

Juhla

PROGRAMME





Dear Friends and Guests!

You are invited to witness a union matured over the years - one forged from the solidarity movement of the 1970s and the songs of Violeta Parra. Tonight, we celebrate life in all its almighty rawness, beauty, and fragmented dreams.

CHOREOGRAPHER-DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Celebration brings together the last twenty years of my 40-year career as a dance artist and the important fellow artists with whom I have shared this journey.

I spent my early youth in the 1970s. My most vivid memory from that time is the military coup in Chile in 1973 and the massive solidarity movement that followed, the experience of solidarity and community, and the songs of Violeta Parra, which have resonated in my heart ever since. That entire decade later took shape as dance. Into small, somewhat rough images and dance pieces that resemble myself.

Violeta Parra's songs are the spark for the work Celebration, in which lived life is transformed into dance, movement, and a series of dreamlike, surreal scenes. Into a colorful stream of images. Into a celebration.

ACT I: CELEBRATION

Tableau 1: The Toast

Grandola, vila morena (Grandola)
Lyrics & Composition: José Afonso
Finnish translation: Pentti Saaritsa

Abū Nuwās: In the Heat of Battle
From the anthology 'Runoja kadulta ja kapakoista',
translated from the original Arabic work Dīwān,
translated by Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila, published in
2004

Tableau 2: For J. Baker

Tableau 3: Josef, Josef

Reconstruction of Hääkeikka 1998/2026
Josef, Josef - Laila ja Ritva Kinnunen
Lyrics: Samuel Steinberg, Sammy Cahn, Saul
Chaplin
Composition: Nellie Casman
Finnish translation: Jaakko Salo, Kristiina

Tableau 4: The Weight of Everyday Life

Tableau 5: I Remember You, Amanda

Muistan sinut Amanda

Lyrics & Composition: Victor Jara

Finnish translation: Pentti Saaritsa

Tableau 6: The Majority of People

Nâzim Hikmet: Ihmisten enemmistö

Turkish: İnsanların Çoğunluğu

Published 1947

Tableau 7: They Are Coming Maria

Ne tulevat Maria

Lyrics: Matti Rossi

Composition: Otto Donner

Tableau 8: Transporting Joy

Venus and Adonis: Transporting Joy

Composition: Georg Friedrich Händel

Lyrics: John Hughes

Tableau 9: Thanks to Life

Elämälle kiitos (Gracias a la vida)

Lyrics & Composition: Violeta Parra

Finnish translation: Jaana Lappo



ACT II: THE WORLD

Tableau 10: The Birth

Tableau 11: On Two Legs

Tableau 12: Song

Kun palaan nuoruuteeni (Volver a los 17)

Lyrics & Composition: Violeta Parra

Finnish translation: Jaana Lappo

Tableau 13: Dream 1

Heppujen heppu ja Haltiakummit

Tableau 14: Storm

Run run se fue pa'l norte

Lyrics & Composition: Violeta Parra

Tableau 15: Dream 2
Romance

Tableau 16: Builders

Rakentajat laulavat

Lyrics: Nazim Hikmet

Finnish translation: Brita Polttila

Composition: Minja Koski

Arrangement: Tuomas Luukkonen & Petri Tiainen

Nâzim Hikmet: The Construction Site

Turkish: Yapı / Yapıcılar

Published 1945

Tableau 17: For Gaza

Pikku enkelin hautajaiset (Rin del angelino)

Lyrics & Composition: Violeta Parra

Finnish translation: Jaana Lappo

PREMIERE

29 August 2026 at 18:00
Hällä-näyttämö

DURATION

Approx. 2 hours,
including one intermission

THE WORKING GROUP

Choreographer-director
Ari Numminen

Performers

Suvi Eloranta, Minja Koski,
Anniina Kumpuniemi,
Tuomas Luukkonen, Samuli
Roininen,
Mari Rosendahl and Petri Tiainen

Original Music

Minja Koski
Tuomas Luukkonen
Petri Tiainen

Costume and Visual Design

Tiina Helin

Costume and Props Maker

Anu Lähteenmäki

Light Design and Visual

Sari Mayer

Sound Technician, Sound Design
and Mixing

Henri Puolitaival

Video Design

Petteri Aartolahti

Pre-photos

Harri Hinkka

Rehearsal Photos

Neea-Greta Poutiainen

Production Photos and Trailer

Heikki Järvinen, Emil Virtanen

Production and Communication
Paula Haajanen, Emma Heinonen,
Anniina Kumpuniemi

Partnership Representative

Marko Harinen



Ari Numminen is a dancer and choreographer with a long and distinguished career. He began his career as a dancer with Raatikko and the Helsinki City Theatre dance group, and established himself as a choreographer with his solo works *Herttarouva* and *Tiikerinpoika* in the 1980s and 1990s.

Over the years, he has created numerous choreographies for dance companies, theatres and opera houses throughout Finland. He has also worked as a dance teacher, lecturer and a regional artist (läänintaiteilija). For Dance Theatre MD, Numminen has choreographed the works *Hääkeikka* (1998), *Carmen ja ihmisten kaupunki* (2002) and *Triumfi* (2013).



Suvi Eloranta has been a dancer with Dance Theatre MD since 1998. Early in her career, she studied in London and worked in Amsterdam. Eloranta adds to MD's multidisciplinary approach through her classical singing expertise and is preparing for her first concert in autumn 2026.

Anniina Kumpuniemi is a dancer, choreographer and Managing Director of Dance Theatre MD. She was awarded the Pro Finlandia Medal of the Order of the Lion of Finland by the President of Finland 2021. She has been part of MD's core ensemble since 1997 and has both performed in and choreographed numerous works presented by the company.





Samuli Roininen is a dancer and choreographer known for his work with Dance Theatre MD. During his nearly 30-year artistic career, he has created numerous choreographies, performed extensively and held various expert roles within the dance field.

Mari Rosendahl is a dancer and choreographer with a long career. Rosendahl has both danced in and choreographed numerous theatre, opera and television productions, as well as contemporary dance works. She was one of the founders of Tanssiteatteri Dansco, the predecessor to MD.





Singer-songwriter and actor Minja Koski, who performs under the artist name M, is known for her distinctive pop music and versatile work across music and the performing arts. M was nominated for an Emma Award in 2019, 2022 and 2024.

More information about
Minja:
m-official.fi

Tuomas Luukkonen is a musician working across pop music, alternative rock, theatre and dance. He is known, among other things, as the guitarist of Ville Leinonen & Valumo and as a member of Motelli Skronkle.

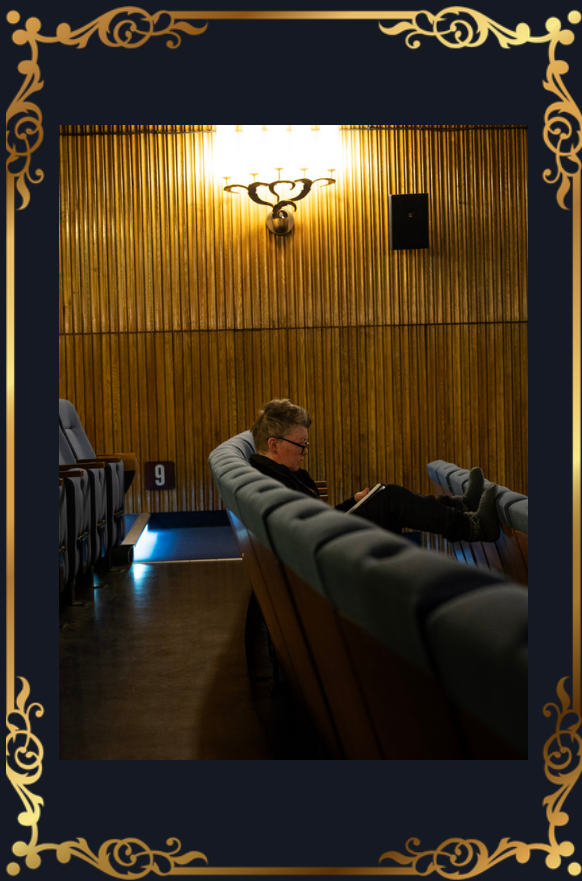




Petri Tiainen is a musician, composer and music educator, known as the keyboardist of the band YUP. He has also had a long career as a conductor at the Kuopio and Joensuu City Theatres, as well as working as a freelance theatre and church musician.

Tiina Helin is choreographer Ari Numminen's longest-standing collaborator. Together, they have developed a shared visual vision since 2000. Helin's distinctive style can be seen in most of Numminen's works. She is Costume Manager and Costume Designer at the Tampere University Theatre Arts (Näty).





Sari Mayer is Dance Theatre MD's Chief light technician. Mayer has been working with dance since 2002. Over the years, Mayer has designed lighting for numerous MD productions and is also responsible for the technical implementation of the Tampere Dance Current Festival.

Henri Puolitaival is Dance Theatre MD's sound designer and sound technician. He developed his expertise in the fields of electronic and alternative music and brings an experimental perspective to his theatre work. As an extension of his musical interests, he has also worked as a composer for short film productions.





SPECIAL THANKS

Tampereen University/Näty - Theatre Arts
Suomen Teatteriopisto
Monna Kamu
Miska Muurimäki
Sonja Virtanen
Neea-Greta Poutiainen
Elina Jakowleva
Laura Mäkelä
Ville Oinonen

HISTORICAL PEOPLE AND PHENOMENON



Violeta Parra (1917–1967) was a Chilean folk musician whose songs highlighted poverty, inequality and justice. She laid the foundations for the Nueva Canción Chilena movement, which became both a genre of socially conscious music and a resistance movement against the violent military coup in Chile in 1973.

‘Gracias a la Vida’ (‘Thank You for Life’, 1966) is one of Violeta Parra’s best-known songs. In the song, Parra gives thanks to life for the experiences it has given her, such as sight, hearing, love and humanity.



Nâzım Hikmet (1902–1963) was a Turkish poet and writer. He is known for his liberal and socially engaged poetry. Because of his political views and communist convictions, Hikmet was imprisoned on several occasions and later spent much of his life in exile in the Soviet Union.



Víctor Jara (1932–1973) was a Chilean poet and singer-songwriter. His songs deal with themes of love, peace and justice. Shortly after the military coup in Chile, Jara suffered immense violence at the hands of the military junta. As a result, Jara became a symbol of the struggle for human rights and justice.



Josephine Baker (1906–1975) was an American-French singer, dancer and actress. Baker actively fought against racism and was involved in the American civil rights movement. During the Second World War, she worked for the French Resistance and passed on secret intelligence, using her status as a public figure to her advantage.



Abū Nuwās (c. 756–814) was one of the best-known poets in Arabic literature. From a modern perspective, his liberal and norm-breaking poetry can be interpreted as emphasising individual freedom, tolerance and a challenge to social constraints.



The Carnation Revolution in Portugal began on 25 April 1974, when young officers overthrew the authoritarian, right-wing military junta that had long ruled the country. The revolution drew its name from the carnations used as its symbol, which the soldiers opposing the government wore in the barrels of their rifles. 'Grândola, Vila Morena' was the second secret signal of the Carnation Revolution, which was broadcast on national radio to mark the start of the revolution.

TANSSI MD
TEATTERI MD

tanssiteatterimd.fi