



Ritni Ráste Pieski

STORYTELLER, CHOREOGRAPHER,
DANCER, PERFORMER & DRAG
ARTIST

CONTACT

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BIO

Máret Ásllat Ivvár Ovlá Nilla Ritni Ráste, Ritni Ráste Pieski (b. 1998) is an indigenous sámí storyteller and multidisciplinary artist from Deanu river valley, Sápmi. Decoloniality, dreaming, alter egos, utopias and humour are deeply within his artistic works. He has been particularly active with queer sámí issues, as the main organizer of Sápmi Pride in 2021, headliner of Helsinki Pride's campaign in 2023 and as the young queer youth of Finland in 2023. Currently, he is working as a freelancer and preparing his first photo exhibition with Lotta Hagelin about storytelling via sámí drag.

SPECIAL SKILLS

Singing (soprano-alto), yoiking, dance, acrobatics, acting/performing, creative writing and working with children.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Northern Sámi - native

Finnish - native

English - good/excellent

Swedish - good/satisfactory

Norwegian - basic

French - beginner

EDUCATION

University of the Arts Helsinki, Theater Academy

Bachelor's degree in the Art of Dance, graduated in 2023. In the academic year 2021-2022 exchange in Berlin, HZT BA Dance, Context, Choreography.

Theatre education at Lahti Adult Institute

Theatre I and Theatre II intensive courses in 2017-2018 and 2019-2020.

Kallion lukio

Specialised High School of Performing Arts, graduated in 2017

EXPERIENCE IN PERFORMING ARTS

Indigenous Drag Excellence XXL

Riddu Riđđu Festival | 07/2024

Drag show with four other drag artists: Aunty Tamara, Feather Talia, Randy River and Good Medicine. Performances on the main stage of the Riddu Riđđu Indigenous People's Festival in Gáivuotna, Sápmi and in Treaty No.1 Territory at Winnipeg Art Gallery and Club200.

Girjái - a decolonial queer utopia | 04/2023-

Concept, choreographer, performer and facilitator. Girjái has been touring since 2023 and it has been part of Riddu Riđđu Indigenous festival, URB-festival and Culture Centre Caisa in Helsinki.

Reneissance | Tanssin Talo | 12/2024

Performer in a new work by the Wauhaus collective.

Flocks | Aamu Film Company | 10/2024

Actor and screenwriter in a movie directed by Katja Gauriloff and Hannaleena Hauru.

Neon Beige | Zodiak | 04/2024

Collaboration, artistic dialogue and alter ego coaching for choreographer Alen Nsamu.

common moves | Helsinki Biennale | 08/2023

Facilitator, concept by Sonya Lindfors. The theme was social choreography and BIPOC people taking over public spaces. Our queer BIPOC group made drag make ups in a public library of Oodi.

Eana diehtá | shortfilm | 07/2023

A shortfilm about sámí queer joy and decoloniality, film premiered in Sápmi Pride 2023.



this is an invitation | Amos Rex | 08/2023

Performances by the NSAMBU&PIESKI collective as part of the Amos Rex Generation 2023 exhibition. The focus was on breaking the norms of museum behaviour and the way of experiencing art, and liberating the norms.

We Should All Be Dreaming | 09-11/2022

Performer and collaborator in Sonya Lindfors and Maryan Abdulkarim's work of radical speculative decolonial dreaming at Sinne Galleria and Museum of Impossible forms in Helsinki.

Hot Compost Summer World Tour | Berlin | 07/2022

Performer, band member, singer-songwriter, dancer-choreographer in drag fuckboiz band Hot Compost. Tour in Berlin.

Rievssat | Culture Center Caisa & Y-festival | 06-10/2022

Solo work about decolonizing queerness as part of Kairos collective's exhibition at URB22 festival, and as part of Y-festival at Tiivistämö.

Resistencia | HAU & streets in Berlin | 12/2021 & 06/2023

Performer in the Chilean Colectivo Lastesis, performances at HAU - Hebbel Am Ufer in Berlin.

Ronia The Robber's Daughter | Teatteri Vanha Juko | 02/2020

Actor, the role of Baldy-Pete. Directed by Markus Karekallas.

Productions at Theater Academy: Artistic collaboration project (2022), own solo works Texas, Juice it Up! and The Motherfucking Queen of Everything (2021), and group choreography Ho ri zon (2020). A solo singing evening in the autumn of 2020.

GRANTS RECEIVED

Kone Foundation, for 2024-2026: 71 800 €

A personal working grant for decolonial work, for continuing the Girjái performance gatherings and for making Sámi drag.

Saami Council, 2023: 4 500 €

To study and learn your own family yoiks and to prepare a Girjái presentation. The grant was awarded to me and the working group.

Sámi Parliament, 2023: 3 000 €

To study and learn about our own family's yoiks.

Föreningen Konstamfundet, 2022, €6 200

NSAMBU & PIESKI -collective for artistic work and material costs. Grant recipients Ritni Pieski, Alen Nsambo and Ella Snellman.

Saami Council, 2022: €3 500

For dance lessons and study trips in Europe.

Sámi Parliament, 2021: 1 500 €

A working grant to strengthen artistic diversity.