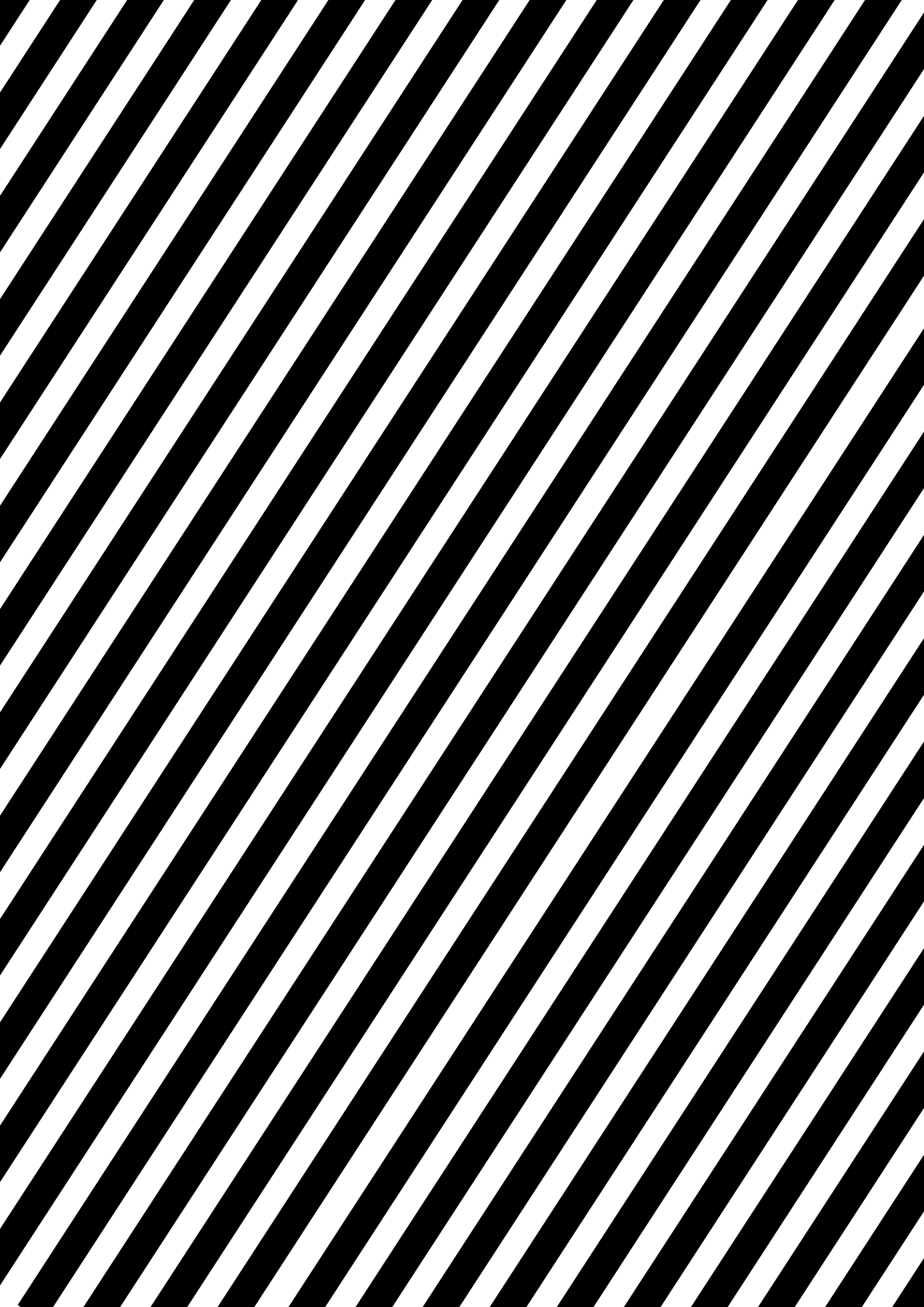
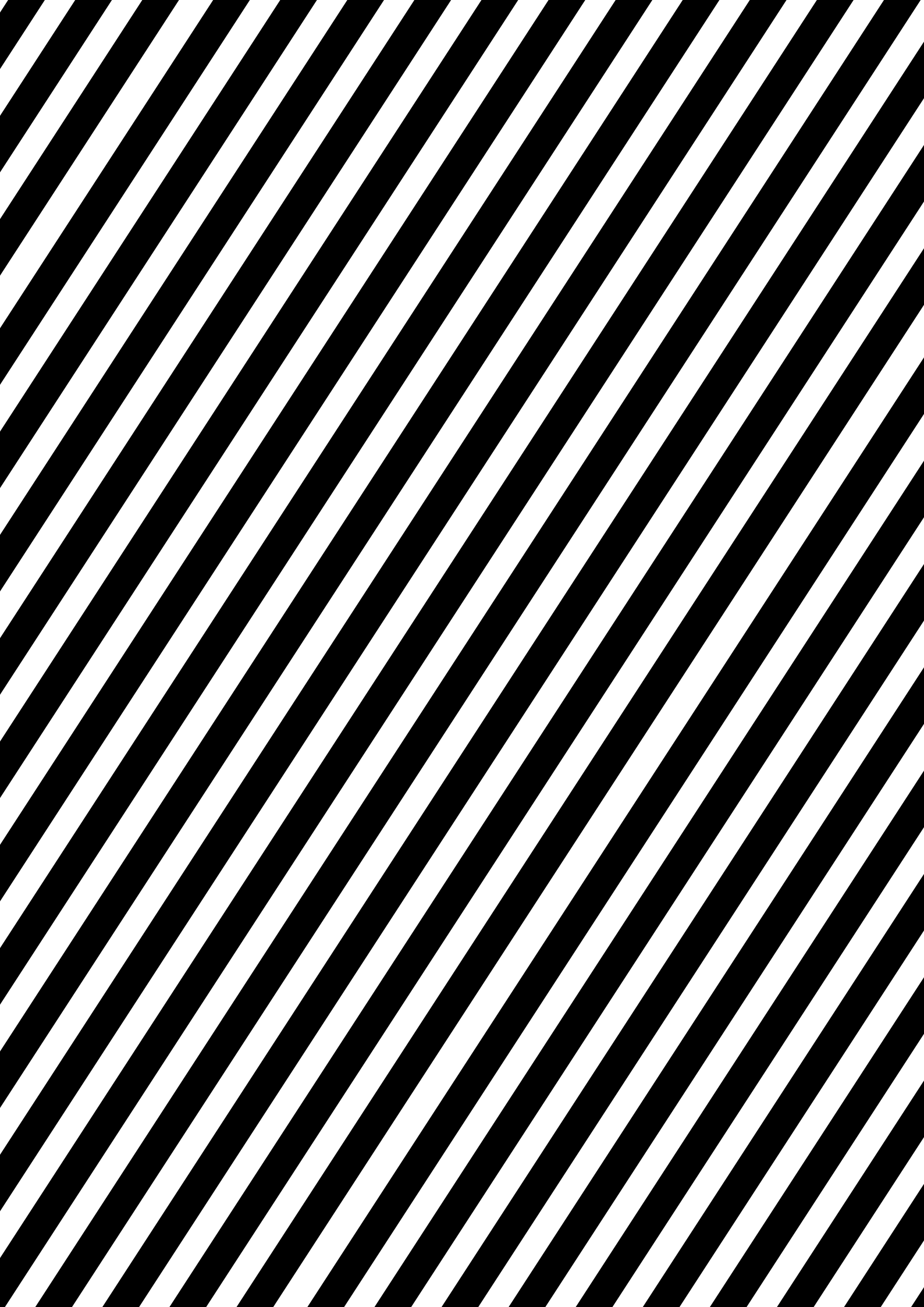


CIRKUS CIRKÖR

ANNUAL REPORT
2020







2020 As a result of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the year was characterized by crisis management, rescheduling and other unprecedented adjustments. But also by solidarity, commitment, a focus on solutions and faith in what the future holds.

At least at Cirkus Cirkör.

I started my assignment at the beginning of May, at an enterprise where everything had been upended, the future was uncertain and the world in chaos. Yet at Cirkus Cirkör, we kept our focus squarely on what was possible, not what appeared to be impossible. That's why we never cancelled anything outright, but rather replanned and postponed. The Cirkör House is and remains a meeting place for contemporary circus in society – world-renowned performers, educators, creators, high school students, office acrobats, technicians, course participants as well as local children and young people who just drop in to see what's up.

Circus Days and Nights, in collaboration with Malmö Opera, was developed both artistically and technically. It was composed in New York, fears and risks were defied in Alby and work on designing and making costumes began in Malmö. At Cirkör House we carried out "corona-compliant" technical and creative labs. Opera singers finally had the chance to fly along with fabulous artists and creators to the notes of Philip Glass's music. Malmö Opera decided that this production alone would be carried out as planned, premiering and playing in 2021. Cirkus Cirkör never completely stops, because we are convinced that if you hit the brakes, you never end up getting there. Instead, what we need are new ways of moving forward, perhaps by pushing a boundary or two and being inspired by mistakes we make along the way.

Bloom could not tour Sweden or Europe as planned, but instead popped up in the courtyards of elderly care facilities in Botkyrka. All over the country, people were busy "knitting peace", and their yarn creations were collected by The Textile Museum of Sweden in Borås. Schools postponed circus workshops during the spring, but later new bookings streamed in, doubling our educational teams' fall tour, which meant children from Korpilombolo in the north to Ystad in the south had the chance to take their fears by the hand together with our teachers. Our third-year upper secondary school (high school) students presented their final projects digitally and were able to reach more people than usual and in August, we welcomed a new class of world-changers to the fall term. Daily practice for independent and free-lance professional practitioners dwindled due to the spread of the virus, but we did our utmost to keep our



training facilities open and continued, stubbornly – but in a "transmission-safe" way – to hold space for artists to develop through residencies, training and dialogue.

Several of our ground-breaking performances were streamed in our digital circus ring or broadcast on SVT, Swedish public service television. The documentary *Cirkusdirektören* ("The Circus Director"), about our founder and creative director Tilde Björfors, premiered on SVT. These are just some of the things that happened during the year we celebrated our 25th anniversary of living our dream and of transforming society through the art of circus – pandemic and postponed events notwithstanding.

Through consistency and innovation, Cirkus Cirkör continues to push boundaries and make the impossible possible, so we have chosen to invest our way out of the current crisis, even if our ambitions are at times tripped up by our structure.

This was our 2020: what we carried out, what we had planned and what we had to postpone for the future. Our next 25 years will be filled with even more circus art – in society, the theater, schools and the soul.

ELIN NORQUIST
CEO, CIRKUS CIRKÖR

08	ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES
14	EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES
18	CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL
20	COLLABORATIONS AND NETWORKS
26	ORGANIZATION AND FINANCES
28	SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS
32	CIRKÖR IN NUMBERS 2020

Cirkör heart

Cirkör is a play on the French words "cirque" and "cœur", circus and heart. The "Cirkör Heart" illustrates how our educational and artistic chambers reinforce one another.





Education

ARTiSTiC ACTiViTiES

Cirkus Cirkör's charter makes clear that a core part of our mission is to establish contemporary circus as an art form in Sweden, both artistically and educationally, to persistently develop and mine the possibilities afforded contemporary circus culture and to place Sweden on the world map of contemporary circus. All these elements are fused into our artistic activities.

Through co-creation, innovation, artistic processes, unexpected concepts and contexts we create works and events that push the boundaries of performing arts and expand the artform.

PRODUCTIONS

For 2020, Cirkus Cirkör had planned to tour with *Bloom*, to open *Pippi at the Cirkus* in the summer and to begin production on our next major project, the circus opera *Circus Days and Nights*, composed by Philip Glass and directed by Tilde Björfors, Cirkus Cirkör's creative director and one of its founders.

We had also planned to relaunch *Knitting Peace* in connection with the city of Borås' 400th anniversary in 2021, "knitting peace" around the country and Europe.

But we had to rethink this and other things, again and again.

BLOOM is the result of a collaboration between Cirkus Cirkör, Stora Teatern in Gothenburg, Cirkus i Väst, Nycirkus Öst and Södra Teatern in Stockholm. To create conditions conducive to free agents and artists working and growing creatively, Bloom was developed by a young ensemble following an open call.

Together with Cirkus Cirkör, a family show for small stages was created, which opened in 2019. *Bloom* played in Helsinki, the Stockholm metropolitan area (CirkusMania) as well as Växjö and was supposed to be performed in 13 other places around Sweden and Europe, but due to the pandemic, this was postponed until 2021 and 2022. Instead, the intended tour was in part transformed into visits to the courtyards of elderly care facilities in Botkyrka, accompanied by our educators and in close collaboration with the municipality.

Conceived and directed by, costumes and sound design by: Julien Auger and Sade Kamppila

PIPPI AT THE CIRCUS was envisioned as our expansive, welcoming birthday bash in Djurgården Royal National City Park. Working with PopHouse Productions and The Astrid Lindgren Companies, we wanted to investigate how, through new collaborations, we might reach a broader audience at Djurgården's legendary venue Cirkus. In technical and artistic labs, we invented entirely new circus forms, where the meeting of body and object find fresh artistic expression, with innovation and excellence at their core.

The plan is for the performance's run to include extensive ancillary activities – Cirkusliv ("circus life") where participants of all ages are given the chance to challenge their fears and limits along with us. *Pippi at the Cirkus* was initially pushed until the summer of 2021, but has been postponed for another season, with its premiere now planned for 2022.

Script: Tilde Björfors, Maria Blom and Björn Ulveaus
Directed by: Tilde Björfors and Maria Blom



BLOOM PHOTO: KLARA G

KNITTING PEACE

We had plans to revive our worldwide hit, *Knitting Peace*, about striving and longing to create meaning and a better world, and for a long time, working in close collaboration with Borås Stadsteater (Borås City Theater), we sustained the dream of bringing the production back in February 2021. Our collaboration with Borås Stadsteater is characterized by – as is always the case with Cirkör – an exchange of experiences and skills-enhancing efforts that contribute to growing our network of organizers and making it possible for more venues to welcome, create and present contemporary circus performances. We are never satisfied with merely taking possession of a stage, but also strive to shape and change the surrounding community – the whole of society! – through the art of circus. During 2020, our "Call to Knit" was meant to inspire more hands to knit peace (pieces) in anticipation of the opening of an exhibition jointly organized with The Textile Museum of Sweden in Borås. The pandemic put a stop to the production but not the exhibition, which during the spring of 2021 will instead move into the storefront windows of urban spaces. Several tour dates were also pushed up, among others Turkey, France, Italy, Denmark and Sweden.

Conceived and directed by: Tilde Björfors
Composed by: Samuel "Looptok" Långbacka



CIRCUS DAYS AND NIGHTS

This collaboration with Malmö Opera, composed by Philip Glass, will be our next world premiere. A dizzying dream of world-class poetry, music, song and contemporary circus. The American journalist Robert Lax's epic *Circus Days and Nights*, considered one of the most important works of the century, will become something the world has never before experienced – a circus opera! *Circus Days and Nights* is the story of daring to dream, daring to leap, daring to let go. A tale of having the guts to believe that human beings are capable of so much more than we imagine. About creating, creativity, courage and taking risks with faith, hope and love – everything that infuses Cirkus Cirkör's work, as well as the power of art as a metaphor for life, expressed through a day in the circus ring.

The iconic composer Philip Glass, who finally found his circus, wrote the music for this opera during his pandemic quarantine in Manhattan. The acclaimed playwright David Henry Hwang and our creative director Tilde Björfors continued work on the libretto, while Magdalena Åberg, Ellen Ruge and Robert Hvenström gave life to the magical space that will be our circus ring.

The ensemble is teeming with world-renowned artists, among others Swedish "Court Singer" Elin Rombo as the young Robert Lax and Minna Weurlander as kapellmeister on the concert accordion. During the fall of 2020, artistic and technical development began at Cirkör House with a number of our foremost circus artists in the ensemble as well as world-class technicians. In Malmö Opera's workshops, set elements and costumes are currently being produced, to ensure everything is ready for opening night on May 29th, 2021.

Music: Philip Glass

Libretto: David Henry Hwang and Tilde Björfors, after a poem by Robert Lax



CIRCUS DAYS AND NIGHTS PHOTO: LINA AXELSSON BERG

STREAMING PERFORMANCES

When the pandemic forced auditoriums and theaters to close, we had the opportunity to explore the stage of this new age – streaming. A temporary copyright agreement reached between the Swedish Performing Arts Association and the creators' and practitioners' unions, made it possible for us to spread our circus art as well as meet audiences in other spaces than the physical. We created Cirkör's Digitala Manege ("Digital Circus Ring") and filled it with short films intended to inspire people through the various circus disciplines and, of course, previous productions in their full length. Here, audiences could watch *Wear it like a crown*, the art film *Inside a Circus Mind, Movements* – one of our coproductions with Malmö Stadsteater – and *Inside Out*.

We also linked to digital screenings streamed by several of our artistic partners, for instance *Satyagraha* on Folkoperan Play, *Borders* on Malmö Stadsteater Play and *Odyssén* ("the Odyssey"), offered in connection with the 50th anniversary of Tyst Teater (theater in sign language). SVT Play also streamed an early taping of *Havfruen* from Dansens Hus in Stockholm, Sweden's International Scene for Contemporary Dance. This performance of HC Andersen's story is a coproduction of Cirkus Cirkör and Denmark's Teater Kaleidoskop.

Number of streaming views:

Satyagraha on Folkoperan – 3 761

Borders on Malmö Stadsteater – 1 051

Wear it like a crown – 4 439

Inside Out – 1 842

Movements – 1 132

Inside a Circus mind – 1 212

Odyssén – 956

All told, seven different productions with a total audience of 14 393.*

* There are no statistics for views of *Havfruen*. Thus, it is not reported here.

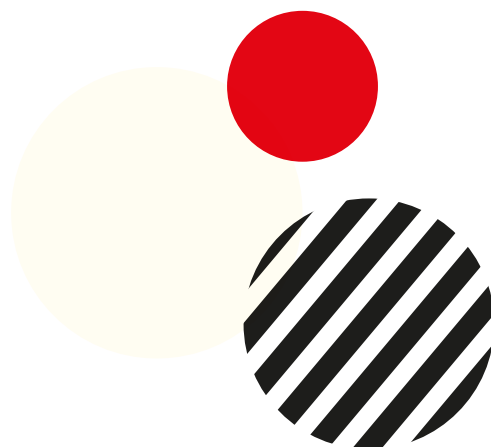
ARTISTIC CONCEPTS AND EVENTS

In 2020, we were able to carry out close to ten custom-made performances. Among other things, Cirkus Cirkör was entrusted with opening the Architecture Gala's award ceremony at Stockholm Concert Hall, of being part of the reopening of Kulturhuset Stadsteatern – Stockholm House of Culture & City Theatre and of celebrating Newbie's 10th birthday. We also visited various businesses where we, through the circus disciplines, challenged participants to be more present, cooperative and willing to learn from their failures.

However, in March the pandemic hit with full force, our phones went quiet, almost everything was cancelled, and we were forced to adapt.

For the past two years, together with the cultural venue Artipelag in Stockholm, we have offered artistic events of the highest quality accompanied by a Christmas smorgasbord. This was supposed to be the case in 2020 as well, but for obvious reasons was called off. Malmö Live also hoped to offer Christmas smorgasbords paired with artistic excellence, but this too had to be postponed until a later date.

During the year, from every angle we examined how our concepts and artistic activities could be further developed. We look forward with great anticipation to the reopening of society, so that we can once again collaborate, grow, co-create and advance our vision of pushing boundaries and changing society through the art of circus.



CIRKÖRLAB

At Cirkör House, where we make our resources available to independent professionals, there is a constant flow of artistic and investigative activity. We welcome domestic and international residents to our production hall and create the conditions necessary for professional practitioners to work, evolve and create art, at the same time as we ourselves are enriched by new impressions and encounters.

Unfortunately, during 2020, we were forced to put our residencies on hold when the risk of viral transmission became too great and instead created the conditions for professionals already attached to our productions to continue practicing and exploring their craft. We took our first steps toward creating an artistic core, perhaps a future Cirkör ensemble.

Completed residencies 2020:

Face First – SE/CAN
Hamish Tjoeng – SE/AU
Svalbard – SE/UK/ES
Tom Brand – DE/SE
Klara Sköldulf Philipp – SE
Regina Baumann – SE
Magnus Björu – SE/NO
Nellie Kujansivu och Aaron Hakala – FI/SE
Mireia Piñol – ES
Alexander Weibel Weibel och Aino Ihanainen – ES/FI
Sisus Sirkus – FI/DE
Below Zero – SE

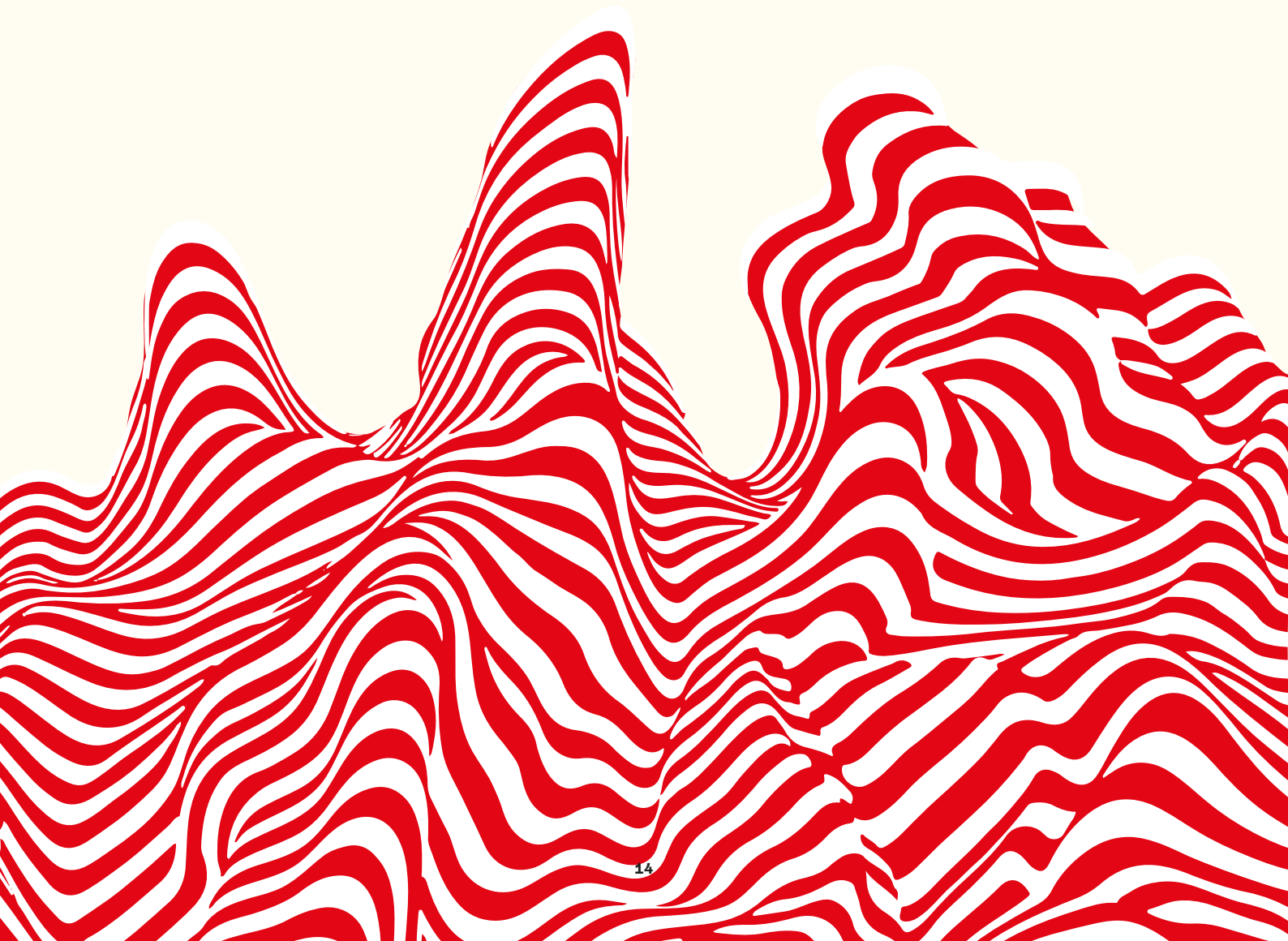
Canceled residencies 2020 (due to Covid-19):

Orit Nevo – IL
Regina Baumann – SE
Mireia Piñol – ES
David Eriksson – SE
Recovery Laboratory – SE



EDUCATiONAL ACTiViTiES

Our educational activities are as crucial as our artistic to achieving the somewhat cheeky and lofty goals set forth in our charter of establishing contemporary circus, artistically and pedagogically. From the beginning, we have strived to develop the art form of circus holistically, regardless of age, location or focus. Everyone has boundaries that need pushing, fears to overcome and risks to deal with.



In 2020, Cirkus Cirkör's educational activities welcomed and practiced circus with a little over 18 000 children and young people, adults and seniors with and without disabilities. There are three branches on our "education tree": circus courses during leisure, circus activities and shows at schools and special projects, for example circus at asylum centers and nursing homes. Covid-19 profoundly affected these activities, but we actively worked to adjust, to find a new practice facility in Stockholm, to reorganize our administration through new systems, new routines and by asking our freelance instructors to take on more responsibility.

CIRKUS DELUXE

We offer the Cirkus de Luxe concept to schools, including one or several weeks of circus. Our visits kick off with an inspiring circus show for both teachers and students. In the days that follow, students get to know the artists as educators in a circus workshop. Through various circus disciplines – wire-walking, trapeze, floor acrobatics, pair acrobatics and juggling – students are given the chance to practice balance, trust, cooperation and being present.

In 2020, we carried out 21 Cirkus de Luxe weeks around the country.

CIRCUS TRIAL SESSIONS

Along with our educators and artists, Cirkus Cirkör visits places such as schools, community centers, youth recreation centers, after school centers and non-profit associations with circus trial sessions. Here, children, young people and adults can try the circus disciplines and test their own limits.

CIRCUS SHOW

During 2020, we presented two productions, one self-produced and one created outside of Cirkus Cirkör. *Passa in* ("Fitting in") toured Sweden with our three educational teams of three artists each. During the summer of 2020, *Red Hot Condition* played in Botkyrka, Cirkör's home base. These shows work equally well for everyone, regardless of language background, as the circus artists convey stories through their bodies rather than words. *Passa in* is part of Skapande Skola's ("creative school")



CIRCUS TRIAL SESSIONS PHOTO: ALEX HINCHCLIFFE

culture program. In 2020, we also offered taped versions of our shows to schools that were unable to welcome visitors on their premises. The students first watched in their classrooms and later met our educators class by class in workshops.

Passa in

In *Passa in* we meet different characters. Who's who? Don't they resemble one another? Or are they in fact completely different? Using aerial acrobatics, juggling and pair acrobatics, the artists take the audience on a vibrant and humorous journey that is both touching and engaging.

Directed by: Inger Jungehall

Red Hot Condition

Red Hot Condition is a 30-minute outdoor performance that through contemporary circus and physical comedy deals with today's fixation on working out and the pressure of looks. This high energy, 80s themed show consists of world-class circus, live music and of course a pastel palette.

Idea and concept: Aaron Hakala and Nelli Kujansivu.

CIRCUS DURING LEISURE

Our courses are suitable for everyone from age five and up. Through the circus disciplines, regardless of age or ability, you can gain knowledge that helps you through all of life's domains and challenges. During 2020, our semester courses were held at Cirkör House in Alby, at Vasa Real elementary school in Stockholm in the spring and from the fall at Kulturhuset Stadsteatern-Stockholm House of Culture & City Theatre, as well as at Stora Teatern and

Sjumilahallen in Gothenburg. 1 100 people of different ages participated in the year's courses.

On 32 occasions, we welcomed 113 amateurs – children, adolescent and adults – to Cirkör House for drop-in trial sessions in contemporary circus and parkour. Our house also opened its doors for Chilla med Cirkör ("Chill with Cirkör") – a free-of-charge trial circus session for the entire family, offered on three occasions and attended by around 300 people. The number of participants was considerably lower than usual due to pandemic-related restrictions and recommendations.

COURSES DURING SCHOOL BREAKS

In spite of the pandemic, we were able to offer courses during school breaks in several places. During the year, we organized six camp weeks in Alby, Upplands-Bro, Älvsjö and Gothenburg for around 250 participants.

SUMMER IN BOTKYRKA

In the summer of 2020, Botkyrka Municipality invested in activities for children who spent the whole summer at home. We offered Red Hot Condition and circus trial classes in courtyards around the municipality for 410 kids and adults.

In the fall of 2020, we began a collaboration with Sköndalsgården youth recreation center in Stockholm. Here, on 12 occasions, we offered circus as a leisure activity for children ages 6–12. Additionally, Cirkör has an ongoing collaboration with Håbo Kulturskola (Håbo "culture school"), where we launched a new semester course in the spring of 2020. This was put on hold in March, and two classes had to be postponed until a later date.



PRACTICING CIRCUS PHOTO: LINNEA ARBÄB



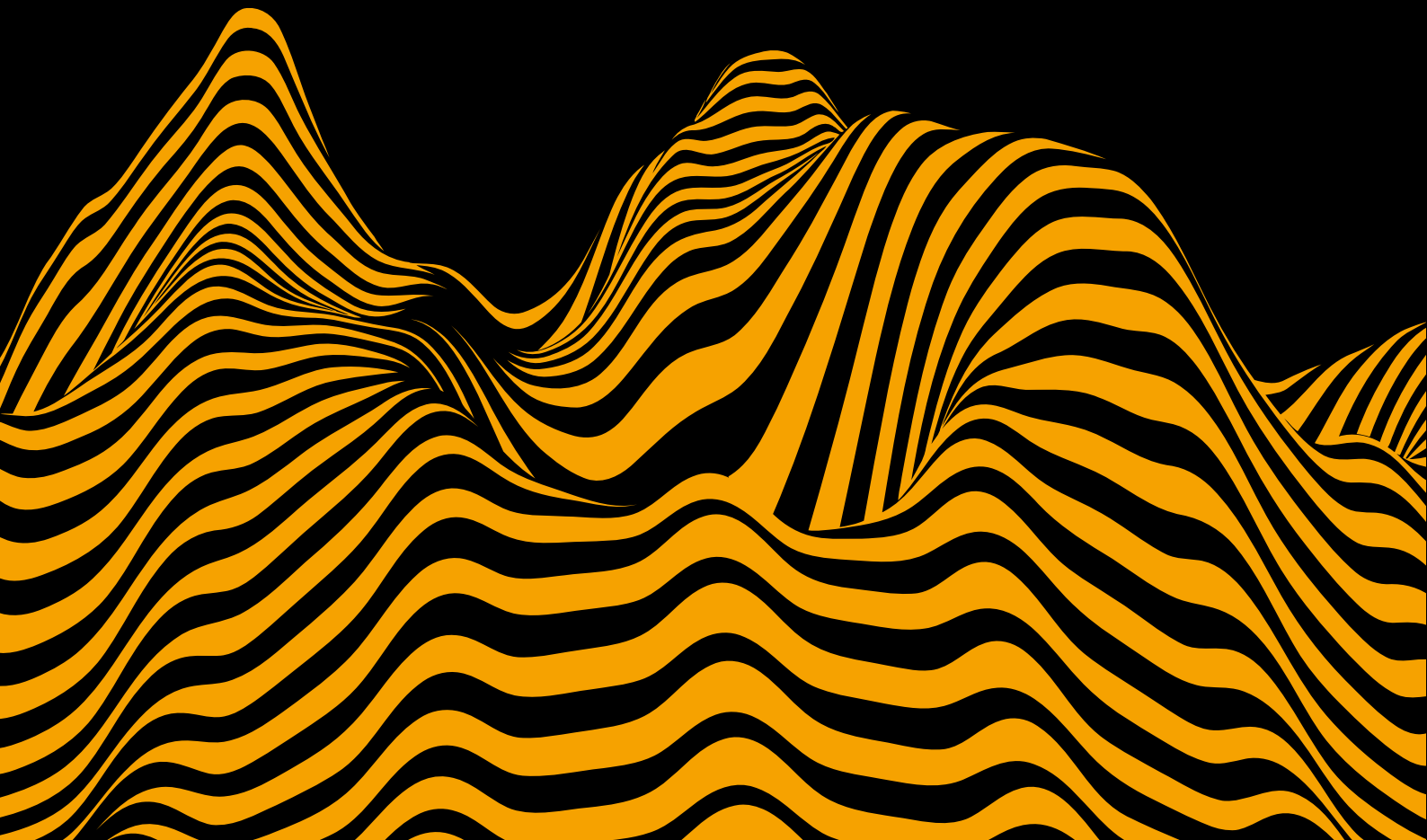
PASSA IN PHOTO: ALEX HINCHCLIFFE



High school education

CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Upper Secondary School program is a joint venture between Cirkör and St Botvids high school in Botkyrka Municipality. The program is a university preparatory, advanced placement program with national admissions where academics are taught at St Botvids high school while physical and artistic instruction take place at Cirkör House.



Here, the students practice side by side with professional circus artists and educators. This affords them the opportunity to create networks for their future professional lives while still in high school.

This mix of regular school, physical training and artistic creation offers not only variety and growth, but additionally, studies show that people who combine theory with physical activity achieve better academic results.

Allowing young people to practice failing, testing their fears and being one hundred percent present, should perhaps be a requirement for every high school education. For us, it already is.

During 2020, the contemporary circus program had 56 high school students in years 1–3. They hailed from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland, and their instructors were world-leading artists and educators from Sweden, Germany, USA, Norway, Ireland and Switzerland.

SPRING TERM

At the beginning of the spring term, second-year students take a trip to Paris. The aim of this trip is to inspire the students and give them the chance to experience the full breadth of contemporary circus.

The days in Paris are a mixture of study visits and experiencing performances at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain. The students also have the chance to see

Centre National des Arts du Cirque's (CNAC) end-of-year performance.

Covid-19 put a stop to some of the ordinary classes at Cirkör House as well as our second-year students' planned project at Riksteatern. But our incredibly creative students and teachers taught and created circus remotely through assignments, films made in gardens, living rooms, parks and other spaces. The students' artistic accounts, made via social media, suddenly reached a wider audience than before, when family and friends all over Sweden were able to access the vibrant live broadcast interspersed with filmed routines and art films.

In the spring, third-year students were given the opportunity to train in our gym, so they could complete certain practical elements of their program. 24 circus students graduated in June. Those who applied to post-secondary college programs within the circus arts were accepted to schools around Europe – in Denmark, Italy, France and Portugal.

FALL TERM

At the beginning of the fall term, each of the three grades worked on a creative group project that resulted in a 15-minute routine, presented and taped at Cirkör House.

In December, third-year students moved into Cullberg's studio at Riksteatern in Botkyrka Municipality and via this artistic collaboration created a show directed by Hamish Tjoeng. This performance was taped and streamed at the beginning of 2021.

MATS ATTERBY, THIRD-YEAR STUDENT PHOTO: EINAR KLING-ODENCRANTS



COLLABORATIONS AND NETWORKS

Cirkus Cirkör has collaborated, developed and spread circus art, pedagogy and artistic processes all over Sweden since its inception 25 years ago.



NATIONAL

Cirkus Cirkör's ambition of establishing contemporary circus as an art form has defined our national collaborations and our efforts to bolster freelancers and independent professionals, thereby contributing to social, artistic and educational development. Our creative co-productions always include a substantial dose of skills development. They are fueled by a desire to exchange experiences, and the goal of our regional development projects is to strengthen the art of circus and to create conditions that allow organizers to make room for circus art and education and to frequently undertake projects with us. Our efforts to cultivate organizers and to allow art to permeate all parts of society have made possible the existence of circus arts and training opportunities in several of the country's regions and lead to audiences as well as the organizers viewing contemporary circus as a natural part of the broad and varied concept of performing arts.

Our ongoing collaboration with our home municipality Botkyrka, continues to be an example of how Cirkus Cirkör along with the local community can shape societal change through the inspiration of circus arts. This particular year, our collaboration bore new and unexpected fruits when certain ordinary elements had to be put on hold. When it proved difficult to gather numerous visitors at our house, we instead ventured to places in the municipality where we had not previously had the chance to bring circus.

BOTKYRKA

Educational projects were carried out, such as Funline training in Botkyrka's residential areas and outreach educators paying visits to schools within the framework of Botkyrka's "right of public access" to culture.

Nursing homes in Alby

In May, we went on tour to various nursing homes in Botkyrka under the banner of Cirkör ♥ Botkyrka. Outside of these nursing homes, our educators Olivia Bjurling and Baha Swidan put on a show together with artists involved in our production Bloom. The show was performed outside 10 different homes, as an audience of 550 people – staff and residents – watched through the windows.

Botkyrkastipendiet (Botkyrka Scholarship)

On our 20th birthday, Botkyrka Municipality gave Cirkus Cirkör a gift – a scholarship to be awarded for five years to a promising young artist/educator who lives, has been educated in or works in Botkyrka Municipality. 2020's scholarship went to Einar Kling Odencrants with the

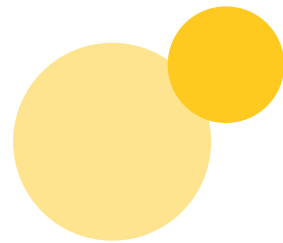
following citation: *"This year's scholar has a genuine circus heart! Both art and education are given ample space within the frame of this warm, strong being. Initially a student at the contemporary circus upper secondary school, now an artist who through his body and other means, creates new perspectives on circus as an art form. The best colleague, the kids' favorite – this year's Botkyrka scholar is Einar Kling Odencrants!"*

ISLAMISC FORUM

Our collaboration began in the fall of 2015. With the support of Botkyrka Municipality, in 2020 we held a semester course free of charge for 19 children from Islamic Forum. The goal is to promote physical activity, integration and to deepen the bonds of friendship between our organizations, as well as to move invisible boundaries/borders in our neighborhood.



ARTIPELAGS JULBORDSSHOW MED CIRKUS CIRKÖR PHOTO: KLARA G



CIRKÖR IN COLLABORATION WITH SEIZO CREATIVE, NEWBIE AND BORÅS TAPETER PHOTO: ALMA VESTLUND

1000 DAYS OF CULTURE

A collaboration lasting a thousand days intended to make clear the role of culture in our democracy – this is the concept behind the project 1000 Days of Culture, supported by 17 Swedish cultural organizations. These groups carry out joint initiatives and activities within the framework of the collaboration, which is run by Riksteatern.

KULTURHUSET STADSTEATERN /STOCKHOLM HOUSE OF CULTURE & CITY THEATRE

In the early summer, we took our first steps into Stockholm's recently reinaugurated culture house, Kulturhuset Stadsteatern – so now there is a living circus enterprise at Sweden's most well-known culture address. In the coming years, we hope to build a collaboration as strong as the new rig mounts in the ceiling and to offer Stockholmers circus both as "workout" and art form.

FOLKETS HUS OCH PARKER /THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE'S HOUSES AND PARKS

For 24 years during summer breaks, in partnership with Cirkus Cirkör, Folkets Hus och Parker has offered workshop weeks all over Sweden, from Ronneby in the south to Skellefteå in the north. This joint venture is imbued with the desire to give children and young people the chance to encounter the art of circus, test their limits and inspire them to challenge their fears physically and mentally. In 2020, all activities were cancelled, but we have set our sights on new gatherings in 2021.

SUBTOPIA

Our closest neighbor is also one of our most active partners and part of the creative cluster that distinguishes our corner of Alby. Among other things, we jointly organize the annual fall break camp *FEAR*, in collaboration with the performing arts school Scenskolan FEJM.

Here, participants explore the theme of fears through circus, dance, theater and theatrical makeup. Thanks to support from the housing company Hembla and restaurant Folkes in Huddinge, children from Botkyrka were able to attend the camp for free and all children were provided with lunch and a snack. A total of 28 children attended, of which 17 were Botkyrka locals. An important aspect of the weeklong camp is for children from different areas to meet, train and eat together.

CIRKUS I VÄST /CIRCUS WEST

Our regional development project is jointly run with Stora Teatern in Gothenburg, with the goal of developing the art of circus, cultivating the region's stages as organizers as well as its decisionmakers. Among other things we offer educators in the Västra Götaland region continuing education in aerial acrobatics and acrobatic passes. During the year, we organized a number of activities such as residencies, open stage, a tour of Kompani Giraff's show *Tvärslöjd* and *Outlines* by Face First, as well as the inspirational seminar "What's up in the area of circus?" Through this collaboration, we hope to be part of the evolution of an entire region and to contribute to the growth of the art of circus as well as to that of society. Over time we hope this collaboration will grow.

THE ASTRID LINDGREN MEMORIAL AWARD

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award and second-year students from our high school program work together regarding the Laureate of this prize, the awards ceremony and a performance inspired by it. Reading and the art of circus meet creatively through the student's encounter with the Laureate literary universe. This performance will take place for the first time in the spring of 2021, but the collaboration began in 2020.



MANEGEN

The young interest group and member organization Manegen ("the ring"), which brings together individuals and organizations in our area of the arts, is an important player within the field. Naturally, Cirkus Cirkör is a member as well as an important interlocutor for the organization.

Together with Manegen, we offer free daily training sessions for professional practitioners who are members. Daily practice and access to Cirkör House is essential to the existence of a professional circus sector all over the country, and Cirkus Cirkör's contribution to this cannot be underestimated. We take great responsibility for free agents and for the artists' opportunities to work. We are also a vital part of the country's circus arts ecosystem.

INTERNATIONAL

Since its inception, Cirkus Cirkör has worked internationally, and perhaps we have achieved our objective of putting Sweden on the world map of contemporary circus. But we refuse to rest on our laurels and are now aiming even higher. We are a world-leading performing arts company driven by our vision to change society through the art of circus. To stay relevant and continue attracting world-leading artists to our productions, we must participate in the global dialogue, meet our colleagues, practitioners, programmers and ensure our analysis of the world around us remains current.

BALTIC NORDIC CIRCUS NETWORK

From the beginning, Cirkus Cirkör has been active within the Baltic-Nordic network BNCN, where we are also partners in the New Horizon Leadership Program, which during 2021 will welcome two apprentices for three weeks. In 2020, all network meetings were digital.

CARAVAN CIRCUS NETWORK

Cirkus Cirkör is a member of Caravan Circus Network, a European network for circus organizations that primarily works with educational activities for children and adolescents, as well as on the development of circus pedagogy. An ongoing project in 2020 was Circus ++, where a common European curriculum for circus education is being developed. This curriculum is being created in modules, to provide various educational levels for different countries – from undergraduate to Masters. The project is headed by Tampere University in collaboration with Caravan Circus Network.

FEDEC

Cirkus Cirkör and our contemporary circus program are members of FEDEC, the European Federation of Professional Circus Schools. In 2020 we participated in their digital members' meeting during the festival for contemporary circus in Auch, France.

ISPA – INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

In January each year, the ISPA congress takes place in New York City. Cirkus Cirkör is a member of this network and over the years has actively participated in various panels, associations and talks. This year, we focused on meetings concerning the international tour of *Circus Days and Nights*. The Taipei Congress was canceled due to the pandemic.

POMEGRANATE ARTS, NYC

Cirkus Cirkör has joined forces with one of the world's most renowned producers and agents within performing arts. In collaboration with Linda Brumbach and her team, we will work to bring the art of circus to the world's most established and prestigious stages, as well as to its backyards.

FREIBURG KULTURBÖRSE

In January, Cirkus Cirkör attended Germany's Freiburg Kulturbörse, a European trade fair for contemporary performing arts. Here, we established contacts and found organizers for our productions which, however, could not be carried out in 2020.

PAMS, PERFORMING ARTS MARKET IN SEOUL

We participated digitally in the Nordic showcase at PAMS and met programmers and players from different parts of the world.

CINARS, MONTREAL

One of North America's most important conferences for performing arts, also held digitally in 2020. We participated in order to meet colleagues and create opportunities for bilateral exchange with a view to the future.

CIRCA PÔLE NATIONAL CIRQUE, FRANCE

Cirkus Cirkör intended to be present at this festival in Auch, but we were forced to turn around in the port of Trelleborg due to the increasing spread of the coronavirus. Instead, we participated online. We had planned to attend several other network meetings, festivals, trade shows and gatherings during 2020 – those that were not carried out digitally were postponed until 2021 or 2022.

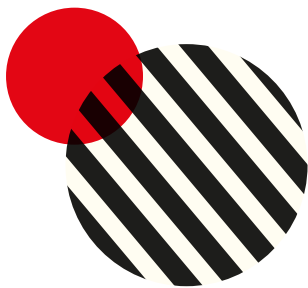




ORGANiZATION AND FINANCES

2020 was an unprecedented year. The pandemic affected us on every level: organizationally, financially and in terms of content. But we are all still standing, strengthened even, and have risen to the challenge like true circus artists – by focusing on the possible and by collaborating our way to innovative solutions.





ORGANIZATION

In March of 2020, after 12 successful years, Anders Frennberg left his position as our CEO, and in May Elin Norquist took over. In the interim, our Vice President Anna Ljungqvist stepped in as acting CEO. Cirkus Cirkör continued our collaboration with Tuff ledarskapsträning ("tough leadership training"), in order to give everyone in the organization the opportunity to develop personally and organizationally and to enhance our talents within cooperation and co-creation. Office acrobats also need a dose of daily training, and of course this applies to our own staff. Along with the design and innovation agency Doberman, we began to carve out a strategic direction for the entire organization.

Due to the pandemic, we have introduced stringent hygiene measures: hand washing before and after each training session, class or lab, hand disinfection when sharing equipment, disinfection of carpets and materials after each session and adaptation of exercises identified as potentially risky with regard to transmission. With the exception of the very youngest kids, parents and siblings are currently not allowed to accompany participants onto the premises, we keep all groups as small as possible and take pains not to allow students, course participants or artists to mix while also placing great emphasis on scheduling, cleaning and responsibility – as an organization and as individuals.

We have received support from government relief programs and other forms of emergency aid during the year. During the spring, almost the entire permanent staff was short-term furloughed, and we had to terminate numerous freelance contracts. Since the autumn, we have not availed ourselves of short-term layoffs as we have activities extensive enough for our currently relatively small staff. No staff has been given notice or laid off. However, a number of people have chosen to leave Cirkus Cirkör after finding new challenges and assignments. After the May 18th annual meeting, a new board took over both Cirkus Cirkör Non-profit Association and Cirkör AB (incorporated). Its members are: Inger Ashing (Chairperson), Nina Rawal, Mellika Melouani Melani, Gunilla Thorgren, Annika Levin, Maria Rankka, Mats Björkman, Magnus Aspegren, Olle Strandberg and Keith Fransson. Lawen Redar left her seat on the board after a year.

In 2020, Cirkus Cirkör had 33 permanent employees and 100 temporary employees distributed over 36,47 annual work units (AWU). During an ordinary year, without the impact of a pandemic, Cirkus Cirkör generally has a total



of about 55 annual work units, a clear indication of how much the pandemic has affected our ability to hire freelancers within our field. All in all, 133 individuals received wages from Cirkus Cirkör during the year: 81 women and 52 men. Additionally, 41 freelance artists, educators, technicians, set designers etc were paid fees. In total in 2020, 174 individuals were remunerated by Cirkus Cirkör for their services.

FINANCES

In 2020, Cirkus Cirkör lost the majority of its budgeted revenue because a large portion of our activities had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Cirkus Cirkör received emergency grants and short-term support, which means that subsidies constituted a larger share of our turnover than during a typical year.

In 2020, Cirkus Cirkör had a turnover of 30 931 518 SEK, of which 10 241 644 SEK from our own sales, 31 622 SEK from membership fees and 20 658 252 SEK from external sources.

- Swedish Public Employment Service – 49 290 SEK
- Stiftelsen Göteborgs Barnhus (Gothenburg's Children's House Foundation) – 150 000 SEK
- The Swedish Sports Confederation – 59 516 SEK
- Sick leave compensation – 70 933 SEK
- The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (short-term work allowance) – 697 059 SEK

Operating grants

- Botkyrka Municipality – 3 108 454 SEK
- The Swedish Arts Council – 9 323 000 SEK
- City of Stockholm Cultural Administration – 1 200 000 SEK
- Region Stockholm (Stockholm Regional Council) – 2 800 000 SEK

Emergency grants

- Botkyrka Municipality – 850 000 SEK
- The Swedish Arts Council – 1 400 000 SEK
- City of Stockholm Cultural – 400 000 SEK
- Region Stockholm (Stockholm Regional Council) – 1 000 000 SEK

SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Cirkus Cirkör actively works for and contributes to a long-term sustainable society. This is a natural part of our vision of “changing the world through contemporary circus”, of being a responsible workplace and cultural organization that influences and inspires ourselves and the world around us.



Our approach to sustainability within our various activities is broad, and we strive to use the resources we already have in as efficient a way as possible. We are aware that to remain relevant in the future, we must work innovatively with art and education from every perspective, not the least with regard to our common social, economic and environmental sustainability. As an art form, circus has always innovated its way forward in relation to objects and the outside world, and we will continue in this vein.

Since 2015, Cirkör has been affiliated with UN Global Compact, the United Nations' international network for the promotion of social and environmental responsibility within companies and organizations. This means we have committed to adapting our business practices to their ten principles on human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption and to presenting these efforts in an annual report. By adopting the Ten Principles, signatory companies and organizations undertake to adapt their policies and procedures in ways that allow them to contribute more sustainably to the development of economies and societies.

TRAVEL/TRANSPORTATION

Everyone at Cirkus Cirkör is encouraged to travel primarily by train and to avoid air travel. However, given that our productions tour all over the world, some air travel is unavoidable. To counteract the harmful emissions of carbon dioxide, we carbon offset all our flights by investing in the installation of solar cells. This contributes to the production of renewal energy, a concrete and long-term project for improving the climate.

In 2020, the pandemic put a stop to most of our tours, but to compensate for the flights we did take, we installed 1 kW of solar cells in ETC's photovoltaic park in Katri-
neholm, Sweden. These solar cells will produce clean energy for at least 25 years.

ELECTRICITY/ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Working with our landlord, Botkyrka Municipality, in 2020 we continued to make improvements to Cirkör House. In our production hall, light fixtures were replaced with more



BLOOM PHOTO: KLARA G

energy-efficient LEDs and our cargo port was replaced with one that is better insulated against drafts and heat leakage. Since 2014, we have an electricity contract with ETC el, which provides 100 % renewable electricity and bears the Good Environmental Choice label of The Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SNF). ETC builds photovoltaic parks in various locations and thereby creates more renewal energy in Sweden. Through our choice of electricity supplier, we are part of an evolution we wish to support. Our total electricity consumption decreased by approximately 12 % between 2019 and 2020, to a total of 129 670 kWh.

MINIMIZED CONSUMPTION/INCREASING SUSTAINABLE PURCHASES

With the EU's waste hierarchy as our guide, we continuously strive to minimize purchases, to reuse all types of materials to the greatest degree possible and to recycle the waste that remains. Large portions of our sets, props, costumes, office materials and more are reused in our own activities.

For all purchases we strive to find environmentally certified products and suppliers who incorporate sustainability into their practices. Examples:

Foods

Our purchases of coffee, milk and fruit for Cirkör House and end-of-year celebrations are already nearly 100 % organic.

Copy paper

We use Multicopy Zero, a carbon neutral paper made in Sweden certified both by Nordic Ecolabel and FSC. In 2020, our paper consumption decreased by 30 % compared to 2019.

Computers

In 2020, Cirkör bought seven new computers, three of which are TCO certified, plus one Apple computer (Apple lacks environmental certification). TCO Certified is an international sustainability label that stipulates social and environmental requirements for more sustainable IT products from a lifecycle perspective.

Merchandise

For textiles such as T-shirts and totes, we always choose products certified by Earth Positive or Nordic Ecolabel. In 2020, a decision was made to no longer produce items connected to a specific production, as these are often difficult to sell once the performance is no longer on tour, which can create large surplus stocks.

Other

For the renovations to our offices during the year, we chose Byggkollektivet, a company focused on environmentally friendly, long-term construction and renovation. On our premises, they used recycled doors and glass sections/interior walls that were supplied by Kompanjonen, a company that procures and sells recycled construction materials and surplus stock.

THE 10 PRINCIPLES

Human rights

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

Labor

- 03 Uphold the freedom of association and recognize the right to collective bargaining.

- 04 Eliminate all forms of forced and compulsory labor.

- 05 Eliminate all child labor.

- 06 Eliminate discrimination with respect to employment and occupation.

Environment

- 07 Support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges.

- 08 Undertake initiatives to promote environmental responsibility.

- 09 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 2020

10

BOARD
MEMBERS

33

PERMANENT
EMPLOYEES

56

STUDENTS AT THE CIRCUS
UPPER SECONDARY PROGRAM
IN YEARS 1-3.

141

FREELANCE ARTISTS,
EDUCATORS, TECHNICIANS,
CREATORS ETC.

AUDIENCE AND PARTICIPANT STATISTICS 2020

PERFORMANCE	NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES	VISITORS/PARTICIPANTS
Bloom	12	4 199
Cirkör ♥ Botkyrka	13	550
Red Hot Condition (<i>children and youth show</i>)	4	94
Passa in/Fit in (<i>children and youth show</i>)	55	4 707
Streamed performances	7	14 393

OTHER ACTIVITIES	ACTIVITIES	PARTICIPANTS
Cirkör LAB in-residence presentations	12	50
Customized events	7	2 869
Education and training: <i>Circus training, circus camps, circus trial sessions, circus in school</i>	*N/A	13 611

A TOTAL OF

110

PERFORMANCES/
ACTIVITIES

A TOTAL OF

40 473

VISITORS/
PARTICIPANTS

CANCELLED 2020 (DUE TO COVID -19)

PERFORMANCES	CANCELLED/MOVED ACTIVITIES
Bloom	99
Pippi at Cirkus	61
Christmas Smorgasbord show at Artipelag	19
The Same As Something Else (<i>Upper Secondary School show</i>)	3

OTHER ACTIVITIES	CANCELLED/MOVED ACTIVITIES
Cirkör LAB in-residence presentations	6
Education and training: <i>Circus training, circus camps, circus trial sessions, circus in school</i>	170

A TOTAL OF

358

CANCELLED/MOVED
ACTIVITIES



Places we have visited with performances, educational activities or events during 2020.

SWEDEN

Dalarna County *Gustafs, Säter*

Gävleborg County *Hudiksvall, Järvsö, Ljusdal, Los, Tallåsen*

Jönköping County *Gnosjö, Hillerstorp*

Kalmar County *Edsbruk, Västervik, Kronobergs Län, Växjö*

Norrbottn County *Korpilombolo, Pajala, Tärnö*

Skåne County *Landskrona, Nyvång, Åstorp*

Stockholm County *Alby, Bagarmossen, Bandhagen, Bro, Bromma, Danderyd, Djursholm, Farsta, Fittja, Grödinge, Hallunda, Huddinge, Hägersten, Hässelby, Kista, Märsta, Nacka, Norsborg, Normalm, Sigtuna, Sickla, Skarpnäck, Skärholmen,*

Sköndal, Storvreten, Södermalm, Tullinge, Tumba, Täby, Upplands Väsby, Vallentuna, Vällingby, Åkersberga Årsta, Östermalm

Södermanland County *Gnesta, Julita, Katrineholm*

Västra Götaland County *Gothenburg*

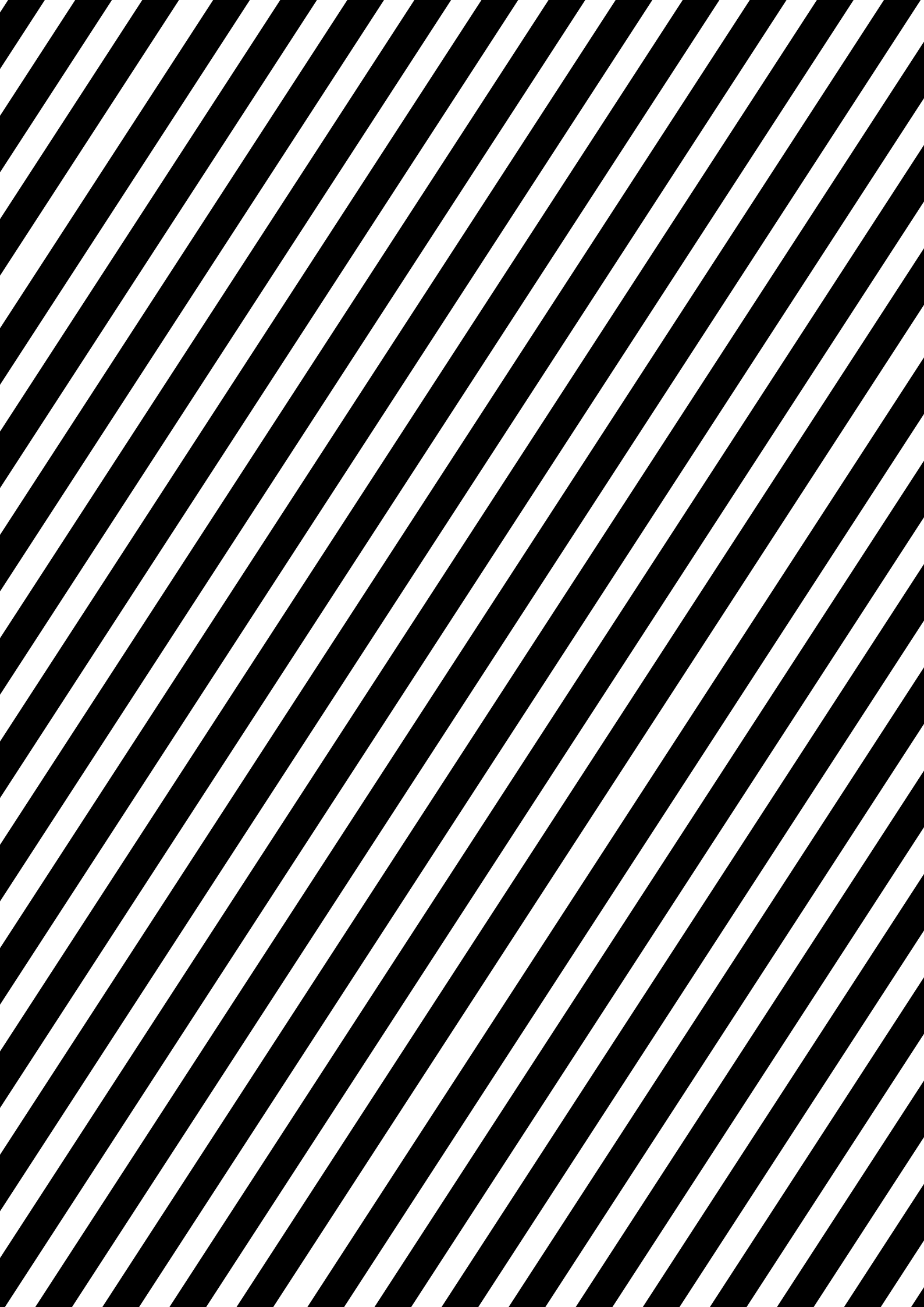
Västernorrland County *Härnösand*


Östergötland County *Motala*

FINLAND

Helsinki

**CIRKUS
CIRKÖR**





CIRKUS CIRKÖR ANNUAL REPORT 2020 COVER CIRCUS DAYS AND NIGHTS COVER PHOTO KAROLINA HENKE
GRAPHIC DESIGN LINA AXELSSON BERG PRINT SIB TRYCK HOLDING AB PAPER GALERIE ART SILK
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