

# BRANO!

Dear Ulla Dengsøe and the Festival of Wonder - Silkeborg Puppet Festival,

It was a great pleasure and joy for me to be invited as an international guest to the Silkeborg Puppet Festival - Festival of Wonder 2013. I brought back to Helsinki with me some of the wonders I experienced during the festival. I had most inspiring and enjoyable time in Silkeborg.

The Festival of Wonder is the largest and most important international festival specializing in puppetry, object and visual theatre in Nordic countries. I would like to thank Ulla Dengsøe for her excellent work with the festival program which was a fantastic choice of highly artistic international and Danish productions for children and adults. As a festival programmer for the young audiences I was also happy to experience a large selection of excellent Danish performances for children and young people in the festival program.

This year's festival theme was Animation Theatre: Experiments Based on Unique Traditions. The theme reflects from my opinion well the current trend in the field of puppetry. Experimenting with tradition and expression. Looking back into traditional forms of expression from contemporary point of view. The international festival programme included puppet masters and new performers and groups, new and fresh styles, breaking down of boundaries, performances with amazing visual worlds, fascinating experiments and also traditional good puppet acting. Among the highlights of the festival was the exhibition by Czech Forman Brothers Theatre in collaboration with the Silkeborg Arts Centre. Exhibition was an amazing experience. I felt privileged to have chance to experience this large exhibition representing the work of one of the most interesting companies in the field of performing arts in Europe. Have a close look at the work that combines old and new puppet tradition in unique way in their performances.

The festival acts as an important platform for the professionals in the field of puppetry and performing arts to create and develop the international collaborations and networks, find new ways to develop this specific field of performing arts as wells as make cultural exchange. Exchange experiences and inspiration across borders. Take part in several meetings, seminars, presentations and discussions held by the Danish and international professionals from the field of puppetry and performing arts. Get new inspiration and experience the diversity of this special form of performing arts.

Warm thank you Ulla and festival committee of Festival of Wonder. I wish you a wonderfull Autumn time!

Helsinki 18.11.2013

Kind regards,

Lotta Nevalainen

ASSITEJ Finland, Bravo! Festival, International Theatre Festival for Young Audiences

[www.bravofinland.org](http://www.bravofinland.org)