

DOCUMENTATION



PASSAGE FESTIVAL

28 July – 2 Aug 2025



HELSINGØR



PASSAGE FESTIVAL 2025 IN NUMBERS

28 JULY - 2 AUGUST | IN HELSINGØR CITY,
HOUSING AREAS AND SURROUNDINGS

238 Showings

141 Artists
19 Professionals

45 Different performances and Workshops

20 Ticket performances
25 Free performances

41 Theatre Companies

16 Danish
25 International
2 Scandinavian, apart from the Danish
3 Catalanian
20 Other nationalities

50+ Volunteers

12 PASSAGE Summer Camp participants

48 Locations

1 City
5 Towns
4 Housing Areas

*I have never been "into" dance performances UNTIL now!
Thank you, it was amazing. Beautiful.. just beautiful!*

Visitor feedback, Passage Festival



STELLA UTERO | Thomas Bentin (DK)



An inflatable artwork, a contemporary dance piece and new partnerships

Architects of Air (UK) has created monumental luminariums since 1992, constructed as interactive sculptures of air, light and colour. Through new collaborations, they opened their brand new MYRIAD LUMINARIUM up for choreographer Thomas Bentin's artistic inspiration and went on tour.

STELLA UTERO was a site-specific dance performance by choreographer Thomas Bentin (DK), created for and within the 900 m2 MYRIAD LUMINARIUM by Architects of Air (UK).

The project was made possible through collaborations between the artists and organizationally between Teaterforeningen Lolland, Køge Kommune, and Passage Festival. Three organizers, with different resources, and objectives, ranging from urban development to community-building.

Across the three cities, the luminarium attracted more than 12,000 visitors and 800 audience members for the contemporary dance performance. What is often considered niche and appealing to a small, specialised audience, experienced overwhelming interest. A demonstration of what partnerships can do, but also of how a festival context can open experimental performing arts to a much broader public.

Stella Utero is produced by Passage Festival with support from the Danish Arts Foundation



MYRIAD LUMINARIUM | Architects of Air (UK)

The festival as audience developer

Performing arts festivals bring art to people who might not otherwise seek it out – and give artists new audiences to engage with.



GribGruppen (DK) premiered *Requiem for Paper?* in June 2025, as part of the regular theatre season by Helsingør Teater and Gribskov Teater. Attracting both audiences and press proved challenging. Just weeks later, within Passage Festival, the same performance sold out, several shows even before the festival began.

The context makes the difference: A festival unites diverse works and audiences in an open, informal framework, where curiosity replaces expectations. At Passage Festival, experimental, abstract, and popular performances share the same public spaces, inviting spontaneous encounters. This broadens both access and engagement, and transforms the reach of performing arts.



Requiem for Paper? | GribGruppen (DK)

The Independent Performing Arts Field

The interest from the independent performing arts field in creating and presenting work in public space continues to grow in Denmark – as does the wish to participate in Passage Festival.

Artists who have received public production or development funding often lack opportunities to test and present their work.

Passage Festival not only offers visibility to an extended audience, but knowledge and experience developed over two decades of working with theatre in public space.

Combined with the festival's strong local partnerships, makes it possible to realise works that would otherwise struggle to find a stage.



Grand Danois | DYNAMO+
Cirkus GrandDanois (DK)



Tabt Titel | Moribund (DK)



Dansedybet | MAK (DK)

The Importance of Arts Funding

Passage Festival relies on additional support from cultural foundations to realise a number of performances.

With support from Augustinusfonden and Knud Højgaard's Fond, we presented **Le Sacre** and **Les Planètes** by La Ville en Feu (FR) – two innovative, physical choral works in which ten performers brought classical compositions into the streets through energetic, contagious, and physically expressive a cappella interpretations combined with contemporary dance.

Barcelona and the Catalan region are major centres for performing arts in public space. With support from the Institut Ramon Llull for Catalan arts and culture, Passage Festival was able to present three Catalan companies: **Los Galindos**, **Llum de Fideu**, and **Fadunito**.

With support from the Flanders Arts Institute, we presented **Ballroom** by Post Uit Hessdalen (BE).



Les Planètes | La Ville en Feu (FR)



MDR - Death from laughter | Los Galindos (CAT)



La Gran Familia | Fadunito (CAT)



Le Sacre | La Ville en Feu (FR)



Ballroom | Post uit Hessdalen (BE)

Shared knowledge & networks

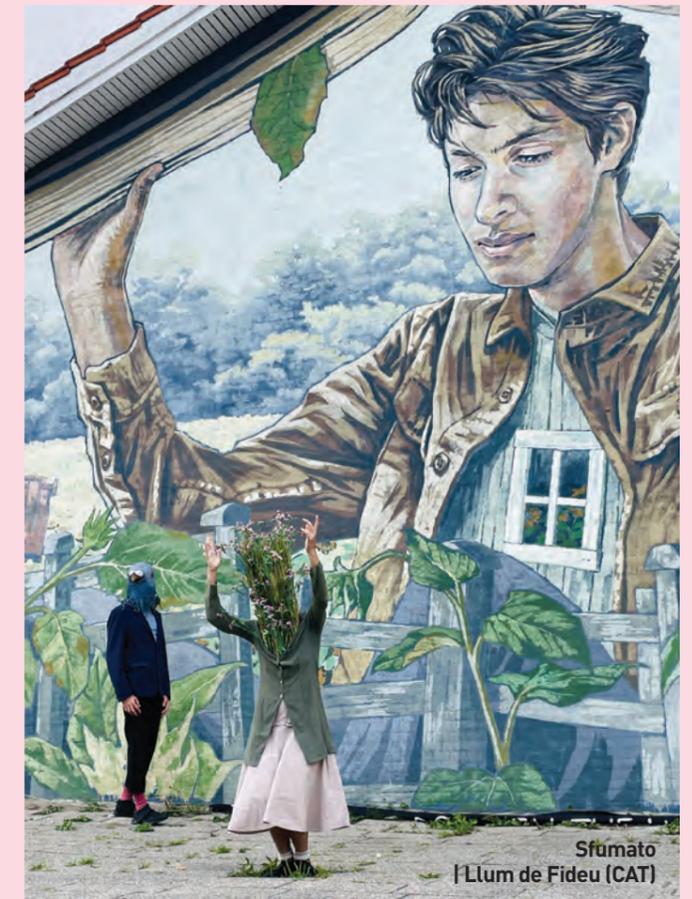
Creating, collecting and sharing knowledge on the role of performing arts in public space happens in both local, national and european networks and projects

Passage Festival is one of five case studies in a national study exploring what art actually does for people who encounter it in shared public spaces. **The Role of Art in Public Space** by the Danish Institute for Cultural Analysis and the Bikuben Foundation is the first Danish systematic study about how audiences experience temporary art activities in public space. This knowledge is important, as it can provide insight into how performing arts festivals contribute to inclusion, local development, and the role of the arts in democratic participation.

How is performing art experienced when it moves out of the theatre and into a shopping centre, a city street, or the shared lawn of a housing area — when audiences might encounter it unexpectedly during everyday activities?

The final analysis will be published early 2026.

Creation, collection and sharing of knowledge happens both locally and internationally, through projects such as Kunst på Banen and Kunsten at Trives, and through European projects and networks including **Hand to Hand**, **Green Streets of Europe**, **EFFEA**, **Perform Europe**, **Circostrada**, **ITER**, and the **Baltic Nordic Circus Network**.



Sfumato | Llum de Fideu (CAT)



Haute Heure | BaroloSolo (FR)



Haute Heure, BaroloSolo
Foto: Christian Brems

Når man som denne mand oplever gadeteater i det offentlige rum på et uventet tidspunkt, undgår man mange af de overvejelser, der typisk følger med en planlagt kulturoplevelse: Man skal ikke planlægge afgang, tænke på påklædning, og man har ikke forudgående forventning til indholdet. Det åbner muligheden for at blive positivt overrasket – og hvis ikke oplevelsen fænger, kan man blot gå videre. Som manden formulerer det:

“Jeg tror faktisk, jeg er mere positivt indstillet, end hvis jeg havde planlagt at komme.”

Sustainability in the field of performing arts

“One early, rainy morning I locked eyes with a snail. One late morning I balanced with a stick. One afternoon I hugged trees, and in a blissful moment of sunshine I felt the power of community.”

Anne Liisberg, iScene.

Art reflecting on sustainability, climate and co-existence has become an integral part of the Passage Festival program. These performances and projects offer different formats than we are used to, examining perspectives on relations with the planet, local life and art. They include **Green Streets of Europe** project, **Perform Europe** supported projects and independent performances, this year such as **Sfumato**

by Llum de Fideu (CAT), **Simply Treeming** by BabaFish Asbl (BE) and **Definition of an artwork as an act of trust in the audience** by L'immédiat (FR). This perspective was also a part of this year's **Passage EXTRA – Performing Landscapes Helsingør**. A collaboration between Passage Festival and Metropolis Festival.



In the Shadow of the Trees | Krista Burāne (LV)

GREEN STREETS OF EUROPE

International touring is essential to make vibrant artistic experiences accessible not only in Europe's major cities but also in smaller towns and rural areas. Yet conventional touring practices carry a significant environmental cost. **Green Streets of Europe** (2023-2025) seeks to rethink these models, shifting focus from the artistic product to the process – for the festivals, the artists, and the local communities and audiences that sustain them.

Through residencies, four European festivals collaborate with artists to explore new ways of producing, touring and presenting art. At this year's Passage Festival we presented three work demonstrations, developed with local knowledge and participants.

LEAD PARTNER
Passage Festival,
Denmark

PARTNERS
Imaginarium
Portugal

KoresponDance
Czech Republic

Špandirfest
Croatia



Co-funded by
the European Union



The Old Shipyard | Kajen Company (SE)



Delicate Balancing of a Twig | Dávid Somló (HU)

PERFORM EUROPE

Perform Europe is an EU-funded project aimed to rethink how performing arts works are presented across borders in a more inclusive, sustainable and balanced way by testing new touring and distribution practices and providing policy recommendations for a future EU support scheme.

Resisting Extinction by BodyCartography (NO) and **Manual of Adaptation to the Planet** by LUIT (FR) were supported by this project.

Perform Europe is funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union and co-managed by a Consortium of 5 organisations: IETM – International network for contemporary performing arts, the European Festivals Association (EFA), Circostrada, EDN – European Dancehouse Network, and IDEA Consult.



Manual of Adaptation to the Planet | LUIT (FR)



Resisting Extinction | BodyCartography (NO)

Audience



MDR - Death from laughter | Los Galindos (CAT)

Diversity in the festival program attracts a diverse audience.

The diversity of the festival programme attracts a diverse audience. Because Passage Festival takes place in public space, its audience naturally reflects the city itself - locals and tourists, families and passers-by, the curious and even the reluctant. Everyone contributes to the shared experience that unfolds here and now — in this exact moment, together.

This year, a few performances created that sense of togetherness for many new audiences through masterful clowning:

Perhaps, Perhaps... Quizás by Chula the Clown (FI/MX) sold out on opening night and drew an unusually high number of single-ticket buyers, many of whom were drawn in simply by the festival's main image: a captivating poster.

MDR – Death from Laughter by Los Galindos (CAT), returned to the festival and quickly became a word-of-mouth phenomenon from previous spectators before the festival, and several spectators came back to see it again.

Artists like these are widely recognised across Europe but remain less so in Denmark, where genres such as clowning are often underestimated. At Passage Festival, they meet an open audience — one that chooses curiosity over convention.



Perhaps, Perhaps... Quizás | Chula the Clown (FI/MX)



Perhaps, Perhaps... Quizás | Chula the Clown (FI/MX)

Volunteers

Our volunteers should have a sense of community, ownership, and shared experience. We especially focus on involving young people in creating the festival through our Passage Summer Camp.

12 young participants from across Europe joined our international **Passage Summer Camp** this year, participating in the community of making the festival.

The local theatre and music group for children and young people, **Ragnarock** were involved in creating the performance **Sfumato** by Llum de Fideu (CAT), together with several individual local participants.

Our **local volunteers** are an important part of making the festival happen.

In 2025, our volunteers were supported by SJF Bank and Spar Nord



Passage Summer Campers taking a break



Volunteers from the music & theatre group Ragnarock participating in Sfumato



Volunteers from the music & theatre group Ragnarock participating in Sfumato

PRESS

Collaborations across Denmark and Sweden ensure broad and varied press coverage — from local stories celebrating street theatre initiatives to critical reflections on the festival's community impact and artistic outlook

The theatre-focused website **SCENEBLOG.DK** published a review of the festival as a whole, with particular attention to *Stella Utero*.

The festival collaborated with **ISCENE.DK**, the national online news media for performing arts, on articles and reportages, while their journalists published reviews of Danish performances.

Regional news media from TV 2 covered both the festival and the touring installation MYRIAD LUMINARIUM, thereby extending the festival's visibility beyond North Zealand to audiences across the entire region.



"Once again, the festival deserves credit for activating different parts of the city and (...) involving citizens directly in performances that, with simple means, spark reflection among both participants and audiences."
Anne Liisberg, Iscene.dk



TV2 ØST



Regional news media from TV 2 covered both the festival and the touring installation MYRIAD LUMINARIUM, thereby extending the festival's visibility beyond North Zealand to audiences across the entire region. TV2 ØST followed 9-year-old Kastanje and her grandmother into Myriad Luminarium in Nakskov: "It looks a bit like a beach ball with its shape and colours... I could fall asleep here if I wanted. It feels calm", Kastanje said. "If I'd seen this before, it would 100 percent have been in a movie".

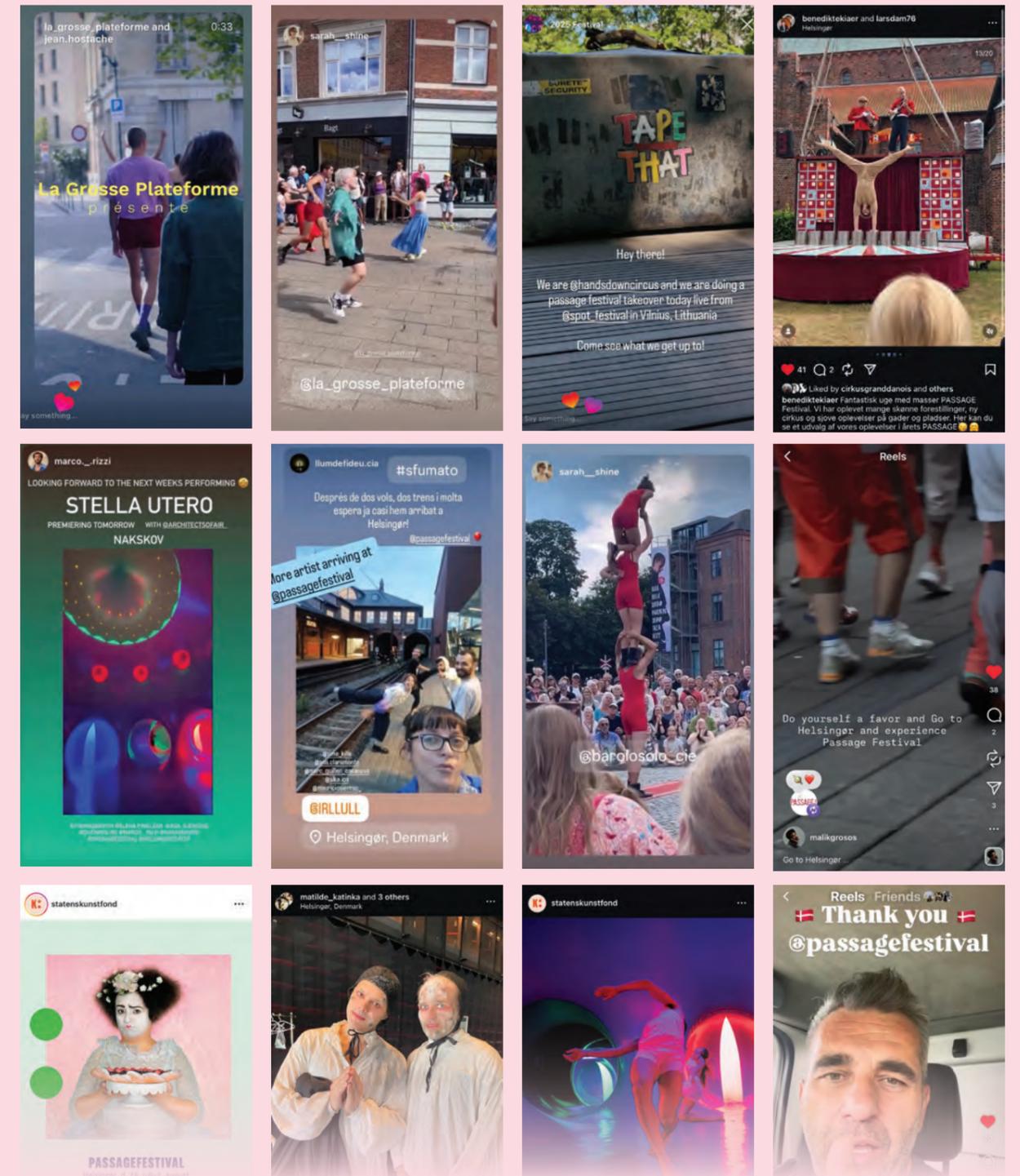
TV2 KOSMOPOL



SOCIAL MEDIA

Passage Festivals social media channels are used as a deliberate, creative tool rather than a polished showcase. This reflects the festival's aim to foster encounters between audiences, citizens and artists. Open, accessible, and in the same spirit as street theatre itself.

It is used both to communicate performances and practical information and as a platform for the artists through artist takeovers, with full freedom to decide how and what they share, offering audiences an informal, behind-the-scenes insight. Moreover, it invites active participation, allowing audiences to share their own experiences, recommendations, and moments of community.



Find more photos at Flickr

www.flickr.com/photos/passagefestival/albums

See videos at Vimeo

www.vimeo.com/helsingortheater



Miracle Lab | Nieuw Lef (NL)



So Bigger | Les Etablissements LaFaille (FR)



Maskeworkshop | Kulturhus Nordvest



Simply Treeming | BabaFish Asbl (BE)



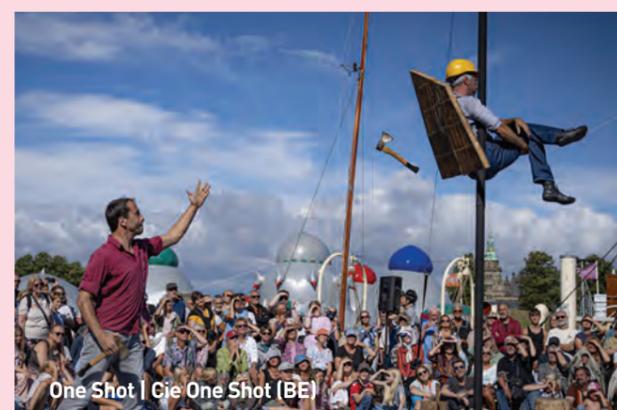
Weeping Men | CuntsCollective (DK) + Pikenø På Broen (NO)



Definition of the artwork as an act of trust in the audience | L'immediat (FR)



Simply Treeming | BabaFish Asbl (BE)



One Shot | Cie One Shot (BE)



Tape That! | Hands Down Circus (IE)

A person is rappelling down a large tree trunk in a park-like setting. The person is wearing a dark jacket and pants, and is suspended by ropes. The background shows a paved path, a brick building, and other trees. The entire image has a green tint.

**SEE YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR!
27. JULY – 1. AUGUST 2026**

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#PASSAGEFESTIVAL
#PASSAGEFESTIVAL2025**