



English Supplement

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Art
is about
observation of
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"We are the Champions"



Seppo Laakso / City of Helsinki

FRONT PAGE

About 100 000 people gathered in the Helsinki city centre to celebrate Finland's World Ice Hockey Champion team on May 16. A stage had been constructed on the Market Square and the crowd was entertained by top bands while waiting for the hockey heroes.

The celebration went on all night long in different venues around the city.

The Finnish men's ice hockey team, known as the "Lions" or in Finnish "Leijonat", beat the Swedish team in final by a score of 6–1. Each of the goals was made by a different player. Fin-

land played in Slovakia a total of nine matches and won eight of them.

This was the second time ever that Finland won the World Ice Hockey Championship, the last time being in 1995.

Discovering weak signals

By Johanna Lemola

Helsinki Festival defines its place in society: art and culture are in the core when Helsinki adjusts to new realities.

“Our theme at the festival this year is the capacity of people to identify with strangers and to see the world through their eyes,” says **Erik Söderblom**, Director of Helsinki Festival.

He comments on the theme saying, “Finland is a remote country, and we must actively seek and incorporate influences from elsewhere.” Here Helsinki Festival plays a role. ➔



“Art should respond to existing signals,” says Helsinki Festival director Erik Söderblom. “Cultural encounters and clashes are obvious in our present, and therefore they are our theme at the festival and reflected in the programme.”



“On a larger scale, art is about observation of change, and art offers an individual means to manage change at both emotional and intellectual levels,” Söderblom continues on the larger mission of the festival. “Art is more real than reality, and yet it’s detached from reality. As such, art creates prototypes and allows us to test them.”

A well-known theatre and opera director, Söderblom came from drama education to accept the Helsinki Festival director’s position in 2009. He followed a series of festival leaders who have built Helsinki Festival into the biggest and most diverse programme on Finland’s annual cultural calendar. Starting out as a classical music event more than 40 years ago, the festival has grown to embrace many other forms of culture and has moved out into the city.

Over two and a half weeks

from late August to early September, the festival brings more than 500 events and up to 1,000 Finnish and international artists to the Finnish capital each year.

The programme features both classical and world music, theatre, dance, visual arts, circus, children’s events, and city projects including the Night of the Arts, which offers numerous happenings throughout the city late into the night. The festival spreads itself across the city and pitches the Huvila Festival Tent

in the Töölö Bay area – a spectacular stage for performances. The total audience exceeds 200,000 each year.

“A festival is an efficient way to produce culture,” Söderblom says, pointing out that the entire programme is produced with a total budget of a mere €3.5 million.

Helsinki Festival actively asks citizens to understand, enjoy and benefit from art and culture.

“We also want to work with schools to provide young people with the ‘fix to get the kicks’ out of art,” Söderblom says outlining the festival’s efforts to recruit new audiences – for their own benefit. “Lack of understanding

Art in society – larger than life.

of art is a form of isolation, where one important layer of life is missing.”

“We lay our nets into the stream of time and present our catch to people,” Söderblom continues on the philosophical mode about the role of the festival in society.

“Art and culture are part of a bigger movement, and Helsinki Festival becomes part of our mental landscape.”

“Art is a vital part of the circulation of society,” he emphasizes. “Take art away, and the health of society suffers.”

According to Söderblom, the City of Helsinki has a well thought-out cultural strategy at this time of fast change when society is becoming more and more reliant on services.

On this background, the overall task of Helsinki Festival is to maintain and strengthen the role of art and culture in Helsinki, to make Helsinki a stronger city. ▶▶





Helsinki Festival highlights

Via Intolleranza II leads the audience at the National Theatre through Africa to examine the relationship of the western and developing worlds. The last work of the celebrated German stage director **Christoph Schlingensief** explores dimensions of European cultural interventions in the third world.

Jordi Savall's *Jerusalem* encompasses musical styles from classical to world music. Drawing on Jewish, Christian and Muslim heritage, it is a journey through this holy city's rich and

conflicted history at Helsinki Music Centre.

Samoan choreographer **Lemi Ponifasio** studies the relationship of consumer society with nature, taking a shamanistic dive into archetypes through Ponifasio's unique style of contemporary dance at Helsinki City Theatre.

The Bearded Lady by the French circus artist and ventriloquist **Jeanne Mordo** takes a look at gender roles at the new circus Cirko Center in Suvilahti.

Belgian painter **Michaël Borremans** fills Kunsthalle. His works depict a somehow familiar but strange world. Finnish visual artist **Terike Haapoja's** installation at Amos Anderson blends the boundaries between species.

Human Cities – animals visiting the city – by South African **Roger Titley** and Israeli **Airan Berg** brings animals from Finland's for-

ests to the city. Animal figures are produced in free public workshops and taken to the streets on the *Night of the Arts*.

One of the 17 nights at the Huvila Festival Tent is dedicated to *AfroCubism*, which combines ele-



by **Bertolt Brecht** and **Kurt Weill** at the Savoy theatre.

Le voyage is a large site-specific happening at Cable Factory, performed by a multicultural group of dancers, a choir, soloists and the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra. It invites families to join in on a trip around the world. The performance is based on music by the famous Finnish composer **Erik Bergman**.

.....
See the entire festival programme at www.helsinkifestival.fi



ments from Cuban and Malian music. The phenomenon expressed by *AfroCubism* first gave rise to Buena Vista Social Club.

The UMO Jazz Orchestra, Avanti! Chamber Orchestra and Music Theatre Kapsäkki join forces and bring on stage the legendary unconventional opera *Mahagonny*





Finlandia Hall is undergoing the biggest period of change in its history.

The completion of Helsinki Music Centre will change Finlandia Hall's profile from its original role as a concert and event centre. At the same time, a new extension will give the hall new facilities, including a café that opens to the public in August.

"More human oriented, attuned to the times, relaxed and fun," Finlandia Hall's director **Auni Palo** outlines the hall's new identity.

Finlandia Hall, turning 40 this year, is one of Finland's icons, as its name also suggests. This remarkable white-marble and granite building designed by **Alvar Aalto** was completed in 1971.

Director Auni Palo.

Finlandia Hall in transition



Music groups in Helsinki had for a hundred years dreamed about a proper concert hall that would give the city's orchestra a regular performance and rehearsal space.

From the very beginning Finlandia Hall has also served as a congress venue. A congress wing was completed in 1975, but the hall had hosted major meetings and summits for world leaders even before.

Last year Finlandia Hall hosted 27 international and 313 domestic meetings, 29 receptions and 133 concerts (97 of them classical music concerts).

The total number of visitors was about 300,000.

The major tenants of the hall, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra and Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra, will move to Helsinki Music Centre, which opens its doors at the end of August. A new era will begin in Helsinki's concert and meetings scenes.

"Finlandia Hall will be a new type of centre for congresses and various events," says Palo, who has led the hall for 12 years. "Music will continue to feature on the hall's programme, but the emphasis will no longer be on classical music."

Café Veranda opens in August.

A new extension called Finlandia Veranda opens to the park through a glass wall.

This striking glass element stretches over the entire Töölö Bay side of the building.

"We will have four new adjustable facilities for meetings and receptions," Palo explains.

"Right next to the extension will be Café Veranda, a modern public service facility that can also

function as an exhibition space."

Finlandia Hall will acquire 2,200 square metres of new floor space. The extension has been designed by A-Konsultit Architects. Interior design is by **Jaakko Puro**.

"The solutions meet the needs of the times, but the new facilities have been designed in close co-operation with the National Board of Antiquities and with respect to the spirit of Aalto," Palo points out.

www.finlandiatalo.fi

Translated by Johanna Lemola





Bringing up cosmopolites

By Päivi Arvonen

Life in Finnish day care centres and schools has changed. Many different world views, languages and cultural backgrounds are now part of their everyday reality and enrich the lives of the Finnish children, too. ▶▶

"The home and the school are partners in upbringing", says Docent Mirja Talib.



“Today’s ideal is a civilized, humanitarian cosmopolite who is globally networked with many cultures and societies,” says Docent **Mirja Talib**.

Talib, who has studied multiculturalism in day care centres and schools, points out that multiple world views, languages and cultural backgrounds are already part of the Finnish reality. We cannot always avoid clashes, but we can learn from them.

“Encounters with different cultures offer a magnificent opportunity for children and young people of Finnish background to become citizens of the world,” Talib says. “That’s why we must bring out many realities in our everyday life and mustn’t repress them. The school is an excellent place to practice skills needed to cope in the global world.”

Finnish cultural traditions will be retained in day care centres and schools, but the Finnish culture also keeps chang-

ing. Children and students should be informed about other cultures, too.

“Day care centres and schools should not define but support the identity of children and young people of different backgrounds, while supporting them to develop their identity in many ways. This should happen by listening to both children and adults. The home and the school are partners in upbringing.”

According to Talib, the multitude of world views is still poorly reflected in learning materials. Teachers need support and training in solving conflicts in a wise manner that maintains the dignity of all parties.

Defining herself as a cosmopolite, Talib sees it as great richness to be able to navigate between cultures and look at the world from many perspectives.

She emphasizes that the Finns will be competing in a global labour market in the future, where they will need open attitudes and understanding of cultural variety.

Translated by Johanna Lemola

Glossary

English	Finnish
Upbringing	<i>kasvatus</i>
Day care	<i>päivähoito</i>
School	<i>koulu</i>
Enrich	<i>rikastuttaa</i>
Civilized	<i>sivistynyt</i>
Humanitarian	<i>humaani</i>
Cosmopolite	<i>kosmopoliitti</i>
Multiculturalism	<i>monikulttuurisuus</i>
Identity	<i>identiteetti</i>
Dignity	<i>arvokkuus</i>
Teacher	<i>opettaja</i>
Labour market	<i>työmarkkinat</i>

Celebrate with Helsinki!



Helsinki Week will be celebrated on 4.–20.6., shaped around Helsinki Day 12.6. The versatile programme will be seen, heard and tasted all around Helsinki, from the city centre to more distant city sectors. The good old festivals such as Pihlajamäki Goes

Blues, the Guards Band Festival and Helsinki Samba Carnival will take place this year too. A newcomer to Helsinki Week is the Nordic Juggling Convention which is the largest and longest-lived juggling and circus event in the Nordic Countries.

Some examples of the programme:

Pihlajamäki goes Blues

4 June, 2 pm–6 pm: Kiillepuisto Park in Pihlajamäki, Kiilletie 6. Cool rhythm 'n' blues in a 1960s atmosphere. Performers include Finnish blues stars **Honey B. & T-Bones** (4 pm) and **Pepe Ahlqvist** (3 pm), Finnish rock 'n' roll legend **Melrose** (5 pm) and British country blues star **L.R. Phoenix** (2 pm).

Live music in a huge sauna Guard's Band Festival brings live music into sauna!

Ladies' sauna is on 11.6. at 5:30 pm and gentlemen's sauna at 7:30 pm in Naval Academy sauna (Merisotakoulu) in Suomenlinna. Singer **Tapio Liinoja** will entertain sauna bathers in the largest wood-heated sauna in the world, accompanied by the H Street Brass Duo. Tickets €15 from Lip-pupiste, tel. 0600 900 900).

Guard's Band Festival holds a **Picnic concert** on 11.6. at 1 pm in Suomenlinna Church Park (Kirkkopuisto). Free admission, weather permitting. Children's musical "**Kenraali Basso**" – "**General Bass**" is at 3 pm in Suomenlinna Church Park (Kirkkopuisto). Free admission, indoors in case of rain.

Juggling and samba

Besides the samba dancers and drummers, Helsinki **Samba Carnival parade** on 11.6. at 3 pm will include juggling masters, because the Nordic Juggling convention will be held in town on 9.–12.6. Further information: www.nordicjuggling.com. ➤





Helsinki Week

The Samba Carnival Grand opening is on the Espia Stage, Esplanade Park, on 10.6. at 7 pm and next day at 12 there are events and the parade starts at 3 pm.

Open doors at City Hall

Sunday, 12 June at 9 am–6 pm Mayor **Jussi Pajunen** invites you to City Hall (address: Pohjoisesplanadi 11–13) to enjoy a special programme. Visit the mayor in his offices, and experience Esplanade Park as it was in the 1930s with a buffet, dancing and magic performances. Further information: www.helsinkiviikko.fi

Sports event

Sunday, 12 June 10 am–5 pm fun family sporting event in Hesperia Park and around Töölönlahti Bay. Local sports clubs present their activities with demonstrations and lessons. The sauna at Villa Kivi (address: Linnunlauluntie 7) will be kept hot until 6 pm.

Free swimming

Sunday, 12 June 9 am–8 pm free swimming under the open sky in Olympic-size pools on Helsinki Day in Swimming Stadium (in Finnish Uimastadion, address Hammarskjöldintie) and in Kumpula Outdoor Swimming Pool (in Finnish Kumpulan maauimala, address Allastie 5).

Folk dancing at Seurasaari

Sunday, 12 June 2 pm–4 pm Finnish traditional music and folk dancing at Seurasaari Festival Grounds (in Finnish Juhlakenttä). Free admission also to Seurasaari Open-Air Museum.

Helsinki Day Free Concert

Sunday, 12 June 12 noon–9 pm **is Radio Aalto's Helsinki Day Free Concert in Suvilahti** (address: Kaasutehtaankatu 1). Performances by top names in Finnish pop and rock.

Sailing on schooners

Sunday, 12 June 10 am–5 pm visitors can enjoy cruises, board the schooner Gerda, participate local games, see historic cars and puppet theatre performances at Halkolaituri (address: Pohjoisranta). Free admission to area, sailing outings €5 children, €10 adults. Historic sailing ships depart every 20 minutes for 1.5-hour cruises.

Guided tour at City Hall

Tuesday, 7 June at 6 pm learn about the glorious past and the present day functions of the City

Hall. New official portraits will be seen. In English. Limited number of free tickets available from Monday 30 May at 9 am at Virka Info at City Hall (address: Pohjoisesplanadi 11–13/ Sofiankatu 1, tel. 09 310 11 111, www.virka.fi).

Design Markets

11–12 June, 10 am–6 pm Original and unique clothes, accessories and home decor by young designers at Lasipalatsin aukio (address: Mannerheimintie 22–24).



Helsinki to celebrate bicentennial in 2012

A year-long series of events will mark the 200th anniversary of Helsinki as Finland's capital in 2012. The bicentennial programme will highlight the city's past, present and future, outline the role of Helsinki in the nation, and profile many central players in the city and country.

The Helsinki bicentennial should be seen throughout the city from the centre to all suburbs and could also include events elsewhere in Finland.

The City of Helsinki calls for event organizers to come up with programme items for the year. Production of the programme is coordinated the **City Event Office**. The year's website at www.helsinki200.fi will open in autumn 2011.



City planning in a nutshell

You can get information about city planning in Helsinki from two new publications. First of all, Helsinki City Planning Department has published a brochure called *Future city as a mission*. There is information about the developing of the city's structure and environment as well as town planning and traffic planning. **Further information in English on the Web.** You can also pick up the brochure at Laituri (address: Narinkka 2) or at Virka Info (address: Pohjoisesplanadi 11–13).

The City Planning Department has also published an annual city planning review *Kaavoituskatsaus*. It reviews the main ongoing city and traffic planning projects in the city. It is distributed to all Helsinki households free of charge. The current bulletin introduces the major planning and development projects of Helsinki, including those ongoing in Jätkäsaari, Hernesaari, Central Pasila (Keski-Pasila), Kalasatama and Kruunuvuorenranta. The bulletin includes an English summary, **see pages 44–45.**



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Virka Info telephone service (09) 310 11111 (Mon-Fri 9–15) and information point in the City Hall lobby, address Pohjoisesplanadi 11–13 (Mon–Fri 9–19, Sat–Sun 10–16). www.virka.fi

Info Bank is an online service aimed at immigrants, offering information on Finnish society and life in Finland in 15 languages. The website also contains local information on Helsinki.
www.infopankki.fi