

Press-release, January 17th, 2012

Festival BARENTS SPEKTAKEL 2012
Norway's most border-crossing festival
Hot Arctic Kirkenes: February 8–12, 2012

DARE TO SHARE

www.barentsspektakel.no



For more info and/or interviews with festival guests and participants:

Thale Fastvold, press manager, thalefastvold@mac.com, +47 92 49 66 05

Luba Kuzovnikova, art director, Pikene på Broen, luba@pikene.no, +47 91 68 17 41

Festival Barents Spektakel 2012 is arranged for the 9th year. Barents Spektakel is a cultural-political cocktail with contemporary art and music, literature and architecture, seminars and debates, theatre and performances as ingredients, spiced with current issues related to the High North and the Barents Region. It takes place in Week 6 every year, in the middle of the Polar Night lit by the Northern Lights and accompanied by the Arctic voices. Barents Spektakel is curated and produced by Pikene på Broen (Kirkenes), in cooperation with many partners.

DARE TO SHARE is the slogan for the festival Barents Spektakel 2012.

Are we ready to share the common territory? Are we ready to share resources, values and knowledge? How do we treat our partners, allies and competitors in the borderland? What guidelines and strategies do we choose to manage the shared territories? Imagine we will find answers to these questions at Barents Spektakel 2012 !? It is likely to happen if we all get together here in Kirkenes in February 8 - 12!

DARE TO SHARE

Among the festival's new music productions is the opening concert within the concept "**the Orchestra without Conductor**" - an unprecedented collaboration between musicians from **PerSimfAns** (Moscow), **Norwegian Army Band North** (Harstad) and **Murmansk Philharmonic Orchestra**.

DARE TO SHARE

The festival exhibition Dare to Share with artists **Morten Traavik**, **Lee Yong-Baek**, **Ilya Mukosey**, **Tammo Rist** and **Steffen Krüger**, **Eva Bakkeslett** and **Kultivator** presents a series of statements about sharing/exchanging/co-existing: the local communities and the world across our borders. Curated and produced by **Pikene på Broen**.

Morten Traavik (Oslo/Stockholm) has collaborated with North Korean software engineers to develop the simple and fun strategic computer game **Norway On Norway**, which will be launched during the festival as part 3 of his multi-genre artwork **The Promised Land**. The South Korean artist **Lee Yong-Baek** (Seoul) shows his work **Angel Soldier**: a video performance with soldiers masked in floral-printed camouflage creeping and marching through a flower-filled space. **Tammo Rist** and **Steffen Krüger** (Oslo) show the project **Metabolism** based on scan-pictures of trailers crossing the Norwegian-Swedish border at the Svinesund station. The artists also present a newly made film about an everyday ritual of opening and closing the Russian-Norwegian border crossing point. The works by **Eva Bakkeslett** (Engeløya in Steigen and Haslemere in Surrey, UK) and **Kultivator** (Öland) invite us to join bread and cheese-making as an artistic practice and existential exercise. **Eva Bakkeslett** was inspired by her journey across the border to Nikel in Northern Russia to make the film **Transforming the Trajectory** about Nelly Makeeva - an avid optimist and a skilful baker with an exuberant passion for life. **Kultivator** is an experimental cooperation of organic farming and visual art practice situated on the Swedish island Öland. The artists Mathieu Vrijman and Malin Lindmark Vrijman will do a collaborative project **Cross-Cultural Nomadic Cheese** with the local farmer and cheese-maker Ivar Øverli from Pasvik.

As part of Barents Spektakel 2012 we'll have three big artistic performances/happenings in the open air.

FAREWELL TO THE WORLD'S SMALLEST HOTEL

The **World's Smallest Hotel** was built by **Sami Rintala** in cooperation with Pikene på Broen in 2005 and was open during 2005-2009. It has become a recognizable brand of Kirkenes nationally and internationally, and was nominated in several architectural competitions. Since the hotel was actually built as a temporary project and had to be moved twice which affected its condition, it can no longer function as a hotel and will be burnt down as an artistic happening.

ME/WE – record attempt to create Norway's biggest living picture

Morten Traavik calls on both **locals and visitors** to Barents Spektakel to take part in a pioneering record attempt and a test of our ability to act together as one: with the help of **North Korean mass games instructors** we will try to create Norway's biggest living picture, hopefully with several hundred participants. Following the signals of the North Korean instructors, every participant turns over pages of a colorful flip-book, becoming one of the hundreds of living pixels forming huge, shifting mosaic pictures of well-known motives from the High North.

ARCTIC CARGO

Residents of some islands of the Pacific built mock airstrips and simulated airport actions after the WWII, believing that it would make the "Iron Birds" come back and bring CARGO – miraculous western goods that would make their life better.

"Iron Birds" have played a key role in research and development of the Arctic, and many people up North on both sides of the Russian-Norwegian border rely upon the climate changes that will bring new Cargo traffic to the area. **Ilya Mukosey**, an artist and architect from Moscow, is going to build a **snow airfield on the ice of the First Lake**. Every evening the artist, together with the art students from Barents, will mark the airstrips with candles and LED-lights in anticipation of an Iron Bird to come and bring miracles to Barents... **Opening ceremony** of the snow airfield with snowmobile show, LED-plane & much more. Join **the parade!**

SEMINARS

VISIONARY ARCTIC 2012 with this year's subtitle "**Peacebuilders, polluters, pirates, and patriots**" explores the intersecting themes of the challenges of food security, transnational industrial waste management, territorial delimitations, and the future of Northern landscapes and communities in order to interrogate the sustainability, or not, of land and marine use in the Circumpolar Arctic. The seminar is held in *English*.

Futurologist **Eirik Newth**, foresight-expert **Rita Westvik**, environmental lawyer **Elizabeth Tedsen**, environmental consultant **Kristine Pedersen**, **Bjørn Gunnarsson** (High North Logistics Centre), **Rune Rafaelsen** (Barents Secretariat), **Svein Ruud**, **Sergey Bakanev**, **Violetta Kugiy** and **Terje Meyer** representing seafood industry from Kirkenes and Murmansk, politician **Gunn Britt Retter**, social scientist **Aileen Espiritu**, sociologist **Victor Vakhshayn**, anthropologist **Ilja Utekhin**, writer **Morten Strøksnes**, researcher **Konstantin Bogdanov**, journalist **Dag Lindebjerg**, artists' group **Kultivator** and cheese-maker from Pasvik **Ivar Øverli**, and others. Based on the local raw ingredients **Eirik Sevaldsen** and **Øyvind Lofthus** (Åpent Bakeri from Oslo) will develop thematic PIZZAs specially for the seminar, thus commenting on how we use local food resources.

The festival also invites to participate in the **KIRKENES CONFERENCE 2012** focusing on the themes of "politics – energy - industry – community development". The seminar is held in *Norwegian and Russian*.

70 Nenets, Sámi and Veps representatives meet in Kirkenes for the **II BARENTS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONGRESS** to discuss participation in the Barents cooperation and the future priorities, as well as for the conference **Indigenous peoples, business & environment**.

BORDER SEMINAR 2012 will focus on the coming **border resident certificate** and will discuss new opportunities and challenges for people living along the border. (Produced by Barents Days)

TRANSBORDER CAFÉ

One of the festival's important brands is Transborder Café, an informal discussion forum that gathers together artists, writers, researchers and others to comment on current issues.

Thursday's TC has the theme **Russia between Elections** with Norwegian and Russian experts. It is arranged in collaboration with the Norwegian Barents Secretariat. Among other TC guests there is writer

Morten Strøksnes, architects **Sami Rintala** and **Ilya Mukosey**, artist **Morten Traavik**, North Korean artists, etc. Artist **Amund S. Sveen** will present the performance-lecture **Sound of Freedom**. Dancer **Liv Hanne Haugen** presents performance **The High North Movement**. Friday's TC offers a music program with Korean and international hit-songs from the **virtuosos of Kum Song Music School Ensemble from Pyongyang**. On Saturday we will hear an excerpt from the patriotic musical "**Jonas Fjeld – the fair-haired titan**", director: **Morten Traavik**.

MUSIC SPEKTAKEL

Music programme with double concerts presents an irresistible mix of different music traditions from Norway and Russia: **TÔG**(Stavanger) – new saviours of the Norwegian pop music. **TESLA BOY** (Moscow) – ultra-hip synth-pop from Russia. **MUMIY TROLL** (Moscow) – total fun and debauch from «rockapops» superstars. **FORZA** (Bergen) – all the world's music genres in one bursting cocktail. **MUJUICE** (Moscow) – fusion of happiness and sadness mixed in ideal proportions from the king of Moscow's electronic sound. **KAIZERS ORCHESTRA** (Bryne) – the live legend of Norwegian music! The final chapter of the festival offers live music and Arctic cocktails in the Barents Swimming Pool, for the whole family. **MY LITTLE PONY** (Oslo) – romantic indie pop for joyful dancing. **3KO** (Murmansk) – chill out with opera voice, beatbox, trumpet and cello.

THEATRE INSIDE AND IN THE OPEN AIR

The French theatre **Compagnie des Quidams** opens the festival with the poetic and dreamy outdoors performance "**Herbert's Dream**". Its ethereal luminous characters come into town as if from another planet, and carry out their magic rites and meetings. The local theatre **Samovarteateret** presents a brand new performance **RADIO BARENTS 111** - the story about the radio station by the border that broadcasts in five different languages. Direction and script: **Franziska Aarflot**.

OTHER FESTIVAL PROJECTS

Exhibition **UNIFORM VARIATIONS** curated and produced by the Sámi Artist Centre, presents artistic projects/events concerned with clothing, costuming and fashioning (artists: **Joar Nango, Charlotte Nilsen, Heidi Lunabba, Anne Berit Anti**). North Norwegian Artist Centre presents the artist **Vebjørn Hagene Thoe** (Stamsund, Lofoten) with her new work **IRON & SILK** that focuses on the loom both physically and metaphorically, accompanied by a dance and music performance, with musician **Tuomo Haapala** (FI), singer **Marie Selander** (SE), performer **Kine Hellebust** (NO) and the choirs from Kirkenes and Zapoljarny.

The Barents youth party **CHAOS Spektakel** with Norwegian and Russian youth bands, workshops in dance, photography, film, music, and graphic design. (Produced by Barents Days)

The Barents Sport festival happens, and a **cinema program** is also organized during the festival days. (Produced by Barents Days)

Financial support by: Norwegian Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Arts Council Norway, Sør-Varanger Municipality, Finnmark County, Barents Secretariat, BarentsKult, Fritt Ord, and others.

Main sponsors: Total, SpareBank1 Nord-Norge.

Sponsors: Sør-Varanger Avis, Sydvaranger Gruve, Thon Hotel, and others.

Partners: Barel, Barents Secretariat, Barents Institute, Forsvarets Musikkorps Nord-Norge, Hesseng Maskin entreprenør AS, Kirkenes Business Association, Lapland University, Tromsø Art Academy, Amfi Kirkenes, Music in Finnmark, Ofelaš, the Red Cross, Samovarteateret, Surf&Turf, Sør-Varanger Film Club, Sør-Varanger Municipality, Basen, Competence Centre, Culture School, Sør-Varanger Parish, sport associations and clubs of Sør-Varanger, and many others