



**Red Nose Company & Quo Vadis: Trench Road**

Premiere 24 January 2014 | Theatre Avoimet Ovet, Helsinki

Trench Road is Red Nose Company's breakthrough work. It's a story of a man who runs to save his marriage, the fragile dreams we all have and most importantly — LOVE. The audiences and the critics have loved the show. It has been invited to various festivals and is still touring.

In Trench Road, we meet a man stunned by divorce. He wants another chance with his wife and decides to get his family a dream house. This mission gets him into situations that just become more and more absurd. The clowns thrust themselves into the wonderful and horrible moments of domestic life, even revealing details of their own personal life. What would you do to save your marriage? The performance is spiced up with live music: the actors perform rock classics from Neil Young to U2 and Johnny Cash.

Trench Road is based on a novel by Kari Hotakainen, one of the best-selling authors in Finland. Trench Road won both the Finlandia prize in 2002 and the Nordic Council Literature Prize in 2004. It reveals the essence of the Finnish way of life and mentality, with a gentle touch of irony.

This Show Is a Classic!

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*"The audience laughs from the very beginning to the end. The actors improvise and build up a good connection with the spectators. Absolute fun, lovely performance." – Finnish Newspaper'*

*"Witty, bright and great fun!" – Theatre and Dance Magazine*

*"I've never laughed this much in theatre." - spectator*

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**Directed by** Otso Kautto

**Dramaturgy** Timo Ruuskanen & Tuukka Vasama

**Original story** Kari Hotakainen

**Performers** Timo Ruuskanen & Tuukka Vasama

**Light & sound design** Jere Kolehmainen

**Costume design** Tuomas Lampinen

**Production** Niina Bergius, Anna Jauhola & Mika Vainio / Red Nose Company

**Co-production** Theatre Quo Vadis



Trench Road has been directed by **Otso Kautto**. Kautto is a Helsinki-based writer, an awarded theatre director and performing poet. In 2018 Kautto was elected director of TTT Theatre in Tampere, which is one of the three national main theatres in the country. He has directed both in big theatres as well as in small theatre groups, mostly at Theatre Quo Vadis and the Finnish National Theatre. He performs his poetry in the Poetry Band and is doing his PhD studies at the Theatre Academy where his research topic is sense of ritual.

**Mike (Tuukka Vasama) & Zin (Timo Ruuskanen)** have been together on stage since 2008. Their extraordinary commitment to one another means that anything can happen in their shows. The duo takes risks and still manages to nail their shows every time. This method allows the performances to evolve, and through the years, they've continued to just get better and better. Ruuskanen & Vasama are also talented multi-instrumentalists who bring strong moods into their performance through the live music they play.

Tuukka Vasama is an award-winning actor who works in big city theatres, national broadcasting company, as well as small independent theatres. Tuukka Vasama holds a degree in acting from Theatre Academy Helsinki. He specializes in clownery, music, poetry, drama and live art. In 2018, he received the Artist of the Year Award from the City of Helsinki.

Timo Ruuskanen holds a degree in acting from the Theatre Academy Helsinki. He's based in Helsinki and does theatre, television and movies. He has acted both in big theatres (the Finnish National Theatre, Helsinki City Theatre, Espoo City Theatre etc.) as well as in a number of theatre groups. He specializes in clownery, improvisation and puppetry and also teaches them. He has also written and directed (several) plays.

## **RED NOSE COMPANY**

Red Nose Company is one of the most renowned theatre companies in Finland and they've co-operated with all of the biggest theatres in Finland, including the national theatre. Red Nose Company has been on tour from 2008 onwards, and performed to over 70 000 fans ever since.

Red Nose Company performs classical drama and contemporary texts. The skillful actors combine physical comedy, live music and witty stand up comedy – all wrapped up in stylish clownery with the beauty of the red nose.

The company performs with four different languages, English, Swedish, Spanish and Finnish, and happily mixes languages when coming across with a multilingual audience.

[www.rednose.fi](http://www.rednose.fi)

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