

A Small Summer Fairytale from Southern Sweden

It is the story of a small theatre that lost its funding.

The story of an elephant with worldwide fame.

And the story of a girl who learns by the sea that no one should have to face a storm alone.

Together, they have become one of the most unusual theatre productions of the Swedish summer of 2026.

Inside an unassuming 18th-century barn on the coast of Österlen, something remarkable is taking shape. In recent years, Skillinge Teater has faced significant challenges. Public funding was reduced, and restrictions on the use of its beloved outdoor stage forced the theatre to rethink its future.

Instead of giving up, the small theatre chose a different path.

This summer, the historic barn has been transformed into an immersive theatrical world for children and families. Traditional acting meets holography, 3D projection mapping, interactive scenery and specially developed stage technology. Projections on three walls and the floor, a holographic projection screen spanning the room, and synchronized stage movement create an experience that makes the audience feel as if they have stepped directly into the story.

The production, "The Girl and the Sea" (Flickan & Havet), tells the story of a lonely girl who discovers unexpected friends by the shore: two talking squirrels, a shark suffering from a terrible toothache, and a gentle elephant named Eloffe. It is a story about courage, friendship, belonging, and the simple truth that help often appears when and where we least expect it.

At the center of the experience is actress Siri Bengtén, who performs within this projected world as oceans, forests, storms and magical creatures come alive around her. The stage becomes a landscape, the room becomes the story, and digital characters appear to interact directly with both the performer and the audience.

Eloffe, the elephant, is more than just a character in the play. As a digital character with a large international following on social media, he brings his own unique story to Österlen. Now he has become part of a theatre production that combines timeless storytelling with cutting-edge visual technology.

Even before its premiere, the project has attracted considerable attention. The combination of a heartfelt story, innovative technology and the determination of a small theatre to reinvent itself has made The Girl and the Sea far more than an ordinary children's performance.

It is the story of a theatre that responded to adversity not with resignation, but with imagination.

And perhaps that is why this production feels so relevant today.

Because when the world sometimes seems a little darker than it should, a girl, two squirrels, a shark with a toothache and a friendly elephant can still remind us that stories have the power to bring hope.

Video, Pictures, Songs and more

<https://artsandinnovations.com/flickan-havet-skillinge-teater/>

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