



Cirko-festival charmed with domestic expertise

Cirko-festival, arranged in Helsinki already since 2006, is a showcase for contemporary circus, where the latest performances from professionals and amateurs can be seen. Besides enjoying the performances, the audience can also try out their own circus skills in workshops arranged on the last day of the festival. The festival that ended on Sunday focused this year on the performances by Finnish authors. There was only one foreign

guest. Based on the performances it looks that acrobatics in its different forms is the circus art form, which currently experiences the most changes in the Finnish contemporary circus world. Acrobatics was the basis for three of the professional performances at the festival.

One of them was **Ilona Jäntti**'s fine evening of solo performances, Huhu (Rumour) that premiered last week, and the second **Sanna Silvennoinen**'s enchantingly beautiful Ro-Pu from 2010.

Circus

Cirko-festival

Stoa, music hall

Circus New World: Globally Wanted

Directed by *Seija Hakkarainen*

Music *Pekka Huttunen*

Lights *Antti Helminen*

Astonishing performance

Third of the acrobatics-based performances was from the group founded in 2006, Circus New World that is based in Jyväskylä, and the performance was Globally Wanted that premiered last autumn.

This dark performance that visually draws up on heavy and gothic aesthetics, was dumbfounding. When even an experienced professional audience member feels clued to her chair for every single second, it is something unparalleled.

In Stoa music hall the performance almost gets to the skin of an audience member. From so close it is possible to immediately see even a small flaw or idle. However there was not a single sign of that. Every move, moment and gesture was deliberate and it worked. Breath-taking speed, skill requiring slows and dangerous-looking throws and plunges proceeded in a breeze.

The performance combines circus, theatre, dance, music and parkour, but for once in a way that you would not think of it. It was indeed a performance where means of different art forms merged seamlessly together and served the performance and its content.

Still each performer got their own solo that belongs to the circus tradition, but this or other aspects of the performance structure came to think only afterwards.

The director of the performance, **Seija Hakkarainen**, has done a brilliant job. But so did all the performers. The participants in the twisted and dark family reunion, who are all looking for love from all over the place but often also receive violence, were just remarkable. Each one of them, **Sami Keinänen**, **Mikko Kervinen**, **Noora Pasanen**, **Kaisa Pesonen**, **Perttu Pihlaja** and **Lotta Roukala**, posses skills, expression and presence that are top notch. Content-wise maybe in a slightly more central role rose Pihlaja by parkouring with a wheelchair and Roukala who did life-threatening-looking parts on a pole.

The show was crowned by **Pekka Huttunen**'s music that was as magical and addictive as the stage event itself. Just when you were about to recognize a part of the melody, it changed to something else.

Globally Wanted was a performance you would like to see again straight away, and that gnaws your mind for a long time.

Annikki Alku

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