

PRESS RELEASE 4 May 2007

## Linné Gala Event NEW LIFE



*In the month of May, the Linné celebrations in Uppsala, Sweden culminate. One of the more spectacular events will be the dance performance NEW LIFE. The internationally well-established dance company, SU-EN Butoh Company will stage the project at Vaksala torg, on an open air stage especially built for this performance, seating approximately 1500 spectators.*

The piece is a song of praise of nature, life in all its forms and a ritual to celebrate the explosion of life in the spring. Dancers, musicians, children, older people, flower artist and animals create together a woven image of organic life, the universe of Carl von Linné, Swedens famous scientist who this year is celebrated all over Europe in comemorations of his birth 300 years ago. The texts of this remarkable scientist tie the piece together, which is inspired by Japanese performing aesthetics and ritual.





During spring, intense preparations for the project take place. At this very moment the baby lambs, that will participate with their owners, are being born. At this very moment hundreds of costumes are being manufactured, stitch by stitch. At this very moment flower orders are being planned, flowers that the flower artists will arrange for his floral installation. Rehearsals with children, seniors, dancers and musicians have been going on separately since February and now the fusion of the work as a whole begins. Junichi Kakizaki has arrived from Japan in the end of April to start the delicate work with the flower installations.

The music is both traditionally japanese and classical western, having springtime and joy as themes. Swedish folk music, somewhat differently arranged will also be performed. This is one of the largest events in the Jubilee celebrations of the municipality of Uppsala, where the citizens of Uppsala as well as visitors are being invited to take part in this song of praise to nature.



For press images: [www.suenbutohcompany.net](http://www.suenbutohcompany.net) - Media/Press images/New life  
(Please note that the name SU-EN Butoh Company and the name of the photographer must be stated)  
Welcome to contact us fore more information or to follow the rehearsals after agreement:  
[info@suenbutohcompany.net](mailto:info@suenbutohcompany.net)/tel +46 (0) 174 242 02

For press akkreditation, information and press tickets: Contact Elise Rhodin; +46 (0)18 - 727 13 61, [elise.rhodin@uppsala.se](mailto:elise.rhodin@uppsala.se) or Tina Zethraeus +46 (0)8 546 44 120, [tina.zethraeus@vr.se](mailto:tina.zethraeus@vr.se)

Linne2007Uppsala is a collaboration project between Uppsala University, the City of Uppsala, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the County Administrative Board of Uppsala, the Swedish Linnaeus Society and is a part of the Linnaeus Tercentenary.



**About the performances - Biographies of the participants**



**Place:** The open air stage, Vaksala Torg (square), Uppsala

**Dates:** May 22, 23, 24, 7:30 pm

**Duration:** 60 minutes

Event organiser: The Municipality of Uppsala, Cultural Affairs Office

Artistic director, choreography and staging: SU-EN

Floral installation: Junichi Kakizaki

Costume design: Viola Germain

**Musicians:**

Annika Eliasson Frick, Soprano and narrative

Gunnar Linder, Shakuhachi (japanese bamboo flute)

String ensemble from the Uppsala Chamber Orchestra

**Participants:**

SU-EN, soloist as The Old Life

Mira Elvander Lewis, (11 years old) soloist as The New Life

SU-EN Butoh Company + Performance project, 8 dancers

6-year old children from Vaksalaskolan in Uppsala, 20 children

Senior participants, 18 people

Animals from various farms and pets from the neighbourhood

Floral students from Ekebybruks school

Animal keepers, Volunteers





**Music by:**

Tjajkovskij, Grieg, Bellman, Taube, traditional japanese music, Hahn, Lindgren/Riedel and others

Lightdesign:

Tobias Brodd/Scenteknik

In collaboration with Musik i Uppland. Supported by the National Council for Cultural Affairs, Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation, Interflora in Uppsala and the Cultural Affairs Office of the Municipality of Uppsala.

**Biographies of the participants:**

**SU-EN BUTOH COMPANY**

SU-EN Butoh Company was formally started in Tokyo in 1992. It is currently based in Haglund Skola, north of Uppsala, in Sweden. The company tours domestically and overseas in proscenium and site-specific performances, workshops, film production, projects and lectures. Major productions include *Kaze no Cho* (1992), *Shadows in Bloom* (1996), *Scrap Bodies* (1998), the film *Universal Body* (1999, collaboration with Gunilla Leander), *ATOMIC* (1999), *Headless* (2000), *SLICE* (2003) and *Fragrant* (2005) and wide-ranging events such as *Scrap the Truck* (1998), *The Scrap Project* (2000), *Atomic Event* (2000-2001), *The Fish Series* (2000-2002), *The Chicken Project* (2003). SU-EN Butoh Company has performed in Europe, Japan, North America, South America and Scandinavia.

The company's artistic director, SU-EN, lived in Tokyo in the years 1986-1994. She was an apprentice with the Tomoe Shizune & Hakutobo group in 1988-1994, when the legendary Yoko Ashikawa was choreographing. SU-EN also holds a *nattori* licence, under the name Kei Izumo, in the traditional Japanese dance form Jiuta-mai (Yoh Izumo School).

[www.suenbutohcompany.net](http://www.suenbutohcompany.net)

**JUNICHI KAKIZAKI**

Junichi Kakizaki is an installation artist working in flowers and other natural materials. He was born in Nagano in Japan in 1971 and began an activity as a flower artist after graduating from art school and the Horticultural Science School in Tokyo. Junichi Kakizaki has participated in several events as a flower artist both domestically and internally. He has also shown his work in various exhibitions but especially as a florist designer. In 2002, he won first price in the national florist championship of "the Television Champion" which is one of the most popular programs of Television Tokyo Channel 12. That rendered him the title "The Florist Champion of Japan".

Since then he has won several prizes for his floral exhibitions. Junichi Kakizaki is also serving as lecturer of design in the Agricultural High School in Nagano since 2000 as well as collaborating with dancers and other artists.

[www.kuruizaki.com](http://www.kuruizaki.com)

**VIOLA GERMAIN**

Viola Germain has her textile background mainly within haute couture. During the seventies she worked in the fashion industry in Canada for five years. Coming back to Sweden in 1977 she started to explore the expressive possibilities for bodies and clothes within scenic art. Viola lives in Uppsala where she works with costume design for different types of stage performances such as theatre, dance and pantomime, opera and musical. She has designed several chronicle plays, but also costumes for choirs and solo artists. Another side of her work is performances and collaborations with museums. This has resulted in costume wardrobes to make history life like. In 1998 she received a scholarship of honour from the Municipality of Uppsala. Besides working with costume design, Viola teaches and give lectures at different universities.





### **ANNIKA ELIASSON FRICK**

Annika Eliasson Frick graduated from the Music Conservatory in Gothenburg with a degree in Master of Fine Arts in Music.. She studied voice training in Milan in Italy and at Seisen Opera School in Tokyo, Japan. Since then Annika has returned to Japan many times for concerts and has also received a scholarship from the Swedish Institute to study Japanese music in Tokyo, Japan. She was employed at the Swedish Radio and the Swedish Radio Choir for many years and participated as a soloist there in several recordings. Annika is often engaged as a singer in concerts and has performed in concerts both in Sweden and abroad such as in Estonia, Italy, Australia and Japan. Annika has also been involved in music theater projects at the Royal Opera House in Stockholm and at the Opera House in Ystad.

### **STRING ENSEMBLE FROM THE UPPSALA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**

Anders Inge, violin  
Nils-Erik Sparf/Catharina Ericsson, violin  
Susanne Magnusson, viola  
Maria Böhm, cello  
Staffan Sjöholm, double bass

The Uppsala Chamber Orchestra – by many considered the finest chamber orchestra in Sweden – has released several praised CDs on the Naxos label and received The Gold Record 2002 for its recording of The Drottningholm Music by Johan Helmich Roman. The Uppsala Chamber Orchestra gives a serie of concerts between September and May in Uppsala and sometimes also performs in Stockholm. For instance, it has participated in several opera performances at the Drottningholm Opera. Like all other ensembles of Music in Uppland, the orchestra will have its home in the new Uppsala Concert and Congress from September.  
[www.miu.se](http://www.miu.se)

### **GUNNAR JINMEI LINDER**

Gunnar Jinmei Linder started to study shakuhachi after his first arrival to Japan in 1985. Already in 1986, he was introduced to the master Gorô Yamaguchi. He received a Master of Arts in shakuhachi from the traditional music conservatory at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music (Tokyo Geidai) In 1998 he received his *shihan* and the name *Jinmei* from Goro-sensei, the last of Goro-sensei's disciples receiving a *shihan* directly from him. Since 2005 Gunnar Jinmei Linder lives in Stockholm, Sweden and is, apart from his performance and teaching activities, employed as a researcher at the Stockholm University.  
[www.shakuhachi.bz](http://www.shakuhachi.bz)

