

Svalbard

Company Dossier

2019

Svalbard Company is a circus company that believes in multidisciplinary art and is composed of 4 young international performers (Ben Smith - UK, John Simon Wiborn – Sweden now replaced by Alexis Akrovatakis - Greece, Tom Brand - Germany, Santiago Ruiz – Spain), currently based in Stockholm. They trained at various preparatory circus schools before graduating from DOCH (www.doch.se) in 2014. The team has a multitude of high level skills in various circus disciplines such as vertical rope, Chinese pole, handstands, hand to hand, banquine, clowning, acrobatics and movement/dance.

All Genius All Idiot premiered at Jatka 78 Prague in 2016 and was awarded "best

circus and physical theatre” at the Adelaide Fringe weekly awards in 2016. The show has been touring the world in dance, circus & theatre festivals, alongside traditional theatres and fringe venues with over 100 performances to date, in 20 countries and across 4 continents to hugely success.

1

All genius all idiot

“There is a fine line between the genius and the idiot, similar to the conflict within ourselves: the battle between the instinct and the intellect. The idiot is often equated with stupidity and the instinct with the animalistic. On the other side the genius is often regarded as human and equated with intellectuality. What makes us a genius and what makes us an idiot?”

Vivid and outrageous in equal measure *All Genius All Idiot* revels in the absurdities of life, using extreme circus artistry to highlight human behavior at its most animalistic. Svalbard bends the edges of contemporary circus and blends it with theatre, dance and live music to create a truly original piece that you will remember for its surreal quality as well as its awe-inspiring skills and realness. All Genius All Idiot features Chinese pole, aerial rope, hand balance and acrobatics, driven by a hauntingly beautiful and at times bizarre original soundtrack, played live by the performers.

We will be all singing all dancing all flying all crying all rocking all genius all idiots!

Length: 75 minutes without intermission. (Performers are on stage as audience enters the space) **Age limit:** 12 years and older (recommendation)

2

CREDITS Performers: Benjamin Smith, Alexis Akrovatakis, Tom Brand, Santiago Ruiz Albalate **Authors:** Benjamin Smith, John Simon Wiborn, Tom Brand, Santiago Ruiz Albalate **Artistic collaboration with:** Peter Jasko **Scenography:** Kasper Svenstrup Hansen **Lightdesign:** Zuzana Rezná **Light and sound technician:** Ernesto Monza **Exterior eye:** Methinee Wongtrakoon **Exterior eye/Acrobatic coach:** Bahoz Témaux **Musical exterior eye:** Mae Karthäuser **Costume:** Michiel Tange van Leeuwen

Producer: Thea Hope **Supported by:** Konstnärsnämnden, Kulturrådet, Arts Council England, Glastonbury Arts Commission, Stockholms Stad, Subtopia, Cirk la Putyka, Cirkör LAB & Jacksons Lane

CONTACTS

Production Thea Hope
management@svalbardcompany.com
+447703687396

Technical pre-production
Ernesto Monza

jhonproctor@yahoo.com
+34625019638

Contact on tour: Thea Hope or Tom
Brand
management@svalbardcompany.com
+447703687396 or +46 70-635 39

3

REVIEWS

“You don’t know if you can trust them, nor where characterisation stops and the performers’ egos take over. Still, I have no regrets being in the company of such defiantly skilful, invigorating provocateurs. Svalbard, whose members met while training in Sweden, could be a cult. Remnants of their show may well be still lurking in my subconscious.” **Donald Huttera – The Times, August 2017** Full review:

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/edinburgh-circus-review-all-genius-all-idiot-assembly-roxy-edinburgh-mcfnxrv7>

“The company really explores what it is to recognise the animal inside us and to nurture it into a wild beast. The performance is breath-taking in its freedom, even in the circus world – and so much fun. It is absurd only because they want it to be, and because it suits them; there is nothing false about this.” “Whatever you expect, it’s weirder and more wonderful. Come with an open mind and you won’t be disappointed.” **Imogen**

Rowe – Edinburgh Guide, August 2017 Full review:

<https://www.edinburghguide.com/festival/2017/edinburghfringe/allgeniusallidiotassemblyroxyreview-18205>

The quality of talent is surreal and it's refreshing to see a circus show that isn't focused

just on the spectacle. The title summarises the play perfectly: it is incredibly idiotic, but certainly genius. It's tribal, sleazy, sensual and raw, and looks dangerous, which is just what we want. **Alistair Wilkinson – Broadway World, August 2017** Full review:

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/westend/article/EDINBURGH-2017-BWW-Review-ALL-GENIUS-ALL-IDIOT-Assembly-Roxy-20170826>

More reviews: <http://magazine.dailybusinessgroup.co.uk/2017/08/12/provocative-show-surreal-circus-treat/> <http://playstosee.com/svalbard-all-genius-all-idiot/>

"A visceral, gender bending display of strength and creativity, All Genius, All Idiot is not like any other circus performance you will see. It is as diverse as the characters themselves – filled with complexity and contradiction." **Lisa Banks – Rip it up, February 2016**

"Never has a show been better named. Crazy, anarchic and all over the place with high octane energy. Arriving just in time and taking one of the last seats at the very front, I felt I was at the brunt of a rollercoaster, along for the ride." **Lucy Loves Circus, February 2016**

"All Genius All Idiot is circus as a liminal act, on the edge between civilization and the wilds, between circus and music, between animal and human, between the genders, between and the real and otherworldly. It is a hedonistic celebration of the Bacchanalian spirit." **Thomas JM Wilson - Total Theatre**

4

Touring information

This document contains the touring information for All Genius All Idiot presented by Svalbard Company.

COMPANY DETAILS

The touring members of the company consist of 6 people:

Tom Brand (Performer) Benjamin Smith (Performer)
Santiago Ruiz Albalate (Performer) Alexis Akrovatakis
(Performer) Ernesto Monza (Technician) Thea Hope
(Manager)

TRAVEL

Flights: All flights to be booked in close collaboration with the Company - door to door / acknowledge different departures and returns etc

5

Luggage: The luggage needs to be booked and prepaid by the promoter as follows:

Tom Nepomuk Brand:

1x20kg plus 1x23kg

Benjamin James Robert Smith:

2x23kg

Ernesto Monza:

1x23kg

Santiago Ruiz Albalate: 1x23kg 3x19kg special luggage/skibag (Chinese Pole and each is 205x10x10cm) If grid clearance is 8m or higher it will be 3 pieces and if lower 2.

Alexis Akrovatakis (passport name: Alekos

Kaziridis): 1x23kg

Thea Hope: 1

x 23 kg

Local transport: All transports as listed below are to be covered by the inviting organisation for each touring member. Large taxis or people carriers suggested to be on hand for duration of company rehearsal & performance days due to amount of set & luggage:

- Place of departure (home) → airport (and return)
- Airport/point of arrival → accommodation/venue (and return)
- Accommodation → venue (the luggage/set need to be dropped by car/taxi and if it is not walking distance between lodging and venue the organizer should provide us with transport).

The estimated total cost to cover touring members place of departure (home) – airport (and return) is 400€ depending on the situation. We are unable to travel by public transport due to size of set and equipment carried by each member. If you have any queries about providing the correct transport, please contact Thea Hope (management@svalbardcompany.com).

PERFORMANCE

Playing time: 75 min (performers are on stage as audience enters the space)

6

This performance contains partial nudity, strobe lights and is recommended for people over 12 years. During the performance a small pyrotechnic is operated and it contains dry ice, water and confetti on stage. It contains inappropriate English words in the music lyrics.

We request no announcement or signal is made before the show begins e.g turn off your phones etc.

GET-IN/GET-OUT

Get in time:

- In the case of intercontinental flying and/or jetlag of over 5 hours incurred during

travel, it is a requirement for get in to be minimum one day before the performance.

- In all other cases, it is preferred for get in to be the day before performance however is possible to play the show on the day of get in if : all rigging points are ready to use, the lights and dimmer channels are prepared and the sound requirements are met as shown in the technical rider and its accompanying rigging, sound and light plans. - in exceptions we can play on the same day following discussion with the company & agreement
- Define rest / travel/ play days minimum requirement
- All technical & rigging requests are complete via the attached check list and confirmed in advance and available on time requested for. / confirmation from venue

Get out time:

- 2 1/2 hours post the show is required for pack down & get out. We will need assistance from theatre staff to clean the stage and large taxi / people carrier to transport set and equipment to accommodation or place of return home travel.

SET Stage

dimensions:

- Ideal stage dimensions: 10m x 10m white or grey dance floor in a 10.5m wide x 12m deep space.
- Rope rigged maximum at 8m, grid clearance of 8 meters.
- Minimum floor size: 9m x 9m white or grey dance floor in a 9.5m wide x 10m deep space, rope rigged at minimum 6m, grid clearance of 6m.

Sound conditions:

- We need THE SAME highly qualified sound technician available for both the sound check and show etc and speaks **English** - speak to ben & about scheduling of sound check /ideal time frame
- Due to live music and live recording on stage if playing in a festival or tent there should not be any loud shows playing nearby. We will not play in a venue with excessive sound pollution.

DRESSING ROOMS AND WARM UP SPACE

- Heated dressing room with light, water, towels and mirrors.

- Light snacks - fruit, nuts and water.
- Lockable safe place.
- Heated warm up space of minimum 5m by 5m floor and ceiling clearance of 4m.
- Ideally access to a washing machine.

QUESTIONS OF CHANGE In case any of the conditions cannot be met please inform management@svalbardcompany.com as soon as possible. We are happy to engage in a discussion regarding any shortcomings but will not accept them should the quality of the show or the health and safety of the performers be compromised.

AUDIENCE RULES The use of mobile phones is strictly forbidden during the performance. It is ok to take pictures without flash. No people walking on stage if they are not asked to by any of the performers. No audience member should touch or manipulate anything on stage without getting a OK from anyone of the performers. No smoking or any other source of fire on or close to the stage. It is allowed to enter the show after start if it is done in a discreet way that doesn't distract the performers or the show. People are free to leave if they want to at any moment of the show without distracting the performers or the show.

IMPORTANT This document is the Dossier. The more detailed technical information is provided in the Technical Rider which comes in combination with the Rigging Plan, Light Plan, Sound Plan and the Checklist.

CONDITIONS Maximum of one show per day with the possibility of having enough time to do a good and safe preset and have a free stage for the performers 2 hours before the show. Minimum 17h from the end of the performance to the start of the next performance. The show cannot be performed if it is too humid in the venue. Performance space temperature of min: 17 and max: 25 degrees Celsius. Wooden stage floor under the dance mat or something with equal characteristics (not concrete).

WISHES If there is any possibility to get free or reduced appointments with Physiotherapists or Osteopaths that are connected to the venue we are more than happy if you can help us to book appointments with them if needed. If there is a possibility for the venue to borrow us bikes for our stay that would be highly appreciated.

