

AJOLÄHTÖ - KICKSTART



The Show

Ajolähtö - Kickstart is a show based on a road trip that goes wrong. Six friends become stranded in the middle of nowhere, confronted by the unpredictable Nordic Summer.

The show explores not only the struggles of being stranded in the woods in summer, but also its beauties. Even while struggling to build a tent, being attacked by mosquitoes or failing to hitch a ride the characters take their time to enjoy the moments of bliss and as well as awkwardness they find themselves in.

Ajolähtö - Kickstart takes many inspirations from Finnish peculiarities as well as its culture. For instance the banquine dance is inspired by traditional dances and the hand-to-hand act is inspired by the tradition of Lavatanssi (a Finnish social dance) and the clumsy social interactions of Finns when they take a romantic interest in each other.

The world of the show is filled with absurd and surprising skits and farces which are brought to life by the magical realism of circus. We acknowledge the ridiculousness of the situations present, yet continue to play along with them, creating an immersive experience which then feels that much more plausible to the audience.

In the end, Ajolähtö - Kickstart is a full on circus show. The performance is held together by the circus disciplines used in each scene. Each discipline and its style of movement reflect the theme of its scene, creating a strong technical piece that carries the thread of the show from one moment to another.

The show is a personal endeavour as we have created the characters as somewhat exaggerated versions of our true selves making our reactions more realistic and relatable to the audience.



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Duration:

60 minutes

Artists:

6 on stage

Disciplines:

Banquine

Tightwire

Cyr Wheel

Double-facing Cradle

Hand-to-hand

Washington Trapeze

Kettle-bell

*“The best thing about the show is
that you never know what’s
happening next”*

Liisa Risu - Hurjaruuth Artistic Director

The Company

Arctic Ensemble was founded in 2018 on the tour of 'Sirkus Finlandia'. Members of the group graduated from Salpaus Circus Education 2017-18 and are bonded by their love of all kinds of acrobatics and awkward humor.

We have a history of working in traditional circuses around the world such as 'Hippodrome Circus GY' and 'Little World Museum of Man, Japan', and those experiences have molded our view of circus to be made primarily for the public. We enjoy sharing our stories, living and laughing with people around the world and finding moments and situations that touch people regardless their social and cultural backgrounds

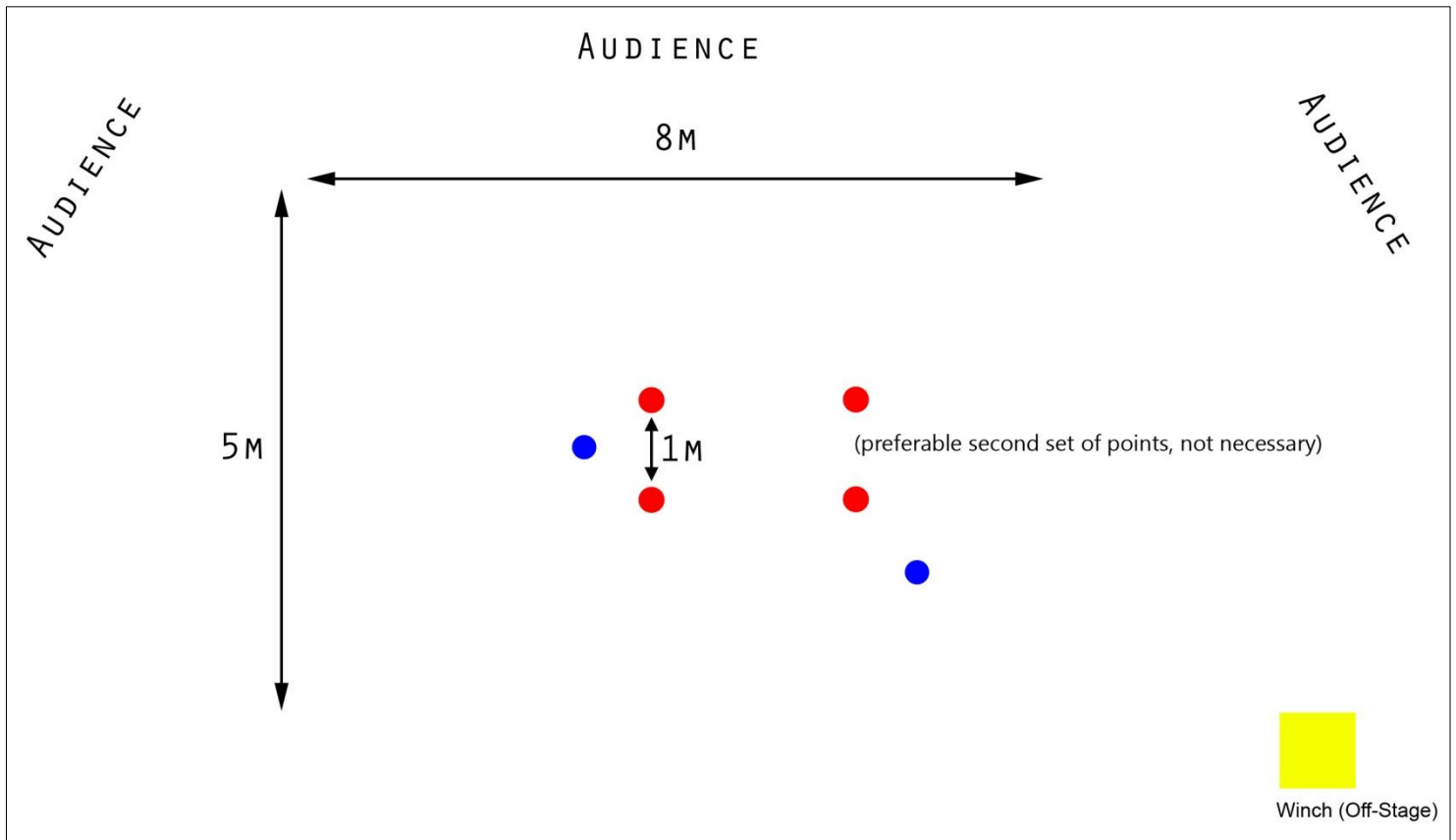
Our approach to circus is embracing togetherness and a DIY-mentality, acknowledging and respecting the history of the art form and having fun on stage. We value audience contact in our work and we want to give 100% of our energy while performing. Our work ethics include honesty, an uncompromised attitude and pride in our work. Because of these values we have remained on very good terms with all of the people we have worked with thus far as our time together has been enjoyable as well as professional.

“Arctic Ensemble is the future of Finnish circus”

Matias Salmenaho - Circus Artist



Technical Sheet



Aerial pole rigging point. WLL 500kg each. Doesn't need to be anywhere specific in the space as long as it is at least 2m away from walls.



Washington trapeze rigging points. WLL 500kg each. Preferably as close to the middle of the space as possible and between 1-1.5m apart. Second set of points are not necessary and the width between them isn't specific.



Winch. We have our own Winch but a way to fasten it to the floor is needed. A large strong column we can strap it to or a 1000kg WLL rated floor rigging point is sufficient. The only requirement is that it should be preferably in the corner of the space or at least not in the middle, best would be off-stage.

Montage:

3-5 Hours
(Location dependent)

Demontage:

1-2 Hours

Height requirement:

At least 7m from the floor to the roof across the horizontal centre-line of the stage

*The diagram is an example of a best case scenario; we are more than capable of working with any regular space.

** For an outside venue we have trusses for aerial rigging points, stakes to create floor attachment points and can arrange the audience in a round 'traditional circus' style if possible.

***We do not require a sound technician as we will handle our music ourselves.

Artists

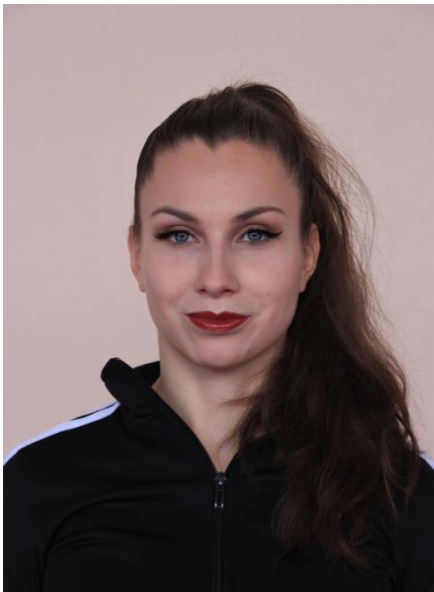
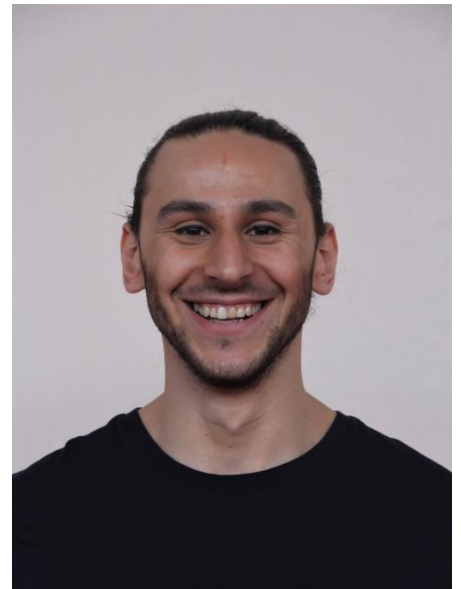
Orfeo Llewellyn:

Orfeo joined the world of circus at age four and never left. He spent the majority of his time during his youth and teenage years enjoying everything his youth circus and training could give him. He eventually moved on to attend Lahti Circus School (SaSaK).

Through all these years in training and exploration of what circus had to offer he understood the joys and responsibilities of creating a production with a team. He took a large interest in rigging, especially planning out smooth rigging transitions for productions.

Orfeo's initial discipline was Aerial rope however after joining SaSaK he grew a large interest in basing. Suddenly he found himself in love with throwing people around in various different ways.

As an artist his priority is the bigger picture and creating enjoyable moments on stage. If the artists enjoy themselves on stage the audience will reciprocate that enjoyment. He is always happy to go the extra mile to create something the public can enjoy and get lost in.



Linnea Purontaus:

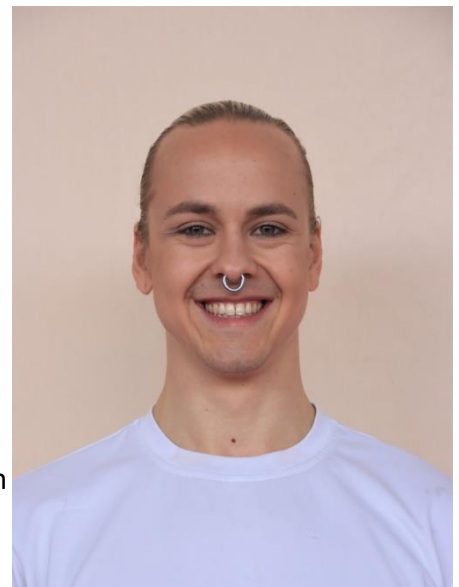
Linnea is a former gymnast who found herself enjoying circus at the age of 15. She started to educate herself in Circus Gymnasiet i Gävle in Sweden and later went to Lahti circus school (Sasak). Her main discipline is tight-wire but she is interested in all forms of acrobatics as well as being thrown in the air by other people. She thinks it's important to experiment with different styles of movement and constantly trying to find ways to make the movement look more elegant and unique.

Armas Lintusaari:

Armas Lintusaari started practising circus at the age of 20 after years of trying to find his own way of artistic self expression. In circus, Armas was thrilled by its physicality, togetherness and inspiring, risk-taking artists. Armas spent his time in SaSaK trying to discover the (cyr) wheel again but afterwards he has broadened his know-how to basing in double-facing cradle, banquine and some pair acrobatics.

Armas comes alive when working in a team, and being the person in the group who enjoys writing formal texts, he naturally plays the role of grant-applier in Arctic Ensemble. He likes to think of himself as a wannabe producer.

When it comes to circus and arts in general Armas is omnivorous. He's dream is to tour the world in his own tent with a kickass group show where music is live and people fly high.



Minna Pulsa:

Minna started circus as a hobby when she was 9 years old. She had dreamed of being able to fly since early childhood, just like so many other children. However the dream stuck with her and she found her way of flying through the circus. The dream grew into ever growing curiosity into the things the human body can do and finding out her own potential. She highly enjoys working in a group. Throughout her childhood, adolescence and adulthood she had found the circus community to be one of the most valuable things in her life. Working only as a solo artist has never been her dream as it is a great team that makes working on any project so special. As an artist she always tries to give 100%, as she thinks that if you can't do something full-on it might not be worth doing at all. This is equally a strength and a weakness of hers. She also strives to be someone her team can rely on anytime and anyplace and of course have fun and enjoy all the experiences that come her way.

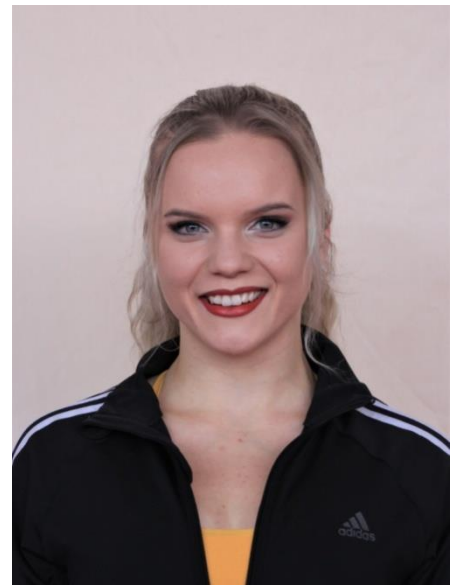
**Anselmi Kaisanlahti:**

Anselmi is a 24-year-old circus artist born in the big city of Alavus, Finland. He has a long history of circus and sports hobbies of all sorts. Besides being a kick-ass acrobat he is also a professional carpenter. On stage he is mostly seen throwing other people (and sometimes himself) around. During his career he has done over 800 performances around the world. What interests him most about circus is the diversity and the unique contact between the performers and the audience. He is constantly coming up with new ideas and when he gets excited about something it stays on his mind 24/7. When it comes to something boring like office work it might take him a while.

Ada Forsberg:

Ada started circus at the age of 9. Since the beginning she has loved flying in different ways; hand to hand, banquine, Korean cradle, Icarian, double trapeze and so on. As long as the discipline includes the words "air" or "fly" it's her thing. She has done all sorts of aerial acrobatics, specialising in washington trapeze. (balancing herself, on her head, on top of a trapeze that probably weighs more than she does which yes, looks freaking funny when she is carrying it around.)

Give her any discipline and she will do it... As long as it doesn't include juggling.





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Calendar

- **July 2020**
Kyrön Maneesi, Orimattila (2 weeks residency)
- **July 2020**
Kyrön Maneesi, Orimattila (2 weeks shows)
- **August 2020**
Salo Circus Festival, Salo
- **August 2020**
Kuopion Kaupunginteatteri, Kuopio (weekend shows)
- **August 2020**
Tuusulan Taiteiden Yö, Tuusula
- **Delayed until Autumn 2021**
Lappeenrantan Kaupunginteatteri, Lappeenranta

Produced by:
Arctic Ensemble

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Teaser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6EKD1QSkbU>

Extended Trailer:

<https://youtu.be/qOqLL9QTGUA>

