

Riku Tapani Suokas (1971) is an actor, writer, director and stand up -comedian. He's worked for 15 years as assistant director of Helsinki City Theatre, as artistic director of both Hämeenlinna City Theatre and Tampere Worker's Theatre, the TTT. He also acted five years as the CEO of the TTT. Riku has written and adapted scripts for theatre, television, new media and film. The best-known example of this is rock musical *In the Year of 85 (Vuonna 85)* which has also been made into a movie. Riku has done stand up comedy since 1993.

Education:

Tampere High School of Performing Arts (1987 - 90)
Drama Department of the University of Tampere (1991 - 95) graduating with a Master of Arts in Acting.

Hobbies:

Diving (PADI Divemaster and Scuba Instructor in Jan '15), tennis, golf.

Work experience:

McDonalds Tampere (1990)
The Finnish Postal Office (1990)
Proud Video (1990-1991), a Tampere based production company. Cameraman and editor.
Dimitry's Scooter Rental, Kalymnos, Greece (summer of 1992)
The Big Freeze (1993). A Feature film directed by Eric Sykes. Stunt double for Bob Hoskins and Donald Pleasance.
Hämeenlinna City Theatre (1995-2002). Actor, artistic director (from 1998).
Helsinki City Theatre (2002-2004). Assistant artistic director.
Tampere Worker's Theatre (2004-2006). Assistant artistic director.
Tampere Worker's Theatre (2006-2013). Artistic director, CEO as well (from 2008)

Riku has also hosted his own talk show on YLE's Radio Aino (2000). Has appeared in numerous Tv-shows and movies. He has hosted and produced numerous stand up clubs and has had well over a thousand gigs. He has also performed in London, Dublin, Edinburgh and Los Angeles. He founded the biggest stand up comedy festival in the Nordic countries called "Tomatoes!"

In 2002 Riku was chosen the Entertainer of the Year by the Finnish Performers' Association.

As a Director in theatre, television and film:

- **The Changeling (Vaihdokas, a short film) 1990**
- Olviretki (play) // Hämeenlinna Summer Theatre 1996
- **Murphy (short film) // Do-Right Films Ltd. 1997**
- Hamlet (play) // Hämeenlinna City Theatre 1997
- President in the Closet (Presidentti kaapissa, play) // Hämeenlinna City Theatre 1998
- Noises off (play) // Hämeenlinna City Theatre 2001
- Jesus hopped the A train, (play) // Helsinki City Theatre 2002
- **Club act!one (6-part Tv-series) // Channel 2, The Finnish Broadcasting Company 2004**
- Wait until Dark (play) // TTT Old Main Stage 2004
- Losing Louis (play) // TTT Old Main Stage 2005
- **Club act!one-two (6-part Tv-series) // Channel 2, The Finnish Broadcasting Company 2006**
- In the Year of '85 (Vuonna 85, musical) // TTT Main Stage 2006
- **Elf Academy (24-part mobile series) // TeliaSonera Mobile-Tv 2007**
- Stir Crazy Hotel (Pätkähullu hotelli, interactive comedy) // TTT Main Stage 2007
- In the Year of '85 Remix (musical) // TTT Main Stage 2008
- In the Year of '85 Golden Turbo Platinum (musical) // TTT Main Stage 2010

- Best before (Parasta ennen, solo comedy) // TTT Old Main Stage 2010
- Back to the Eighties (tour) // together w/Heikki Vihinen 2011
- The Summer of '85 (musical) // Pyynikki Summer Theatre together w/Heikki Vihinen 2012
- **In the Year of '85 (movie) // Artista-film and Veitikka-Production Ltd, together w/Timo Koivusalo 2013**
- Forza Lasagne! (musical comedy) // TTT-Club 2013
- The Tramp (Kulkuri, play about Charles Chaplin) // TTT Main stage 2013
- Mauno Peppone: Life, Death and Comeback (Mauno Peppone: elämä, kuolema ja comeback, mini-musical) // TTT-Club together w/Heikki Syrjä 2014

Original Screenplays, Plays, Books, Translations and Adaptations:

- **The Changeling (1990), a short film.**
- The Scottish Play (Skottilainen näytelmä, adaptation of Shakespeare's plays together w/T.Heinämäki), University of Tampere 1995
- The Vault (Holvi, play) Turenki Amateur Stage 1996
- Olviretki (adaptation of Aleksis Kivi play) Hämeenlinna Summer Theatre 1996
- **Murphy (short film) 1997**
- Hamlet (adaptation) Hämeenlinna City Theatre 1997
- **Älyälyä (20 - part Tv-series, co-writer) Channel 2, The Finnish Broadcasting Company 1996-97**
- **Ensio Ripatti (10-part Tv-series) Channel 2, The Finnish Broadcasting Company 1998**
- **Houdini's Sons (4 - part Tv-series) Channel 3, Finland 1998**
- President in the Closet (Presidentti kaapissa, play) // Hämeenlinna City Theatre 1998
- The Hound of the Baskervilles (musical adaptation of Arthur Conan Doyle's book) 1999
- Ladies' Night (adaptation and translation) 1999
- **Hands Off the Fridge! (Näpit irti jääkaapista, 10 -part Tv-series) Channel 2, The Finnish Broadcasting Company 1999**
- **Hui Hai Hiisi (40 - part TV-series, co-writer) Channel 2, The Finnish Broadcasting Company 1999 – 2000**
- G2000 (play w/Tero Heinämäki and Risto Korhonen) Hämeenlinna City Theatre 2000
- The Empty House (Autiotalo, musical adaptation of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet) Hämeenlinna City Theatre 2000
- Ladies' Night 2 (play translation) 2001
- Under the Northern Star (Täällä Pohjantähden alla, musical dramatization from Väinö Linna novel) Hämeenlinna City Theatre 2002
- Jesus hopped the A Train, (play translation) // Helsinki City Theatre 2002
- **Wait a Moment! (Hetkinen, 170 - part TV series) Channel 2, The Finnish Broadcasting Company 2002 – 2007**
- **Club act!one (6-part TV-series, co-writer) // Channel 2, The Finnish Broadcasting Company 2004**
- **Club act!one-two (6-part TV-series, co-writer) // Channel 2, The Finnish Broadcasting Company 2006**
- It was only a Matter of Time (Se oli vain ajan kysymys, book) Aamulehti Publishing Ltd. 2006
- In the Year of '85 (Vuonna 85, musical, together w/Heikki Syrjä) // TTT Main Stage 2006
- **Elf Academy (24-part mobile series, together w/H.Syrjä and Rich Lyons) // TeliaSonera Mobile-TV 2007**
- Stir Crazy Hotel (Pähkähullu hotelli, interactive comedy, together w/H. Syrjä and Rich Lyons) // TTT Main Stage 2007
- In the Year of '85 Remix (musical, together w/H. Syrjä) // TTT Main Stage 2008
- In the Year of '85 Golden Turbo Platinum (musical, together w/H. Syrjä) // TTT Main Stage 2010
- Back to the Eighties (tour) // together w/Heikki Vihinen 2011
- The Summer of '85 (musical, together w/H. Syrjä and H. Vihinen) // Pyynikki Summer Theatre 2012
- **In the Year of '85 (movie, together w/H. Syrjä and H. Vihinen) // Veitikka-Production Ltd 2013**
- Forza Lasagne! (musical comedy, together w/ H. Syrjä) // TTT-Club 2013
- The Tramp (Kulkuri, play about Charles Chaplin, together w/H. Syrjä) // TTT main stage 2013

- Mauno Peppone: Life, Death and Comeback (Mauno Peppone: elämä, kuolema ja comeback, mini-musical, together w/H. Syrjä) // TTT-Club 2014
- **The Caravan (Karavaanarit, movie together w/H. Syrjä and H. Vihinen) Solar Films and Veitikka-Production 2015**