Star Performers and Circus Atmosphere at Senate Square New Year

The New Year will be greeted with a circus atmosphere at the traditional New Year’s Eve at Senate Square party, arranged by the City of Helsinki. The entire Finland is invited to the party via television and internet on Monday, December 31, 2012.

The New Year’s speech will be held by Mayor Jussi Pajunen. Bishop Eero Huovinen will also speak at the event. Fire tricks and acrobatics will be performed at the party. Sami Pitkämö’s orchestra with lead vocalists Johanna Försti, Osmo Ikonen and Michael Monroe are in charge of the music. Past decades will reflect in the choices of music. The party is hosted by actor/presenter Sanna Stellan and stand-up comedian Sami Hedberg.

The New Year’s party marks the end of the Helsinki 200 years as capital jubilee year. The people of Helsinki have greeted the new year at the Senate Square since the 1930’s.

The New Year’s party at the square starts at 10:15 pm and the television broadcast on Yle TV1 at 10:50 pm. The broadcast can be followed on the TV, but also on the internet at Yle Areena, yle.fi/areena. The internet broadcast can be viewed abroad as well. Part of the party can also be listened to as a recorded extract on Yle Radio Suomi. Before the television broadcast, there will be a Bollywood dance performance. The hosts will also warm up the crowd with songs and dance.

No own fireworks in the city centre for safety reasons

As the tradition goes, there will be a fireworks show at the turn of the year. The show will be visible at the Senate Square and this year’s show will be particularly dazzling. The fireworks show is conducted by Finnish champions Tulitemestarit.

For safety reasons, it is strictly forbidden to use or shoot off fireworks at the Senate Square or elsewhere in the city centre.

Public transportation on New Year’s Eve

On New Year’s Eve, extra buses will be added to the night traffic and the metro will operate for two hours longer than usual. Arriving to the city centre by car is not recommended.

The traffic around the Senate Square will be stopped around 6:00 pm. The best route to the to the Senate Square is from the corner of Aleksanterinkatu and Unioninkatu or the corner of Aleksanterinkatu and Snellmaninkatu.

HSL (Helsinki Region Transport) publishes information about extra traffic on New Year’s Eve at www.hsl.fi.

Information about exceptional traffic arrangements is published at www.hel.fi/hkr.
New Year for families with children starts with Lightworks in Meilahti

As part of the New Year festivities, free New Year’s lightworks for families with children events will be arranged in Meilahti, in the old Helsinki City Art Museum property (Tamminiementie 6) at 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Free entrance tickets can be picked up between 17 and 30 December 2012 at Virka Gallery at the Helsinki City Hall (Pohjoisesplanadi 11–13) and the Helsinki City Art Museum cash desk (Tennis Palace, 2nd floor, Salomoninkatu 15).

Images: http://aineistopankki.hel.fi/?cart=2517-gjefigddmg&l=EN

Further information and interview requests:
Producer Susa Nokelainen, City of Helsinki, Event Office, tel. +358 (0)50 593 3438, susa.nokelainen@hel.fi.

Media passes to photography area:
Press Officer Anne Hämäläinen, City of Helsinki, Event Office, tel. +358 (0)40 849 6065, anne.hamalainen@hel.fi.

The Event Office is part of the Economic Development unit at the Economic and Planning Centre.