

Summary 2014

The coverage of Finnish circus statistics

These circus statistics concern professional Finnish circus performances. The circus statistics comprise both contemporary circus companies and classical touring circus.

The compilation of statistics on circus began in 2006. Traditional circus was included in 2007. The number of circus companies included in the statistics has grown steadily: from five companies in 2006 to fifteen circus- and fire art companies in 2008 and twenty circus companies in 2012. The 2014 statistics gather information from nineteen circus companies and Cirko – Center for New Circus, as well as two working groups, one production house and two circus festivals, in addition to one classical touring circus troupe, Sirkus Finlandia.

Circus productions by Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth are shown also in the chart, but the numbers are not included in the total amount of circus performances. Dance Theatre Hurjaruuth is included in the dance statistics.

The figures of 2014 specify the work of circus companies operating both with and without state support. The statistics include 11 circus companies and one circus center, for which state support was granted in 2014. The figures of state support for circus companies can be found on page x of this book.

Characteristically for circus art, these statistics cover performances ranging from larger creations set up for stage to solo performances and outdoor spectacles. Productions are therefore divided into stage performances and other gigs. The amount of performances and spectators of co-produced productions is shown in separate columns. The co-production partners are listed in the footnotes.

Some traditional circus companies are missing from the statistics. A lot of activity within e.g. social circus and circus for social inclusion is not included in this chart, nor the large number of Finnish youth circus performances.

Number of performances and spectators

The number of circus performances compiled in the statistics of 2014 was altogether 1.406. Out of these the contemporary circus companies produced altogether 1.165 performances.

The aggregate attendance of the circus performances was 365.983 spectators in 2014. Out of these performances the contemporary circus companies gathered an audience of 168 599 spectators.

The 2014 figures for traditional circus show a decrease by 5% (12 performances) in number of performances and 14% (31.605 spectators) in number of spectators.

Instead the figures for circus companies and the circus center show an increase by 19% in the number of performances (187 performances) and by 30% in the number of spectators (38.605 spectators).

Circus companies and the circus center organised altogether 722 performances in Finland (in 2013: 639) and 443 performances abroad (in 2013: 339). The aggregate attendance of Finnish contemporary circus companies in the year of 2014 was 70.789 spectators in Finland (in 2013: 67.813) and 97.810 spectators abroad (in 2013: 62.181). Compared to the previous year both the numbers in Finland and abroad show an increase.

It is worth acknowledging that the artistic work of circus companies has expanded from performances to new areas like productions of circus-themed short movies, exhibitions of media art and running a multi-art performance venue. The spectators of these are not included in this chart. Nor are the outdoor performances or festival competition shows that gather large crowds (together 21 performances, 24.000 spectators).

Performances outside of Finland

It is characteristic for the international nature of circus art that more than a third (38%) of the performances and more than a half of the spectators (58%) for Finnish contemporary circus companies take place outside Finland.

Finnish circus companies' tours reach all corners of the Globe. During 2014 Finnish circus companies visited a total of 27 countries: besides 19 European countries also in Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Malaysia, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and the USA.

Repertoire list and other activities chart

The 19 circus companies and two working groups included in the statistics produced altogether 28 first premieres in 2014. The statistics include a repertoire list of the companies.

In addition to performances the companies work with a range of various other activities like organising workshops and circus camps, projects with different target groups, post-show discussions and lectures and work-in-progress shows of their coming productions (demos). Some of the companies have venues, where they can offer residencies also for other companies. Residencies play a meaningful role in the activities of the Cirko - Center for New Circus. Offered residencies are typical for circus art activities, and many circus

organisations are currently developing a residency program. Information on other than performance activities are gathered within the other activities chart.

FURTHER INFORMATION: CircusInfo Finland,
www.sirkusinfo.fi