



NELLI KUJANSIVU

CIRCUS ARTIST

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Born: 5th of December 1993
Nationality: Finland and Sweden
Based: Stockholm, Sweden
Languages: Finnish (native), English (excellent),
Swedish (excellent), French (basics)

EDUCATION

University of Dance and Circus, Stockholm, Sweden 2013-2016

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Circus.
Main discipline: foot juggling (antipodes).

Sorin Sirkus - preparatory school, Tampere, Finland 1997 -2013

Several years of multidisciplinary circus training and performing.

TYK - Tampere Arts-Oriented Senior Secondary School, Tampere, Finland 2009-2012

Matriculation examination - upper secondary school
targeting performing arts.

AWARDS, GRANTS AND POSITIONS - SUMMARY

- 2024-2025 Board member for Cirkuscentrum (SE)
- 2022 Working grant, Konstnärsnämnden (SE)
- 2021 State artist grant, Taike (FI)
- 2019 Tampere region 2026 - Culture Ambassador
- 2016 Scholarship for young stage artist for Anna Greta Stähles memory
- 2013 Swish Cup Prize, Young Stage festival (CH)

ARTISTIC WORK - SUMMARY

Impacts (working title) - 50 minute solo piece 2023 ->

- Commissioned piece (30min) by Silence festival (FI)
- Concept, idea, creator, performer, producer
- Premiere of the first version 6/2023 at Silence festival, Kaukonen (FI)
- Re-creation 2024 + new premiere 10/2025
- Pre-premiere: 2/2025 at CirkusMania festival
- Funding: Taike (FI), Kulturrådet (SE), Östergötland (SE), Konstnärsnämnden (SE), Region Stockholm (SE)
- Co-production: Silence Organisation (FI)

Red Hot Condition - Company Afterclap (FI/SE)

Touring show | 2020 ->

- Co-founder of the company
- Concept, creation of the show, performer, producer
- Actively touring show, premier 7/2020
- Over 100 played shows, for example with Riksteatern, Stora Teatern, Stockholm City Theatre & Parkteatern, Berlin Circus Festival, Young Stage etc.

Mad in Finland - Galapiat Cirque (FR)

Touring show | 2018 ->

- Performer, member of the collective, re-creation of the show
- Actively touring show, among other places played at: Les Halles - Brussels (BE) and BIAC festival - Marseille (FR), Hangaren - Stockholm (SE)
- Over 90 played shows

Kulovalkea - Sirkum Polaris (FI) | 2016-2023

- Co-founder of the company, creation of the show, performer
- Funding by Taike (FI), Subtopia (SE), Nordic Culturpoint
- Creation 2016-2020, pre-premiere 8/2020 at Dynamo Workspace, Odense (DK), premiere 10/2023 at STOA (FI)

PRODUCTIONS - SUMMARY

2025 The Brain - Kulturhuset Spira, director: Camilla Ekelöf, Jönköping, Sweden
2024 -> Händel på Händer - director: Tilde Björfors, touring production, premiere 7/2024
2024 Monti 's Variété - Circus Monti, Wohlen, Switzerland
2023 Circus Lapsus - Helveticus, MAAG Halle, Zürich, Switzerland
2021 Circus Lapsus - Helveticus, MAAG Halle, Zürich, Switzerland
2019-2023 Kiseldalen - Kompani Giraff, touring show; over 100 played shows in Europe
2019 Cirkus Cirkör - Julbordsshow 2019, Stockholm, Sweden
2018 Cirkus Cirkör - Julbordsshow 2018, Stockholm, Sweden
2018 Östgötateatern - "De gifta på Eiffeltornet", Norrköping, Sweden
2018 Sisus Sirkus - "Mosh Split" summer tour, in total 9 festivals in Europe: Autostadt Summer Festival - Cirque Nouveau, Wolfsburg, Germany; Carnaval Sztukmistrzow, Lublin, Poland; Cirkusslottet, Finspång, Sweden & Spoffin, Amersfoort, Netherlands among other festivals.
2017 Krystallpalast Variété - Schwerelos, Leipzig, Germany
2016 Closing Acts - DOCH graduation show, Stockholm, Sweden
2015 Infraröd - DOCH, Stockholm, Sweden
2014 ArtTeatro - Primadonna & Voimamies, Kustavi, Finland
2014 Circa festival, Circle show, Auch, France
2013 "Hevosia ja Omenoia" - street show in Särkänniemi, Tampere, Finland
2013 Hip Cirq Europ` - EU project, Tampere, Finland
2003-2012 Christmas shows with Sorin Sirkus, performed roughly 25 times around Christmas, 10 000 visitors annually, Tampere, Finland.

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS - SUMMARY

2022 Cirkus Cirkör - Stockholm borgerskaps event, Stockholm, Sweden
2019 Cirkus Cirkör - Globen 30 years event, Stockholm, Sweden
2018 "The Best of The Best" - TV show, WeitMedia, Moscow, Russia
2018 IJC festival - International Gala, Gan Hashlosa, Israel
2017 `Salto Sociale` - Charity Christmas Gala, Lörrach, Germany
2017 Cirkus Cirkör - Marginalen Bank - event, Stockholm, Sweden
2017 Turbofest 2017 - Turbo Show, Quebec City, Canada
2016 5-3-1 festival of new juggling, Helsinki, Finland
2016 IJA festival - Cascade of Stars, El Paso, Texas
2015 Circus Ruska Festival - Cabaret Club, Tampere, Finland
2013 Young Stage, Basel, Switzerland
2011 Focus on Circus - Caravan project, Luxembourg
2010 European Youth Circus festival, Wiesbaden, Germany
2010 Aamulehden Kasvokkainkiertue, 7 cities around Pirkanmaa
2007 Partion suurjuhla, Ratina Stadion
2006 EU Commission committees evening ceremony, Tampere City hall, Finland
2006 Eurovision 2006 - Muistathan Gaala, live tv-show, Tampere, Finland

TEACHING AND WORKSHOPS

Guest teacher in foot juggling at Sorin Sirkus, Tampere, Finland 2013->
Teacher in foot juggling for the performing group.

Substitute teacher at Cirkus Cirkör
9/2017-2022
Teacher in basic circus skills for kids, youngsters and families.

Guest teacher at Valla Folkhögskolan
3/2018
Full day workshops in contemporary circus for the performing arts students.

Foot juggling workshops in Lahti Circus School and Circus Helsinki 10/2016
Workshops created for foot jugglers from basics to professionals.

Sirkunst - Drømmefabrikken, Trondheim, Norway
7/2015
Workshops in foot juggling and acrobatics at the Drømmefabrikken -festival.

Part-time teacher at Sorin Sirkus, Tampere, Finland
2010-2013
Main teacher in foot juggling and teacher in basic circus skills for youngsters.

ARTISTIC RESEARCH - SUMMARY

Solo research project in foot juggling, 2019->

- Combining cellular biology and foot juggling
- Pushing the discipline out of its traditional forms
- Physical and intellectual research
- Support: Taika (FI), Konstnärsnämnden (SE), Subtopia (SE), Cirkus Cirkör (SE), Riksteatern (SE), Burnt Out Punks (SE)