

## TERO SAARINEN COMPANY

The primary aim of Tero Saarinen Company, founded by dancer-choreographer Tero Saarinen in 1996, is to promote a humane worldview and basic human values through the language of dance, while also increasing people's understanding of their own physicality and its significance for a good life.

Tero Saarinen Company has appeared in nearly 40 countries and its activities include running an international teaching programme and community outreach projects. In addition, Saarinen and his team collaborate with other prominent dance groups; Nederlands Dans Theater (NDT1), the Batsheva Dance Company, Lyon Opéra Ballet and the Finnish National Ballet, to name but a few, have featured Saarinen's works in their repertoires.

Choreographer Tero Saarinen is known for his unique movement language that plays with balance, and off - balance. His choreographic style reflects influences ranging from Butoh and martial arts to classical ballet and Western contemporary dance. His works, which have won wide international acclaim, are characteristically *total artworks*: combinations of strong performers, striking visuals and, often, live music.

The company is in permanent residence at Helsinki's Alexander Theatre – the former home of the Finnish National Opera and Ballet, where Saarinen started his career in the 1980's. Tero Saarinen Company provides work for about 80 individuals each year, seven of whom have full-time posts. The Company's operations are supported by Finland's Ministry of Education and Culture and The City of Helsinki.

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Artistic Director **Tero Saarinen** Managing Director **Iiris Autio** Technical Director **Ville Konttinen** Dancer, Rehearsing Director **Henrikki Heikkilä** Dancer, Teacher, Choreographer's Assistant **Sini Länsivuori** Marketing & Communications Manager **Terhi Mikkonen** Head of International Sales **Johanna Rajamäki** Company Manager **Maiju Lempinen**

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