RED NOSE COMPANY



DON QUIXOTE

DE MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

THEATRE QUO VADIS

KUOPION KAUPUNGIN TEATTERI
kuopionkaupunginteatteri.fi

LAHDEN KAUPUNGINTEATTERI

teatteri
TURUN KAUPUNGINTEATTERI

TAMPEREEN TYÖVÄEN TEATTERI


DON QUIXOTE
Zin / Don Quixote
Timo Ruuskanen
Mike / Sancho Panza
Tuukka Vasama
Directed by
Otso Kautto, Timo Ruuskanen
and Tuukka Vasama

ORIGINAL STORY Miguel de Cervantes
TEXT, DRAMATURGY Otso Kautto, Timo Ruuskanen and Tuukka Vasama
ENGLISH TRANSLATION Eva Buchwald, Timo Ruuskanen and Tuukka Vasama

LIGHTS AND SOUND Jere Kolehmainen
COSTUMES Tauko Design
MASKS Laura Mäkelä (Teatteri Metamorfoosi)

POSTER Tero Ahonen (www.teroahonen.fi)
PROGRAMME LAYOUT Krista Mäkinen
PHOTOS Kautto, Ruuskanen and Vasama

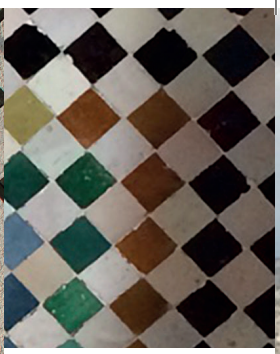
PRODUCTION Red Nose Company / Niina Bergius, Maija Kühn, Salla Kurronen, Inka Virtanen

CO-PRODUCTION PARTNERS Theatre Quo Vadis, Kuopio City Theatre, Lahti City Theatre, TTT-Theatre (Tampere) and Turku City Theatre

PREMIERE 24 January 2019 | Theatre Avoimet Ovet, Helsinki







TRES AMIGOS

Our journey together began in 2009, when we had Red Nose Company's gigs in the yurt of Theatre Quo Vadis. Otso, the artistic director of Quo Vadis, was hosting the events and taking care of the lights. A couple of years later, when we started our first duo project, we remembered Otso's gaze during our shows: enthusiastic, curious, fond of spontaneous and strange situations. So we invited him to work with us. During a two-year-long process we explored the possibilities of the stage and wondered how on earth we could rehearse anything with our creative and chaotic clowns.

Our first performance *Trench Road* had its premiere in 2014. We didn't have a clue where it would lead us. After the premiere, when being left without our director, we started to evolve our performance. We took big risks on stage, listened to the reactions of the audience and after every show we talked through everything that had happened. We took our art in our own hands – the art of live contact.

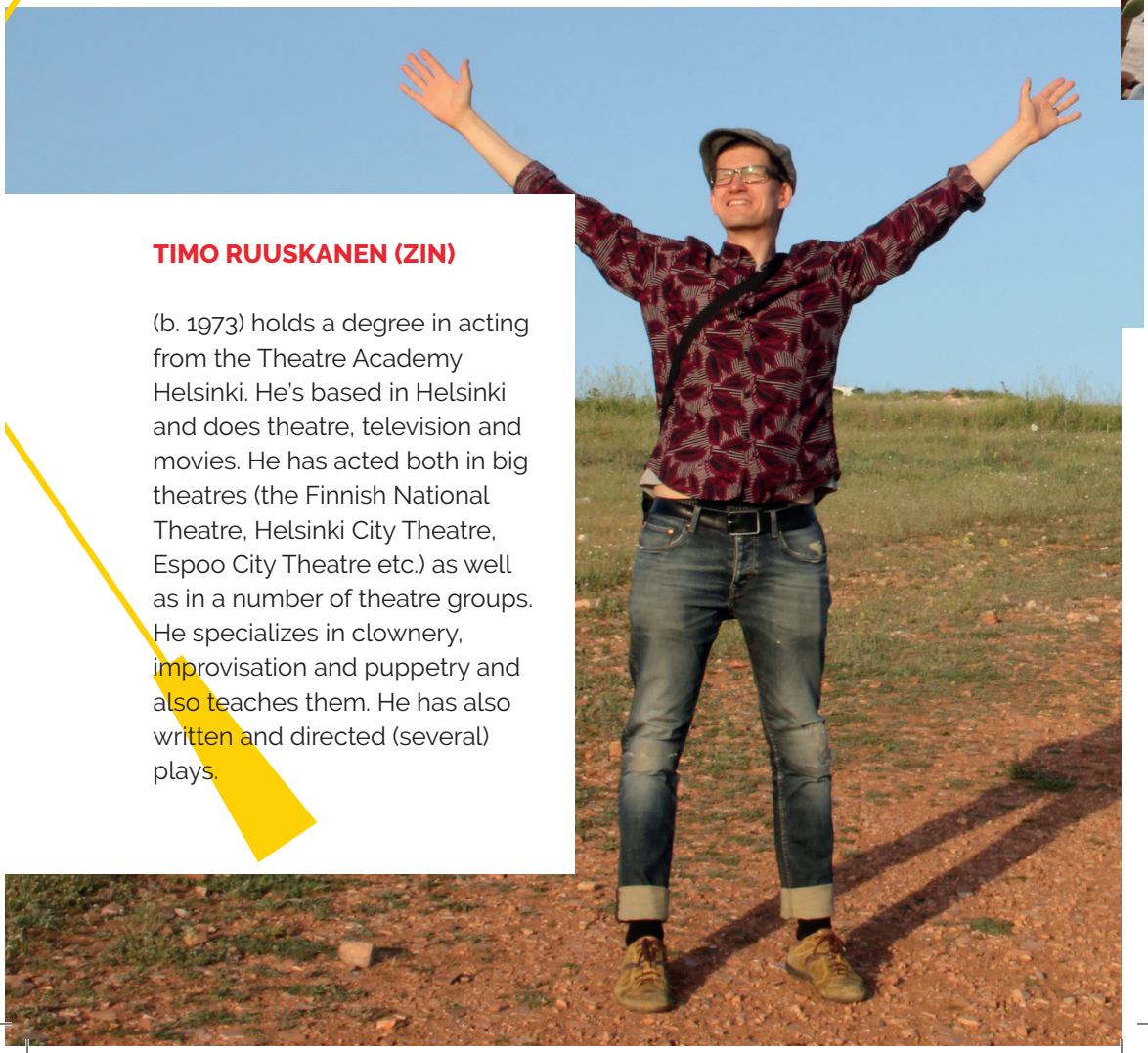
As the years have passed, our clowns have grown and we have learned to embrace their untamed spirit. We want to cherish the moment when we meet a new audience, since it's always a start to a journey where something new and unrehearsed can happen. Live is where we live!

Timo (Zin) & Tuukka (Mike)



OTSO KAUTTO

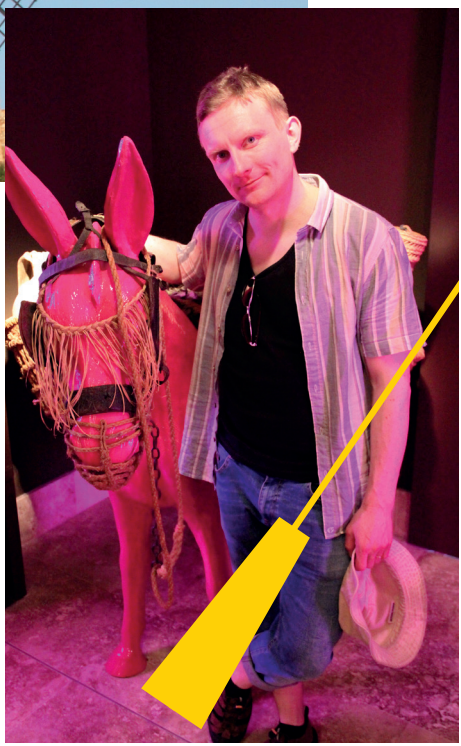
(b. 1962) is an awarded theatre director, writer and performing poet. In 2018 Kautto was elected director of TTT Theatre in Tampere, which is one of the three national main theatres in the country. He has directed both in big theatres as well as in small theatre groups, mostly at Theatre Quo Vadis and the Finnish National Theatre. Kautto performs his poetry in the Poetry Band and is doing his PhD studies at the Theatre Academy where his research topic is sense of ritual.



TIMO RUUSKANEN (ZIN)

(b. 1973) holds a degree in acting from the Theatre Academy Helsinki. He's based in Helsinki and does theatre, television and movies. He has acted both in big theatres (the Finnish National Theatre, Helsinki City Theatre, Espoo City Theatre etc.) as well as in a number of theatre groups. He specializes in clownery, improvisation and puppetry and also teaches them. He has also written and directed (several) plays.





TUUKKA VASAMA (MIKE)

(b. 1978) is an award-winning actor who works in big city theatres, national broadcasting company YLE as well as small independent theatres. Vasama holds a degree in acting from Theatre Academy Helsinki. He specializes in clownery, music, poetry, drama and live art. In 2018, he received the Artist of the Year Award from the City of Helsinki.

DON TIMO

When I was young I wanted to save the world. As an activist I tried to stop the cutting down of old forests in Finland. I was desperate to fight for a world that would be equal and fair.

Then I grew older. I learned how to be an adult, how to live in a proper way in society. The idea of activism for a better world started to seem ridiculous.

I started reading Don Quixote and I was stunned. Cervantes had written a crazy middle-aged hero, who dares to fight for a better world without any cynicism. I keep reading and laughing and every adventure I read makes me want to act! Not only on the stage of the theater but also in my own life. Yes! We can still fight for a better world!



DON OTSO

Rocinante my love

Yesterday, I met Cervantes.

"Chez Gonzo" is situated on the edge of an industrial area, within a small forest. When you approach, you walk through a townhouse area, past outlet shops and stock-yards, between odd industrial buildings.

The entrance to "Chez Gonzo" is behind a corner so that it is almost impossible to find. There were no lights in, and just one car parked in the yard. Yet the bar was open and we were the only customers.

"There is a big party on the beach, everyone's there" told the owner and filled our glasses. He was a small, robust and wild-eyed



guy whose black hair curled from under his cap that was facing backwards.

Rocinante his eyes!

As quick as a lightning he fished every piece of information out of me, with such curiosness and hunger for life I seldom have seen. One just could not lie to him. But he loved exaggeration. I told him stories about Finland, all this stuff I knew the people of the south are fond of. That is darkness, cold, alcoholism, suicides... We talked about our journeys. We talked about travelling.

"I am from Andalucia. Born in France, though. Everyone in my family has been a traveller. The grandfather of my grandfather's... father was Cervantes... the writer, you know, who wrote Don Quixote... he too, was quite a traveller."

"The name of my car is Rocinante" I replied.

He took out his wallet and showed me the photo of his three-year-old son.

"The last Cervantes. There are no more."

"Rocinante" he repeated.

"Rocinante" I replied.

"This one's on the house."

After another beer I told him I was writing a book about my journeys, dedicated to my car Rocinante, and he told me if I ever




DON QUIJO

need a table and electricity, I could always come by to his bar.

"But it's a good idea to check first if the bar is open."

He called me, I saved the number.

Rocinante my restlessness. The longing for home, also known as the fear for home.

When I return from my journey my novel is unfinished, but in my cell phone I have the phone number of Cervantes.



DON TUUKKA

In the end, it was inevitable for us to start working on *Don Quixote*. I don't remember when we made the decision; maybe after 60 thousand kilometres in the van; maybe after our 200th show; maybe when Timo told he will be moving to Spain with his family; maybe when Otso presented his mother to us (she is a teacher in Spanish); or maybe when we looked in the mirror and saw the reflection of our tall-and-short-duo.

Don Quixote, when published, was an immediate success. Not because it criticized the institutions that had the power, but because it's insanely fun. Cervantes understood it – when the heart softens of laughter, it opens up for a change.

LA RECONQUISTA

In the 700s, the Arabs reign over the whole Iberian peninsula. The Islamic Spain, *Al-Andalus* as it is called in Arabic, is a flourishing state and in many ways more elaborate than the Christian states in Europe. Its capital is *Córdoba*, where the population consists of Arabs, Jews and Christians.

During the next centuries the Iberian peninsula is reclaimed from the Musulmans to the Christians. The men who fought for the *reconquista* are often given a noble rank, and these battles give inspiration to plenty of stories about brave knights.

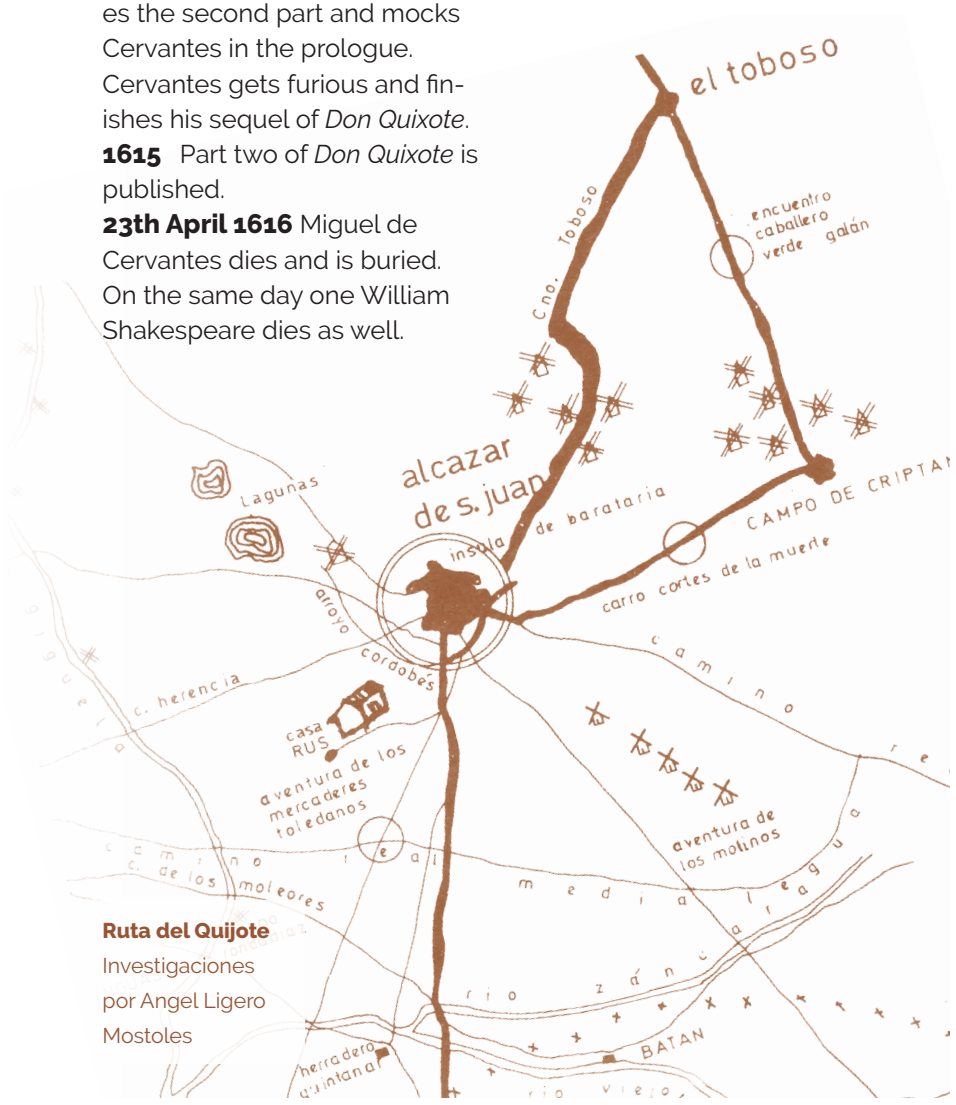
In 1492, the last Arab state *Granada* surrenders. During the following centuries the Catholic church and the inquisition haunt those who won't give up their faith. Bonfires are lit, both with heretical books and people.



MIGUEL DE CERVANTES

1547 (or depending on the source 1558) Miguel de Cervantes is born
1571 Cervantes participates in the Battle of Lepanto. He is wounded and his hand is crippled for life.
1575 Whilst returning to Spain, Cervantes is imprisoned and spends five years in Algeria as a hostage.
1580 Cervantes is redeemed. He returns to Spain where he writes poems and plays. He applies for various posts in the king's service but he gets rejected time after time. The reason behind this is the doubt about his "blood's purity".
1597 Cervantes works as a tax collector. He is convicted to prison on suspicion of treachery, where he begins to write *Don Quixote's* part one.

1605 Part one of *Don Quixote* is published. The book is an immediate success.
1614 Unknown writer publishes the second part and mocks Cervantes in the prologue. Cervantes gets furious and finishes his sequel of *Don Quixote*.
1615 Part two of *Don Quixote* is published.
23th April 1616 Miguel de Cervantes dies and is buried. On the same day one William Shakespeare dies as well.



Ruta del Quijote
Investigaciones
por Angel Ligero
Mostoles

RED NOSE COMPANY

Red Nose Company is one of the most renowned independent theatre companies in Finland. Founded in 2005, the company has cooperated with all of the biggest theatres in Finland, including the National Theatre.

In their performances the company is excited to explore the humanity, the comedy and also the poetry of the stage. Red Nose Company will entertain and make the audience laugh but at the same time the actors still manage to tackle difficult subjects with a clown-like astonishment.

At the heart of Red Nose Company's live performances is a connection, a special feeling of togetherness no matter the size of the audience. The actors love to meet different kinds of audiences and take their shows to all kinds of locations. A new circumstance is always an artistic possibility!

Don Quixote is the Red Nose Company's third work created together with director Otso Kautto and Theatre Quo Vadis.

Repertoire for adults



Trench Road



Babylon



Red Line

Repertoire for families



Frankenstein



Emperor's New Clothes



MIKE & ZIN

Actors Timo Ruuskanen and Tuukka Vasama have been working as a clown duo since 2012. Their extraordinary commitment to one another means that anything can happen in their shows. The duo takes risks and still manages to nail their shows every time. This method allows the performances to evolve, and through the years, they've continued to just get better and better. Ruuskanen & Vasama are also talented multi-instrumentalists who bring strong moods into their performance through the live music they play.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Helsinki

Taiteen edistämiskeskus
Centret för konstfrämjande
Arts Promotion Centre Finland

Suomen kulttuurirahasto

Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö



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