

Zero Gravity Company:

# YDIN



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# Zero Gravity Company: Ydin

A contemporary circus performance that grabs by the hair, smashes to the floor and embraces. Fingers clasped, hair braided together, carrying the weight of each other four acrobats present their show based on tight companionship. Zero Gravity Company's debut show Ydin (Core) is a fresh and captivating contemporary performance by the new generation of circus.

The light and playful performance moves high above the ground. Being grasped by the hair. Focused steps fall on a wire across the air. Toes land on palms. From the reverse side of the beautiful braid of this show we discover scratches and laughter. The gentle human core manifests as ridiculous and touching characters. The characters follow each other persistent as shadows, reaching out to each other and softening the blows.

Aerial acrobats Salla Hakanpää, Susanna Keski-Kohtamäki, Maarit Utriainen and tightwire artist Netta Lepistö create a criss-crossing skein of encounters on the stage. The performance digs into the core like a wire to the skin. In the heart of the show we find a human being who disappears, hides and tries to step forth.

The concept is woven on the unity of friendship. When braided together even the most fragile tress forms a strong bond on which to rise up in the air.

# Zero Gravity Company: Ydin

Concept: Salla Hakanpää, Susanna Keski-Kohtamäki, Netta Lepistö,  
Reija Tapaninen, Maarit Utriainen, Ville Walo

Performers: Salla Hakanpää, Susanna Keski-Kohtamäki, Netta Lepistö,  
Maarit Utriainen

Director: Ville Walo

Choreography: Reija Tapaninen, Ville Walo

Lighting design: Ainu Palmu

Set design: Anne Jämsä, Ainu Palmu

Costumes and props: Anne Jämsä

Sound design: Joonas Pehrsson

Production: Zero Gravity Company, Association WHS, Cirko – Uuden  
Sirkuksen Keskus

Duration: 55 minutes

The performance has no spoken language

Age recommendation: over 8-years-old

# Into the Heart of Surrealistic Girlhood

JUSSI TOSSAVAINEN

Zero Gravity Company: Ydin. Director Ville Walo, performers Salla Hakanpää, Susanna Keski-Kohtamäki, Netta Lepistö and Maarit Utriainen, lights Ainu Palmu, set Anne Jämsä and Ainu Palmu, sound Joonas Pehrsson. Cirko centre.

**Circus.** Zero Gravity Company's first performance *Ydin* [Core] indicates one of the directions where contemporary circus is headed in Finland. Interesting and fascinating, but definitely not entertainment "for the whole family". References and associations are so densely packed that the spectator is supposed to have some kind of familiarity with culture and history.

Under the direction of the contemporary circus pioneer **Ville Walo** the performance leaves a lot unsaid and thus gives space for interpretations, which may be as numerous as the spectators in the audience.

Foam plastic human figures are strangely impressive in a way that somewhat resembles horror effects. The tightrope dancer has her own doppelgänger, which follows her on the opposite side of the rope axis.

Trapeze is staged almost touching the ground, which demonstrates the idea of weightlessness without the wow-aspect of traditional circus.

What is the piece aiming at then, and which is the core that we are digging into? I myself see it as some sort of a study of girlhood. A bit like a counterpart to the manly attitude of Race Horse Company. The young women are wearing cute dresses, and a long braid acts as a vertical rope. It also brings in mind the fairytale about *Rapunzel*.

We see solidarity and support between women – and on the other hand competition and grudges, not forgetting even frank sexuality. As a musical setting an electronic version of the medieval *La Rotta* suits the "aerial combat" surprisingly well.

Circus history is referred at with a comic version of sawing a woman in half. Would that have a feminist aspect to it? A woman truly as an object! *Ydin* is a poetic and intimate work of art that gives promises for the future of this new company with strong expressive powers.

Demari 08.11.2011 THEATRE & DANCE

# Searching for the Core of Friendship

ANNIKKI ALKU

PHOTO: JANNE PIETILÄINEN



## ZERO GRAVITY COMPANY: YDIN [Core] Cirko Centre

Concept: Salla Hakanpää, Susanna Keski-Kohtamäki, Netta Lepistö, Reija Tapaninen, Maarit Utriainen, Ville Walo – Director: Ville Walo – Set: Anne Jämsä ja Ainu Palmu – Costumes and props: Anne Jämsä – Lights: Ainu Palmu – Sound: Joonas Pehrsson

*Zero Gravity Company's performance proceeds with a heightened calmness as an episodic depiction of different friendships and changes in them.*

Finnish contemporary circus has apart from a few exceptions been very strongly dominated by men. All of the best-known and most successful groups have been founded by men and run mainly by men.

By saying this I don't mean that itself would be negative in any way, but still it was especially delightful to see the premiere of Ydin in Cirko centre, the debut performance of Zero Gravity Company that was founded by four young women last year.

All the members of the group, aerial acrobats **Salla Hakanpää**, **Susanna Keski-Kohtamäki** and **Maarit Utriainen** and the tightrope dancer **Netta Lepistö** have graduated from the circus program of Turku Arts Academy.

The performance proceeds with a heightened calmness as an episodic depiction of different friendships and changes in them. It doesn't tell a story, instead it shows various kinds of encounters, which often have competition and aggression between women lurking right below the surface or even coming forth in concrete actions. It also plays with female symbols and especially with hair. A rope is like a rustic thick giant braid, and in one point the performers tie each other together by the hair.

Ydin also asks, who am I and how am I manifested in the eyes of the others. Traditional female iconography is referred to as the women pose in humoristic ways draped in sheets hung on the tightrope. At the same time the scene plays with the circus tradition of sawing a woman in half, this time with giant scissors. One of the splendid ideas is to use the reverse side of the tightrope dancer's balance plate as a mirror, in which each person in turn seeks their own image.

The performing quartet is quite equally strong in its skills and each one is allowed their time in the centre of attention. Lepistö's virtuosity on the low tightwire is firm and agile. Utriainen's almost floor sweeping aerial silks number differs from the usually seen in an exiting way.

Zero Gravity Company's debut piece functions efficiently and has a smoothly flowing structure. In directing the show the group has been helped by the contemporary circus pioneer **Ville Walo**. Thus it seems like the founders of both of the oldest Finnish contemporary circus companies, WHS and Cirko Aereo, have recognized it as their mission to guide new groups in their first steps and to so promote the further development of the currently skyrocketing Finnish contemporary circus.

# Technical Rider

## YDIN

### STAFF ON TOUR

4 performers – 1 technician – 1 manager

### STAGE

Dimensions required

The minimum dimensions of stage are:

Height: 7,5 m (6,5 meters minimum)

Width: 12 m (10 meters minimum)

Depth: 10 m (9 meters minimum)

No more than 1% tilt of floor

Stage masking

- black curtains that cover back wall and side walls
- openings for entrance between side curtains (in stage right and stage left) and in the middle of the back curtain
- white dance carpet

### SET

3 balloons hanging on electric wires above stage area

The balloons have LED lights inside them.

(Balloons, LEDs, electric wiring, transformer and DMX controller supplied by the company)

The balloons will hang on electric wires that run through pulleys and loops attached on ceiling rigging points, with the other ends of the wires coming down in the FOH area for controlling the height of the balloons by pulling the wires.

For the set we need:

- 6 pulleys for the electric wires to pass through
- 9 loops for the electric wires to pass through
- direct electricity in the FOH area
- 1 roll of matte white tape (width 5 cm)

### AERIAL RIGGING POINTS

500 kg Aerial rigging point in the ceiling for a rope in stage left

- Position approximately 1,5 - 2,5 meters from stage left side curtain and approximately 7 meters from back curtain
- Height of rigging point 6,5 m – 9 m
- If the rigging point height is more than 7,5 m, the rope will need to be rigged with a 0,5 – 1,5 m long black rigging sling to adjust the rope rigging height to 6,5 m – 7,5 m (measured from stage floor)

2 x 500 kg Aerial rigging points for aerial tissue in stage right and over FOH area

1 x 500 kg anchor point in FOH area floor level

- Position of stage right rigging point approximately 1,5 - 2,5 meters from stage right curtain and approximately 6 meters from back curtain
- Height of rigging point 6,5 m – 9 m
- A rope and 2 pulleys: A pulley rigged to the stage right rigging point, with rope running to the FOH rigging point, and coming down to floor level in FOH area

Anchor point with carabineer for the rope in FOH area floor level.

The aerial tissue is behind the side curtains and will be pulled up from FOH and secured to the FOH area floor level anchor point with the carabineer.

- There should be an opening for entrance between the curtains of stage right. The opening should be close to the stage right aerial rigging point.
- A clam cleat for the rope (supplied by she company) needs to be attached behind the stage right side curtain opening in a height of approximately 4-5 meters

### **TIGHTROPE ANCHOR POINTS**

2 x 1500 kg anchor point for tightrope

- Position in upstage area floor level, symmetrically in both sides, approximately 2 meters from back curtain
- Tightrope length is 7 meters
- Rigging points should be positioned at a distance of minimum 1,5 meters, maximum 4 meters, measured from the tightrope ends

### **LIGHTING**

- a 5-pin DMX feed to dimmers from FOH
- 3 x electric schuko sockets in FOH
- 45 x 2kW dimmers
- audience lights operatable from FOH

Lanterns:

11 x 2kW fresnel with barndoors

10 x 1kW fresnel with barndoors

11 x ETC S4 750W 25-50 Zoom profiles / 1kW 25-50deg zoom profiles with rotating set of shutters

13 x PAR 64 CP 60 7 x PAR 64 CP 61

- black aluminium tape and black wrap for focusing

### **SOUND SYSTEM**

- Sound system must be supplied by the theatre
- PA: about 2x1kw per 300 people
- Sound Desk with 4 input channels
- CD player

- 4 DI-boxes
- Specific cables to plug each DI-box output into line inputs of the desk
- Sufficient stage monitoring

### **DRESSING ROOMS**

- dressing room with shower (near the place of performance, heated if necessary, well lit, lockable or guarded, with chairs, a mirror, a WC)
- Bottles of water (minimum 4 small bottles for each performance)
- catering: bananas and other fruits, coke, water, fruit juice, coffee, chocolate, sandwiches or snacks (vegetarian and normal) for 5 persons during set-up and 2 hours before performance
- 4 towels
- hangers (8) for clothes, ironing board and iron

### **ACCOMMODATION**

Accommodation and board for 6 people on the days of set up and performance

- 6 hotel rooms: 6 single rooms, min. 2 stars

### **TECNICAL STAFF**

Set up takes approximately 10 hours and requires :

- 2 lighting technician (3 if light has not been prepared before we arrive)
- 1 sound technician

During the show

- 1 house technician familiar with venue

Duration of show: 55 minutes

### **Technical contacts:**

lighting design

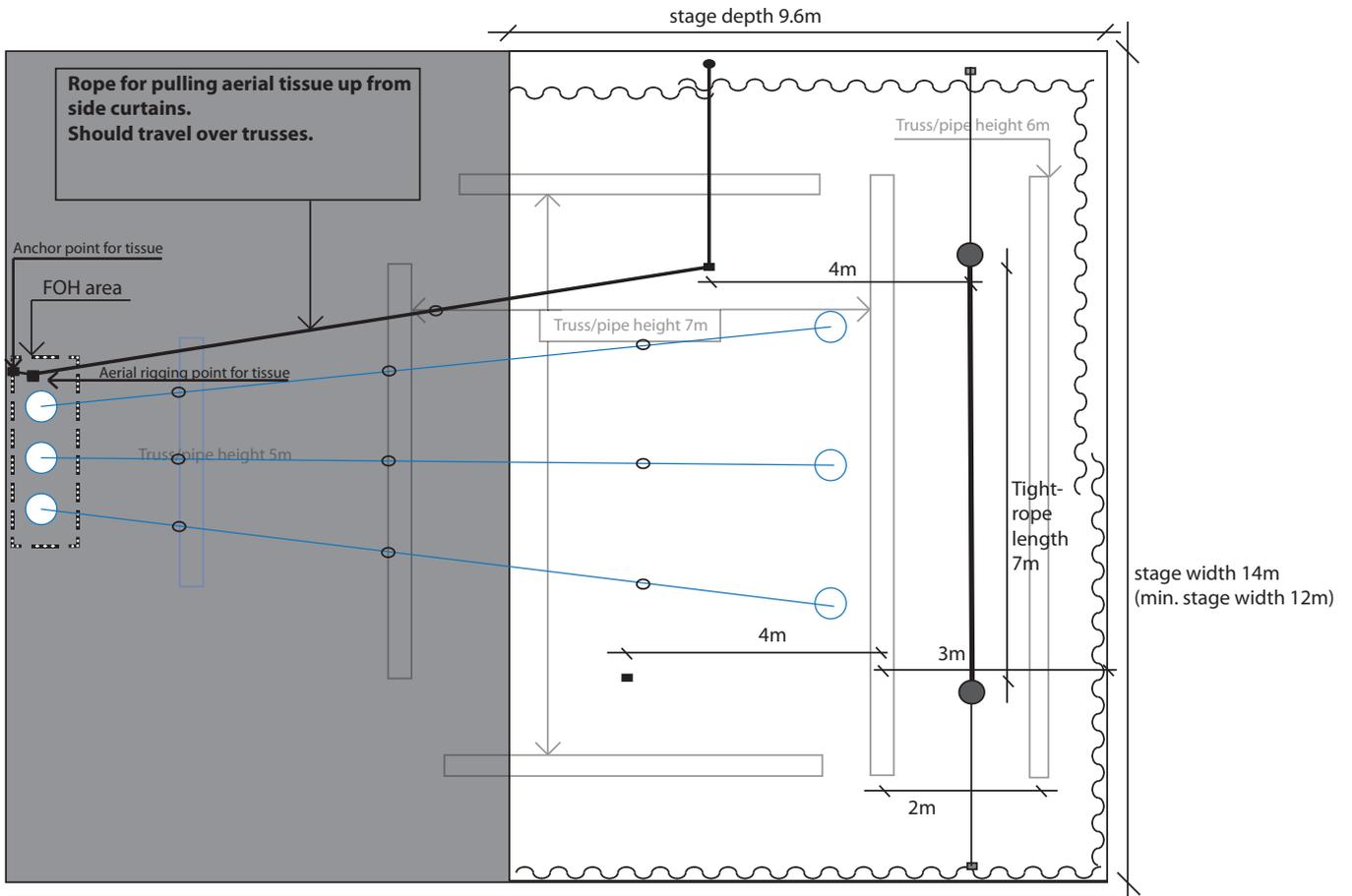
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rigging + support KEY

- floor/wall anchor point 1500kg
- aerial rigging / anchor point 500kg
- rigging point on the ceiling 10kg
- a place to attach a clamp (provided by the company) to approximate height of 4-5m
- suggested places for loops
- wire from balloons to FOH (provided by the company)

**Zero Gravity: YDIN**

**Aerial/set rig**

lighting design ainupalmu@gmail.com  
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