

The most interesting and unique digifest in Finland celebrates its 10th anniversary

The **Alternative Party** celebrates its 10th anniversary, combining music, a retrocomputer expo, state-of-the-art technology and the new-media arts in to a relaxed atmosphere of digital art and science, with the steampunk-inspired cross-art environment. Alternative Party 2008 offers a versatile program from demo-competitions to musical shows and speeches by influential people of the digital world.

Alternative Party 2008 – a dream come true

Alternative Party, a festival of digital culture and a demoscene-event uniting both art and science is celebrating its ten-year journey in the spirit of Steampunk in Kaapelitehdas, Helsinki, on the 24th through 26th of October 2008. The producer of Alternative Party, Kirsi Viljanen, told that some long-time dreams of the organizers are made reality this year. After a year of work it seems Alternative Party 2008 is a "dream come true" according to Viljanen. The result is unique.

A good example of this is that after many attempts and over 20 years of waiting, the Belgian electronic music pioneer Front 242 will play their first concert in Finland at the Alternative Party. This legendary group has been an innovator since its beginnings in 1981, creating a new style, **EBM**, combining electronic music with experimental industrial. Upon hearing of the up-coming visit of Front 242, Jari Jaanto of Finnish social media company **Sulake** remarked: "the single most important event of the decade in Finland".

Patrick Codenys of Front 242 told in an interview that we can expect a powerful and emotional concert. According to Patrick, a show in mystical Finland is a challenge to them which inspires the whole band down to the roadies. "This concert is going to be a challenge for us because it's the first time we will be confronted by the Finnish people - who for some other Europeans remain a mystery! When I proposed to all the band members and even our crew to go to Helsinki, everyone was very excited about it. This is not like flattering or something, but Finland is one of the last countries in Europe where we haven't played. We are looking forward to do that show and also to visit Helsinki!" The whole interview can be read from the **[ALT] Magazine**, published 30.7.2008.

To make dreams come true, you need more than a fabulous musical experience. The second highlight became reality when this year's guest speaker was confirmed. All the way from California, Brad Templeton of the **Electronic Frontier Foundation** is coming to Finland. EFF and its Finnish sister organization EFFI are dedicated to defending civil rights on the Internet: particularly promoting freedom of speech, privacy and transparency. Templeton has written about the problems of cyberspace for a long time. The expertise about copyright and peer-to-peer networks of this 48 year-old Canadian engineer has been in a key position in numerous lawsuits. A natural talent in written and spoken word alike, his output in the electronic and printed media is vast and he is a wanted speaker in a multitude of conferences.

Brad Templeton is a software developer and a private entrepreneur. He sits on the board of **BitTorrent**, a company specializing in Internet file-sharing; he is a **Commodore 64**-programmer, a **Usenet** activist,

and the founder of the first .com domain and at the same time the first electronic newspaper – ClariNet. Templeton can address the serious issues he works on both with humor, but also by analyzing political and popular-culture phenomena in a creative and interesting way. Like the guest of last-year's Alternative Party, father of **Leisure Suit Larry**-games **Al Lowe**, Brad Templeton is a man of humor: in the 1980's he founded the newsgroup rec.humor.funny and it's webpage www.netfunny.com.

The Serbian art- and demoscene-group **Kosmoplovci** tells that getting to Finland and to Alternative Party is a dream come true for them. At Alternative Party, the group will perform a show called **KDES** which is a "live audiovisual performance platform". Although Kosmoplovci has developed KDES for six years and performed it in Serbia and the nearby regions, they stated that they're going to dedicate a lot of effort for the show in Finland. An eager group of Kosmoplovci-fans is awaiting their performance, which is their first visit to the **Baltic** region.

The versatile and peculiar program has also attracted the interest of the public: the number of tickets sold in the first five days since ticket sales started was 80% of last year's total advance sales, so it seems it's going to be the biggest Alternative Party audience ever.

We welcome everyone interested in digital culture to join us and enjoy the bubbling cross-art ambiance of the festival. The event is open round the clock from Friday to Sunday on the 24th through 26th of October. During the day kids under 12-year olds get a free entry with an adult, a possibility to explore the world of computers from their parents' youth. In the evenings and nights the event stirs up to a merry all-night-long festival with focus on music, demo-competitions and socializing.

Alternative Party 2008
"Punish Your Machine."
24-26 October 2008
Merikaapelihalli, Kaapelitehdas,
Helsinki, Finland.
www.altparty.org