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Festival Barents Spektakel 2010
Kirkenes: February 3–7, 2010

ARCTIC CALLING!
Norway's most border-crossing festival



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

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ARCTIC CALLING! is the slogan for the festival Barents Spektakel 2010

In 2010 the festival will focus on the knowledge and experiences the Circumpolar Arctic offers. What does it mean to live up in the North all year round? Is it periphery or centre? Can we develop a society that will make these regions more attractive to live in and settles down here? Who are the stakeholders in this development? We focus on how people/ indigenous people through generations have been adapting to the extreme climate conditions, which is a priceless knowledge in itself in terms of transferability to the modern society.

We focus on how cross-border cooperation in the High North, possibilities for a more simplified border passage and mobility can contribute to developing and strengthening a sustainable society. Is people's self-perception and sense of identity a subject to change?

What perspectives do towns and places in the North face when the economy expands in the light of "the oil industry's fairytale", climate changes and challenges, mineral exploration and mining activities? Remote rural areas up in the North are often considered as a resource bank, not as attractive areas for permanent housing.

While unemployment is rising in the south as a result of the financial crisis, there is enough of work in some places in the North. Towns and villages are being filled with temporary houses for commuters. A "fly in - fly out" strategy seems to dominate, followed by little engagement and contribution to the local communities where the resources are taken from. How can we change it?

Barents Spektakel 2010 is arranged for the 7th year. The festival had developed as a cultural-political cocktail with contemporary art, performances, literature, theatre, film, seminars and concerts as ingredients, spiced with the current issues related to the Barents Region and the High North in general.

Indoors and outdoors, on the Town Square and in the swimming pool, from a sports arena turned into a concert stage to an art exhibition in cargo-containers placed in the Pedestrian street. From a gigantic snow labyrinth built for an outdoors performance where both musicians and the public search for their path, to the burnt down Malmklang that opens its doors to show a new theatre play, and to seminars with researchers, artists, businessmen and politicians, who get a chance to play a strategy-game! Follow the festival program being updated on the website www.barentsspektakel.no.

We wish you welcome to Hot Arctic Kirkenes in February 3-7, 2010!

CUTTING-EDGE ARCTIC

Among the festival's new music productions is the opening concert "Cutting-Edge Arctic" – with ethnic singers from the whole Arctic area gathered for the first and only time in Kirkenes! The Sami joikers from Norway and Sweden, singers from Yakutia and Nenets, throat singers from Chukotka, Alaska, Greenland and Canada! The Polar Circle binds together the various singing traditions and lifestyles from the Arctic. Should we manage to create a unison or choir, - the project sends a clear message to all who have economic, political or other interests in the area: WE ARE HERE! ARCTIC CALLING!

Inga Juuso, Johan Sara Jr., Lars Ánte Kuhmunen, Stepanida Borisova, Olga Letykai Csonka and Zoia Tagryna, Sylvia Cloutier, Stephen Blanchett, Anta Quiste, Tatiana Lar, Kristiina Ilmonen, Håkon Mjåset Johansen, Petter Berndalen and others. Produced by Pikene på Broen in cooperation with Sapmi Music.

ARCTIC NOMADS

The festival exhibition "Arctic Nomads" with the artists **Ane Lan** from Oslo and **Sergey Shutov** from Moscow, highlights the issues of Arctic nomads. In the Arctic of today there are many nomads – reindeer

herders and seamen, mining- and oil workers, military guards and tourists, researchers and doctors, refugees and commuters...

Can the traditional and modern Arctic nomads co-exist side by side and find solutions beneficial for all? The video installation by Sergey Shutov presents the thousand suns and stars in the epic Arctic space.

The North has traditionally been quite masculine. The woman's role in the North is discussed in the photo project by Ane Lan where the artist portrays himself as a woman in the context of the nomadic professions. Or maybe, it's time to redefine the role of the Arctic – masculine vs feminine, centre vs periphery, commuting vs settling down? What and who makes the High North attractive to live in?

The exhibition is located in the middle of the town, in two containers, in the Pedestrian Street. Many commuters come to the mining town of Kirkenes, and many containers and box-houses have been settled here. The exhibition venue itself is nomadic – the containers can be easily moved around, in the Arctic or in the world. Curated by Pikene på Broen.

NORTH ROUTE

Imagine an enormous labyrinth made of snow and surrounded of many loud speakers with the stage in the centre. And then starts the performance – and you begin to wander the paths of the labyrinth: you follow the reindeer migration from the valley to the coast, and you hear the sounds of snow, wind, reindeer, jolking, etc. The sounds surround you 360 degrees, so close that you almost can feel the reindeer skin, the sharp ice breaking... Sound recordings were taken under reindeer migration from Karasjok to Porsanger fjord, spring 2009, by the sound-artist and BBC-recorder **Ross Adams** (UK). The London-based electronica duo **Plaid** has interpreted and composed a music piece that will be premiered for the first time under Barents Spektakel. "North Route" is an outdoors sound performance based on the poem "No. 272" that is about reindeer migration, from the book "The Sun, My Father" by Nils Aslak Valkeapää. The distinguished Sami poet **Synnøve Persen** performs with her poetic interpretations as part of the performance.

THEATRE INSIDE AND IN THE OPEN AIR

The distinguished German theatre group **Pan.Optikum** opens the festival with the show **IL CORSO** under the Polar stars. 25 actors, acrobats and musicians produce a surrealistic world with opera-voices, mechanic installations managed by actors – amongst the public, with enormous firework-scenes. The show is based on "The Book of Questions" by Pablo Neruda and quotes the philosophical questions from the original, as well as other questions that are vital for us who live up here in the North.

Within the festival program the **Samovar Theatre** invites to a new play based on "**Mother Courage and her Children**" – a relevant piece today, referring to the political and conflict-laden issues in our international community.

TRANSBORDER CAFÉ

One of the festival's important brands is Transborder Café, an informal club-concept that gathers together artists, writers, researchers and others to comment on the urgent issues.

Among the TC guests there are writers **Torggrim Eggen** (Norway) and **Mikhail Shishkin** (Russia) who will discuss which way Norway and Russia go, performance artist **Amund S. Sveen** from Vadsø/Oslo with a new project **Oil for Art**, etc. One of the Transborder Cafés is arranged in cooperation with the Barents Secretariat and raises Barents-related themes.

On the National Sami Day we carry out Transborder Café with the theme "Sami me?". Indigenous cultures are sustainable by their essence, but at the same time they are jeopardized by the changes in the modern society. Artist **Yvette Brackman** about her project in Lovozero, **Espen Sommer Eide** with reflections over extinguishing languages with Skolte Sami as an example, jolking with **Berit Alette Mienna** and **Øistein Hansen**, violin, and others.

Seminars

The festival invites to take part at the **KIRKENES CONFERENCE 2010** (Feb 3 – 4) focusing on the themes of "politics - economy - energy/Industry - people to people".

The seminar **VISIONARY ARCTIC** (Feb 5th) is a must, both for those who are interested in contemporary art and architecture, and for all who are interested to discuss the Arctic's role as a resource bank with a "fly in – fly out" politics as a result. With contributions from journalist **Arne O. Holm**, researcher **Aileen A. Espiritu**, architect students from **NTNU**, architects **Dagur Eggertsson** and **Reiulf Ramstad**, investor **Arthur Buchardt**, artists **SpringerParker** and **Tomi Knuutila**, architect team **NORD**, and others.

50 indigenous politicians from the Barents Region (the Sami from Russia, Norway, Sweden and Finland, the Nenets and Veps) meet in Kirkenes for the **Barents Indigenous Peoples' Congress 2010** to discuss the

role and influence of indigenous peoples in the Barents Euro-Arctic Council. 60 indigenous politicians and activists, representatives of industrial companies and authorities, as well as experts on indigenous peoples' rights and international legislation are invited to share experiences and discuss the further development of the Arctic at the conference "**Co-Existence in the Arctic**".

Music Spektakel

Music programme with double concerts presents an irresistible mix of different music traditions from Norway, Russia, Iceland and Samiland!

HJALTALIN (Reykjavik) - colourful orchestral pop with all possible instruments from bassoon to regular bass.

PREPINAKI (St. Petersburg) – a ticket to the retro-romantic world with non-stop holidays: from bossa nova to Soviet romantics of the 60s!

SIVERT HØYEM (Oslo) - passion, melancholy and deep voice from one of the Norwegian rock icons.

NOGU SVELO (Moscow) – Russian post-punk at its best, alternative, magic, childish and as big as everything in Russia!

DUOLVA DUOTTAR (Kautokeino) – the newest Sami rap!

MARI BOINE (Kautokeino) – one of the most important Sami musicians, live on the National Sami Day!

UNDERVUD (Moscow) – charming cynicism and absurd retro-roll inspired of Gagarin, love and husky!

And a SKA-party with the band from Murmansk, **FC'aroni 3qSKA**, in the swimming pool on the opening day!

And **church concert** with **Varanger Vocal Ensemble** with songs by Brahms and Kvandal and Norwegian folklore.

Kaos Spektakel, Film Spektakel, Sport Spektakel

The festival continues its youth focus: Kaos Spektakel offers sports games, dance performances, concerts with MUFISTAR-musicians, DJs from Norway, Finland and Russia, skating on the newly built ramp, tower building game, cafe and much more!

Sport Spektakel takes place the weekend before: Jan 30th with several sports and over 100 young sportsmen from Finland, Russia and Norway!

The festival's film programme offers Kirkenes premier of the documentary film "Our Man in Kirkenes" (2009), about the journalist Hallgeir Henriksen, and a "Mosfilm"-version of the fiction film "The Red Tent" (1969) that portrays Umberto Nobile's *Italia*-expedition that tried to reach the North Pole in 1928.

Geography of Barents Spektakel 2010: Norway, Russia, Finland, Sweden, England, Germany, Canada, Greenland, Alaska.

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