

Runokuu – literature festival

21.-27.8.2017 Helsinki

Runokuu is a lively and colorful literature festival held in Helsinki, where literature takes over the city and is accompanied by other forms of art. The theme for the 13th annual Runokuu is Love.

Serving as the main stage as well as general meeting point during the festival is Lavaklubi at Finnish National Theatre (Kansallisteatteri). Festivalgoer can shop at a pop up -poetry bookshop, attend talks on literature and philosophy and enjoy wonderful club programme in the evenings. The ever so delightful, traditional Runoja raitella - campaign brings poetry to Helsinki trams and metro during the festival.

Exciting and memorable Runokuu invites everybody to take part, create, write and fall in love.

The festival is organized by Nuoren Voiman Liitto in collaboration with Helsinki Festival (Helsingin juhlat viikot). The principal sponsors of the festival are Ministry of Education and Culture, City of Helsinki Cultural Office and Alli Paasikivi Foundation.

In collaboration with:

American Resource Center, Annantalo Arts Centre, Art goes Kapakka, Aviator Publishing, Gige, Goethe-Institut Finland, Helsinki Festival, Helsingin City Library, City of Helsinki Cultural Office, Helsinki Comics Festival, Helsinki Poetry Connection, Helsinki City Transport HKL, Hotel and Restaurant Museum, Helsinki Region Transport HSL, Idän piste, Järvenpää Library, Cable Factory, National Audiovisual Institute, Finnish National Theatre, National Theatre's Club Scene, Kiasma, Kirjasampo, Stoa Culture Centre, Korjaamo Culture Factory, The Union of Latvian Writers, The Finnish Reading Center, Nihil Interit ry, Nuori Voima magazine, Nuorten toimintakeskus Happi, Ministry of Education and Culture, Poesia co-operative, Rakkauden tiloja, Rozentals Society, Comics Center, The Finnish Comics Society, The Sivuväli project, Stage Festival, The Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters, Suomen lausujainliitto, Finnish Pen, The Association of Finnish Non-fiction Writers, Suomen Viro-yhdistysten liitto ry, Theatre Quo Vadis, Tuli&Savu (magazine), Vantaa Art Museum Artsi, Veranda Café & Terrace, Viro-instituutti, Vuotalo, U.S. Embassy, YLE (The Finnish Broadcasting Company)

The Program

Wednesday 23.8.

Building Bridges Poetry Breakfast

9-10, Café Veranda

Morning coffee served with poetry in various languages? The international poetry breakfast features several award-winning poets and spoken word artists from UK, Estonia and Finland. Performing are Bob Beagrie, Tony Walsh, Andy Willoughby, Kieren King, Veronika Kivisilla, Lasse Hauerwaas and Kalle Niinikangas.

In collaboration with: SVYL Ry, Building Bridges, Viro-instituutti

Thursday 24.8.

Lecture: "When Ink Is Not Enough"

16.30-18.00, The American Resource Center (ARC)

The international guests of Runokuu – Francesca Willow and Madison Mae Parker – deliver a lecture on the subject "When Ink Is Not Enough".

In collaboration with: ARC, U.S. Embassy

Film: *Howl*

19.00-21.00, Orion Cinema

The docu-fiction film *Howl* (2010) by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Frieman centers on Allen Ginsberg's iconic poem from 1955. The film weaves together the poem itself, the controversy and the lawsuits it propelled as well as Ginsberg's childhood memories. Breaking the conventions of linear storytelling, the film deploys various narrative techniques such as animation and alternating between black-and-white and color sequences.

At the screening on Thursday 24.8. the film will be presented by essayist Silvia Hosseini.

Tickets available in Orion Cinema's web store: 6,5 € (normal prize) / 5 € (with club card).

In collaboration with: Kansallinen audiovisuaalinen instituutti (KAVI)

Saturday 26.8.

Runokuuklubi

18-23, Finnish National Theatre's Lavaklubi

Club evening Runokuuklubi invites festivalgoers to enjoy intertwining music, dance, performance art and poetry. Intimate evening is hosted by Elina Tervonen and Kati Aakkonen.

In collaboration with: Aviador Kustannus, Goethe-Institut Finland, Korjaamo Culture Factory, Stage-festival, U.S. Embassy

Programme and precursory timetable:

18.30-19.00 Janne-Camilla Lyster & Anni Kaila: *Love I-III*

Love I-III is a dance piece and a choreographic poem in which dance and poetry share the stage and complement each other. Janne-Camilla Lyster's poetry serves as a script for Anni Kaila's dance exploring, delineating and embodying love. Dance brings poetry into a space, gives it weight and connects it with time. Poetry on the other hand galvanizes the dancing body and allows one to create and read abstract motion in new ways.

19-19.15 Mari Laaksonen: *Valitse hetki*

Valitse hetki analyses melancholy that we try to get away from. Escapism is directed towards the peace and quiet of outer space but runs into danger of disintegration because history and metaphores start to live lives of their own. Spacedog Laika dies of heartattack. The message form Voyager is at the same time violent and insane. The celestial bodies of Lars von Trier, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and Tarskovsky can't offer solace when every philosophy already holds the semantics of its own destruction.

But let's not forget about love. Because even after everything the melancholy of the blue planet seems to resemble not only loneliness of B612 but also caring. Voyager carries with it into the darkness between stars on a mute lp-record the clatter of trains, heartbeat, laughter and kisses.

The work mixes sound art and poetry. The sounscape has been created in collobration with Irish sound artist Frankie Shannon.

19.30-19.45 Mathias Göritz

Runokuu's guest, award-winning German poet, Matthias Göritz gives a reading.

20.15 Nivelet

Nivelet-trio interpret poems from Parviainen's new poetry collection. *Meren nivelet* (Aviador, 2017) will be released on August 26th.

Outi-Illusia Parviainen (poems/vocals)

Esa Pietilä (saxophone)

Sergio Castrillón (cello)

21.15 One Thousand Project: *The Body Is a Prayer*

The Body Is a Prayer is a poetry performance by Runokuus special guests. One Thousand Project is an art collective comprising Francesca Willow and Madison Mae Parker; Francesca is a performance artist who builds her performance on Madison's poetry. Together they aim to create a space in which the audience is called to an active dialogue with the performers. *The Body Is a Prayer* explores the darkness inside all of us – a darkness we are capable of overcoming through our humanity.

22.30 Runoen

Runoen is a lively and original band, whose music brings together beautiful melodies, laid-back rhythms and emotive interpretations. Their new compositions combine pop, jazz and folk and breathe a new life to poems by famous Finnish poets (Aleksis Kivi, Eino Leino, Uno Kailas, Edith Södergran). Most of the compositions are written by Juha Granlund and have been arranged by the whole group. Lead vocalist Jenni Roth's powerful rendering of the poems brings them alive for contemporary listener.

Jenni Roth (vocals & saxophone)
Juha Granlund (piano)
Jatta Pihlajaniemi (flute & vocals)
Esa Hiltunen (drums & vocals)
Tero Siitonen (bass)

Sunday 27.8.

Panel discussion: The (Im)possibility of Translating and Publishing Poems

15-16, Bulevardin kahvisalonki

Panel discussion on translating poetry features publishing editor Daniela Seel (kookbooks), poet and translator Matthias Göritz and translator Jukka-Pekka Pajunen. The talk is hosted by Kimmo Kallio (Poesia).

In collaboration with: Goethe-Institut Finnland

Whole week

21.8.-3.9. Runoja raiteilla / Poetry on Tracks

Poetry steps on board of trams and metro of Helsinki in Runoja raiteilla -campaign. This year's poems are written by ten contemporary Finnish poets and they contemplate happiness, fleeting moments, relationships and love. Poem postcards are available during Runokuu in libraries, trams and festival events.

Runomaatti / Poèmaton

Resembling a photo booth, Poèmaton is a poem booth in which the visitor receives a poem. Performer inside the booth recites a poem in Finnish or French according to the wishes of the participant. The participant also receives the poem in written form. The experience brings two cultures to a whispering distance; it celebrates the power of words as well as the anonymous encounter between the performer and the experiencing subject.

Monday 21.8. 17-20 Kaisaniemi Park

Tuesday 22.8. 13-16 Kiasma

Wednesday 23.8. 13-16 Culture Center Stoa

Thursday 24.8. 17-20 Cable Factory

Friday 25.8. 16-19 Vuotalo

Saturday 26.8. 17-20 Korjaamo Culture Factory

Performers: Minerva Kautto and Isabelle Paquet.

In collaboration with: Theatre Quo Vadis

Mainioita harharetkiä / Wonderful Wanderings

1.8.-2.9. Kirjaverstas

The exhibition features Jussi Karjalainen's illustrations for Leena Parkkinen's children's book *Pikkuveli ja mainio harharetki*