

## Hearing-impaired Finnish rapper Signmark to inspire local audience in November (with photos)

Signmark, the hearing-impaired Finnish rapper, will highlight themes of equality and inclusiveness in the programme "Signmark: Impossible is My Thing" in Hong Kong this November, performing songs and music that unite the hearing majority and the deaf minority as one.

Signmark, named an Outstanding Young Person of the World in 2009, was born deaf. As the first non-hearing artist signed to an international record label, the Finnish pioneer has brought his hip-hop and rap to almost 50 countries, touching the hearts of people worldwide. Through signing his lyrics, Signmark creates "visual rhymes" onstage while his musical collaborator proudly vocalises the words, singing anthems of the voiceless out loud.

Signmark's live shows are always bilingual in international sign language and spoken English. He spreads his message over strong beats which help him adapt to the rhythm. CBS News in the US said, "His sign language becomes part of his performance; a new art form that creates a shared experience for the hearing and the deaf."

In the upcoming performance, Signmark will share with the audience his uncommon creative journey. He will also collaborate with local dancers with disabilities to show the inclusive power of arts.

"Signmark: Impossible is My Thing" is one of the programmes of the World Cultures Festival 2019 – The Nordics. With additional Hong Kong sign language interpretation, the programme will be staged at 3pm on November 3 at the Ko Shan Theatre New Wing Auditorium. Tickets priced at \$100, \$160 and \$220 are now available at URBTIX ([www.urbtix.hk](http://www.urbtix.hk)). For credit card telephone bookings, please call 2111 5999.

Organised by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the World Cultures Festival 2019 – The Nordics will run from October 18 to November 17. For programme enquiries and concessionary schemes, please call 2370 1044 or visit [www.worldfestival.gov.hk](http://www.worldfestival.gov.hk).

