

PRESS RELEASE
UR-NAT International Festival of Performing Arts 2025

UR-NAT International Performing Arts Festival 2025 is the culmination of three interlinked projects proposed by Teatret OM in August 2025: **The Enchanting Village**, **Following a Star** and **UR-NAT International Festival of Performing Arts**.

The Enchanting Village is happening now and opens on August 9

This is a series of art installations made by Antonella Diana, Teatret OM's set designer, and the invited artists; Helen Varley Jamieson (New Zealand), Hans-Olof Tani (Denmark), Dragana Kojicic (Serbia) and Simone Perra (Italy). The installations are built from natural and recycled materials, wood, reeds, earth, raw wool, roots and even cow poo. They are all ensconced in Alkjær Lukke. When you walk around the park, and look amongst the bushes, beneath the trees, in the water, on the banks and against the sky, you will come across art works sculpted in beautiful and intriguing ways. These sculptures, together with Alkjær Lukke, compose the Enchanting Village, where UR-NAT festival will be held.

Following a Star 13-27 August is an actors' training workshop led by Sandra Pasini, the artistic leader of Teatret OM, and Rita Superbi, a long-time collaborator of Teatret OM and specialist in Japanese drumming and body percussion. Together they will lead a group of international students on a physical, vocal and rhythmic journey towards theatrical scenes and characters that will be part of the opening event of UR-NAT.

UR-NAT International Festival of Performing Arts 27 -31 August will burst into life with an opening parade with international artists and school children from Ringkøbing Skole at Alkjaer Lukke. This will be followed by performances from all over Europe, some on the big stage, some amongst the trees and others that take us on a journey around the park. The festival has performances from Spain, Serbia, France, Italy and Denmark.

If you get hungry or thirsty our gourmet food-truck, bar and coffee wagon are at hand to serve delicious food and drink.

On the weekend there will be drop-in workshops where you can make chocolate insects, take part in a giant collective painting, learn to knit and felt with raw wool, do body percussion and hang out with friends and strangers.

All performances and activities are free and on a first-come, first-in basis.

Traditionally the festival has spread itself far and wide across the commune of Ringkøbing-Skjern, in order to touch as many small towns as possible.

In this 7th edition of the festival, we have a new format. For the first time the festival will take place in a single location, as the theme of this festival is community. In this era of so much conflict, war and natural disasters it is important that we feel the warmth and beauty of our collective spirit, and the strength of community.

Therefore, we have created a central place where all can come together and bump into neighbours, meet old friends, make new ones, create collective experiences and memories and share art, food, laughter, sun, nature, and (and hopefully not too much rain!). And where more beautiful, fun and peaceful than betwixt and between the woods, lawns, paths and ponds of Alkjær Lukke?

Each day the festival will open with Thor's Thunder, giant drums that will make thunder as an offering to Thor so that he might free us from bad weather for the duration of the festival. Then the performances will begin.

Another novelty of this edition of the festival is that, for the first time, there will be performances for babies. The prize winning *LáQua* from Italy and the musical *GRO* from Denmark are for newborns and toddlers. Audiences of all ages will enjoy the fun and physical performances of Dansk Rakkerpak with *Under Uret* and Batida's comic and musical *Til Helvede Med Paradis*, be amazed by the epic Italian stilt performances with up to 20 performers of Teatro dei Venti's *Don Quixote*, who brought us the stunning Moby Dick at the last festival, and the historic Teatro Tascabile di Bergamo's *Valse* and *The Light of Black*. For those who enjoy an adventure *Very Lost* will take you to explore the world and *Stjernevandring* will invite you aboard their spaceship to explore outer space and if you ever wondered what lies beneath the waves, take the plunge with *The Sentimental Ocean Workshop* where inside a caravan you will experience the depths of the oceans in a miniature performance that lasts 15 minutes and is for only 7 spectators at a time. The visually poetic DAH will perform beneath the trees and the concert for gourmets will be set at the table, where there will be a full theatrical platter in *Immoral Recipes*. The overriding themes that link all the performances are those of the beauty of our natural world, the tragedy of our times, the bravery of hope and the importance of acting together.

While you are eating, waiting for a show, or just hanging out in the sun the cheeky Mad Hatter on stilts and his chatty friend Nina the Tea Lady will welcome you, and may offer you a cup of tea and a laugh. And there is a

Japanese tea lady performing a tea ceremony for those who enjoy the calm and the meditative. If you happen to bump into some giraffes strolling around you are welcome to stroke them, just make sure they don't steal your sandwich! And while you enjoy a beer and food there will be a crooner to enhance the mood.

A festival is a holiday, a party, a meeting, an inspiration, a breathing together, a coming together, a being together. When the festival is over it feels like maybe it was just a dream, a flavour-full feast that you enjoyed and is now finished. Maybe it leaves a longing, that can be evoked by an image, a smell, a smile and it lives in our shared memories and experiences, as a nostalgia, a stimulus, a vision of the future. And then comes the next festival and the feast begins again.

Outreach events will take place in factories and nursing homes around Ringkøbing so that those who cannot come to the park can also be part of the festival community.