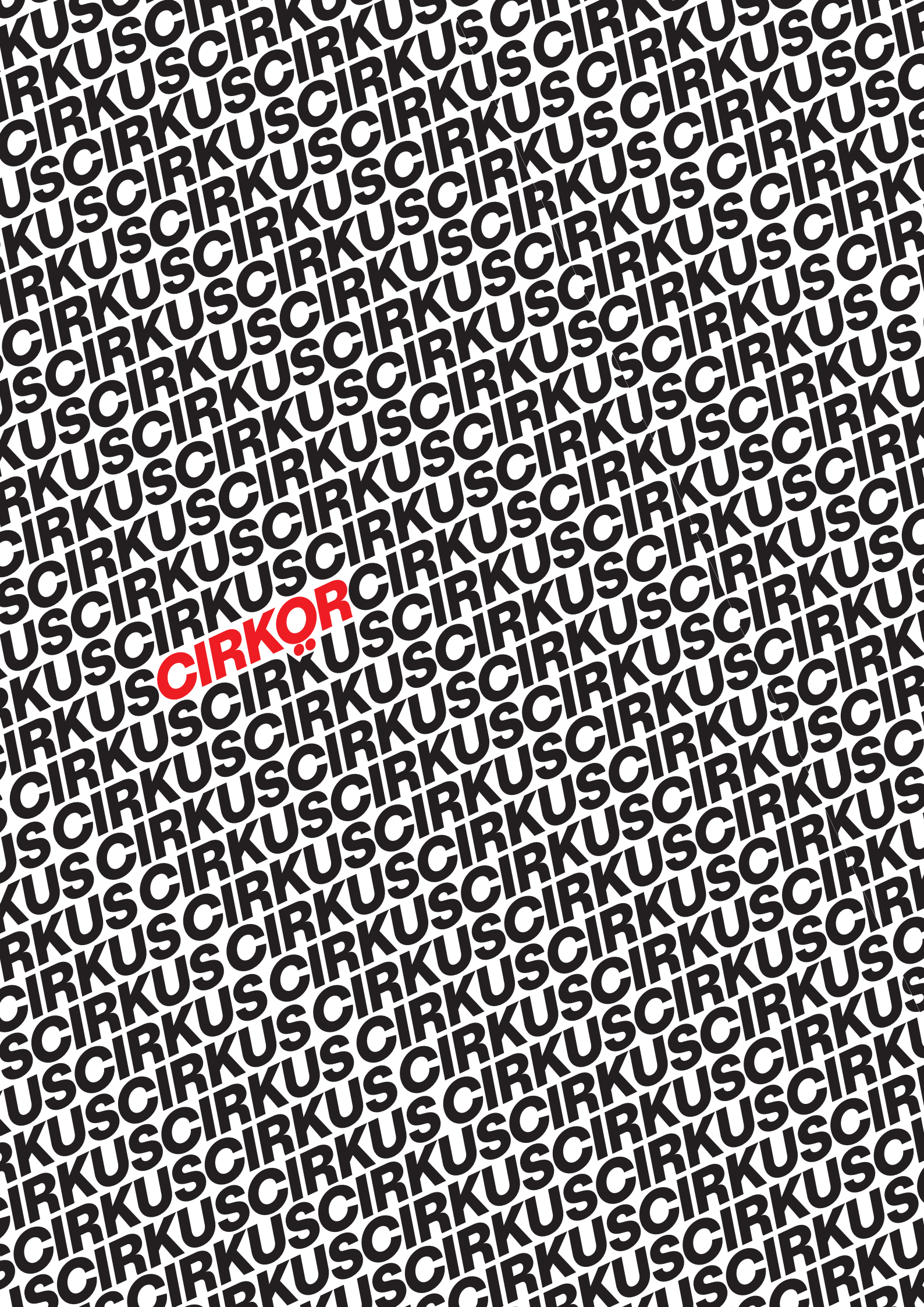


ANNUAL REPORT 2022

CIRKUS CIRKOR

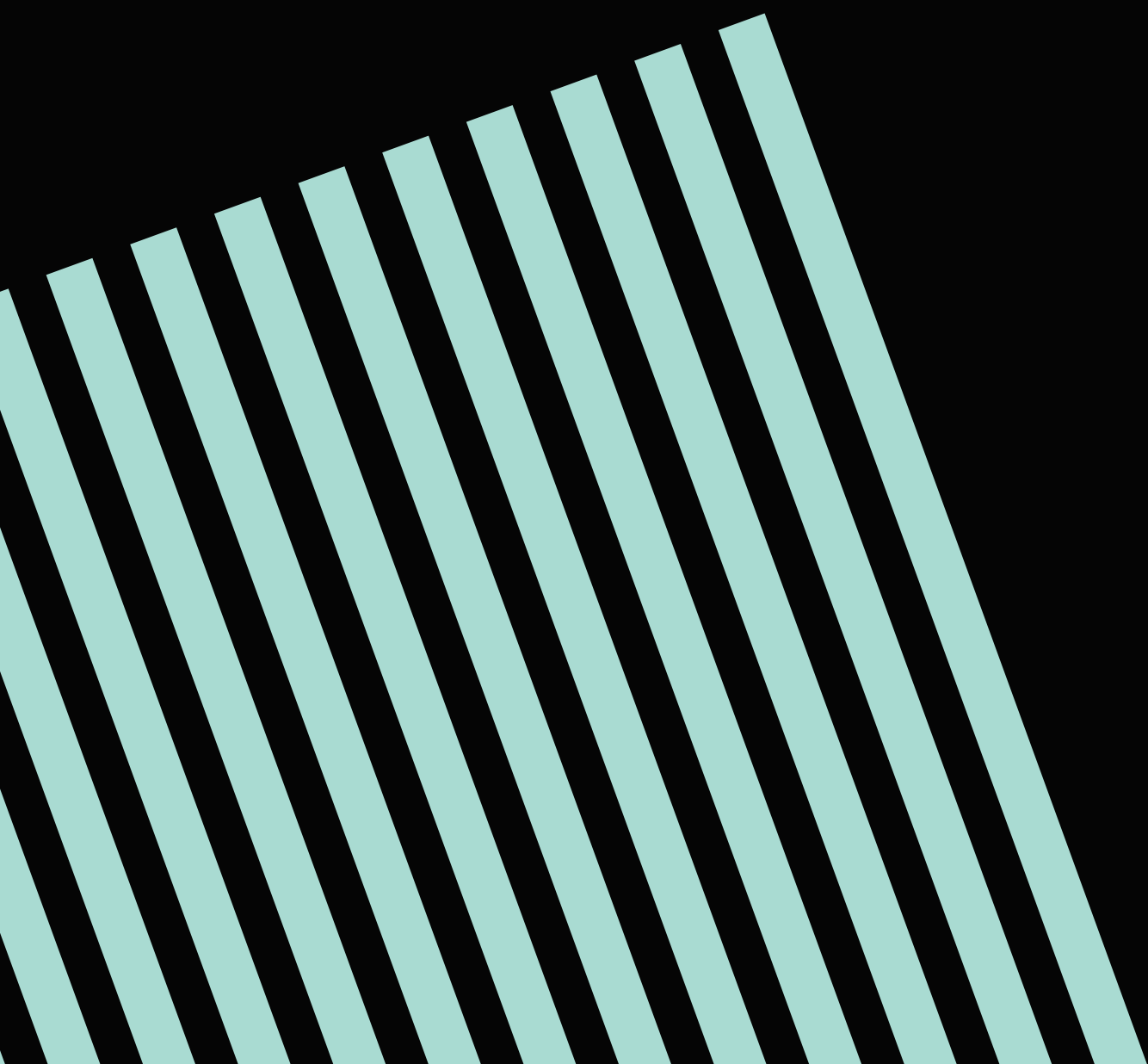








5	GREETINGS FROM CIRKÖR
6	ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES
12	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
16	CIRCUS UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL
18	COLLABORATIONS AND NETWORKS
24	ORGANIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY
28	2022 IN NUMBERS





What a year! Dizzying, full of change and hope. As Cirkör's new CEO, I am honored and delighted to tell you about everything Cirkus Cirkör has achieved in Alby, Botkyrka, Sweden and the world during 2022. As an organization, Cirkör is deeply committed to social issues and proud of its diversity of experiences and perspectives. We have created an environment bursting with new ideas, where we use art as a platform for conversation and discourse.

During the pandemic, Cirkör rolled up its sleeves in order to keep moving forward. In 2022, previously canceled and postponed productions finally opened, a world premiere took place, and the foundations of our next major production were laid. All this was accomplished through intense collective efforts and strength.

Bloom took up residence at Stockholm's Södra Teatern but had barely begun its run when Covid restrictions were once again put in place and several performances had to be moved to 2023. Our much-awaited comeback performance Knitting Peace, this time in collaboration with Borås Stadsteater (Borås City Theater), was delayed no less than three times before it finally reopened to much acclaim. After this, however, we were back on track, and during the autumn Knitting Peace was once again touring internationally.

This year's true hit was the world premiere of the circus musical Pippi at the Circus, in collaboration with Björn Ulvaeus's Pophouse, the Astrid Lindgren Companies and Krall. After its opening in July, the show received rave reviews both in the media and from audiences, and by mid-August 55 478 people had experienced this incomparable circus and music party – complete with a living cannonball whizzing over the stage! Right outside of Cirkus arena, Cirkör set up Cirkusliv (Cirkus Life), which drew in numerous passers-by from the huge crowds that occupy Stockholm's Djurgården Royal Park in the summertime.

During the year, our educational department offered courses and training at full, or even increased, capacity both at Cirkör House and in Gothenburg. Together with Botkyrka municipality, through our concept Chilla med Cirkör (Chill with Cirkör) we dedicated several Sundays to all those who wanted to try their hand at circus training – free of charge. Yet another class of



PHOTO: KAJSA GIERTZ

world-changers graduated from our high school, and the circus show Trassligt (Tangled) greeted more than 15 500 children across the country with its artistry and circus pedagogy. Engaging and listening to young adults is vital to renewing and developing Cirkör's work. Through our initiative Unga Spåret (Youth Track), the circus's young adults express what they hope for and need from Cirkör in future. Our ambition is to continue playing a pivotal role in circus as an artform and a pedagogy, to inspire the next generation and offer them resources in ways that are relevant for the future.

In 2022, slowly but surely everything returned to normal and suddenly Cirkör House was once again abuzz with activity! In cooperation with Manegen, daily practice for performers resumed, and several residencies were made possible through a collaboration with Riksteatern (The National Touring Theater Company). Collaborating with Berwaldhallen allowed us to launch a technical innovation lab that tested new designs for the productions Trådar and Glas (Threads & Glass). In short, we took enormous pleasure in meeting, training, testing, creating, playing and developing art, ourselves and the world around us.

To round off the year, a decision was made concerning a new production. An extensive collective process resulted in a production concept that was given the working title Project X. Pre-production is now in full swing and an exciting time awaits us – Cirkör is widely known for its innovative and boundary-crossing performances.

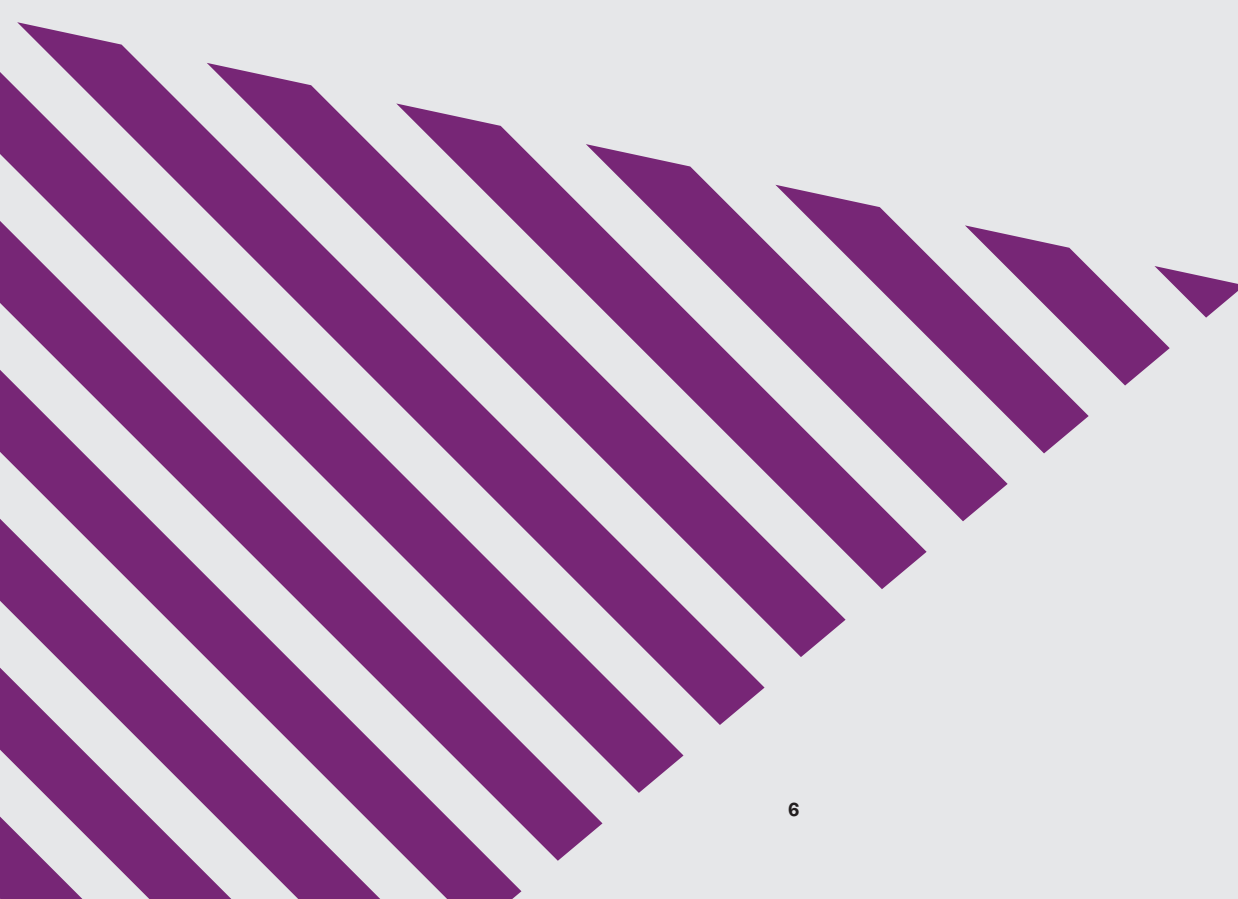
See you all in the circus hall!

Kajsa Giertz (CEO) & friends at Cirkör



Artistic activities

2022 began in the same manner as the two preceding years: dealing with an ever-changing and elusive pandemic. In February, the last restrictions were finally lifted and much that had been put on hold for so long could finally be greenlighted. At last, the productions *Knitting Peace*, *Bloom* and *Pippi* at Cirkus saw the light of day in a mix of revivals, reboots and world premieres. Now, requests for and interest in events as well as concrete suggestions for collaborations began gaining momentum. At last, the performing arts train could start rolling again, both nationally and internationally. A wounded performing arts industry notwithstanding, we created, tried and tested, researched, failed and tried again to succeed in taking new steps, coming up with new ideas and creating fresh concepts for the future. Many things are brewing as we look forward to 2023.





PIPPI AT THE CIRCUS PHOTO: MARKUS GÄRDER

"The music and circus feats drive everything forward. There are acrobats, people walking on ropes, bouncing on trampolines and sometimes one of the musicians performs high up in the air."

Aftonbladet

"Letting Cirkus Cirkör's multi-talented contemporary circus artists meet Pippi Longstocking is a stroke of genius, as is letting the music and the fabulous circus orchestra play a leading role. This show rocks the arena!"

SvD

"A non-stop happening and astonishingly awesome circus show with extra everything."

SvD

MEDIA QUOTES ABOUT PIPPI AT THE CIRCUS

Bloom is the result of a collaboration between Cirkus Cirkör, Stora Teatern in Gothenburg, Cirkus i Väst, (Circus West), Nycirkus Öst (Contemporary Circus East) and Södra Teatern in Stockholm. Bloom invites you into a world full of flowers, classical music and astonishing circus. The ensemble consists of five international multi-talents attempting to make the world a happier place by combining joy, fear and risk through deep preparation. A family performance suitable for ages 4 and up, conceived for slightly smaller stages.

Bloom began the year with a scheduled long run at Södra Teatern, but despite lifted restrictions, the corona virus once again took hold and several performances had to be canceled and moved to 2023.

Conceived and directed by: Julien Auger and Sade Kampilla

Pippi at the Circus

The chorus of praise was not long in coming: Pippi at the Circus received rave reviews immediately after its opening night on July 12. Cirkör's collaboration with Björn Ulvaeus's Pophouse, the Astrid Lindgren Companies and Krall was a bona fide success. The production, which involved extensive technical preparations and rehearsals during the spring, including several

changes of rehearsal venues, moved in to Cirkus arena in Stockholm in June, where it was finally ready to go. The result was a fantastic circus performance including world-class circus performers and musicians, freshly composed music, circus equilibristics and a brilliantly whimsical Pippi interpreted by Ida Breimo. Pippi at the Circus will of course be back in 2023.

This performance is based on Astrid Lindgren's story about when Pippi goes to the circus.

Screenplay: Tilde Björfors, Maria Blom, Björn Ulvaeus,

Music: Björn Ulvaeus

Directed by: Tilde Björfors and Maria Löfgren

Cirkusliv

Cirkus Cirkör's concept Cirkus liv (Circus Life) has a long and wonderful history. When it was developed in 2003, the idea was for the "circus" to arrive at a school and take over the entire schoolyard, the classrooms and dining hall. The performers and their crew consisting of musicians, a cook, driver, guests and friends, enlisted all the pupils to help set up for the performance, which took place at the end of the day. The entire circus troupe made the schoolyard their home for that day, spent the night there and in the morning moved on to the next school. The concept was thoroughly





appreciated by all involved – circus artists and crew, students and school staff.

Cirkusliv was revived with Pippi at the Circus. Every day before the show, a spectacular circus performance took place outside the arena entrance, with acrobats, jugglers and surprises both in the air and on the ground. The ensemble consisted of professional artists and students from the circus high school.

Now that we have breathed new life into Cirkusliv, it is ready for fresh endeavors and challenges.

Conceived & directed by: Jesper Nikolajeff

Knitting Peace is one of Cirkör's biggest hits and remains in demand, year after year. A lyrical performance where five circus artists create a magical world of strings and threads and where the audience is invited to wrap itself in enigmatic music, delicate poetry and a powerful quest for meaning. Can striving itself make a difference? Is it possible to knit peace?

Knitting Peace was created in Marseille in 2013. Following its world premiere, it toured 3 continents, 14 countries and 63 cities. Thereafter, the production was put on hold for a few years. But finally in 2022, after being postponed twice due to pandemic restrictions, Knitting Peace once again opened to much acclaim, in a beautiful coproduction with Borås Stadsteater (Borås City Theater). "Third time's a charm" proved to be true, to everyone's delight!

While touring, Knitting Peace connected with "peace knitters" all over the world who shared their knitted pieces and reflections on knitting for peace. "We Knit for Peace" is a peace movement dedicated to knitting peace and inspiring people to believe in and commit to working towards a better world. In 2022, an exhibition was created around knitted pieces for peace, which accompanied the production to Borås, Skellefteå and Stockholm. During Knitting Peace's run at Dansens Hus, Stockholm's stage for contemporary dance, the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society, in collaboration with Cirkör, set up "shop" in the foyer.



KNITTING PEACE, AVEIRO
PHOTO-JOANA MAGALHAES

The performance and exhibition of Knitting Peace have never been more urgent than at present – amid a raging war and people displaced all over Europe.

Conceived & directed by: Tilde Björfors
Composer: Samuel "Looptok" Langbacka

Circus Days and Nights is the story of daring to dream, daring to take that leap, daring to let go... It is a dizzying dream of absolutely world class poetry, music, song and contemporary circus. It is a tale of the circus's ability to make the impossible possible, about having the courage to believe that humans are capable of so much more than we think we are. All the ideas that permeate Cirkus Cirkör's various endeavors combined with the power of art as a metaphor for life seen through the lens of a day in the circus ring. Circus Days & Nights touches on creating, creativity, cooperation, trust, courage, risk-taking and hard work.



Circus Days and Night is a major production conceived for large-scale European and international stages and arenas, venues that were perhaps the hardest hit by the pandemic. This prompted us to rethink, to think in new ways and to think wildly. We began to investigate whether it would be possible – logistically and financially – to take this circus opera on the road using a large circus tent.

Many discussions, meetings, tons of research and logistical efforts were invested in this idea. However, despite enormous enthusiasm – both artistically and on the part of the programmers – it proved to be an impossible equation – at this time.

Circus Days and Nights is produced in collaboration with Malmö Opera

Music: Philip Glass

Libretto: David Henry Hwang and Tilde Björfors, after a collection of poems by Robert Lax

Directed by: Tilde Björfors

Project X

Past, present and future: eternally separate, yet ever inextricably bound. Anyone who wants to influence the future must also be able to recognize their history as well as to act in the present. How could my time (on earth) become the start of a new era, a paradigm shift?

Cirkör's upcoming major production goes by the working title Project X and is the result of a collective process that involved the entire staff. The decision was unanimous – our next production will deal with the theme of change and will be directed by Alexander Weibel Weibel.

Project X will be a circus performance that explores the rise and fall of structures; how people make and break rules and the alarming, unsettling feeling that arises from being part of desired – or unwanted – change.

Project X will be produced in 2023 and premiere in Sweden in preparation for national and international tours.

Events and concepts

The need for new experiences, inspiration and celebration through circus art in various contexts and settings gained new momentum and urgency in 2022. Suddenly our phones started ringing again, events on hold were rebooted and new ones were added. From Malmö in Sweden to Lillehammer in Norway, about 30 custom-made performances encompassing events, workshops and inspirational days of different formats and sizes were created and implemented, generating about 70 jobs.





GLAS (GLASS) PHOTO: SARA P. BORGSTRÖM

Trådar och Glas

We not only postponed and replanned things in 2022; we also took giant steps toward continuing the pursuit of artistic and innovative development through a technical innovation lab where fresh constructions were tested in two new productions: Trådar (Threads) and Glas (Glass), both collaborations with Berwaldhallen.

In both performances, jugglers, acrobats and clowns met in a live video scenography set to chamber music by composers from the Baltic Sea area. Trådar, a playful and

ingenious show, and Glas, an aerial journey where machine meets body, expanded our minds through two magical circus concerts for everyone between ages 3 and 100.

Conceived and directed by: Tilde Björfors and Alexander Weibel Weibel

ARTISTIC AND TECHNICAL INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Cirkör Lab/Residencies

At Cirkör House, where artistic and exploratory activities are constant, we make our resources available to unaffiliated actors ("free agents") within the performing arts in the form of national and international residencies. Providing a workspace and support – in terms of safety as well as artistically – to circus artists in their creative process is vital to the development of the circus arts. In collaboration with Riksteatern (The National Touring Theater Company), three residency weeks at Cirkör House took place in 2022, for a total of six different groups.

Cirkör Ensemble and Cirkör Studios

During 2022, an ensemble and casting director worked to establish a dialogue with our touring ensembles, to address their needs and challenges and secure these productions both in terms of the performers' availability as well as artistically, thereby promoting knowhow and continuity.

During the year, we also launched Cirkör Jam, the main objective of which was to create a meeting space where professional artists and high school students can train together and share their experiences of practice, their work environment and collaboration opportunities.

In the spring of 2022, work continued in the technical innovation group that was started in the fall of 2021. Research, discussions and technical labs were carried out to develop skills and inspire innovations for future sustainable tours, artistic development and new technical collaborations. The group consisted of artists, performers, designers and developers. Several prototypes were tested in the lab and further refined to, among other things, be implemented as circus content and tools for the development of circus disciplines in our performance Glas (Glass).



Educational activities

In 2022, Cirkus Cirkör's educational section greeted and practiced circus with close to 30 000 children and adolescents, adults and seniors, regardless of ability. There are three branches on our educational tree: circus courses during leisure time, circus activities and shows in schools and special projects such as circus at refugee centers or nursing homes.



Circus de Luxe

The Cirkus de Luxe concept, with one or more weeks of circus, is tailored to schools. Our visit begins with an inspiring circus show for both teachers and students. On the following days, in circus workshops, students have the chance to get to know the artists as educators. The students practice balance, trust, cooperation and being present in the moment through different circus disciplines – tightrope, trapeze, floor acrobatics, partner acrobatics and juggling.

Trial sessions

Together with our educators and artists, Cirkus Cirkör brings trial sessions to establishments such as schools, community centers, recreation centers, after-school centers and non-profit associations. Here, children, young people and adults can get acquainted with the different circus disciplines and test their own limits.

Circus shows

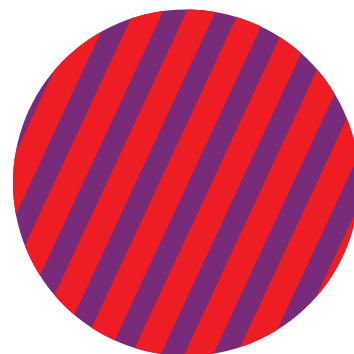
In 2022, we introduced the show Trassligt (Tangled), inspired by Cirkus Cirkör's international hit Knitting Peace. This circus show is suitable for one and all, regardless of language background, as the performers convey stories through their bodies rather than through words. Trassligt is one of the cultural selections offered through Skapande skola (Creative School), a state grant dedicated to the promotion of the arts and culture in schools. It was performed 84 times during the year, for 15 587 people all over Sweden.

Trassligt

Trassligt (Tangled) is a circus show of the highest caliber centered around the themes of helpfulness, trust and one's right to be oneself. Here, we meet three characters who lift, support and twirl each other through the jumble that is life. Things are messy at times, but the salient point here is how can we help one another?

Through tightwire dancing, partner acrobatics, rope arts and juggling, the artists take you on a circus journey that triggers reflections and ideas for your class to ponder and discuss: Who am I without others and what can we achieve together?

Conceived and directed by: Alexander Weibel
Weibel and Aino Ihanainen



TRASSLIGT PHOTO: SANNA LINDBERG

**1.629**

PEOPLE OF VARIOUS AGES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN OUR COURSES

5.293

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN PART IN OUR SCHOOL BREAK ACTIVITIES IN ALBY

LOVVERKSAMHET PHOTO: ALEX HINCHCLIFFE

Circus during leisure

These courses are suitable for everyone from age five and up. Through the disciplines of the circus, regardless of age or ability, participants acquire tools that will help them in every sphere and challenge of life. In 2022, semester courses were held at Cirkör House in Alby as well as at Stora Teatern and Sjumilahallen sports hall in Gothenburg. During the year, roughly 1189 people of various ages participated in one of our courses. Our house was also open to the public through Chilla med Cirkör (Chill with Cirkör) – free trial circus sessions for the whole family, which have become a sort of local folk festival.

School break courses

Despite the pandemic, we were able to offer courses during school holidays in several locations. In 2022, we arranged 11 camp weeks for a total of 312 participants in Alby, Bålsta, Sättra, Rågsved (in the greater Stockholm area) as well as in Hisingen and Mölndal (in the Gothenburg area).

The year in Botkyrka Municipality

Our year in the municipality was an active one. 614 fifth graders visited Cirkör House within the framework av Kulturella Allemansrätten (Right of Public Access to Culture) and ninth graders had the chance to see Cirkör's performance Bloom at Hallunda Folkets Hus (Hallunda community center). We also arranged circus

trial sessions with the real estate company Victoriahem, participated in local festivals and arranged a Christmas market in Alby together with local actors.

Cirkus Cirkör is represented and actively participates in Alby Nätverksgrupp (Alby Networking Group).

Unga Spåret

Starting in 2021, we undertook a preliminary study, through conversations with young people in our organization – former and current high school students, young artists/educators and members of our non-profit association – to find out how they wanted to work with us and what their dreams for Cirkör looked like. The Unga Spåret (Youth Track) initiative employed the same method as at the Alby Conference 2021 – asking young people to act as experts while the adults listened. In 2022, we conducted three workshops with external leaders – Luis Lineo from Fanzingo and Lina B Frank from Cirkus Syd – with 20-30 young people attending each session. The Upper Secondary School Program's artistic director, Daniel Gulko, and the head of Cirkör's educational arm, Clara Norman, participated, took notes and listened.

The preliminary study contains broad, concrete material with lofty goals and dreams that take the shape of a creative hub of young people, for young people. The preliminary study will be expanded in 2023 through applications to the Swedish Inheritance Fund, Postkodstiftelsen (The Swedish Postcode Foundation) and the Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society-MUCF to facilitate conditions for further growth and new activities within Circus Cirkör.





HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

Circus Upper Secondary School

The Circus Upper Secondary School is a collaboration between Cirkus Cirkör and St Botvid's High School in southern Stockholm. The program is an advanced placement program where academic subjects are taught at St Botvid's High School in Halunda, while physical training and instruction take place at Cirkör House in Alby. The program's artistic director, Daniel Gulko, is responsible for its artistic direction and quality.





FLYER FOR CIRCUS UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL
PHOTO: EINAR KLINGO DENKRANTS

The circus high school was founded in 2000 and differs from many other high school programs in the arts thanks to its proximity to the industry it serves. At Cirkör House students train on the same premises as professional circus artists and educators and thus can create a network for their future professional life while still attending high school. This closeness to circus professionals allows them to benefit from the experience of active artists, educators and teaching staff and provides them with opportunities to establish contacts with future employers. The students also have the chance to experience and participate in various aspects of Cirkör's operations.

The mix of "ordinary" school, physical training and artistic creation is conducive to development and variety. The Circus Upper Secondary School program has national admissions and applications are also open to students from neighboring Nordic countries. The program is university preparatory.

Additionally, the students had the opportunity to visit a wide range of performances, though this year's study trip to Paris was canceled due to the pandemic. During the year, we also continued our collaboration with Stockholm University of the Arts (Department of Circus), with FEDEC and its member schools, with Riksteatern Hallunda, Subtopia, Designgymnasiet (High School for Design) and further expanded collaboration and development with other departments at Circus Cirkör.

In 2022, the Circus Upper Secondary program had a total of 35 high school students in years 1-3. They hailed from Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The teachers at the high school have been educated at the world's leading schools for contemporary circus and are, or have been, professional performers. In 2022, we initiated outreach efforts aimed at, among others, youth circuses and gymnastics associations, to increase and broaden the base for applications.



Collaborations and networks

Since its inception 27 years ago, Cirkus Cirkör has collaborated, co-created, developed and spread circus, art, pedagogy and artistic processes nationally and internationally.



NATIONALLY

Our ambition to establish contemporary circus as an art form in Sweden has informed all Cirkus Cirkör's collaborations over the years. Through these, we bolster the playing field for unaffiliated actors ("free agents") within the performing arts and contribute to artistic and educational development of the entire industry. Our artistic co-productions are driven by our quest to develop competence and enhance the exchange of experiences.

Our efforts to cultivate organizers and empower art to permeate every part of society have been instrumental in bringing circus art and training opportunities to several of the country's regions, as well as to audiences and organizers nowadays viewing contemporary circus as a natural part of the broad and varied domain of performing arts.

Our ongoing collaboration with our home municipality Botkyrka remains an example of how Cirkus Cirkör, together with the local community, can contribute to shaping social development through inspiration from the circus arts.

Riksteatern

In 2022, within the framework of the Riksteatern's (The National Touring Theater Company) mission to strengthen contemporary circus, we collaborated through joint residencies. There was an Open Call for three types of residencies:

- *Teeterboard residency*: support for recent graduates or artists with a few years of industry experience in developing their first work.
- *ArtLab Residency*: time and space for in-depth work, reflection, investigation and development of one's own artistic expression.
- *Immersive Residency*: for artists who have already made some progress in developing their project.

For six days, six constellations of artists were given the opportunity to experiment, explore and enhance their knowledge of their own discipline, artistic expression and their work(s).

Stockholm University of the Arts-SKH and Frans Schartau

In 2022, an in-depth collaboration with the Stockholm University of the Arts-SKH and Frans Schartau's Vocational University was initiated to promote knowledge of contemporary circus as an art form through their courses, as well as to allow students to get acquainted with Cirkör.

Several study visits, workshops and internships were carried out and employment opportunities were created.



TRUST TRAMPOLINE WITH THE
STOCKHOLM CITY PLANNING OFFICE
PHOTO: KARIN ROBERTS

Trust Trampoline

Since 2021, in a joint venture with Hyper Island, Allianz and the Swedish Institute, we have been using the Vinnova Trust Trampoline concept to develop methods for increasing the level of trust within work groups and between people involved in collaborations. *How can the circus artist's knowledge be made available to a municipal administration, corporate management or youth group?*

During the year, we held workshops for Malmö's Cultural Administration and City Planning Office.

Circus i Väst

Since 2019, Cirkus Cirkör has run the Circus i Väst (Circus West) project in cooperation with Stora Teatern in Gothenburg to develop opportunities for experiencing and practicing contemporary circus in the Västra Götaland region of Sweden. Circus i Väst is a resource for employment, production, continuing education, creative residencies and further development of contemporary circus in the region. During our closing year, we carried out an Open Stage, an Open call for two productions, a seminar dedicated to starting a circus school, circus courses for children in Mariestad, Mölndal and Hisings-Backa, master classes as well as continued networking and lobbying efforts.

Folkets Hus och Parker

For 26 years, we have collaborated with Folkets Hus och Parker (National Association of People's Houses & Parks). In 2022, we completed a tour of 12 performances for an audience of 980, with associated circus trial sessions for 660 children, as well as 8 weeks of school break courses for 391 participants all over Sweden, from Piteå in the north to Ronneby in the South.



Subtopia

Our closest neighbor is also one of our most active partners and integral to the creative cluster that characterizes our neighborhood in Alby. Among other things, together we arrange the annual fall holiday camp FEAR along with the FEJM Drama School. Here, participants explore the theme of fears through circus, dance, theater and theatrical make-up. The camp received support from the real estate company Victoriahem, which made participation for children in Botkyrka possible free of charge. Lunch and snacks were provided to all the children. The total number of participants this year was 30, of which 22 were from different parts of Botkyrka. A vital part of this week-long course is to give children from different the chance to meet, train together and share meals.

Activities for Ukrainian Refugees in Alby

On the initiative of a Ukrainian artist, Cirkus Cirkör, Subtopia and Clowns Without Borders launched activities for Ukrainian children and families in Alby from March to August 2022. The objective was to proactively counteract trauma related to the war/fleeing through meaningful leisure and artistic activity. A group of volunteers with language skills and different professional competencies was already in place to lend both cultural and psychological support.

Subtopia provided the venue Paradiset until August, Clowns Without Borders and Cirkus Cirkör offered circus training with four educators each week and coordinated with the organizers on structure and materials. These activities were available Friday-Sunday and Botkyrka Municipality paid for materials such as drawing paper and pencils.

MANEGEN

Manegen is a Swedish national interest group for circus, variety shows and street performance. Manegen's members include artists, companies, producers, creators and students ranging from the industry's biggest players such as Cirkus Cirkör, Subtopia, Stockholm University of the Arts-SKH to smaller companies and individual artists in different parts of the country. The organization brings together and represents circuses, variety shows and street performers and moreover works to improve the conditions for professionals in various ways, at various levels.

Manegen is also a member of Circostrada, a European platform for circus and street art, and Fédéc, an inter-

national organization for training and interest groups within circus. Manegen is also an active member of the Baltic Nordic Circus Network. Manegen strives to be a gathering place for the entire industry and to increasingly adopt a facilitating role. Other essential tasks include creating better working conditions for its members, providing more opportunities for growth, a stronger position within the cultural sphere as well as on the commercial market.

The organization's development

In 2022, Manegen as an organization was still feeling the effects of the pandemic, but daily practice could once again be arranged without restrictions. Training is at the core of circus arts, and the fact that daily training could be fully resumed contributed to the recovery of the entire art form.

At the end of the year, Manegen had almost 140 members consisting of both organizations, companies and individual artists.

During the year, Manegen conducted daily training at Cirkör House in Alby, in Malmö, Norrköping, Sundsvall, Mölndal and Uddevalla. About 150 training cards were distributed during the year. Skills courses and workshops were also carried out at Cirkör House and at other locations in the country. The effects of the pandemic could still be felt: the number of skills development courses and workshops were not on a par with previous years. One of the organization's main goals is to ensure that this type of knowledge sharing can resume and continue to develop.

During the year, it also became abundantly clear just how central daily practice is to the artists, including from a psychosocial perspective – something that is often overlooked when we discuss conditions for a sustainable work-life for freelance circus artists. The daily practice venue is, after all, also a meeting place for colleagues, for information transfer and an opportunity for artistic development.



PIPPIREPETITIONER
PHOTO: FINGR



Daily practice in Stockholm

In contrast to the previous year, which was largely characterized by the pandemic, in 2022, daily practice in Stockholm with Manegen returned to full capacity. Daily practice sessions at Cirkör House in Alby resumed five times a week and saw professional performers come back and recover from the effects of the pandemic. Towards the end of the year – in connection with the lifting of international travel restrictions – Manegen once again began welcoming artists from other countries to train with us. This contributed to richer training sessions where various cultures and perspectives, circus artists from different countries and backgrounds could meet and exchange ideas.

Daily training in Alby is managed administratively by a part-time receptionist who also works with providing information and service(s) to daily practitioners as well as Manegen's members. Additionally, assistance is provided to other venues in the country that offer training in the form registration, membership and other administrative support.

Daily training in Alby is arranged by Cirkus Cirkör with the support of the Swedish Arts Council and Botkyrka Municipality.

Kulturskolan Håbo

Cirkus Cirkör continues to work on making circus training available in Sweden's municipalities and regions. We are intensifying our collaborations with Sweden's municipal "culture schools" and offer courses in contemporary circus in Håbo municipality (Culture School Håbo).

Cirkusflåtan's educational council

In 2022, Cirkusflåtan (The Circus Braid) continued its work on the pedagogical development and continued training of circus educators. Following the evaluation of its digital podcast course, Flåtan's pedagogical council identified the need for circus educators to

meet physically. Visits to three cities were therefore undertaken in September, including a two-day workshop in group dynamics, aesthetic practice, safety, leadership and learning. These sessions were held in Norrköping, Gothenburg and Stockholm for three groups consisting of about 10 educators from a range of cultural schools, youth circuses and circus establishments.

INTERNATIONALLY

Since its inception, Cirkus Cirkör has operated internationally with the ambition of putting Sweden on the world map of contemporary circus. We are a world-leading performing arts company driven by our vision to change society through circus arts. To remain relevant and continue to attract world-class artists to our productions, we must participate in the global dialogue, meet our colleagues, practitioners and programmers and maintain a fresh and up-to-date analysis of the world around us.

Baltic Nordic Circus Network

Since our earliest days, Cirkus Cirkör has been an active member of the Baltic-Nordic Network BNCN, a network for cooperation between 20 circus organizations in the Baltics and the Nordics. The network works to strengthen the cooperation and development within the region's circus sector. BNCN organizes activities aimed at broadly supporting the circus field in the Baltic-Nordic region, from workshops to seminars to international residencies – for artists and industry professionals alike.

The network focuses on skills development, "best practices", increased knowledge and cooperation as well as on cultural and national identity.

Caravan Circus Network

Cirkus Cirkör is a member of the Caravan Circus Network, a European network for circus organizations that primarily works with educational activities for children and young people and with the development of circus pedagogy. Projects delayed due to the pandemic finally took place during the summer, including a youth exchange in Tampere, Finland and the major Lifeline event in Galway, Ireland.

Lifeline is run by Galway Community Circus and is an initiative aimed at promoting young people's mental health through funambulism - the art of tightwire walking. In the summer of 2022, participants from Cirkör's Lines & Wires course walked a tightwire across





the River Corrib in Galway, Ireland. Many young people have lost their lives to this river over the years, but now, instead, the water was transformed into a showcase for the courage and determination required to cross it on a rope.

FEDEC

Cirkus Cirkör and our contemporary circus program are members of FEDEC, the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools.

ISPA

Every year, the International Society of the Performing Arts-ISPA congress is held in New York. Cirkus Cirkör is a member of the network and over the years has actively participated in various panels, associations and discussion. ISPA members include presenters, performing arts organizations, artist managers, competitions, funders, consultants and other performing arts professionals. The 2022 Congress, Opportunity of Now, was canceled due to the widespread spread of Omicron. Cirkör's former CEO Elin Norquist was scheduled to attend the congress, but her trip to New York and the District of Columbia had to be rescheduled. Our focus was on meetings related to Circus Days and Nights, but we also approached other relevant actors and stages to continue building for the future.

MICC, International Market of Contemporary Circus

In July every year, the circus festival MICC takes place in Montreal, Canada, with participants from all over the world. In 2022, the festival's focus was the Nordics. Cirkör was invited to pitch Circus Days and Nights, which Saara Ahola and Nikolas Pulka did, while Knitting Peace was presented by Irene Ramelli and Sarah Lett.

The European Core Curriculum for Youth and Social Circus Pedagogy

Since 2019, Cirkus Cirkör has worked in an Erasmus+ funded project to enhance circus pedagogy and professionalize the role of the circus educator. Five European circus schools and three universities have collaborated on a European curriculum for a bachelor's degree in circus pedagogy. In June 2022, an international conference was held where the

project's contents and results were presented to a broad international audience.

Reinventing Circus Organizations

Cirkus Cirkör is part of the Erasmus+ funded project Reinventing Circus Organizations 2020-2023. The project is being carried out with three other European circus organizations; Coraggio (Berlin), Cirkus in Beweging (Leuven) and Cirqueon (Prague). The objective is to share experiences concerning leadership and communication, with a view to improving one's own organizational structure.

Samovar Circles

Samovar Circles is a think tank for the future that focuses on the opportunities and challenges of contemporary circus after the covid era. Artists and organizers in the Nordic and Baltic circus and performing arts fields are invited to intimate and interactive meetings, workshops and seminars. Cirkör is involved in a core group to generate and refine ideas.



CIRKUSLIV
PHOTO: SARA P. BORGSTROM



Organization and sustainability efforts

Cirkus Cirkör participates in and contributes to the establishment of a long-term sustainable society by being a responsible workplace and cultural organization that influences and inspires us and the world around us.



Board

The board of Cirkus Cirkör Ideell förening (non-profit organization) and Cirkör AB (incorporated) was re-elected at the annual meeting on May 23, 2022. It consists of: Eva Schöld (chairperson), Mats Björkman, Anna Takanen, Johan Celander, Keith Fransson and Eric Sjöström.

Employment

In 2022, Cirkus Cirkör had 21 permanent employees and 193 temporary employees (fixed term, contracts), spread over 43 annual work units (AWU). In a normal year of operations, without the impact of the pandemic, Cirkus Cirkör generally has approximately 55 annual work units and 30 temporary employees. We are still seeing the impact of the pandemic on our ability to hire new staff.



TRASSLIGT, PARKTEATERN
PHOTO: AMANDA WILHELMSSON

Since the annual accounts in 2022, we have managed to get more employees and are up to 24 permanent employees as of March 2023.

SUSTAINABILITY

We work continuously on sustainability issues and strive to use the resources we already possess as efficiently as possible. We work innovatively with art and pedagogy from every perspective, not least regarding our common social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Since 2015, Cirkus Cirkör has been affiliated with the UN Global Compact – the United Nations' international network to promote social and environmental responsibility within companies and organizations. This means that we are committed to following their ten principles on human rights, labor law, the environment and anti-corruption and to annually account for our work on these issues, which we currently do as part of our annual report. Based on these principals, organizations commit to adapting their operations in ways that contribute to more sustainable development of economies and societies.

Travel and transport

Everyone at Cirkus Cirkör is asked to travel primarily by train and to avoid air travel. Our shows tour all over the world, thus some air travel is unavoidable. To make up for the harmful emissions that our flights cause, since 2013 we have compensated for all our air travel. A climate-positive action as a counterweight to climate-negative ones.

To shed light on issues surrounding air travel's negative environmental impact, our goal is to raise these issues and share off-setting costs with all external parties we sign agreements with. We have developed cost templates for different parts of the world to facilitate drawing up contracts and budgeting.

All our flights are carbon offset through the installation of solar cells in photovoltaic parks. This contributes to more renewable energy, a concrete and long-term climate improvement project.



Electricity and energy efficiency

Since 2014, our electricity is provided by ETC el, which supplies 100 % renewable energy with the Good Environmental Choice label. ETC builds solar parks in various locations and thereby contributes to creating more renewable energy in Sweden. Through our choice of electricity supplier, we are part of the evolution we wish to promote.

Minimized consumption and more sustainable purchases

With the EU's waste ladder as our guide, we constantly strive to minimize purchases, to reuse different types of materials to as great an extent as possible and to recycle the waste that we produce. A large portion of our sets, props, costumes, office supplies and other materials are reused in our own operations.

For all purchases, we search for environmentally certified products and suppliers with a sound sustainability profile. For example, all foodstuffs, coffee, milk and fruit we purchase are organic.

Computers

In 2022, Cirkör purchased six new PCs, all TCO*-certified, and four Apple computers, which lack an environmental label (Apple has its own environmental certification process).

Merchandise

For textiles, such as T-shirts and tote bags, we always choose products certified through Earth Positive or the Nordic Swan Ecolabel.

*TCO Certified is an international sustainability certification for IT products that consists of social and environmental requirements from a life cycle perspective.

The 10 Principles of the UN GLOBAL COMPACT

HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Support and respect the protection of international human rights within their sphere of activity.
2. Make sure they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

LABOR

3. Uphold the freedom of association and recognize the right to collective bargaining.
4. Eliminate all forms of forced and compulsory labor.
5. Eliminate all child labor.
6. Eliminate discrimination with respect to employment and occupation.

ENVIRONMENT

7. Support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.
8. Undertake initiatives to promote environmental responsibility.
9. Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

10. Work against all forms of corruption, including extortion and bribery.





Cirkör in numbers 2022

FINANCIALS

In 2022, Cirkus Cirkör had a turnover of SEK 42,138,076 of which SEK 20,900,718 comes from our own sales, SEK 30,590 from membership fees and SEK 21,206,768 from external investments and grants.

Own sales	20,900,718
Membership fees	30,590
Swedish Arts Council, development grant	563,067
Vinnova (Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems)	450,000
Sten A. Stiftelsen (research & arts fund)	250,000
Paid sick leave	135,930
Swedish Public Employment Agency	133,104
Göteborgs Barnhus (children's foundation)	75,000
Swedish Sports Confederation	68,321

Operating grants

Swedish Arts Council	9,816,246
Botkyrka Municipality	3,615,104
Region Stockholm	2,800,000
City of Stockholm	1,200,000

Temporary support

Swedish Arts Council	2,100,000
----------------------	-----------

Total Revenue 2022 42,138,076

CIRKÖR

In 2022, Cirkus Cirkör had 21 permanent employees and 193 temporary employees (fixed term, contracts), spread over 43 annual work units (AWU). In a normal business year, without the impact of the pandemic, Cirkus Cirkör generally has approximately 55 annual work units and 30 permanent employees. We are still seeing the impact of the pandemic on our ability to hire new staff.

Since the annual financial report of 2022, we have been able to employ more people and have reached 24 permanent employees as of March 2023.

Board	6
High School Students	35
Permanent Staff	21
Temporary staff	193
Paid Freelancers	141
Total Number of People	396

396

PEOPLE
ENGAGED IN CIRCUS
ACTIVITIES

21

OFFICE
ACROBATS

141

FREELANCE ARTISTS,
EDUCATORS, TECHNICIANS,
CREATORS ETC



131,677

VISITORS AND PARTICIPANTS

909

PERFORMANCES
AND ACTIVITIES

AUDIENCE AND PARTICIPANT STATISTICS

Production	# of performances	# of visitors
Bloom	26	7,201
Knitting Peace	40	21,206
Pippi at Cirkus	51*	55,478
Trassligt	84	15,587
Trådar	1	966
Glas	1	940
Total Production Activities	203	101,378

Other Activities	# of activities	# of participants
Cirkör Event shows	20	15,050
Lab	-	19
Residencies	6	9
Education and training	68	15,221
Total Other Activities	700	30,299

* 2 performances cancelled due to postponed opening dates.





CIRKÖR TOUR 2022

Performances, events and educational activities

SWEDEN

Alvesta
Borås
Emmaboda
Enköping
Eskilstuna
Falun
Färgelanda
Gnesta
Gävle
Göteborg
Hedemora
Hultsfred
Hudiksvall
Håbo
Jönköping
Katrineholm
Lidköping
Ljungby
Luleå
Mönsterås
Norrköping
Nässjö
Piteå
Ronneby
Skara

Skellefteå

Sundsvall
Sotenäs
Stockholm
Bromma, Botkyrka, Enskede-
Årsta-Vantör, Farsta, Frihamnen,
Haninge, Huddinge, Hägersten-
Älvsjö, Hässelby-Vällingby,
Järfälla, Kungsholmen, Lidingö,
Märsta, Nacka, Norrmalm,
Norrtälje, Sigtuna, Skarpnäck,
Skärholmen, Sollentuna, Solna,
Spånga-Tensta, Södermalm,
Tumba, Täby, Upplands-Bro,
Upplands väsby, Vallentuna,
Värmdö. Östermalm, Österåker
Säter
Timrå
Tjörn
Västervik
Ydre
Östhammar
FRANCE Cholet
NORWAY Ål, Nordfjordeid
PORTUGAL Aveiro
CZECH REPUBLIC Prag

