

LAST DANCE

Choreographer **Sari Palmgren's** *Last Dance* is a poignant ballad of biodiversity loss set against a soundtrack of popular hits. Infused with hope, the piece envisions a shift in the human-nature relationship – turning towards the other and the unknown – before the last shared dance. A weary hiker becomes one with the landscape and confronts their limits. On a hummock of moss, through the lens of a microscopic world, they revisit their wilted connections – and rediscover a fragile bond.

Individuals form pairs

Pairs form chains

Chains create networks

I imagine stems twining around me

Branching, merging, swaying

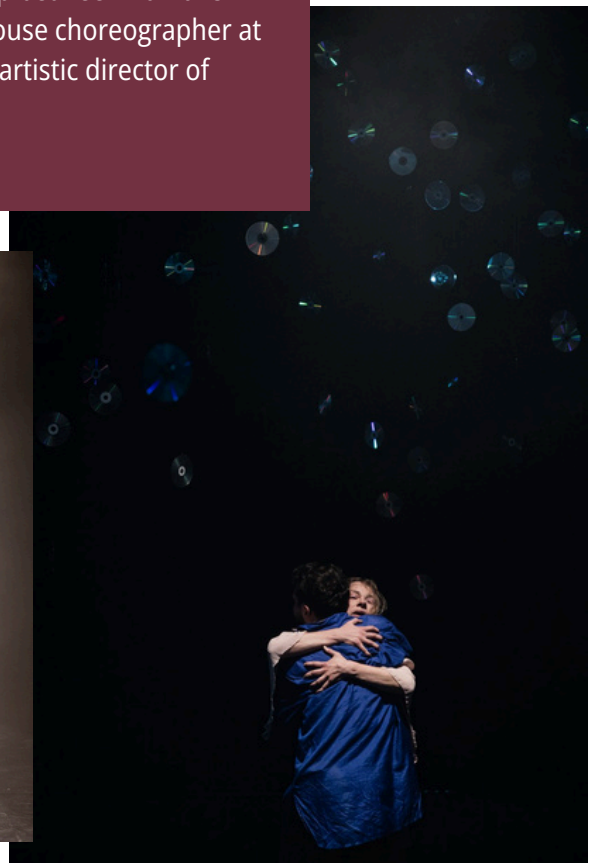
When a plant and fungus embrace, it's hard to imagine a more intimate connection.

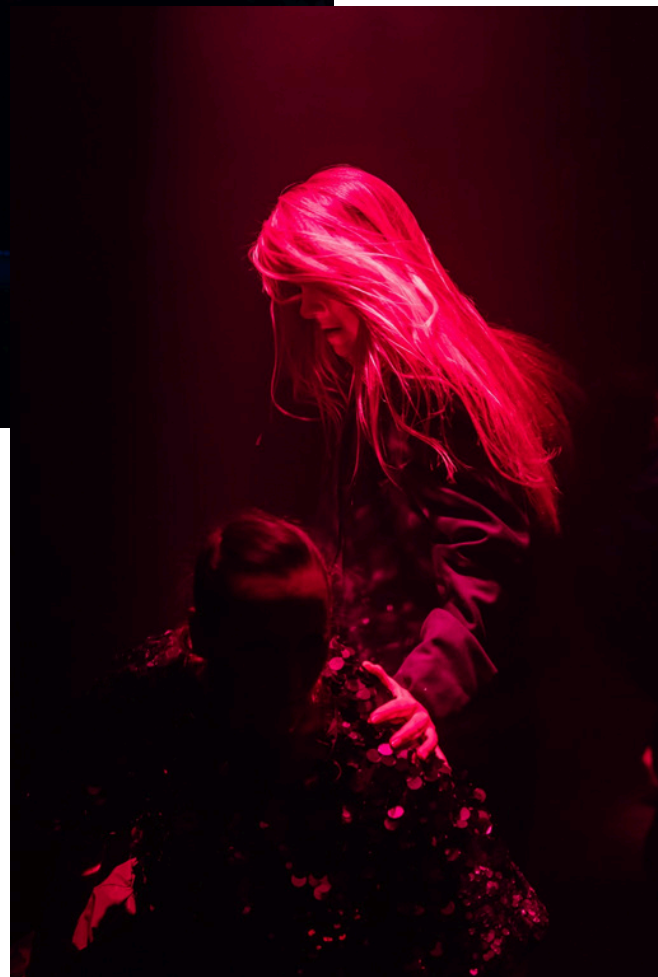
Last Dance brims with emotion and nostalgia. Its playlist features hits from recent decades, shifting movement from tender ballads to pulsating rhythms. But this is more than just a trip down memory lane – Last Dance is also a ballad of biodiversity loss. The symbioses and networks in nature, the species that depend on one another, are in danger.

The performance's duets draw inspiration from symbiotic relationships around us, such as the bond between the slimy spike-cap and spruce, or the ladybird and braconid wasp. One is used to reach further, the other is drained of life, while the third is allowed to flourish.

Sari Palmgren has been a dance artist for over 20 years, working both in Finland and internationally. She has collaborated with a wide range of artists on stage productions, dance films, immersive and site-specific performances, and community dance projects. Her work often explores themes such as the environment, the relationship between humans and nature, and the cycle of life. From 2019 to 2021, Palmgren was house choreographer at Zodiak – Center for New Dance. Since August 2023, she has been the artistic director of Routa Company.

www.saripalmgren.com





LAST DANCE

Choreography and direction:

Sari Palmgren

in collaboration with the working group

Dancers:

**Krista-Julia Arppo, Minna Kaaronen,
Olli Lautiola, Kaisa Niemi, Alina Sakko**

Lighting and spatial design:

Teo Lanerva

Costume design:

Siru Kosonen

Sound design and composition:

Joonas Pehrsson

Production:

Routa Company, Zodiak – Centre for New Dance,
Sari Palmgren & CO

Performance photos:

Minna Hyvönen

Premiere:

28.11.2024, Seminaarin Taidekampus, Kajaani

