

Sointula

Dreaming allowed! Lappeenranta City Theatre's musical *Sointula* explores early 20th-century colonial utopia

Tuomo Aitta's play *Sointula* premieres on the main stage of Lappeenranta City Theatre on Saturday, 18 November 2023 at 16.00. *Sointula* tells the incredible story of the Ingrian Finnish journalist and utopian Matti Kurikka from a hundred years ago. The musical focuses on the charismatic historical figure and his contemporaries, whose actions take on comical aspects in the eyes of a 21st-century audience.

The role of Matti Kurikka is played by **Johannes Korpijaakko**. The play's art director is **Markus Tsokkinen**, and the music has been composed by **Mikko Hietanen**.

Sointula was a utopian Finnish colony founded by Matti Kurikka in Canada at the beginning of the 20th century. Kurikka was a journalist and a charismatic preacher and leader of his time, who managed to engage people in his utopian dreams.

"What is interesting about Kurikka is his magnetic charisma, which helped him get people to leave everything behind and travel to the other side of the world," says playwright and director Tuomo Aitta.

The play explores Sointula and Matti Kurikka's eventful life, largely through flashbacks. The play begins with a scene where Kurikka sits on a park bench in New York and ponders his life.

"It is a peculiar folk comedy featuring Kurikka's memories and a dream play. The play moves in the twilight zone between dreams, reality and utopia," Aitta says.

The play gives the audience a window into the dreams, utopias and pursuits of the early 20th century. According to Aitta, the play raises the question of the illusionless nature of our own time.

"A hundred years ago, people lived in a terribly unequal world, which gave rise to utopias and dreams. Today, we live in a time where it has been discovered, for example through climate change, that our way of life is unsustainable and we must come up with new ways to be. Yet our future horizon is so narrow that we dare not dream."

"It's great that people are still excited about Kurikka and that he still inspires hope in us, a hope that perhaps miracles do happen," Aitta continues.

The music of the play, composed by Mikko Hietanen, shows recognisable influences of both workers' music and folk music. Some of the song lyrics used were written by Matti Kurikka.

Helka-Maria Kinnunen, Director of Lappeenranta City Theatre, says that there is still an interesting buzz around *Sointula*. This is reflected, for example, in the busload of *Sointula* fans coming to watch the premiere.

"*Sointula* is crazy! The play features strong elements of folk comedy. The incredible story of a historical figure is enriched with music and supported on the stage by the entire ensemble of our theatre," Kinnunen says.

Performances of *Sointula* will continue until 25 April 2024.

Read more: [Sointula – Lappeenranta City Theatre \(lprteatteri.fi\)](https://lprteatteri.fi)

Further information:

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Tuomo Aitta
SOINTULA
Premiere Saturday, 18 November 2023 at 16.00
Lappeenranta City Theatre
Main Stage

WORKING GROUP

Director Tuomo Aitta

Art director Markus Tsokkinen

Composer Mikko Hietanen

Musician Seppä Äikas

Costume design Mimmi Resman

Lighting design Antti Helminen

Lighting technology Antti Helminen, Topi Jukka, Timo Hämäläinen

Sound design Tomi Aronen

Sound technology Tomi Aronen

Stage technology Kirka Haikonen, Vesa Hovi, Matti Jarva, Valtteri Pääkkönen

Prop makers Sirpa Tervo, Riikka Pulkkinen, Laura Suoniitty, Minna Honkanen

Prompter and prop manager Laura Suoniitty

Hair and make-up artist Pinja Ruokolainen

Performance assistant Sanna Tapanila

Costume maintenance Eva Eronen

Costume makers Päivi Hanttu-Lindström, Päivi Saarimäki, Anu Hovi, Pirjo Selin

Set makers Ville Turku, Vesa Hulkkonen, Heikki Takkinen, Tommi Salonen

Organiser Jari Seppälä