

CV

LIISA RISU

choreographer

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born 1966 Georgia / USA

nationality Finnish and U.S.

Work history includes choreographing contemporary dance works, directing circus, choreographing for theatre and performing as a dancer and as a clown.

PERSONAL GRANTS e.g.

20013-2017 5 year artistic grant / Arts Promotion Centre Finland
 2008-2012 5 year artistic grant / Arts Promotion Centre Finland
 2006 1 year artistic grant / National Council for Dance Finland

POSITIONS OF TRUST e.g.

2008-2012 Chairman of the board of directors of Zodiak – Center for New Dance / Helsinki

EDUCATION

1999-2007 Master of Arts in Choreography, Theatre Academy of Finland

EXPERIENCE AS A CHOREOGRAPHER AND CIRCUS DIRECTOR e.g.

2016 ***Rhythm Study II***
 Experiment for 4 dancers, selection of music and audience experience, 60 min
 Production **Liisa Risu**

2015 ***The Grimm Book of Horrors***
 Bedtime stories for mortals, 2 actors, 8 singers, 1 dancer, 2 musicians, 90 min
 Production: **Näyttämö 3T & Riihimäki Theatre**

2015 ***Valon paino / Heavy Light / Licht und Masse***
 Tranposition of György Ligeti's organ solo *Volumina* into performative acts
 Production: **Zodiak – Center for New Dance, Stoa Cultural Center & Liisa Risu**

2013 ***Soiva / WKL***
 Choreography for 5 dancers, J.S.Bach's Well Tempered Klavier in silence,
 choreographing from musical score, performed in sports halls, 55 min
 Production **Liisa Risu**

2013 ***Conversation with an Ant Colony***
 Improvisation performance for 2nd year B.A. dance students, 45 min
 Production **University of the Arts Helsinki / Theatre Academy**

- 2013 ***Tyttö / Girl***
Choreography for 4 dancers to Goldberg variations by Bach, 25 min
Production **Pori Dance Company**
- 2012 ***Huono / Fail***
Choreography for 5 dancers on the theme of lust and classical piano music inspired by the novel Piano teacher by Elfriede Jelinek, 70 min
Production **Zodiak – Center for New Dance, Circus Maximus & Liisa Risu**
- 2011 ***Winter Circus Nose***
Director and dramaturg, international cast of 12 circus artists and 4 musicians
75 performances in 2 months, over 25 000 spectators, 120 min
Production **Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth**
- 2011 ***More or less love songs***
Choreography for 6 dancers, 60 min
Comissioned by **Helsinki Festival** and **Helsinki Dance Company**
- 2011 ***Tumma / Dark – Dance of Death for Five***
Original trio (*Tumma / Dark* 2009) re-choreographed for 5 M.A. dance students, 45 min
Production **Theatre Academy of Finland / TaDaC**
Performed also in Kuopio, Kajaani and **Tallinn Treff Festival**, Estonia
- 2010 ***One Flew Over the Cuckoo´s Nest***
Choreographer in co-operation with theatre director Samuli Reunanen and composer Iiro Ollila
14 actors
Production **Vaasa City Theatre / big stage**
- 2009 ***Tumma / Dark***
Choreography for 3 female dancers on the theme of death inspired by *Ill seen ill said* by Samuel Beckett, 50 min
Production **Zodiak – Center for New Dance, Circus Maximus & Liisa Risu**
performed also in **Full Moon Dance Festival**, Pyhäjärvi and **Platform for Young Choreographers Zagreb/ Croatia**
- 2009 ***Mikä tämä on? / What is this?***
Performance with composer/shouter Iiro Ollila
performers pretend to be other dance artists or composers, 45 min.
Production **Circus Maximus** contemporary theatre festival 2009
- 2009 ***Seppo***
Compositon for set and free into John Coltrane´s music
six 1st year B.A. dance students, 20 min.
Production **Theatre Academy of Finland**
- 2008 ***Näkyy ei näy / Seen not seen***
Solo dance with composer and jazz pianist Eero Ojanen, 45 min.
Production **Liisa Risu**
- 2007 ***Circus Pinocchio***
Director and dramaturg, 4 actors, 10 circus artists and 1 musician , 120 min.
Production **Turku Arts Academy** and **Turku City Theatre / big stage**
- 2007 ***Haje***
Choreography on the theme of entropy, 5 dancers, 60 min
Production **Zodiak – Center for New Dance** and **Liisa Risu**
- 2007 ***Alice in Wonderland***
Choreographer, director Pernilla Glaser, 4 actors, Production **Teater Viirus**

- 2006 **Winter Circus Time**
Co – directed and written with Arja Pettersson, a highly popular annual contemporary circus production with international cast of 10 circus artists and 3 musicians, Production **Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth**
- 2006 **RIO comes to visit**
Concept and performing, concept where improvisation group visits other dance works, Production **RIO – Real Time Improvisation Orchestra**
- 2006 **Crime and Punishment**
Choreographer in co-operation with director Samuli Reunanen and composer Iiro Ollila, 8 actors and 1 musician, 180 min
Production **Lahti City Theatre / small stage**
- 2005 **Winter Circus Snow**
Co-directed and written with Arja Pettersson, international cast of 14 circus artists and 3 musicians, 120 min, Production **Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth**
- 2004 **Metri / Meter**
Choreography on the theme of measuring, 4 dancers and 2 acrobats, 60 min
Production **Zodiak- Center for New Dance, Circus Maximus & Liisa Risu**
- 2004 **L'île de la Fée de Edgar A. Poe**
Choreography for young audiences, 2 dancers, 45 min
Production **Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth**, Performed also in **Le Forum / Paris**
- 2004 **Winter Circus Laughter**
Co-directed and written with Arja Pettersson, international cast of 3 dancers, 7 circus artists, 3 musicians and 1 actor, Production **Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth**
- 2003 **Astoria**
Choreographer in a new Finnish musical situated in Budapest 1944, composition Jukka Linkola, director Kimmo Kahra, 45 singers, actors, dancers and musicians, Production **Lahti City Theatre / big stage**
- 2003 **The Door- two clowns in trouble**
Performer and co-maker in a physical clown piece that has toured in Finland, Tsech Republic, India, Turkey, Africa... Diploma for excellence / **Bukarest 2006 international children's festival**, Production **Dance theatre Hurjaruuth**
- 2002 **Winter Circus Pine**
Director and dramaturg, 3 dancers, 6 circus artists, 2 child artists, 3 musicians, 120 min, Production **Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth**
- 2001 **Emil of Maple Hills**
Choreographer in a Danish music theatre adaptation of the children's book by Astrid Lindgren, director Pentti Kotkanniemi, 40 actors, dancers and musicians
Production **Helsinki City Theatre / big stage**
- 2001 **The Last Day of Mr O**
Director and author, graduating B.A. students of circus
Production **Turku Arts Academy and Turku City Theatre / small stage**
- 2000 **The Lapua Opera**
Choreographer for the new version of a radical political music theatre production of the 1960's, director Raija-Sinikka Rantala, 60 actors, singers, dancers and musicians, Production **Theatre Academy, Sibelius Academy, The Arts Industrial High School, The Alexander Theatre**

EXPERIENCE AS A PERFORMER e.g.

- 2014 **Liisas Danst Rosas**
Choreography **Liisa Pentti**, Production **Liisa Pentti +Co**
- 2012 **Bitte**
Choreography **Thomas Lehmen**, Production **Zodiak – Center for New Dance, PACT Zollverein Essen & Goethe Institute**
- 2005 **Before Night**
Choreography **Katarina McAlester** Production **M.A.D, Fulmoon Dance Festival 2005, MADfest / Helsinki 2005 and 2006, Dance Festival Barents / Hammerfest, Norway 2007, Oulu Dance Gala 2008**
- 2004 - **RIO - Real Time Improvisation Orchestra**, Instant Composition Group
2006- *RIO comes to visit* – Remix tour
Improvisation in other artist's dance performances
Concept **Liisa Risu**, RIO + choreographers Arja Tiili, Terhi Vaimala, Soile Lahdenperä, Deborah Hay / Vera Nevanlinna, Harri Kuorelahti, Jyrki Karttunen, Liisa Risu
2004 *ViRIO* – structural improvisation and Finnish dance videos
concept **Riikka Theresa Innanen**, RIO, **Zodiak, AV-arkki**
2004 *RIO in Ateneum* **Ateneum Arts Museum Helsinki**
- 2004 **Wallpainted Abstractions**
Choreography **Liisa Pentti**, Production **Zodiak – Center for New Dance, Liisa Pentti+Co, Fullmoon Dance Festival, Helsinki Festival**
- 2004 **Family Portraits**
Choreography **Katarina McAlester**, Production **Zodiak - Center for New Dance, M.A.D**
- 2003 **Schreibstück**
Concept **Thomas Lehmen**, Choreography **Liisa Pentti**
Production **Zodiak – Center for New Dance, Side Step Festival**
- 2003-2006 **The Door – Two Clowns in Trouble**
Collective creation **Leppävuori, Pettersson, Risu, Terävä**
Production **Dance Theatre hurjaruuth**
- 2001 **Tasanko**
Choreography **Tommi Kitti**, Production **Zodiak – Center for New Dance, Fullmoon Dance Festival 2001**
- 1993-1999 **Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth**
Full time contract as a dancer
25 full length performances, several choreographers

TEACHING e.g.

- 2016 /2014 **TAKO-** Dance as Total Work of Art project, supervising teacher for M.A. choreography students with professor **Kirsi Monni / Theatre Academy**
- 2014 improvisation and composition for 1st year B.A. dance students / **Theatre Academy**
- 2014 **Big Stage** – workshop, supervising teacher for dancers / **Theatre Academy, Tampere**
- 2012 **The Fairy Queen** – semiopera workshop, pilot project for **University of the Arts Helsinki / Theatre Academy, Sibelius Academy and Academy of Fine Arts Helsinki**
- 2012 **Big body** – technique workshop for professionals / **Tanssille ry Helsinki**

- 2012 Mentor for choreographer Jenni Kivelä in her MA graduation work *Stolen Goods* / Theatre Academy
- 2012 improvisation and composition for 1st year B.A. dance students / Theatre Academy
- 2012 Mentor for M.A. choreography student Sonya Lindfors in her final artistic work / Theatre Academy
- 2011 Soiva Näyttämö - workshop, interaction between text, sound and movement in performance co-operation with director Samuli Reunanen and composer Iiro Ollila / Theatre Academy
- 2011 "Exact improvisation" workshop in structural improvisation / Zodiak – Center for New Dance
- 2011 Lecture about interaction between director, choreographer and composer in theatre (Reunanen-Ollila-Risu) , part of "Big Stage" workshop / Theatre Academy
- 2007 Workshop and lecture in the "Choreographer and director" – series (Reunanen-Ollila-Risu) / Theatre Academy
- 2008 Workshop in Choreography for Circus students / Turku Arts Academy
- 2005 Theatre workshop / Työväen Näyttämöiden Liitto
- 2003 Dance workshop, Dance department 2nd year students / Theatre Academy
- 2003 Theatre workshop (Reunanen-Ollila-Risu) / Työväen Näyttämöiden Liitto
- 2000 Contemporary classes / Dance department 2nd year students / Theatre Academy