

June 8th 2016 – PROGRAM INFO

WARDROBE REVELATIONS by Leena Kela

Performance artist Leena Kela opens her wardrobe in order to take a closer look at her past, current and future selves. Her wardrobe is at the same time an archive of memories and a vision for possible futures. In her wardrobe, she can find a pile of unfitting pants, dresses of her deceased grandmother, socks without pairs, T-shirts she has never been wearing and pieces of clothing that she has never seen before. Her wardrobe bursts of clothes, which could be labelled as 'unfair trade products'. She is baffled how those pieces of clothing could even end up in her home? *Wardrobe Revelations* is a performance about clothes as an integral part of identity, consumerism, a need for Marie Kondo and a journey into the darkest corners of messy wardrobes.

Leena Kela is a performance artist whose work evolves from observing the everyday life and phenomena. She has presented over 100 performances in a number of contexts in Finland, and internationally in performance art festivals across Europe as well as in Northern America, Southern America and Russia. She has a MA in Performance Art and Theory (*Theatre Academy*, Helsinki 2010) and a BA in performance art (*Turku Arts Academy*, Turku 2003). Currently, she works as an artistic director of the annual *New Performance Turku Festival* for performance and Live Art and in the executive board at the *Mad House* production house for performance in Helsinki. She is starting her practice based PhD studies at the *Academy of Fine Arts* in Helsinki researching the language of performance art. www.leenakela.com

ANNIKA GOES STAND UP by Annika Tudeer

Annika Tudeer, the leading lady of performance company Oblivia did her debut as a stand up comedienne in March 2016 in *Mad House*, now she stands up in Berlin. "I love talking about myself and making people laugh! I've done solo performances (*Swan lake* and *Sacre*) and during those processes the idea of doing stand up à la Annika crossed my mind. Why not to try it?! I can't promise that I'll be funny at all, actually I don't even like stand up and I don't remember any jokes ever."

Annika Tudeer founded the performance company Oblivia in 2000. She is a performer in and artistic director of Oblivia. After working as a dancer and choreographer in the 1990s, she graduated from Helsinki University with a MA in literature. Until 2004, she worked as a critic writing on new trends in dance and performing arts nationally and internationally. She is a founding member of the Performance Center in Helsinki and of Mad House. In 2014, she was awarded a 5-year artist grant from the Arts Council Finland. Oblivia is an international performance company and a unique force on the Finnish performance scene. www.oblivia.fi

INVENTORIES by Mikko Niemistö & Sanna Blennow

is a project realized in several parts during 2016–2017. The first part of the project focuses on bodies in relation to objects and materials that surround them. Our body image is based on materials gathered from remote locations on earth. In inventories, this process is seen as choreography where matter is being moved in predetermined patterns through labour and logistics. The physical body itself is presented sometimes as an object amongst other objects, and sometimes as a manipulator of other materials.

Concept/Choreography Mikko Niemistö **Performance** Sanna Blennow / Mikko Niemistö

Mikko Niemistö is a performance artist and choreographer from Helsinki. He has performed in various theatre, dance and performance pieces in Finland and abroad, most recently in *Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art*, the touring stage of *The Finnish National Theatre* and *brut Wien* theatre, Vienna. He is part of the Finnish-Austrian performance group *onemorequestion*. Niemistö has also directed his own works based on contemporary dance and performance practices. His main interests lie in crossing borders between art forms, investigating different performance spaces and sites and creating artworks with a strong emphasis on collective creation. Niemistö is currently based in Stockholm where he's completing a Master of Fine Arts degree in Choreography at the *New Performative Practices program of DOCH – Dans och Cirkushögskolan*. www.mikkoniemisto.wordpress.com

Sanna Blennow is a choreographer who graduated from *The Danish National School of Performing Arts* in 2011. Since then, she has done her own solo work and collaborations. With Robert Logrell they have worked as the artistic duo *Mr. Rice & Peanuts* since 2009. Blennow has also recently worked with the musician and philosopher Lendl Barcelos exploring rhythm in text and video, as well as started collaborating with performance artist/choreographer Mikko Niemistö aiming at a non-sexy striptease with bodies and objects. As a performer within the visual arts she has worked with Dora Garcia, Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmusen, Gilbert Gordon and Tino Sehgal. As a performer in dance context she has worked with Malin Elgán, E.K.K.O, Mårten Spångberg, Ossi Niskala and Helene Berg. www.samesizeworks.com