

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PROGRAMME

June 8-11, 2022



© Dziugas Kunsmanas_Mood_Teatronas by Donatas Aliskauskas

ORGANISED BY

**CIRCO
STRADA**
EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR
CONTEMPORARY CIRCUS
AND OUTDOOR ARTS

TEATRONAS

IN THE FRAME OF

CIRKULIACIJA

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
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**MINISTÈRE
DE LA CULTURE**
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*This symbol ✦ indicates the sections which are artistic shows.

FOREWORD

These are certainly peculiar times to investigate the living body/ies theme of the current Circostrada triennial project. We are slowly ushering in a global pandemic, a war is raging in Europe, and a report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change just confirmed that without “immediate and deep carbon emissions reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees is beyond reach”.

“What are we going to do about it?”. We know we need a planetary shift in consciousness, we know we need to take action now, and we know that eco-judgement and eco-anxiety won’t help us move forward. And with a little bit of chutzpah - and lots of care, thoughtfulness, and dedication - we can also put together the first Annual General Meeting of Circostrada in the Baltics, in the frame of Cirkuliacija, the international contemporary circus festival taking place each year in Kaunas, Lithuania.

Still, living body/ies are getting hurt just 700 km away from Kaunas, aggressive bodies trying to overcome bodies of will. Only 1500 km from Kaunas lies what used to be the city of Mariupol, where bodies are under the ruins, cannot be buried, and cannot be saved. Yet, here we are, meeting artists and cultural workers, discovering the local scene, and presenting an art form in which we manifest bodies that hold, bodies that catch, bodies that communicate and bodies that observe and take that in.

In the upcoming days, we will have the chance to meet up with almost everybody working in the field of contemporary circus and outdoor arts, a very dynamic ecosystem counting, however, less than a dozen active actors each. The story goes that, in Lithuania, contemporary circus arrived the other way around than the “traditional way” - other countries had artists bring in the art form and then producers and organisations appeared. This also means that Lithuania had almost no local artists when producers and a couple of independent venues and festivals appeared and that each artist had big expectations to fulfil.

FOREWORD

This time Cirkuliacija - a festival that happens each year in a different neighbourhood - has big shoes to fill and we are extremely happy to host the network members here. Even though, in these highly challenging times happiness does not come without guilt, yet it is more important than ever to remind ourselves of the mission each one of us stated in the beginning of our journeys, the mission that gave our work meaning. This Annual General Meeting will be even more special this year because many network members haven't had the opportunity to meet for quite some time, and also because Kaunas is one of the three current European Capitals of Culture, together with Esch-sur-Alzette in Luxembourg and Novi Sad in Serbia.

During these days, the living body/ies theme will gain new meanings: meanings that may not bring clear and right solutions, but our actions might inspire. Inspire and act.



Gildas Aleksa, Artistic director of the theatre company of Teatronas and Cirkuliacija International Contemporary Circus Festival

Stéphane Segreto-Aguilar, Circostrada Network Coordinator / Head of International Development at Artcena

DAY BY DAY PROGRAMME

DAY1
JUNE 8

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH

Pre-meeting with the steering committee*

09:30-12:30 (EET)

@ TBC

*Only for steering committee members

Arrival of Circostrada members / Welcome pack

12:30-14h00 (EET)

@ TBC

Come to collect your welcome pack and say hi!

Lunch / Networking catering (covered)

12:30-14:00 (EET)

@ TBC

Hippopotamus by Circus Sabok (Estonia) ✦

14:30-15:30 (EET)

@ TBC

Welcome speeches

15:45-15:50 (EET)

@ TBC

We're kicking off the professional programme at Cirkuliacija with a few words from organisers and guests.

Opening keynote session

15:50-16:10 (EET)

Speaker: PhD. Jekaterina Lavrinec

@ TBC

Coffee break

16:10-16:30 (EET)

@ TBC

Roundtable #1 How Circus Can Help In Times of Crisis

16:30-18:00 (EET)

Speakers: TBC

Moderator: Kotryna Lingiene

@ TBC

We've (almost) gone through the covid pandemic, but we're (still) going through a war. In these uncertain and critical times, how can circus organisations help? We will discuss this question and more.

Dinner (not covered)

18:00-19:30 (EET)

@ TBC

Cuir by Un Loup pour l'Homme (France) ✦

20:00-21:00 (EET)

@ TBC

Informal networking

21:00 onwards (EET)

@ TBC

For those who wish to prolong this nice day of sharing, it's the proper time to have a drink and a chat in one of the local venues of the city. You own the night, let's keep the discussions going and bond with participants!

THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH

City tour by bike (Optional)

08:00-10:00 (EET)

@ Meeting point: TBC

Get to know the city of Kaunas while on a bike! The guided tour will explore the city center of the European Capital of Culture and the narratives it tries to tell this year.

Clothes and Us by Kanta Company (Lithuania) ✦

10:00-11:00 (EET)

@ TBC

Keynote on Baltic context and main stakeholders

11:15-12:00 (EET)

Speaker: Monika Citvaraite-Lansbergiene

@ TBC

M. Citvaraite-Lansbergiene is one of the few circus researchers in Lithuania. This keynote speech will help us understand the Lithuanian and Baltic context of circus – where it comes from and where it is now. It might come handy in your talks with the local professionals that you will meet a lot in the upcoming days.

Lunch (covered)

12:00-13:30 (EET)

@ TBC

Cirko Sapiens Youth Circus performance ✦

13:30-14:00 (EET)

@ TBC

In between the pandemic waves, Teatronas has managed to open the first and only contemporary circus center in Lithuania called Cirko Sapiens. During these uncertain times, it has gathered new circus enthusiasts and now they have something to say in the language we all understand.

Roundtable #2 on co-living bodies

14:30-16:00 (EET)

Speakers:

Marija Baranauskaite (circus/dance), Daina Pupkevičiute (anthropologist), Agnija Šeiko (dance), Dalia Čiupailaite-Višnevskia (urban sociologist).

Moderator: Indre Kaminckaite (journalist)

@ TBC

Taking into consideration the red thread Living Body/ies and willing to tackle sustainability issues and ecological dilemmas we decided to talk with researchers and artists from Lithuania about the co-living possibilities of various bodies.

Coffee break

16:00-16:30 (EET)

@ TBC

Pitch session: Baltic artistic projects #1

16:30-17:30 (EET)

@ TBC

Pitching session of Baltic circus and outdoor projects – get to know the local scene!

After pitch networking session

17:30-18:00 (EET)

@ TBC

Dinner (not covered)

18:00-19:30 (EET)

@ TBC

circusnext: national pre-selections

19:30-21:00 (EET)

@ TBC

On-stage selection of national work-in-progresses that will be presented to a jury made up of Baltic professionals and representatives of the circusnext platform members and experienced artists. Only some of the projects will make it to the European pre-selections. Good luck to all companies presenting!

Informal networking

21:00 (EET) onwards

@ TBC

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH

City tour by bike (Optional)

09:30-11:30 (EET)

@ Meeting point: TBC

Get to know the city of Kaunas while on a bike (yeah we know - again!). The guided tour will explore the rich history of the double district neighborhood of Šančiai, which is in line with the theme of this year's festival: duos.

Parallel sessions:

- Living body/ies committee session
- Fresh 20y committee session
- Bounce workshop

09:30-11:30 (EET)

@TBC

Three parallel morning sessions will be held to enable members of the two different internal committees and the Bouncers to discuss, share and move forward with their respective tasks and topics. These work sessions are only open to members of the internal committees (Living body.ies and Fresh 20Y) and to Bounce participants and facilitators.

More info on the internal committees can be found [HERE](#)



Up to this point by Taigi Cirkas (Lithuania)

12:00-13:00 (EET)

@ TBC

Lunch (covered)

13:00-14:30 (EET)

@ TBC

Feedback lunch with Bounce participants*

Time 13:00-14:30 (EET)

@ TBC

*Only for participants of the Bounce programme and Circostrada coordination team.

Pitch session: Baltic cultural projects #2

14:30-15:30 (EET)

@ TBC

Pitch of the Bounce - professional development programme - participants & facilitators

15:30-16:15 (EET)

@ TBC

Let's give the floor to the Bouncers! During this session, you will have the opportunity to meet the four participants of the Bounce programme - professional development programme initiated by Circostrada - hear about their projects, how they experienced this first year and the work with their facilitators, what they are planning to do next and much more! You will have time for a Q & A and for some qualitative networking time off stage afterwards.

After pitch networking session

16:15-17:15 (EET)

@ TBC

Circostrada Newsround

17:15-18:00 (EET)

@ TBC

Because some things do not change, the traditional newsround session is back! Members will have the opportunity to take the mike and speak about current projects they are working on, share hot news about their organisations, raise your attention on upcoming sectoral events, initiatives or calls that you should know about! Don't forget to let us know beforehand if you want to present in this session, time is limited so we may not be able to hear all of you.

A 2 METRES by Jesse Huygh & Rocio Garrote (Belgium) ✦**18:30-19:15 (EET)**

@ TBC

Dinner (not covered)**19:15-21:00 (EET)**

@ TBC

Informal networking**21:00 (EET) onwards**

@ TBC

SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH**Circostrada Network Plenary Session****09:30-10:30 (EET)**

@ TBC

Spotlights on the life of the network! This session will be dedicated to discussing the current Circostrada project of activities, which will be running up until August 2024. It will also be a privileged time to catch up with the latest and upcoming network activities, resources and initiatives and to exchange with the steering committee members and the coordination team.

Steering committee elections***10:30-11:30 (EET)**

@ TBC

*Only Circostrada members

As part of the democratic and collaborative governance of the network, Circostrada members will be asked to vote to elect the new steering committee members who will represent them. Indeed, some members' mandates are coming to an end and new faces will be invited to join the current group to design and implement the network strategy in close cooperation with the coordination team. The ball is in your court!

More info on the steering committee [HERE](#).

Three Sisters by Big Wolf Company (Estonia) ✦

12:00-13:00 (EET)

@ TBC

Closing words

13:00-13:15 (EET)

@ TBC

Networking lunch (covered)

13:15-16:00 (EET)

@ TBC

Staircase by Circus Mlejn (Czech Republic) ✦

17:00-18:00 (EET)

@ TBC

For Better or Worse by Cirque Aïtal (France) ✦

19:00-20:00 (EET)

@ TBC

Dinner (not covered)

20:00 (EET) onwards

@ TBC

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME DURING THE GENERAL MEETING

ARTISTIC
SECTION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8TH

Hippopotamus

by Circus Sabok (Estonia)

14:30-15:30 (EET)

@ TBC

The second creation of the young Baltic company Circus Sabok continues the research on choreographic hand to hand acrobatics combined with dynamic aerial rope. Their creations, though accessible for all audiences, are not afraid to address more vulnerable subjects affecting the humans of today.

Free of charge.



© Hippopotamus, Dainius Putinas

Cuir

by Un Loup pour l'Homme (France)

20:00-21:00 (EET)

@ TBC

In a powerful body-to-body confrontation, two harnessed men play at manipulating each other's bodies. The cautious pleasure they take in transforming each other into an instrument, an apparatus, a playground or a battlefield engages them in a struggle with mutual consent. Between traction and attraction, they do not aim for power over the other, but rather power with the other.



© Cuir, Valérie Frossard

Book your tickets [HERE](#) using the promo code: GMKAUNAS2022

THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH***Clothes and Us*****by Kanta Company (Lithuania)****10:00-11:00 (EET)****@ TBC**

Kanta Company is three circus artists from three different countries - Finland, Lithuania, and USA. This show includes object manipulation, aerial silks, acrobatics, Chinese pole, and more in a cozy, intimate atmosphere. Created for kids and families, it aims to turn your closet into a place filled not just with clothes, but with memories, stories, and friends.

Free of charge.

© Clothes and Us, Dainius Putinas

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH***Up to this point***
by Taigi Cirkas (Lithuania)**12:00-13:00 (EET)**

@ TBC

Contemporary circus company "Taigi Cirkas" was formed in 2016 in Vilnius, Lithuania. Currently the company consists of three artists - Konstantin Kosovec (Lithuania), Elena Kosovec (Lithuania) and Aleksey Smolov (Latvia). "Up to this Point" is researching connection points between the practices of three circus artists: each of them is finding their artistic way in harsh conditions. How do their bodies change? How does it affect their mental state? How do their thoughts translate to their bodies?

Free of charge.

© Up to this point, Jaanar Nikker

A 2 METRES
by Jesse Huygh & Rocio Garrote (Belgium)**18:30-19:15 (EET)**

@ TBC

Looking for one's limits, restrictions, these frames that hold us back. Anyone can relate, in one way or another, because each individual has their own internal battle. To each story its own scale. Ours openly wants to send a strong message by depicting a fight between life and death; between the desire to act and the limitations of a sick body.

Book your tickets [HERE](#) using the promo code: GMKAUNAS2022

SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH***Three Sisters*
by Big Wolf Company (Estonia)****12:00-13:00 (EET)**

@ TBC

“Three Sisters” is a performance that talks about the great women of the Nordic countries. About their tenderness, strength, convictions and fears. The mysteries unfold in reality and disappear between heaven and earth. There is no right or wrong, no good or bad, a woman is just flesh and bone in the veil of sisterly love.

Free of charge.

© Company archive

***Staircase*
by Circus Mlejn (Czech Republic)****16:00-16:15 (EET)**

@ TBC

The concept created by Eliška Brtnická is based on partial improvisation and interaction with the space and audience. The dance sort of acrobatics does not aim to amaze but it offers the spectator special visuality of various images of the human body in the space watched from unusual angles.



© Company archive

Book your tickets [HERE](#) using the promo code: GMKAUNAS2022

For Better or Worse
by Cirque Aïtal (France)

19:00-20:00 (EET)

@ TBC

While a car-radio is playing, an acrobat couple's places the audience in their intimacy of extraordinary relationship.

Screaming and yelling for life, they melt with rhythms and dust, breathing gasoline, among dogs, shifting from laughter to tears, meeting death, always on the road, inside the car, sad, happy... Pour le meilleur et pour le pire tells the story of two artists bathed in poetry, rock'n roll and humor.



© For better or Worse, Strates-Mario del Curto

Book your tickets [HERE](#) using the promo code: GMKAUNAS2022

ARTISTIC PROGRAMME OFF THE GENERAL MEETING

OFF THE GM

Are you planning to spend more time in Kaunas? The artistic programme spreads before and after the professional programme!

The theme of the 2022 edition of the festival Cirkuliacija is duets – the works created, performed or reflecting the theme of the duo. Even the location of the festival in Kaunas is a double city district – Lower and Upper Šančiai. Please join us in your convenience and in your curiosity <https://teatronas.lt/en/circulation>

As Kaunas is the European Capital of Culture in 2022 it is packed with the events, gatherings and celebrations around the city. Meanwhile in Kaunas we recommend seeing our treasures at the M.K. Ciurlionis Museum of Art, support Ukrainians at the CulturEUkraine venue in Kaunas or getting to know creative minds at the local bars such as Kultura at the Kaunas Picture Gallery.



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For more tips around the city see: <https://visit.kaunas.lt/en/>

PRACTICAL INFORMATION


INFO
SECTION

How to travel to Kaunas? (closest train station, airport)

- **Traveling from Kaunas airport**

There is a regular city bus No. 29G from Kaunas Airport to Kaunas on the route Airport-Train Station.

A bus stop with a central location is 'Laisves aleja', this stop between Old Town (Senamiestis) and New Town (Naujamiestis) can be reached in approximately 35 minutes. Bus number 29G runs once or twice an hour from and to Kaunas Airport. You can also reach Kaunas by shuttle bus No. 120.

 <https://www.kaunas-airport.lt/en/>

- **Traveling from Vilnius airport**

From the airport take a bus or a train to Vilnius Train Station and Vilnius Bus station (they are next to each other). A bus from Vilnius bus station to Kaunas bus station every 20 minutes. Tickets cost 6€ - 9€ and the journey takes 1h 25m. Alternatively, Lithuanian Railways (LG) operates a train from Vilnius to Kaunas hourly. Tickets cost 7€ - 11€ and the journey takes around 1h 8m.

 <https://www.vilnius-airport.lt/en/>

- **Important phone number, cab contacts:**

We recommend getting a BOLT app, which will allow you to easily travel across the city with taxis. All of the activities will be located mostly within walking distance, but it's easy to have it on your phone just in case. Traveling within the city center will cost you about 3-4 euros. BOLT also has scooters around the city, so this might work even better on the hot Baltic summer days.

 <https://bolt.eu/en/>

Where to stay?

Teatronas has organised partnerships with the Western Hotel Santaka hotel in Kaunas allowing you to have more attractive pricing. Please write an email to the contact listed below with the code GMKAUNAS2022 in order to book a room.

Bookings must be made by e-mail at: hotel@santakahotel.eu specifying the following discount code: GMKAUNAS2022. Booking deadline: May 25, 2022.



More information about the hotel: <https://bit.ly/hotelkaunascs>

Where does the event takes place?

More information on the different locations of the event will follow soon!

Important things regarding covid situation

We are all used to the constantly changing covid requirements. As we have already learned, summers usually are free of restrictions and masks, but it is useful to check the current situation before traveling on the Lithuanian National Public Health Center website.



<https://bit.ly/covidinLT>

Contact information

- **Contact info of the organisers (Teatronas and Circostrada teams)**

Teatronas:

Kotryna Zemaityte-Kuskiene: kotryna@teatronas.lt / +37060614370

Gildas Aleksa: gildas@teatronas.lt / +37067842115

Circostrada:

Laura Jude (Production & Administration): laura.jude@artcena.fr / +33684361555

Laura Gérard (Communication & Editions): laura.gerard@artcena.fr / +33603112619

Circostrada internal committees: basic principles

The network is composed of the following 2 internal committees:

- Annual thematic committee (Living body/ies for 2021-2022) (next call for participation in September 2022)
- Fresh 20Y committee (this committee is now full)

Participation in the internal committees is not mandatory. Each committee is limited to a maximum of 15 participants.*

In order to ensure an effective functioning and a favorable work environment, members who wish to join a committee should be ready and committed to devoting time to the life of the network. They must therefore attend General Meetings on a regular basis and be available occasionally outside scheduled work sessions to exchange with committee members.

*Details about the internal committee's objectives, functioning and calendar can be found [HERE](#).

PARTNERS & CO- ORGANISERS

PARTNERS
SECTION

Teatronas

Teatronas is an organisation that works with the development of contemporary circus and producing theater shows in Lithuania. While the theatrical work of Teatronas aims to create abnormal pieces of drama by interpreting classical works in a surprising manner (Shakespeare in soviet apartments, Five-acts of tragedy presented as a five fine-dining meals dégustation etc.), their work on circus has done the opposite. It tries to legitimize a completely young art form by mentoring artists, negotiating with policy makers and having one of the biggest contemporary circus festivals in the country - Cirkuliacija.

In between the pandemic waves, Teatronas has managed to open the first and only center for contemporary circus named Cirko Sapiens. Now the center has an international residency program, housing various workshops and training spaces for professionals and functions as the only contemporary circus school in the country with public presentations.



www.teatronas.lt

Circostrada & ARTCENA

Circostrada is the European Network for contemporary circus and outdoor arts. Created in 2003 with the core mission of furthering the development, empowerment and recognition of these fields at European and international levels, over the years the network has become an important anchoring point for its members and a key interlocutor in the dialogue with cultural policy makers across Europe.

In a few words, Circostrada is:

- A community of contemporary circus and outdoor arts professionals linked together by common values and aspirations, who advocate for greater recognition and more structured cultural policies.

Circostrada & ARTCENA

- The voice and reference network of contemporary circus and outdoor arts in Europe.
- A group of passionate and committed individuals who meet several times a year at the network's events.
- A network dedicated to its members, engaged in facilitating the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and good practices at European and international levels.
- A digital resource platform that provides thematic publications, observation tools and news on contemporary circus and outdoor arts, available to all free of charge in English and French.



www.circostrada.org

ARTCENA is the National Centre for Circus, Street Arts and Theatre. Created by the French Ministry of Culture, ARTCENA is a national rallying point that aims to strengthen the foundation and growth of circus, street and theatre arts. Keeping an open attitude and lively outlook, it works closely with sector professionals while also addressing the needs of teachers, students and researchers.

It coordinates Circostrada and has a permanent seat on its Steering Committee. ARTCENA works towards its missions in three main areas: sharing of knowledge and resources through a digital platform; supporting professionals via mentoring and training; promoting and strengthening the circus, street arts and theatre fields by carrying out international development projects.



www.artcena.fr