



POMORFESTIVAL

INFORMATION ABOUT THE
FESTIVAL ARCHIVE



“WHERE EAST MEETS WEST”



The Norwegian
Barents Secretariat

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KKMAFEST



WELCOME TO THE POMOR FESTIVAL, VARDØ

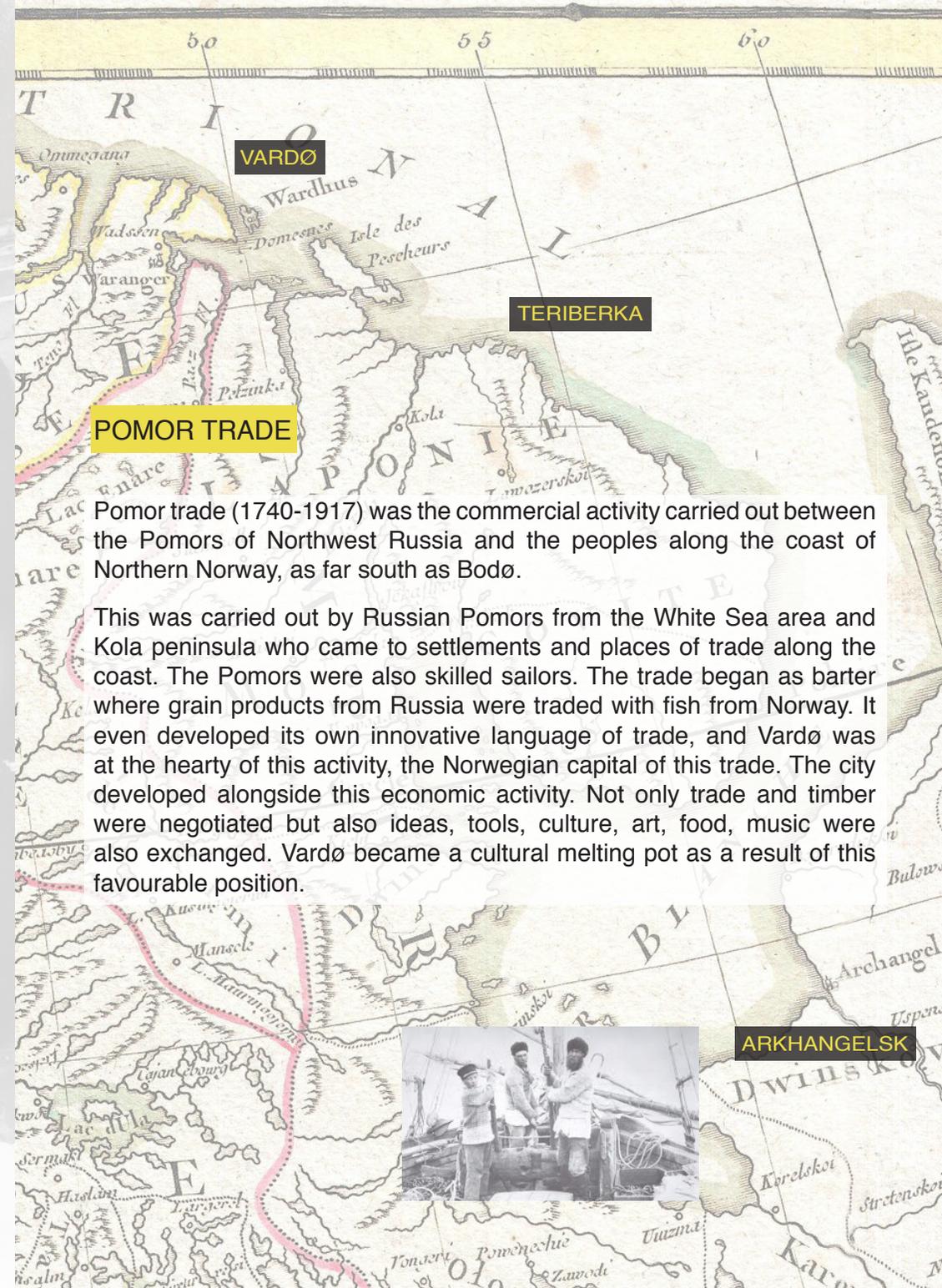
This is a celebration of the history, connectivity and common ground shared in our coastal communities that were part of the Pomor Trade network operating between Norway and Russia.

This leaflet gives some information about this years participants and programme and introduces the new initiative of the digital archive for the festival.

The festival in 2020 is an new exploration. Covid-19 forces us to think, act and interact in different and exciting ways. It gives us opportunities to explore new ways to recognise our common heritage and enable us to reach a wider audience now and in the future.

Some highlights this year include:- a dynamic festival website with live streaming:- Taibola, in Arkhangelsk are documenting the creation of three spectacular art pieces commissioned,designed and destined for Vardø. These will arrive in due course and add to Vardø's growing artistic heritage. A series of short films, voices of Teriberka, were created exclusively for the festival will premier along side two exhibitions in the old wooden cinema, here in Vardø. Additionally a series of lectures, a book launch, childrens' activities, the popular craft market and pop up concerts are some of the many activities that are part of the schedule.

This year the festival is 30 years old a great achievement. We would like to thank those who have participated,attended and contributed to this event over the years and hope that we will continue for many more to come. Without our volunteers and generous funders this and many of the other festivals in Vardø would not be possible.



POMOR TRADE

Pomor trade (1740-1917) was the commercial activity carried out between the Pomors of Northwest Russia and the peoples along the coast of Northern Norway, as far south as Bodø.

This was carried out by Russian Pomors from the White Sea area and Kola peninsula who came to settlements and places of trade along the coast. The Pomors were also skilled sailors. The trade began as barter where grain products from Russia were traded with fish from Norway. It even developed its own innovative language of trade, and Vardø was at the hearty of this activity, the Norwegian capital of this trade. The city developed alongside this economic activity. Not only trade and timber were negotiated but also ideas, tools, culture, art, food, music were also exchanged. Vardø became a cultural melting pot as a result of this favourable position.



ARKHANGELSK



TAIBOLA

Taibola Assemble is a creative collective, who hail from Arkhangelsk Oblast, Russia. They are no strangers to the north of Norway having participated in Barents Spektakle in Kirkenes over the years and are regulars here at the Pomor festival. In 2018, Ilya Kuzubov and his crew working with wood created the monumental Drakkar out at Skagen on Vardø. This has become a dramatic and much loved addition to the island.

Last year, Taibola created a piece for the centre of the town. Old wooden material was gathered from around the island and carefully crafted back to life in this artwork that celebrates the islands fishing heritage. It depicts a group local fishermen carrying their boat. The artwork is entitled “Fiskere bærer lys” (Holding the light).

This years creative addition to art in Vardø, acknowledge the prolific nature of the birdlife on Hornøya, a giantic wooden puffin is observed by two keen birdwatchers.



CONNECTIVITY

The Pomor festival celebrated our historic and present day connections with our Russian partners across the border.

Our modern day Pomor Trader extends to exchange ideas, culture, nature, creativity, food, conversations, skills, knowledge, laughter and friendship with each other.

Teriberka and Arkhangelsk are represented this year and reflect different spaces, one a busy bustling metropolis and the other a quiet remote village. Both are engaging and have much to offer for the festival. Representatives from each settlement continue to visit Vardø and are in turn visited by folk from here and continue the legacy of engagement and old bonds beyond our borders.

TERIBERKA

Teriberka a settlement on the Kola peninsula. The earliest reference it in 1523. By 1900 it was a busy established fishing village and the first collective farm set up in the 1920s. Teriberka was a thriving hub.

In 1960s things began to take a turn for the worse. The fishing boats got bigger and fish processing moved to neighbouring Murmansk. The population began to rapidly decline. Today only 10% of the people remain. Olga Nikoleeva, Director of the Culture Palace tells this story in one of our short films.

The Pomor choir, based in the Cultural Palace, is the core of the community. Attracting people from a variety of ages, they sing with pride in their hearts. For the youth in the community there are many challenges to overcome, few classmates, little opportunity in their own community. Igor and Dima capture the essence of Teriberka through their eyes by way of storytelling and digital photos.

Today Teriberka faces pressures of development from external investors who wish to develop their home for large scale tourism.

Komafest have been working with the community, to document the people, place and challenges they face.

ARKHANGELSK

This port city, also is also known as Archangel, has grown on the banks of the Northern Dvina river, near the White Sea. It is a significant commercial and fishing port. Established in 1584 it played a major role in trade with Europe until the foundation of Saint Petersburg in 1703. Vikings knew the area around Arkhangelsk as Bjarmaland.

The port at Arkhangelsk can be frozen for up to 5 months. Arkhangelsk remains a major seaport, opening year-round thanks to developments in icebreakers.

The city of 350,000 inhabitants has a vibrant cultural scene, two universities, multiple theatres and museums. This area is also known for its folklore and fairy tales.

The coat of arms depicts the Archangel Michael in the act of defeating the Devil.

Vardø and Arkhangelsk have been trading with each other for over 300 years. This relationship was acknowledged formally, in 1989, when they became twin cities.



KOMAFEST

Komafest is an organization working with art projects, in communities that live on the edge and face issues including national centralisation and privatisation of natural resources. Creative approaches are harnessed to address these challenges. We hope to inspire people, to create arenas for conversations and action.

The core crew consist of:- Pøbel (artist), Brona Keenan (landscape architect and artist), Bertine Tønseth (geographer and teacher) and Svein Harald Holmen (placemaker and Vardø fisherman). Komafest takes an interdisciplinary and inclusive approach for each unique project.

Our approach is People First.

Komafest began as a project in 2012 and was established as an independent company in 2017.

Komafest is very proud of it's Vardø roots, these are the streets and community where our collaborative approach was born, working together for the original festival and again in 2013 for Bloodbank.

Komafest has been working in Teriberka with the local community since 2015 on the Komafest: New Chapter project.

The Komafest office is based in Vardø, Norway.





- ◆ Pomor Festival Art
- Komafest Art
- Witch Memorial



► POMORFESTIVALEN ◀ 30th anniversary

DIGITAL ARCHIVE

<https://www.pomorfestivalen.no/>

As a way to mark the 30th anniversary of the Pomor festival in Vardø and over 280 years of exchange we have embarked on an ambitious project to create an extensive archive of material gathered and presented from previous years. This is in its infancy and will develop and continue we hope for many years. Making this part of our individual and shared cultural heritage accessible beyond the shores of Vardø.

We will use our website as an active platform linking this years live material and short films that were streamed during the festival. We wish to continue to share and celebrate our past present and future collaborations and exchanges between North Norway and Russia.

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