



Houkka Bros. (FI)

«The Wanderer»

fredag 17. – søndag 19. januar

kl 19.30 · varighet 70m

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Black Box Teater
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«The way of our wanderer started in summer 2002. Kristian saw my performance and asked, if I had read a small book called *The way of a pilgrim*. He had read it many years ago, and tried it with actors too, but it didn't work as usual theatre piece. Giving it to me he thought that now this guy makes something out of it, and he can forget the book as theatre.

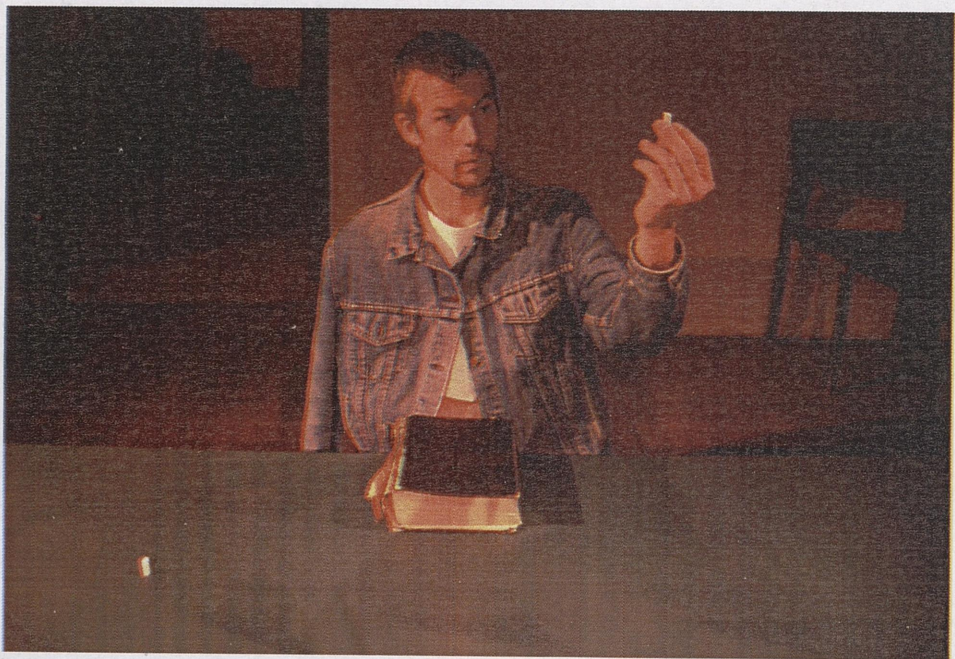
The way of a pilgrim is a spiritual book, a precious one to Russian Orthodox and Greek Catholics. Not knowing where my god is, there were many things in it I liked. Walking, breathing, doing something one knows one must do and not giving up. I understood that it is an important book, but didn't know what to do with it. So I asked Kristian and Tero to join me at this work.

Before we did anything together, I asked the people on my address book, «What do you need to live in this world?» I got eighty answers, made a kind of rosary of them, glued them onto my tin megaphone, put on monk's frock, and on the first of April, 2003, I walked one of the most central roads of Helsinki, a six-kilometer-long Mannerheimintie, from one end to another, reading my rosary aloud. I made a book out of the answers too, *Heart Talk*. That was meant to be the first part of the trilogy.

Then I met Kristian again – Tero lived in Chicago that time, Kristian in Kajaani, and I in Helsinki, that could be called working together from distance – and he asked me to write down a synopsis, or the most important parts of the book. I wrote the first version and learned it by heart.

The three of us met first time together in mid-June, 2003, ten days prior to our premiere at Kajaani Poetry Week. I sang the first version to the guys. It was not good. To tell a religious story like in church, reciting & singing, wouldn't work in theatre. We walked to the sea and had coffee. Sitting there around the table we just got the idea to do it just like that, sitting around the table. We went back to the theatre we were rehearsing at, and started to tell the story around a table. That was the first day. In the evening of the third day we had our first audience.

The fourth day we drove to Kajaani only to realize that we can't do the piece there where we had planned to do it; in a dungeon at the ruins of Kajaani castle. *Wanderer* tells about joyful things, you can't do it in dark and wet jail. Well, the next day we found the right place for us, an old yellow house beside the bus station. We painted the table we found there with chalkboard paint and the place was ready for our show.



After Kajaani, we were to perform the third part of the trilogy at Helsinki Festival, in September 2003. We had some Jerusalem disco plans in mind, to invite sixty guests to join us at this small chamber theatre in Helsinki, to perform the piece for sixty spectators, but at that moment we were too deeply in love with our fresh *Wanderer*, and also reluctant to make a new piece, so we adapted the *Wanderer* for there. We also realized that my *Heart Talk* was just a prologue to the trilogy.»

Helsinki, February 12, 2005,

JUHA VALKEAPÄÄ..

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KRISTIAN SMEDS is one of Finland's leading directors and his works have been presented in many several prizes, e.g. Prix Europa for the best European manager of Kajaani City Theatre from 2001 to 2003.

JUHA VALKEAPÄÄ is a vocal artist whose work moves in between performance art and dance. He has performed and presented his works in Europe, Egypt and Canada. He graduated from Helsinki University in 1995, after studying theatre science & Hungarian language.

TERO NAUHA is a visual artist who works with the mediums of performance, video, sound and drawing. He has presented his works in Europe, Asia and United States. One aspect of his practice is collaborative performance works. He is teaching performance and visual arts in Turku Art Academy in Finland.

LAGET OG FREMFØRT AV Juha Valkeapää, Kristian Smeds og Tero Nauha
BORD Jean-Vincent Kerebel

Houkka Bros. er støttet av Arts Council of Finland.

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