

FESTIVAALI! 2015

2nd Finnish Performance Festival in Berlin

June 26 – July 12, 2015

26	FRI	8 PM	German premiere: ANNIKA DOES SWANLAKE a solo performance by <i>Oblivia</i>
...followed by FESTIVAALI!-DISCOOBAR			
27	SAT	8 PM	ANNIKA DOES SWANLAKE a solo performance by <i>Oblivia</i>
...followed by a talk with the artists			
03	FRI	8 PM	work in progress MAKE MY DAY by Pilvi Porkola
		9:15PM	German premiere THE ALPHABETS OF PERFORMANCE ART by Leena Kela
04	SAT	8 PM	MAKE MY DAY by Pilvi Porkola
		9:15PM	THE ALPHABETS OF PERFORMANCE ART by Leena Kela
...followed by a talk with the artists			
08	WED	7 PM	Berlin premiere: EXECUTED STORIES by Juha Valkeapää
09	THU	7 PM	EXECUTED STORIES by Juha Valkeapää
11	SAT	11 AM	APPROACHING THE SCHIZOPRODUCTION workshop with Tero Nauha
		1.30 PM	KNOWLEDGE IS NOT KNOWING lecture with Tero Nauha
		8 PM	12 years after premiere and back in Berlin: THE WANDERER by Tero Nauha/ Kristian Smeds/ Juha Valkeapää
12	SUN	8 PM	THE WANDERER by Tero Nauha/ Kristian Smeds/ Juha Valkeapää

Theaterdiscounter

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Ticket service

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TINFO. Theatre Info Finland.

FESTIVAALI! 2015

2nd Finnish Performance Festival in Berlin

June 26 – July 12, 2015*all performances in English*

Finland weeks at Discounter: New narratives and extraordinary performances from the North of Europe! The Finns are strange to us? High time to get to know them better! Following up last year's first short but hot FESTIVAALI!, this year, Theaterdiscounter has prepared her stage for long lasting three weeks and dimmed the lights in order make the Berlin audience fall in love with some of the most interesting artists of Finnish performance and Live Art. We are excited about and full of anticipation for Finnish charm and Finnish accuracy, for weird humour, physical approaches and big issues renegotiated.

Two of the performances are presented in Germany for the first time, one returns to Berlin after six years, 12 years after its premiere, while another one is still in the course of creation.

June 26 / 27	ANNIKA DOES SWANLAKE
July 03 / 04	MAKE MY DAY THE ALPHABETS OF PERFORMANCE ART
July 08 / 09	EXECUTED STORIES
July 11	KNOWLEDGE IS NOT KNOWING
July 11 / 12	THE WANDERER

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A festival by Theaterdiscounter **Organised by** Michael Müller / Christopher Hewitt
Press Kerstin Böttcher **In collaboration with** New Performance Turku / Mad House
Helsinki **Supported by** Finnland-Institut Berlin / Finnische Botschaft Berlin / TINFO -
Theatre Info Finland has supported the mobility of Finnish theatre artists

Tickets € 13,- / reduced € 8,-

Double Bill on July 3 / 4 € 15,- / reduced € 10,-

Festival Ticket € 28,- / reduced € 20,-

ANNIKA DOES SWANLAKE

/ solo performance by *Oblivia*(Annika Tudeer)

June 26 / 27, 2015, 8 pm

performance in English

Annika Tudeer struggles with the classic in a humorous performance. The process that is depicted is no small journey, but a deep and many-faceted portrait of an artist. Annika does Swanlake is light, generous, funny and full of steel – like Annika herself. [...] She is known as a forerunner, but what now? And what does re-newal mean? These days it is radical to make a performance about the relation to art, and to hold on to that, without security-nets or explanations. (Helsingin Sanomat, March 6th 2015)

Annika uses the ballet *Swanlake* as a framework for the performance and deals with the fact that the idea of turning *Swanlake* into a solo was not such a great idea after all.

My intention was to make a solo of Swanlake, very soon I realised that the template felt both stuffy and dated. However much I tried, I could not be too enthusiastic about the story of a young man that falls in love with a swan on his coming to age birthday. Yet I was drawn to Swanlake. The challenge to make something intimate of something on that grand scale was of course tiltillating. (Annika Tudeer)

Apart from *Swanlake* the solo consists of autobiographical strands and Annika returns to her life in literature- and gender studies in the 1990s, and to her experience of dance analysis and dance criticism.

Devising / performing Annika Tudeer **Sound** Juuso Voltti **Costume** Tua Helve **Dramaturgy** Lina Teir / Timo Fredriksson **Production** Marina Andersson-Rahikkka / Oblivia **Annika does Swanlake has been processed at** Mad House, Helsinki / ESKUS, Helsinki / Mykorhizza residency at Uferstudios, Berlin **Language** English **Support** TINFO - Theatre Info Finland has supported the mobility of Finnish theatre artists.

Annika Tudeer founded the performance company *Oblivia* in 2000. She is a performer in and artistic director of *Oblivia*. After working as a dancer and choreographer in the 1990s, she graduated from Helsinki University with a MA in literature. Until 2004, she worked as a critic writing on new trends in dance and performing arts nationally and internationally. She is a founding member of the *Performance Center* in Helsinki and of *Mad House*, a production house for performance and Live Art in Helsinki. In 2014, she was awarded a 5-year artist grant from the Arts Council Finland.

Oblivia is an international performance company and a unique force on the Finnish performance scene. *Oblivia* merge the boundaries of genres and nationalities. The background of *Oblivia's* members from Finland, Iceland and UK are in music, dance performance art and theory. The trilogy *Entertainment Island* has been touring since 2010 to great acclaim. At the moment, *Oblivia* is working on their series *Museum of Postmodern Art*. A work in progress of their recent work *Ka-Boom* was presented at *Theaterdiscounter* in June 2014 and premiered at the *Helsinki Festival* in August 2014.

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MAKE MY DAY

/ by Pilvi Porkola (work in progress)

July 03 / 04, 2015, 8 pm

performance in English

On most days we do things: standing in a bus or sitting in the front of a computer, we have techniques to carry shopping bags or to open doors. How we do what we do, our daily routines affect our bodies. But to which extent does it form our brains, characters, love techniques? How many ways of walking can you do? How do white boots influence your way of walking? Does a jacket change your posture? Or even your identity?

Performance artist Pilvi Porkola invited three choreographers to work with her for three days each to create material for the performance *Make My Day*. The starting point was to be influenced to choreographer's work and everyday life. The outcome is a series of acts consisting questions of constructed identity, female/male gestures and habits of body in everyday life.

The performance will premiere at Mad House, Helsinki in autumn 2015. Before this work in progress presentation, Pilvi Porkola collaborated with a local choreographer from Berlin during a very short residency at Theaterdiscounter.

Devising /performing Pilvi Porkola **Support** TINFO - Theatre Info Finland has supported the mobility of Finnish theatre artists

Pilvi Porkola is a performance artist, writer, teacher and artistic researcher. She is graduated as Doctor of Arts in *University of Arts Helsinki* 2014. In her thesis, she focused on documenting, autobiographical material, and politics of performance.

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THE ALPHABETS OF PERFORMANCE ART

/ by Leena Kela

July 03 / 04, 2015, 9:15 pm

performance in English

A woman takes a bag of D = dirt and pours the content on the floor. She breaks a boiled E = egg on her forehead, peels the egg, puts it in her mouth and eats it. She picks up a bucket of F = flowers and swings them in her hand. She plants the flowers in the dirt, kneels down, picks one of the flowers with her mouth and eats the flower. She gets up, takes G = glitter powder, mixes it with cream and rubs the glitter on her face until her whole face turns golden.

In her performance *The Alphabets of Performance Art* Leena Kela performs with the materials and objects that are typical for performance art. The performance is based on 15 years of research within the art form. Leena Kela has selected 26 different materials and objects that form the language of performance art and she will perform them from A to Z. If A is an apple, What do you think P could be? Paint, paper, piss?

Devising /performing Leena Kela **Supported by** Arts Promotion Centre, Arts Council of Varsinais-Suomi / Finnish Arts Society

Leena Kela (1979, Finland) is a performance artist whose work evolves from observing the everyday life and phenomena. She has presented over 100 performances in a number of contexts in Finland, and internationally in performance art festivals across Europe as well as in Northern America, Southern America and Russia. She has a MA in Performance Art and Theory (*Theatre Academy*, Helsinki 2010) and a BA in performance art (*Turku Arts Academy*, Turku 2003). Currently, she works as an artistic director of the annual *New Performance Turku Festival* for performance and Live Art and in the executive board at the *Mad House* production house for performance in Helsinki. She is starting her practice based PhD studies at the *Academy of Fine Arts* in Helsinki researching the language of performance art.
www.leenakela.com

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EXECUTED STORIES

/ by Juha Valkeapää

July 08 / 09, 2015, 7 pm

performance in English

A story-telling solo performance about execution in the history of humanity, the angle shifting between that of executed person and executioner. For the executed, execution is an irreversible act, while the executioner might be a proud and skillful officer of the state.

Juha Valkeapää tells life stories of a few people from different times, who ended their lives either executed or working as an executioner. Besides the life stories, *Executed Stories* demonstrates a few execution methods. The tone of the performance is neutral and factual, but not without humour – hey, let's play hangman! And there is a lottery: what would you like to eat as your last meal? Hopefully, the show will whet your appetite!

In an incomparably Finnish way Juha Valkeapää is a master of ceremonies. Subtly he steers the mood from warmly sympathetic to slightly disconcerting and abysmal – and his guests willingly allow themselves to be taken into this specifically Valkeapää-ian gallows humour.

Theater der Zeit

Devising /performing Juha Valkeapää **Production** Juha Valkeapää **Co-production** Samara / Baltic Circle Festival **Support** TINFO - Theatre Info Finland has supported the mobility of Finnish theatre artists

Juha Valkeapää (b. 1967) is a vocal and performance artist, using his voice as his main tool. Since 1993, he has made seven hundred performances of one hundred and forty different works in twenty-seven countries, solos and various group works, vocal & sound & performance art, theatre, music, dance. Plus sound installations, soundscapes and compositions for exhibitions, radio, theatre and dance performances. He is based in Helsinki, Finland. From 2013-2017, Valkeapää is working with the big help of a 5-year grant allocated by the *National Council for Theatre*.

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SCHIZOPRODUCTION (w) KNOWLEDGE IS NOT KNOWING (I)

/ workshop (w) and lecture (I) with Tero Nauha

July 11, 2015, 11 am

in English

11 am

Workshop: Approaching the Schizoproduction

for performance artists and for people interested in the conjunctions between artistic practice, performance theory and materialist philosophy.

In his development of schizoanalysis, Félix Guattari emphasizes the significance of a territory to have function, that is to say, how the group subjugates or becomes a subject group – in short: Does it create refrains or repetition of the same or does it produce lines of flight – or lines of escape? In this workshop with objects and materiality, I propose to demote the concepts of territory or becoming-something altogether and propose to think of the heresy of knowing, or knowing without a territory and no becoming. Can we regard performance in this way, without a relation, becoming or context? Can we regard a performance out of the cooperative and collaborative frameworks, which are given in the knowledge production of capitalism as philosophy? A performance without a sufficient reason – a heretic performance? What happens, when objects, bodies, and matter are regarded as foreclosed, but still possible to perform alongside the Real? What happens when we regard all attempts of relation to objects and people as interpretative attempts to correlate with these objects, 'own' body or the matter. Can we create performance without turning objects into concepts or as functions? **60 minutes + discussion**

1.30 pm

Lecture: Knowledge is not knowing

For in the beginning there is a belief that knowledge is a system you need to tackle and struggle with. There is maybe a need for agonistic desire for revolt, opposition and organization of the resistance. There are several tactics to get your voice heard, so that hegemony would recognize me. I thought I knew it all, and I thought that the theory would help me to solve the conundrums the practice tirelessly produced. I thought if and when I have enough knowledge things would become crystallized and streamlined. However, in the end, this was confusion. In practice I know something, but it is not instantly useful as knowledge, if ever. Of course, in practice there is knowledge, as well, being the production of knowledge, but the knowing is without a territory or a base. The knowing in practice has not reason whatsoever. Knowing is the practice of the heretics, and not the knowledge of the revolutionaries.

Artistic practice is not only a process of becoming-something, but a stratifying and organizational process of logic, presentation, manifestation and representation – it is not schizophrenia but schizoproduction, where economy and exchange thus have a significant place. I will propose to think artistic practice not as 'revolutionary' but heretic. Heretics do not propose a 'revolution' – a repetition with a difference – but choose to think otherwise.

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THE WANDERER

/ by Houkka Brothers

July 11 / 12, 2015, 8 pm

performance in English

The Wanderer is based on a small Orthodox book, *The Way of a Pilgrim*. In the performance, the pilgrim's journey is drawn on a table while the audience is sitting around that table and listening to the *Houkka Brothers* (Houkka is the Finnish word for fool) telling the story of a "fool in Jesus' name": He is a man who walks the length and breadth of Russia in the mid-19th century, seeking the unceasing prayer of the heart.

The Wanderer is a performance by visual artist Tero Nauha, theatre artist Kristian Smeds and vocal artist Juha Valkeapää. It has been on its own spiritual journey for many many years now. Its pilgrimage started in summer 2002 when three Finnish artists from different disciplines engaged with a small spiritual book that is a precious one to Russian Orthodox and Greek Catholics. There were many things in it they liked: Walking, breathing, doing something one knows one must do and not giving up. *The Wanderer* tells about joyful things.

"After the first Riga performance (in 2013) we looked at each other, and thought that we are ten years older than on those pictures taken in Kajaani. And you can see it. You can feel it. Births, deaths, divorces, falling-in-love's, even some new works had taken place during those years. The first performance was ok, but tasted weird. Something had to be done if we wanted to show Wanderer again. It needed update. I'm curious to see how we do it." (Juha Valkeapää - Helsinki, 23 April 2015)

Devising/performing Tero Nauha / Kristian Smeds / Juha Valkeapää **Support** TINFO - Theatre Info Finland has supported the mobility of Finnish theatre artists

The Wanderer has been performed at *Kajaani Poetry Week* (2003) at *Baltoscandal festival*, Rakvere, Estonia (English Version June 2004), in *Tampere* (Finnish version, April 2005); *Von Krahli*, Tallinn & *Kunsten Festival des Arts*, Brussels (English version, May 2005); *Hyvinkää* (FIN, July 2005); *Homo Novus*, Riga (ENG, September 2005); *NET Festival*, Moscow (ENG, November 2005); *Les Soirées Nomades*, Paris (ENG, December 2005); *Blackbox*, Oslo & *BIT*, Bergen (ENG, February 2006); *New Drama Action*, Vilnius (ENG, May 2006); *Merlin*, Budapest (in Hungarian & English, November 2006), at *Nordwind Festival Berlin* (2009), in Trondheim (2011), and Riga (2013). Now twelve years after its premiere the piece will be shown again in Berlin.

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