



## **CULTURAL CAPITAL 2011**

### **FOUNDATION TALLINN**

**T**he year of the Capital of Culture is a great occasion for all Estonians. The preparation and formulation of the cultural program of the event is assisted by the Foundation Tallinn 2011. Our aim is to encourage people to participate in the creation of the Capital of Culture and to help to convert ideas into events. We unite the will with the power.

The Capital of Culture Foundation is a new independent organisation with the functions of planning the program of the Capital of Culture, and collecting, selecting and assessing ideas and proposals in order to ensure an exciting, extraordinary and sophisticated cultural year in Tallinn in 2011.

The Foundation was established in April 2007 by the city of Tallinn. Mikko Fritze was chosen as the Director of the Foundation. The Tallinn 2011 Foundation has been operating fully since spring 2008.



Mr Mikko Fritze  
Director of the Foundation

## THE IDEA OF THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

By this day, the tradition of the European Capital of Culture has given more than 40 cities an opportunity to present their distinct and diverse culture to millions of people from all over the world during one year.

The status of the event and the attention it attracts gives the city a good chance to transform the existing cultural scene – carrying out daring ideas, creating new cooperation projects, reinforcing the existing organisations and structures, and including more people in the cultural life, may it be as organisers or as participants.

The idea of launching the European Capital of Culture project came to life in 1985, when the Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs of the European Union decided that each year a European city would demonstrate its colourful cultural scene. The movement was proposed by Melina Mercouri, Minister of Culture of Greece. Back at that time, the project was called "European cities of culture".

As the enterprise was a great success from the beginning, its scope was extended, and since 1999, the selected cities are called European Capitals of Culture. Since 2005, two cities are named the Capitals of Culture at the same time, like Stavanger and Liverpool in this year. All cities located in the European Union can apply for the title of European Capital of Culture.

### European Capitals of Culture:

1985 Athens  
1987 Amsterdam  
1988 West Berlin  
1989 Paris  
1990 Glasgow  
1991 Dublin  
1992 Madrid  
1995 Luxembourg  
1996 Copenhagen  
1997 Thessaloniki  
1998 Stockholm  
2005 Cork  
2006 Patras  
2007 Sibiu, Luxembourg  
2010 Istanbul, Pécs, Essen

### Future European Capitals of Culture:

2011 Tallinn, Turku  
2012 Guimarães, Maribor

## TALLINN 2011. STORIES OF THE SEASHORE

In 2011, Tallinn begins the largest storytelling event in its history. Writers, musicians, artists and actors will tell, paint, sing and act tales inspired by the sea, speaking of Estonia and its people. The stories will be short and long, modern and ancient, exciting and tragic; and most importantly, they will all be genuinely Estonian-like.

### The Nature of Stories

Storytelling gives birth to meaning and understanding. Our stories help to discover and preserve the image of a young Estonia as part of Europe. Stories give rise to Estonian history as they relate to Europe and the modern world, as well as the face and achievements of the Estonian people.

A story does not always have to be positive, just as life is not entirely positive. The hero of a story must conquer challenges, but in the process must also undergo a personal transformation. It is the same with the story of Estonian history, which speaks of both war and peace; advanced technology and the unharnessable sea; about the Estonians, the Russians, the Danish and the Finnish – and why not the Latvians. Estonia has often been in the crossroads of others' cultures and this clearly echoes in our stories – always in a lively and intriguing way.

Storytellers will not constrain themselves to traditional methods, but will instead utilize all mediums that are available today – everything from social networking to experimental visual and sonar solutions.

### Themes

The main theme of Tallinn 2011, "[Stories of the Seashore](#)", encapsulates Estonian history and Tallinn's physical location next to the sea, which explains Estonia's rich cultural diversity, contacts and conflicts. The larger theme is also organized into three smaller parts:

- 1) Stories of singing together;
- 2) Stories of the living old city;
- 3) Stories of dreams and surprises.

„[Stories of singing together](#)” describes how we are all changing the world – through democracy, citizenship, community, freedom and traditions. The song and dance festivals are our biggest stories of all – we are the people of song and dance;

we have the ability to come together, we are victorious, and we cannot forget that it was through singing that we won our freedom.

„Stories of the living old city“ will tell the story of Tallinn as a city where time has never stopped. Every morning, the people – Estonians, Russians, Germans, Finns, ect. – gather here to write a new page in our city’s history. This can be witnessed in the Old Town’s drama festival, Tallinn Teater Treff, which unite representatives of world cultures and will breathe life into the heart of Tallinn’s culture. The „Stories of the living old city“ will also feature interpretive dance with architecture in „Open Spaces Living Art“ and „Tallinn’s Marathon.“

„Stories of Dreams and Surprises“ will speak of a city and country where the internet has been declared the “human right” and which saw what the media named the world’s first Cyberwar. Together we dream of bringing the sea to the city, and we will do just this on Tallinn’s Maritime Days. Also in store is the audiovisual Plektrum Festival and the Student’s Modern Art Triannual Eksperimental.

## **BICYCLE-MAD CULTURAL CAPITAL OFFICE**

Here at the Cultural Capital Foundation we love our bikes – riding them to work, taking them to meet people all over the city, riding along the seafront in the evening or paying a visit to friends.

Our foundation was one of the groups behind the ‘Cyclicious Estonia’ project – working with our partners we will be encouraging the residents of the city to use bikes as everyday means of transport. To set the example, we’re as bike-friendly as we can be: a lot of us cycle to work, and we have our own secure parking spaces in the courtyard. If the weather’s hot we have somewhere we can take a shower and cool off, although you tend to be able to get around the city by bike without breaking into much sweat, so we don’t always need to make use of it.

In April we rode to the TV studio to record the ‘Battle of the Choirs’ show with the Cultural Capital singers on our bikes, to show people that bicycles cope just as well in the big city even if there’s a thin carpet of snow on the ground.