



## **The 12th edition of Kolibrí Festivaali will bring together over 60 artists in free activities for all families**

The **children's cultural festival Kolibrí** arrives in **Espoo, Vantaa, and Helsinki** from **September 16th to the 30th, with activities involving the whole family**. In its 12th edition, Kolibrí Festivaali offers one of its most international programs.

Over **60 artists**, creators, designers, writers, and education experts from more than **16 nationalities** will offer around 30 activities designed **for children aged 0 to 13 years**.

During these 5 days, both kids and adults will enjoy theater performances, art workshops, dance, music, puppetry, sensory exploration, storytelling, concerts, discussions on children's literature, the traditional Children's Book Fair (including book presentations), the most colorful and joyful Closing Party, and many more surprises!

This year's central theme will be **'The Art of Hospitality'**, coinciding with **Chile50**, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the arrival of Chilean refugee families in Finland.

Kolibrí Festivaali is a free, interdisciplinary, and multicultural art festival organized in the metropolitan area of Helsinki, offering a wide range of cultural activities for children and their families. It brings together a variety of people from the art, science, education, and cultural fields, with different backgrounds and specialties, to create an intergenerational and plurilingual program, unmatched in the Nordic region. **Since its first edition in 2015, almost 20,000 people of all ages have enjoyed its activities.**

### **Alfredo Soderguit and Teatro al Vacío will be the guests of Kolibrí 2023**

The **guest of honor for Kolibrí 2023** will be [Alfredo Soderguit](#), who has also designed the official festival cover art. The **Uruguayan writer, illustrator, and filmmaker** has been working for two decades for young audiences, with works that have received **international awards**, such as the book *The Capybaras* (2020, Ediciones Ekaré), and the children's animation series *Two Little Birds*, currently available on Yle Arena.

**Soderguit will conduct workshops** for children and their families **and participate in discussions**, addressing children's literature as a tool for dialoguing within the family on essential topics such as migration, hospitality, friendship, and the search for refuge. The author will also **sign books** during the Children's Book Fair offered by the festival.

[Teatro al Vacío](#) will be the guest theatre company this year, presenting two of their most important performances for early childhood: *Cerca* and *Pulsar*.

Founded by Argentine José Agüero and Mexican Adrián Hernández, Teatro al Vacío creates minimalist and dialogue-free productions for young children. Their works have been **successful on Finnish stages and theaters worldwide**.

## 5 days with over 30 activities to enjoy with the family

Kolibrí offers the opportunity to experience the diversity of contemporary Finnish society. During 5 days, it will feature over 30 activities for all ages:

### 1. Family Days: 3 days with a wide cultural program, including multidisciplinary workshops, dance, theatre, storytelling, puppetry, and music.

Kolibrí Family Days will be held at:

- [Sello](#) (Espoo) - 16.9.2023 - From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- [Pessi](#) Lastenkulttuurikeskus (Vantaa) - 23.9.2023 - From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- [Malmitalo](#) (Helsinki) - 30.9.2023 - From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The days at Pessi and Malmitalo will also feature a **Children's Book Fair**, where the festival sales second-hand books in Spanish and Portuguese.

More info about the [Book Fair](#).

### 2. Day at Central Library Oodi (20.9.2023 - From 4 to 7 p.m.). With an art workshop, book presentation, and concert:

Under the title 'I don't sing just to sing... (Víctor Jara)' Kolibrí offers a creative and **unique day for the whole family** that celebrates global peace and hospitality. It will focus on the **presentation of the book *Kerro minulle Antonio*, by Sanna Pelliccioni (S&S, 2023)**, the first book in Finnish children's literature that addresses the topic of Chilean refugees who arrived in Finland in the 70s.

- [Art workshop for all ages](#) (4-6 p.m.): facilitated by the multidisciplinary children's literature author, Sanna Pelliccioni, and Mexican artist Mariana Núñez Sánchez.

- [Immersive talk about the book \*Kerro minulle Antonio\*](#) (5:00-6:30 p.m.): featuring Sanna Pelliccioni, who inspired the work, Professor Alfonso Padilla, the translator and IBBY Finland member, Anna Sidorova and the expert in children's literature, Mia Österlund. This talk will be moderated by the artist Javiera Marchant Aedo.

- [Singing together](#) (6:30-7:00 p.m.): musicians Rodrigo Rodríguez and Mikko Nousiainen will close the event with a concert for the whole family.

### 3. Kolibrí at Vuotalo (29.9.2023):

The festival moves to east Helsinki with two great events.

Pannel 'Children's Literature, Refuge, and Hospitality' (5-6:30 p.m.): An interesting talk where we will reflect on current children's books and films, featuring Kolibrí's guest of honor, Alfredo Soderguit, Jaana Pesonen, writer Katri Tapola, Maria Pikkarainen, Olga Filipova, and moderated by Anna Sidorova.

Celebration-Tribute 'Gracias a la Vida' (7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.): Chilean folk dance by the dance company Raíces and the music group Machu Picchu come together to pay tribute to the Chilean families who arrived in Finland 50 years ago, fleeing the dictatorship of Pinochet, and to the Finnish solidarity that offered them a second home.

Kolibrí will also reach school education and CIUDADES in Helsinki city and its metropolitan area, to offer the **screening of the animated series *Two Little Birds***, directed by Alfredo Soderguit.

The full program can be found on [www.kolibrifestivaali.org](http://www.kolibrifestivaali.org) since 22.8.2023.

Kolibrí is a production of [Kulttuurikeskus Ninho ry](http://www.kulttuurikeskusninho.fi), an association of immigrants mainly composed of the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking community in Finland.

This festival provides a meeting space where Finland's contemporary childhood can create beautiful family memories. Moreover, it offers all those involved in its realization, whether they are production team members, volunteers, or artists, a path towards social inclusion, integration, visibility, and well-being.

**This festival is made possible thanks to the support of** Taike, Svenska Kulturfonden, Helsinki City, Espoo City, Espoo Helmet, Instituto Iberoamericano de Finlandia, Embassy of Uruguay, Embassy of Mexico, Embassy of Chile, Embassy of Spain, Embassy of Brazil, Instituto Guimaraes Rosa, Embassy of Argentina, Wood Program - Aalto University, Familia Ry, CHILE50, Selkokulttuuri ry, Pequeño Mundo, Embassy of Colombia, Embassy of Peru, and Embassy of Cuba.

**For more information or to book interviews with Alfredo Soderguit, Teatro al Vacío, or the rest of the artists and production team, you can contact:**

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