

The HSL app allows you to purchase tickets on your mobile device, but you can also purchase physical tickets from ticket machines (at the airport and metro stations) and R-kiosks & most small grocery stores (Alepa, K-Market).

If you arrive by ferry, the purchase of a single AB ticket will be enough.

The HSL app includes a Journey planner that is a useful tool for checking the routes and schedules.

TINFO will provide you with 1, 2 or 3-day HSL tickets once you arrive at your hotel.

PICK UP THE DOT · DOT DRAMA INFO PACKAGE

Once you arrive at the hotel, ask for your Dot Dot Drama Info Package. The package will include this printed program, as well as HSL transport tickets for the duration of your stay.

DOWNLOAD THE SUBTITLES CLOUD APP

Need translation to English from Finnish or Swedish?

Download the Subtitles Cloud app on your phone, then use the four digit code provided by the theatres for accessing the subtitles of each performance (on page 9). Remember to put your phone on silent.

For more information on Subtitles Cloud and their service, go to www.subtitles.cloud

TIPS THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN HELSINKI

Museums: **Amos Rex**, **Ateneum Art Museum**, **Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma**, **The Theatre Museum** in Ruoholahti, **The Design Museum**, among others

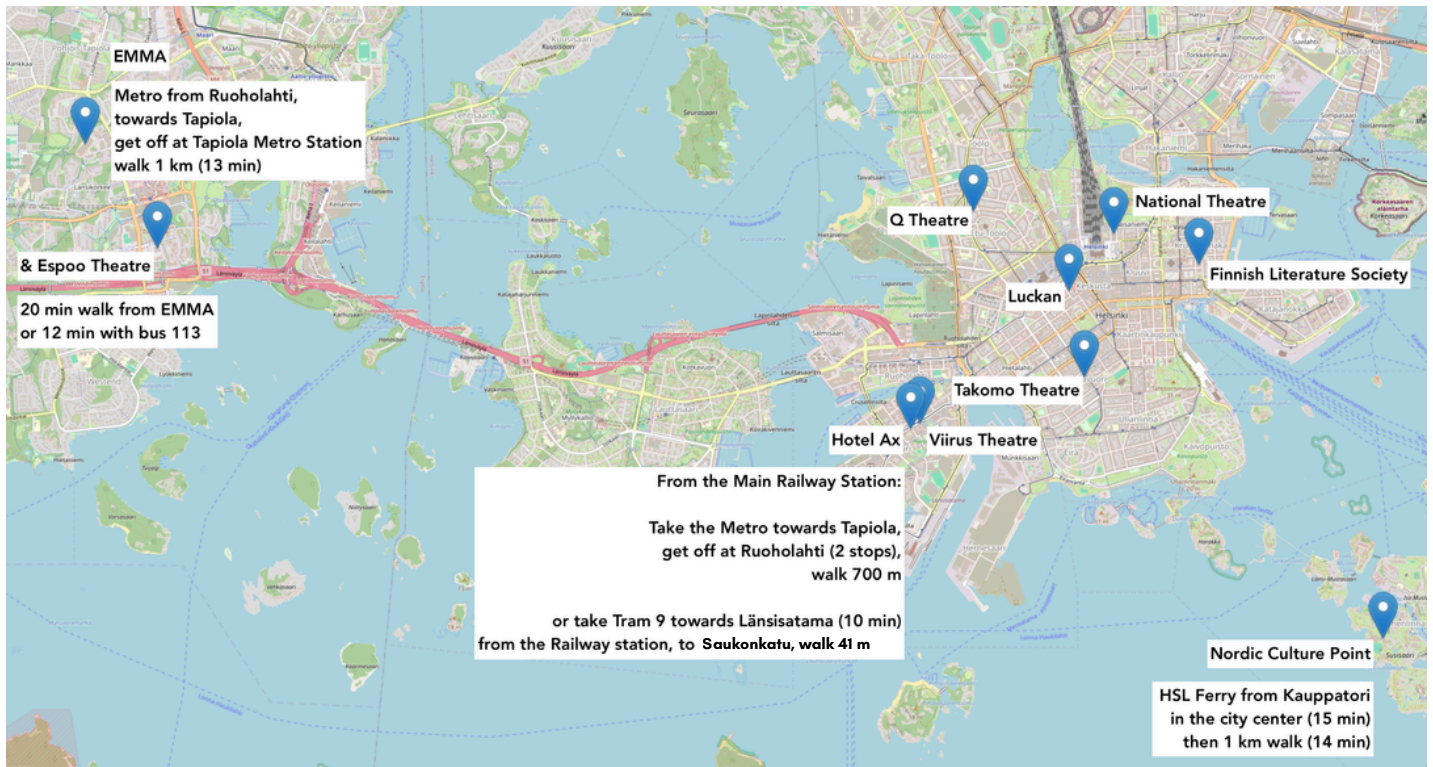
Sauna and swimming: **Uusi Sauna** (around the corner from Ax Hotel), **Löyly Helsinki** for a fancier experience, **Allas Sea Pool** bang in the middle of the Market Square, **Kotiharju Sauna** for a traditional experience, or **Sompasauna** for the cool and fearless

Helsinki Central Library Oodi is the wonder of many

QUESTIONS?

Call, text, WhatsApp or email: Linnea Stara, linnea.stara@info.fi, +358 50 301 2723
In case of emergency, call 112

GETTING AROUND



DOT · DOT DRAMA MAP OF VENUES

Addresses for the venues can be found alongside the description of each performance.

Many of the venues are within walking distance or easily accessible by public transport.

TINFO personnel will guide you from one location to another on Thursday and Friday using public transport.

The longest walking distances will be in Espoo and Suomenlinna, where comfortable shoes are recommended due to cobblestone streets.

Please let us know if you have any mobility limitations, and we will accommodate your needs.

Remember to carry your **HSL ticket** with you.

**DOT·DOT — CONNECTING THE DOTS
OF CONTEMPORARY FINNISH PERFORMANCE**

IN COLLABORATION WITH

**& Espoo Theatre
Emil Santtu Uuttu
EMMA
Finnish Literature Society
Finnish National Theatre
Gymnastics Girls (Katarina Havukainen, Inkeri Hyvönen, and
Ella Lahdenmäki)
Hav-Anna Company
Luckan
Nordic Culture Point
Q-teatteri
Teatteri Takomo
Viirus
WAUHAUS**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

**City of Helsinki
Eugène, Elisabeth och Birgit Nygréns stiftelse
Finlands Kulturinstitut i Danmark
Goethe-Institut Finland
Finnish Institute in Estonia
FINNO - The Finnish-Norwegian Cultural Institute**

and

Subtitles Cloud, the app that makes accessibility of live events easy