

ELINA PIRINEN: *Ghosts of Rosegarden* (2026)



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Ghosts of Rosegarden is a big stage piece by interdisciplinary dance artist **Elina Pirinen**. It will premiere in Dance House Helsinki Erkko Hall on 6th of October 2026. The piece is co-produced by Zodiak- Center for New Dance, Sõltumatu Tantsu Lava, Tallinn, Dansens Hus Stockholm and BIT Teatergarasjen.

Ghosts of Rosegarden is a unique hybrid of maternal, classical, and neo-primitivist forms, created by a female-specific big stage presence with expressive dance, a text orchestration recital, string, bassoon, and timpani composition played by a live orchestra, and a live camera transforming the big stage into a theater of physical cinema.

In the hands of Pirinen, composer **Ville Kabrell**, dramaturge **Heidi Väättänen**, spatial and lighting designer **Mateus Manninen** and video artist **Jakob Öhrman** the vast work is an enchanting and hilarious autopsy this time using Stravinsky's iconic *The Rite of Spring* as its source. Stravinsky serves as a freely associative material, details, forms, depths, and absence. In addition to the use of *The Rite of Spring*, the content and execution of *Ghosts of Rosegarden* are strongly influenced by numerous works of classical music and their stage librettos and ballets, in which women/girls are sacrificed, murdered, enchanted into fairy-tale creatures, imprisoned, abducted, or otherwise meet a harsh and unfair end.

In *Ghosts of Rosegarden*, no female is killed. Instead of the original narrative, these women and girls are reborn again and again in different forms - as dancing, music playing, reciting poetry, flesh and blood, alter egos, wild mothers of the past, present, and future, material for creativity, symbols

of life, masters of ceremony, and new icons. Now these unsacrificed/unmurdered/unabducted/unbewitched /unimprisoned alternative narratives live out their unfinished lives in an artistic, intense, inconvenient and intimate way. They dance as they should have danced, sing songs of eternity, speak of impossible visions as if they were possible, and address the audience with their expressions as they should always have done. They change the writing of history, kill the misogynistic focus and causes of the classics, and deal with the surviving female core of artistic expression across the ages. The artists involved in the work are primarily concerned with creating their own artistic language in both dance and music, echoing the excessive materials of these well-known masterpieces.

Drawing on the notion of *maternalism* and interartistry the work is a state, landscape and an atmosphere where deeply recognisable corporeal imagination is a bridge from loneliness to connection, to the painful rupture that is born in us when we come out of the womb, from destruction and death to the energy of hope, from fear to rage, from apathy to grieving, from the individual body to the collective integration of subjects, not surrendering to the art-hostile time, to giving birth to the art of new narration of female-specific big stage poetry.

CREDITS

Direction, choreographical practice, poetry: Elina Pirinen

Composer, sound designer: Ville Kabrell

Dramaturge: Heidi Väättänen

Dancers: Simone Benini (IT), Karolina Ginman (FI), Age Klinkmann (EE), Elina Pirinen (FI), Arolin Raudva (EE), Felix Urbina (MX), Alina Pilecka (LT/PL)

Lighting and space designer: Mateus Manninen

Live camera concept and direction: Jakob Öhrman

Strings, bassoonists and timpani: Avanti Chamber Orchestra

Production manager: Maija Eränen

Administration: Outi Järvinen / Arts Management Helsinki

Distribution: Zodiak - Center for New Dance & Plan B - Creative office for Performing Arts

Photos: Anna Poleteli (2024)

Supported by: Arts Council Finland, Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation

Co-production: Zodiak - Center for New Dance (Finland), Sõltumatu Tantsu Lava (Estonia), Dansens Hus (Sweden), BIT Teatergarasjen (Norway), Libidian Wonders (Finland)



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SCHEDULE

4th-24th Aug 2025 | residency at Söltumatu Tantsu Lava, Tallinn, Estonia

1st-13th Dec 2025 | residency at Zodiak, Helsinki, Finland

20th Apr - 2nd May 2026 | residency at O Espaço do Tempo, Montemor-o-Novo, Portugal

3rd Aug-6th Oct 2026 | rehearsal period

6th Oct 2026 | the world premiere in Erkkö Hall, Dance House Helsinki, Finland

8th-10th Oct 2026 | performances in Erkkö Hall, Dance House Helsinki, Finland

TOURING

16th-17th Oct 2026 | performances in Söltumatu Tantsu Lava, Tallinn, Estonia

30th-31st Oct 2026 | performances in Dansens Hus, Stockholm, Sweden

Number of people touring: 15

The planned scale of the piece is from middle to large



BIO

Elin Pirinen's artistry and practice is entangled in choreography, dancing, music making and experimental writing, pedagogy and curating. She is committed to make female-specific stage, performative, aural and linguistic autopsies to the subconscious registers, deep primary emotions and intelligence through them. The focuses of her art are in imagination, romanticism, doom, obsessions, nightmares, daydreams, taboos, dark humour, sorrow, lust, despair, joy, suffering, silence, horror, satisfaction, shame, unwantedness, consolation and hope driven by feminist psychoanalytic depth and try to say something about these realities and experiences here through it. With deep Karelian roots Pirinen lives in Helsinki and by the lake Kalliojärvi.

In Finland Pirinen has been collaborating closely with Zodiak - Center for New Dance, Kiasma Theater of Kiasma Museum of contemporary art, performance art venue Mad House, Theatre Academy of Arts University Helsinki, Helsinki

Dance Company and Dance House Helsinki. Abroad she has worked with Iceland Dance Company, Carte Blanche Norway, Spring Festival Utrecht, Arsenic Lausanne, Hellerau Dresden, Buda Kortrijk, New York Live Arts, ImpulsTanz, Seoul Performing Arts festival, Hong Kong Arts Festival, Ice Hot Nordic Dance Platform, Norrlandsoperan, Bit Teatergarasjen, Lithuanian Music and Theatre Academy among others. She has toured widely with her works *Mortal Tropical Dances*, *Personal Symphonic Moment*, *Meadow, meadow, meadow*, *Concerto under Waterlilies*, *Brume de Mer* and *La Beaute du Coeur* and *Lover of the Pianist*.

Elina Pirinen works with a support of 8 year state grant for artists for 2017-2025. She is awarded with the Finnish State Art Prize 2022. She is awarded with Prix Jardin d'Europe prize in ImPulsTanz Vienna 2015 and with The Finnish Critics' Association honorary prize Critics' Spurs 2014. Pirinen is represented by Plan B - Creative Agency for Performing Arts.

She also works with domestic animals in need and plays and sings affective, romantic, peculiar and thunderian doom-baroque-synthesis-psycho-mortal-lyrical music with her orchestra Al2Be3.

CONTACT

Choreographer Elina Pirinen, pilvielina.pirinen@gmail.com

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