

suitcases

physical theatre & modern circus

PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Migration affects everyone: those who have moved, those who have always lived here, and those who stayed behind. A suitcase becomes the dividing line between “before” and “after.”

What life experiences do you carry in your suitcase? What journey has it taken with you? What will you keep in it, and what will you try to let go of? Who do you meet along the way, and how do these encounters change you both?

«**Suitcases**» is a synthesis of physical theatre and contemporary circus, where three artists explore the migration experience through acrobatics, juggling, equilibristics, and dance. Created by the Upsala-Circus team — artists who themselves went through forced relocation from Russia after 2022 — the performance transforms authentic personal stories into a universal artistic statement about finding home, accepting change, and the human ability to start anew.

Through the non-verbal language of circus and physical theatre, the performance makes the migration experience emotionally tangible for viewers of any cultural background. Without relying on spoken word, it shifts the perception of migration from abstract statistics to intimate human stories. The artists use ground and aerial acrobatics, juggling, equilibristics, and contemporary dance to transform their lived experiences into powerful images, asking the central question: “*What will I find in my suitcase, and will it help me continue my journey, or will it leave me frozen in place, waiting?*”

The performance presents different perspectives on the same experience: those who left, those who stayed, and those who welcome newcomers. This multiplicity of viewpoints creates a space where both local residents experiencing changes in their communities and people with migration experience can see, live through, and feel each other’s stories.

An honest perspective, faith in life, and care for one another form the foundation of the performance. We believe in discussing important matters with children, which is why «**Suitcases**» is a family performance recommended for adults and children aged 10 and above.

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Migration affects everyone. «**Suitcases**» is a synthesis of physical theatre and contemporary circus, where three artists explore the migration experience through acrobatics, juggling, equilibristics, and dance. Created by the Upsala-Circus team — artists who went through forced relocation — the performance transforms personal stories into a universal statement about finding home and accepting change.

Through the non-verbal language of the body, the performance presents different perspectives on the same experience: those who left, those who stayed, and those who welcome. It creates a space where local residents and people with migration experience can live through and feel each other’s stories. The artists ask: “*What will I find in my suitcase, and will it help me continue my journey, or will it leave me frozen in place, waiting?*”

ONE - LINER

«**Suitcases**» — a physical theatre and contemporary circus performance where three artists with personal migration experience transform their stories of relocation into a universal language of emotions, exploring what we carry with us and what we leave behind.

KEY FACTS

Genre: Physical theatre & modern circus

Duration: 45 minutes, no intermission

Performers: 3 artists

Disciplines: Ground and aerial acrobatics, juggling, equilibristics, contemporary dance

Age: Recommended 10+ (parental discretion)

Audience: Up to 300 spectators (depending on venue configuration)

Language: Non-verbal (no spoken word)

Created by: Upsala-Circus gGmbH (Germany)

Communication strategy key message: *“Emigration affects everyone.”*

Creative strategy: *“Point of View” — different perspectives on the same situation.*