





A co-production between **CuntsCollective** (Denmark) and **Pikene På Broen** (Norway), **WEEPING MEN** is a hybrid performance which dares to utilise the sauna format - as a space of relaxation, health and socialising - in order to craft a loud performative ritual which fosters a caring yet "unsafe" environment, offering an alternative take on a collective cleanse from oppressive systems within ourselves and the societies we live in. The work is performed by members of the shouting choir **HUUTAJAT** (Finland), known for their unconventional approach to vocal expression, delivering rhythmic complexity which spans from straightforward intensity into fragile vulnerability.

Teaser for Weeping Men



Teaser

TOURING INFORMATION

Tour Setup:

Performers: 7 choir members from the renowned Finnish choir Huutajat, 1 conductor/performer, and 1 tour manager who also serves as the artistic director.

Performance Space: The performance takes place inside a sauna, which serves as a central element in the ritualistic and immersive experience of WEEPING MEN. The sauna should be able to host a minimum of 14 audience members, creating an intimate environment where the audience is fully engaged in the collective ritual.

Performance Frequency: Max. 2 performances/day, allowing for multiple audiences to experience the unique blend of vocal intensity, ritual, and vulnerability.

Technical Requirements:

The sauna space must be provided in advance with images and precise measurements to ensure proper setup and adjustments of the sauna. We need 1-2 setup days to prepare the space for the performances.

Video Installation & Photography:

Besides the live performances -being WEEPING MEN's strong core- the work's spectrum expands into a video installation and accompanying photography, which can be exhibited either in the same venue or a different location. The video installation offers a deeper dive into the themes of the performance, while the photography further captures the powerful, raw emotions expressed throughout. These elements can run simultaneously with the live performances as a satellite exhibition, expanding the reach and impact of the project.

A Unique Experience:

WEEPING MEN on tour provides an immersive, multi-dimensional experience that challenges audiences to engage with the transformative power of vulnerability, masculinity, and collective healing, all within the caring and intimate space of a sauna.

PROCESS

In *WEeping MEN*, the process and symbolism are rooted in the Edda, ancient Norse texts that guide the performance's exploration of masculinity, power, and transformation. By returning to these foundational myths, the piece examines cycles of creation, destruction, and rebirth, with a focus on the evolution of masculinity and the oppressive systems that have shaped it. Petri, the conductor and sauna master, embodies the trickster archetype, reminiscent of Loki in Norse mythology. He guides the choir through a ritualistic journey, blending chaos with order as he confronts toxic brotherhood and steers the men toward vulnerability and emotional release. The sauna serves as a metaphorical womb, where the performers undergo a physical and emotional stripping, breaking down layers of societal conditioning. The use of rhythmic breathing, lamentation, and the vasta (birch branches) becomes a symbolic act of purification, helping the performers reconnect with their ancestral roots while shedding the oppressive ideals of masculinity that they have carried.



The performance speaks to the urgent need for new systems and ways of navigating a world that is controlled by violence, toxic power structures, and oppression. The symbolic use of water, steam, and birch trees emphasizes the possibility of renewal and healing, but only through the difficult process of facing these ingrained systems. *Weeping Men* challenges the performers and the audience to confront not just the personal pain that stems from these systems but the collective societal structures that perpetuate them. By immersing the performers in the sauna's intense environment, they are forced to release the internalized violence, domination, and isolation that define toxic masculinity. Ultimately, the performance pushes toward a new understanding of masculinity—one that navigates the world with vulnerability, empathy, and a rejection of the old oppressive systems that have controlled and damaged for so long.



VIDEO INSTALLATION

The video installation is rigged from the ceiling on transparent mesh, designed to create an immersive experience for the audience. This setup allows viewers to engage with the projections from various angles, as the video is projected on semi-transparent textile material.

Accompanying the video installation is a series of curated photographs that further explore the themes presented in the video work. The photographic series complements the video by capturing still moments from the broader narrative, offering a deeper look into the characters, landscapes, and emotional undercurrents at play. Together, the video and photography create a cohesive visual language, encouraging viewers to reflect on the connections between the moving and still images, and on the broader themes of identity, oppression, and vulnerability.

COLLABORATORS

Tone Haldrup Lorenzen is a performer, and artistic director. Her work digs into intergenerational demons and cultural stigmas, to challenge fixed positions, and prompt reflection on unforeseen positions and biases. Collaborating with a diverse array of artists and institutions, and always in a constant flux of materials and disciplines, Tone meets both herself and spectators in intimate interactions to embrace collective accountability. She co-founded CuntsCollective, together with Danial Paiva de Miranda and Siri Maj Knutsen. She holds an MFA from Dell'Arts International School of physical theatre. She is a company member of the performance company HIMHERANDIT Production, where she works as a collaborating artist and is responsible for community engagement.



Co-producers

Pikene på Broen is a collective of curators and producers based in the northeastern Norwegian town of Kirkenes. Pikene på Broen was established in 1996 and has spent the past 20 years realising large and small scale cultural projects – they call these ‘border-crossing exercises’ which provide new perspectives on the north while initiating discussions on themes relevant to the Barents Region

CuntsCollective

CuntsCollective is a performing arts collective based between Denmark, Basque Country and Germany. It was founded in 2018. Today, under the direction of Tone, Naia, Siri, and Dani, CUNTS aspires to serve as an umbrella for artists, fostering equal partnerships and resource sharing efficiently. CUNTS has already employed around 38 artists and co-produced a variety of projects over the last 6 years. From 2024 until 2027 CUNTS is partnering in the project CoDaCo, together with other 12 collectives around europe.



Aris Papadopoulos is an architect, dance maker and performer based in Athens, Greece. He is very keen on the notion of landscape as a cultural construction and juxtaposition of both man-made and natural environments, therefore seeing it as a heavily charged field of potentiality for action, exploration, playfulness and composition, and is distilling that into his own experimentations through visuals and movement. His current personal interest and artistic research explore the multitude of visual and physical representations of everyday encounters with the urban landscape, the designing of processes and concept-writing, interdisciplinary approaches in the urban landscape as a field of potentiality, and the reciprocal scheme of embodying landscape vs shaping an experience.



Huutajat is a choir that doesn't sing a note. 20-40 properly dressed men enter the venue with military precision and begin to scream, bellow and shout excerpts from national anthems, children's ditties or international treaties. Sometimes the text is delivered as a complex rhythmic structure, sometimes as a simple-but-loud reading. The choir was founded in the late 1980s. It all started with surprise performances for unsuspecting audiences anywhere in the Oulu region: streets, community events, spectacular nature spots... Now Huutajat has become one of the most popular ambassadors of Finnish art. The choir feels equally at home in prestigious music festivals, museums of contemporary art, country fairs and underground clubs. Petri Sirviö is the founder, composer and conductor of the group. Sometimes when the choir is out of reach or resting, he sets up installations with videos, transcriptions and audio devices.



Lise Johansson is a visual artist and photographer based in Copenhagen. The starting point for Johansson's artistic practice is to create a sense of a distorted reality, where the inspiration for this comes from the borderland that exists between the conscious and the unconscious. 'The unseen' takes place in the familiar, and locates itself in the field that blurs the line between reality and fantasy. Johansson works around the themes of identity and belonging. The images often take departure from physical miniatures of landscapes and architectural spaces, combined with textures and objects photographed to use as building blocks in post processing. Johansson is interested in people's shared or individual feelings for the spaces or places they inhabit. Why do we feel that we belong in some places and not in others? Place and identity are closely bound together and people often strongly identify with the places they live in. Their environments shape who they are, and the bonds between person and place can influence culture, politics and social life.

CONTACT

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FUNDERS AND CO-PRODUCERS



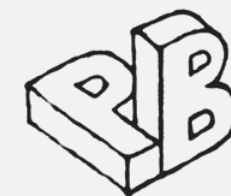
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