

DIGITAL FESTIVAL + FOLKFEST



► POMORFESTIVALEN ◀

“DER ØST MØTER VEST”

22. -26. JULI

**VARDØ
2020**

WELCOME TO THE POMOR FESTIVAL, VARDØ.

This is a celebration of the history, connectivity and common ground that we share with our different coastal communities that were part of the Pomor Trade network.

The festival is a little different this year due to Covid-19. This gives us an opportunity to explore new ways to celebrate our common history and we hope this, will in turn, enable us to reach a wider audience.

Some highlights this year include:- a website from which there will be live streaming, from Arkhangelsk were Taibola are streaming their building activity for us.

There are a number of films from Teriberka. While back in Vardø, a series of lectures, a book launch, childrens' activities, the popular market and pop up concerts are some of the many activities.

This year the festival is 30 years old. We would like to thank those who have contributed to this event over the years and hope that we will continue for many more to come. Many thanks to our generous funders, without whom this and other festivals in Vardø could not be possible.

Enjoy our festival.

KOMAFEST

Komafest is an organization that works with art projects, in communities that live on the edge and face issues including national centralisation and privatisation of natural resources. We use creative approaches to address these challenges. We aim to inspire people, create arenas for conversations and reflection and ultimately take action.

The core crew consists of the artist Pøbel, landscape architect and anthropologist Brona Keenan, human geographer and teacher Bertine Tønseth and placemaker and fisherman Svein Harald Holmen. Komafest takes an interdisciplinary approach and works with artists, craftsmen, architects, culture workers, entrepreneurs, researchers and youth to name just a few.

Our approach is People First.

Komafest began as a project in 2012 and was established as an independent company in 2017. It is a collaboration between the placemakers in Restored (Holmen and Keenan) and the Norwegian artist Pøbel.

Komafest is very proud of its Vardø roots, these are the streets and community where our collaborative approach was born, working side by side in for the original festival and again in 2013 for Bloodbank.

Komafest has been working in Teriberka with the local community since 2015 on the Komafest New Chapter project.

The Komafest office is based in Vardø, Norway.



TERIBERKA

Teriberka is a settlement on the Kola peninsula. The earliest reference it is 1523. By the end of 19th century, it was well-developed: with a church, a lighthouse, and a weather station. By 1900 it was an established fishing village and the first collective farm was set up in the 1920s, after which some others were set up. Teriberka was a thriving hub.

In 1960s things began to take a turn for the worse. The fishing boats increased in size and fish processing moved to the neighbouring Murmansk. The population began to rapidly decline. Today only 10% of the people remain. Olga Nikoleeva, Director of the Culture Palace tells this story in one of our short films.

The Pomor choir, based in the Cultural Palace, is the core of the community. Attracting people from a variety of ages, they sing with pride in their hearts.

For the youth in the community there are many challenges to overcome, few classmates, little opportunity in their own community. Igor and Dima capture the essence of Teriberka through their eyes by way of storytelling and photos.

Today Teriberka faces pressures of development from external investors who wish to develop their home for large scale tourism.

Komafest have been working with the community, to document the people, place and challenges they face.



TAIBOLA

Taibola Assemble is a collective, who hail from Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia. They are not strangers to the north of Norway having participated in Barents Spektakle in Kirkenes and are regulars here at the Pomor festival. In 2018 Ilya Kuzubov and his crew working with wood created the monumental Drakkar out at Skagen on Vardø.

This has become a much loved addition to the island. Last year they returned once more and created a piece for the centre of the town. Old material was gathered from around the island and carefully crafted back to life in this artwork. It is a group of fishermen carrying their boat. The artwork is entitled “Fiskere bærer lys” (Holding the light). We look forward to new additions in the future.



ARKHANGELSK

This port city, also known as Archangel, has grown on the banks of the Northern Dvina river, near the White Sea. It is a significant commercial and fishing port. Established in 1584 it played a major role in trade with Europe until the foundation of Saint Petersburg in 1703. Vikings knew the area around Arkhangelsk as Bjarmaland.

The port at Arkhangelsk can be frozen for up to 5 months. Arkhangelsk remains a major seaport, opening year-round thanks to developments in icebreakers.

The city of 350,000 inhabitants has a vibrant cultural scene, two universities, multiple theatres and museums. This area is also known for its folklore and fairy tales.

The coat of arms depicts the Archangel Michael in the act of defeating the Devil.

Vardø and Arkhangelsk have been trading with each other for over 300 years. This relationship was acknowledged formally, in 1989, when they became twin cities.

DIGITAL ARCHIVE

<https://www.pomorfestivalen.no/>

As part of this year's festival and to celebrate the 30th anniversary, we have decided to create an archive from previous years. This is an ongoing project.

We will keep our website active with links to the streaming and film material from this year.

CONTACT US:



General information:
+47 917 70 404

post@kulturpilot.no

Address:
Postboks 184,
9951 VARDØ



kulturpilot
STYTELSEN | LABORATORIET

POBEL

R RESTORED

 **Kulturrådet**



 The Norwegian
Barents Secretariat

SAMFUNNSLOFTET

SpareBank  Nord-Norge

 **Varanger
Museum**
VARDØ • SØR-VARANGER • VADSØ

##KOMAFEST