



BRUCE WILLIS SAVES THE WORLD



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by VEIKKO NUUTINEN JA RIKO SAATSI

directed by RIKO SAATSI

set designer LASSI KANSIKAS

lighting designer TOMI SUOVANKOSKI

sound designer JORI TOSSAVAINEN

costume designer, props and prompter SANNA LEVO

stage manager and Bruce Willis JYRKI LEHTINEN

cast

IIDA-MARIA HEINONEN

TONI KAMULA

TERO KOPONEN

ARTTU KURTTILA

ANNA KUUSAMO

JUSSI-PEKKA PARVIAINEN

Production: Mika Lehtinen, Bertta Häkkinen

PROSPERO / Centre for Practise as Research in Theatre /

University of Tampere

Cooperation TTT-Theatre,

Theatrical Arts / University of Tampere and Theatre Academy Helsinki





A person is sitting on a stage in a dark theater, illuminated by a spotlight. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on the person.

EPISODES OF THE PLAY

1. "BIRDY"

2. "GODSPEED!"

3. "I SHOT THE SHARIF"

4. "DEATHWISH"

5. "THE ONLY WAY UP GOES IN"

6. "LET IT SNOW"

ON BEING A HERO

The central theme in the performance *Bruce Willis Saves the World* is heroism. What does it mean to be a hero? Who is a hero? Does the conception of heroism vary with time and place? What kinds of values are associated with being a hero? What type of a role model can a hero be?

In this performance ordinary Finnish people find themselves in extraordinary situations. These situations demand deeds and characteristics that are usually associated with heroism, for example bravery, surpassing or even sacrificing oneself for a common good. It depends on us whether we see a hero in a distinguished warrior or in a person who is the only one to refuse arms. Heroism transforms and has multiple shapes. The conception of heroism tells something about us and about the wishes and ideas we tend to associate with heroes.

In his most famous movies the *Die Hards*, Bruce Willis plays John McClane a drunkard cop fed up with life and work who is at first reluctant to claim his role as a hero and savior of the world. However, at the end, he sacrifices himself to the heroism because nobody else is willing to do the tough job of saving the world. The *Die Hards* are true to their genre, the spectator can be sure to see a happy ending for John McClane always finds a way to save the world. It is often more interesting to analyze this kind of movies from another point of view and for example seek to find out how much and what John McClane has to destroy in order to save the world. An equally interesting angle is to ponder on what is the world (and the values of that world) John McClane wants to rescue of all the possible worlds that there are to rescue.

Is Finland in need of heroes similar to the ones played by Bruce Willis? Recently the American newspaper *Newsweek* chose Finland to be the best country in the world to live in. Repeatedly Finland is ranked at the top in the PISA research. The latest first position for Finland comes from the British lifestyle magazine

Monocle as it chose Helsinki to be the city providing the best quality of life for its inhabitants in the world. In several comparisons the Finns are considered to be a fairly happy people. And last but not least, we are the 2011 World Champions in ice hockey. In spite of the worldwide financial crisis, the economy of Finland is in balance – at least if we are to believe our politicians.

So why do pupils shoot each other in the best country of the world? One can only ask if the sorest point of our society's contemporary history – the school shootings – have something to do with being a hero.

In his classic of self-help manual *Sisäinen Sankari* (1996) ("Inner Hero") Jari Sarasvuo, motivation trainer and media person, manifests the fundamentals of heroism that can be found in all of us. Sarasvuo thinks that a person can gradually become a hero and be able to solve the most vicious problems of the world – or that is the way the brand management group puts it.

It is alerting, but not totally surprising, that parallel thoughts to the *Sisäinen sankari* by Sarasvuo can be found in *Luonnollisen Valinnan manifesti* ("Manifest of Natural Choice") written by a school shooter. They both divide people into two categories: there are strong-willed heroes who act freely and independently and then there are weak slaves who belong to a robotlike mass and submit to their slavery. Egocentric heroism leaves no place for solidarity and can easily be perceived as a perversion of a more traditional hero image.

Those who are familiar with theatre history know well what fate has in store for the heroes in the tragedies of Antiquity. Instead of a feast at the end, the hero is dead and buried. John McClane inflicts destruction and death with his actions. Thus, in becoming a hero there is also a potential for destruction and redemption. This performance is a study on these two sides of heroism.

THE SIX PHASES OF BECOMING A HERO

1. INNOCENCE

"In tales and legends the first phase is wrapped around the innocence of the hero. Often the hero is the son of a farm worker or a prince who has not yet experienced life. Usually he is fairly content and does not seek a challenge in his life."

2. THE CALL

"The hero takes on the invitation to adventure and leaves all the comfort and security behind."

3. INITIATION

"Soon after having left for adventure, the hero encounters challenges superior to his own powers. The hero is defeated, loses everything or falls for temptation and this leads him into a situation in which his prior knowledge does not apply. A crisis laying ahead he meets frightened, with doubt and with repentance for having left home."

4. ALLIES

"The fourth phase of becoming a hero is the phase of forming an alliance with others alike. Before a common threat, the hero unites with people, animals and divine creatures he has met along the way."

5. BREAKTHROUGH

"In the moment of breakthrough, or final victory, the hero is able to combine his previous experiences and the powers of the people he has met along the way. Together they become powerful enough to beat the challenge which once was impossible to overcome. The breakthrough can also mean illumination, a physical and mental triumph. The hero becomes aware that the adventures were not about gaining something but becoming someone."

6. CELEBRATION

"The sixth phase consists of throwing a feast. The hero is given a prize, often bigger and more valuable than he expected. Finally the hero gets his princess, or prince, half a kingdom and happiness forever after."

(Jari Sarasvuo: Sisäinen sankari. Uljaan elämän käsikirjoitus. WSOY. Juva 1996.)

RIKO SAATSI

(b. 1978) is a director and a dramaturge. He graduated as a Master of Arts from the Theatre Academy in 2009 and as a Master of Philosophy from the University of Helsinki in 2004.

His latest works include Venedikt Erofeev's Walpurgis Night in the Finnish National Theater; Georg Büchner's Woyzeck in Kokkola City Theatre (2010) and Itsettömät by Heini Junnikkala and Elina Snicker in the Theatre Takomo (2009).

Saatsi is one of the six young directors of Prospero project (the others being Jean-Benoît Ugeux, Teatro Praga, Rachid Zanouda, Michael Ronen, and Gianni Farina)

Favourite Bruce Willis movie: 12 Monkeys

VEIKKO NUUTINEN

is a playwright, who has studied dramaturgy in the Theatre Academy. His latest works are a play Myötätunto (Takomo Theatre 2010 and the Rovaniemi City Theatre 2011) as well as radio plays Total Trash (YLE 2009) and Blanche (YLE/TEAK 2009)

Favourite Bruce Willis movie: Armageddon

LASSI KANSIKAS

(b. 1978) graduated as a master of arts in set design from the Aalto University School of Art and Design. He has worked as a freelance scenographer in the theatre and in film.

The best Bruce Willis movie: Sin City

SANNA LEVO

(b. 1980) studies costume design in the Aalto University School of Art and Design and will graduate as a master of arts in 2011. She has worked in Theatre of Rovaniemi, Jyväskylä City Theatre, Lahti City Theatre, and Theatre of Espoo to mention few. She has also done costume designs for many freelancer groups such as choreographies by Arja Tiili.

Her favourite Bruce movie: Die Hard 1

TOMI SUOVANKOSKI

(b. 1975) is a freelancer lighting designer. He graduated as a master of arts from the Theatre Academy in 2002. He has designed lightings for over seventy theatre and modern dance productions additionally working also as a scenographer and sound designer. He has been involved in teaching in Aalto University School of Art and Design, Theatre Academy, and Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences. His latest works include designs for "Paratiisi" (2011) and "Amerikka" (2010) in Takomo Theatre, as well as "Raivokabaree" (2009) in the Espoo City Theatre. He is a cabinet member of the theatre group Circus Maximus.

The best Bruce movie according to Tomi is 12 Monkeys.

JORI TOSSAVAINEN

sound designer. He has born in Vuolijoki in 1975. He graduated as a master of arts. He has worked in Helsinki and Kajaani city theatres. He likes baking, mushroom hunting, heavy music, and motorcycling.

The most remarkable Bruce Willis movie is Sin City.





ACTORS

IIDA-MARIA HEINONEN

(b. 1987) has studied in the Theatre Academy since year 2008 graduating as Bachelor of Arts in 2011. Before she has been acting in Ylioppilasteatteri (Students' theatre, Helsinki), Kellariteatteri, and Linnateatteri to mention few. She has also done minor roles in some movies and television series. She does not like action movies, but understands Bruce and would herself like to be involved with similar roles.

Favourite Bruce Willis movie: Pulp Fiction (Uma Thurman saves the world, fuckers!)

TONI KAMULA

Actor Toni Kamula (b. 1978) graduated as Master of Arts from the Theatre Academy of Finland in 2009 and as a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Lapland in 2007. He has worked in theatre as well as on radio, television, and with new media art. He is also known under a pseudonym Bunny Dustland.

The most important Bruce Willis -movie ever made is "Die Hard".

TERO TUOMAS KOPONEN

(b. 1979) is a Master of Arts in acting, a bassist and a former junior icehockey goalie. Born and raised in Tampere, Tero Koponen studied acting in the Finnish Theatre Academy in Helsinki. After graduating in 2007 he has been working as a freelance actor mainly in the Finnish capitol region.

Tero Koponen's stagework include (among others) appearances in the Finnish National Theatre and in Raatikko Dance Theatre. He is the voice of dozens of animated characters in dozens of animated series and films.

Tero Koponen is a lyric baritone and uses Music Man StingRay basses exclusively. He writes articles on theatre under the hidden alias of Hunter S. Koponen.

Tero Koponen's favourite Bruce Willis movie is "The Fifth Element".

ARTTU KURTTILA

Actor Arttu Tapani Kurttila (b.1984) graduated as Master of Arts from the Theatre Academy of Finland in 2008. He works as a general workman. Kurttila possesses a horrifying spiritual and physical superiority, is the Grand-Sapphire of fashion and is always dead serious.

My most important Bruce Willis movie: The Last Boy Scout

ANNA KUUSAMO

(b. 1987) is a third year student of acting in the University of Tampere. Her pulse can climb quite high and sometimes people consider her to be obnoxious. Although from time to time she is sympathetic, often mercurial.

Favourite Bruce Willis movie: Fifth Element

JUSSI-PEKKA PARVIANEN

(b. 1987) is son of the Lahti Youth Theatre and the Vanha Juko Theatre. He has a contract with the University of Tampere lasting until year 2014. Strong in teamwork, less so when performing solo.

The most important Bruce movie: Die Hard with a Vengeance





CENTRE FOR PRACTISE AS RESEARCH IN THEATRE

The Centre for Practise as Research in Theatre is the research and expert unit of the Department of Acting (NÄTY) at the University of Tampere. The centre's operations are also participated by the Theatre and Drama Research unit at the University of Tampere and the Tampere University of Applied Sciences.

The centre, launched in autumn 2007, is aimed at developing practices related to the artistic, productive and technical operating cultures within theatres. At the same time, university-level research and publications are produced as part of the basic and post-graduate degrees.

Cooperation projects are widely carried out together with theatre education and research as well as professional theatres. Cooperation is regional, national and international.

Projects carried out within the Centre for Practise as Research in Theatre have a direct connection to working life. Project teams involve individual artistic and connecting technical and productive research components. Results and practical innovations produce benefits to theatre professionals, producers and audiences.

PROSPERO

Six major theatrical organisations from six different nations have joined together around the project Prospero with the aim of helping to build up art and culture across Europe. Working on the principle of »One city, one theatre, one school», they are bringing together their different artistic leanings, uniting their production resources, their shared heritage and their individual particularities to achieve this ambitious theatrical act: a cultural cooperation agreement (2008-2012) for European development of artistic creation, implementation of European theoretical research and European training of young actors. They will be able to do far more together than they would apart, drawing on the resources of artists, who for centuries have been great travellers, citizens of Europe and ambassadors for humanity.

The play Bruce Willis Saves the World will be seen in Théâtre de la Place and Théâtre National de Bretagne in Autumn 2011.

Six cities, one project, the theatre in common
For more information go to prospero-online.eu



TAMPEREEN TYÖVÄEN **TEATTERI**



tampereen 43. teatterikesä
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Spede, Loiri & Salminen



<http://t7.uta.fi>

KIITOS

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