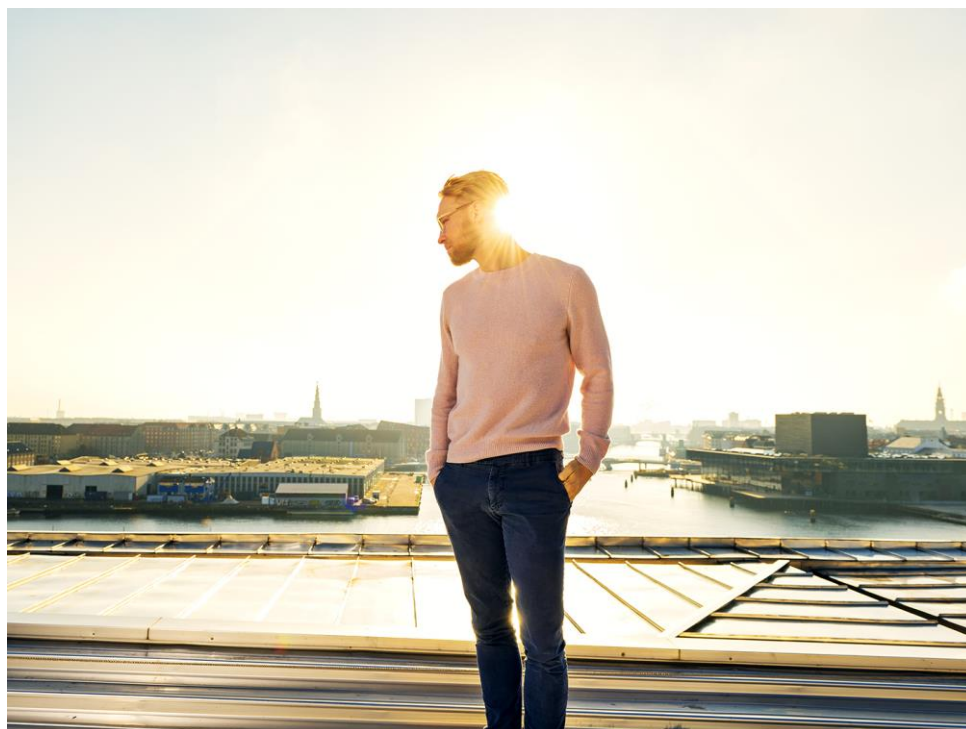


Danish Dance Theatre



Danish Dance Theatre appoints the internationally acclaimed choreographer Pontus Lidberg as new Artistic Director

Danish Dance Theatre, one of Scandinavia's leading contemporary dance companies, has appointed a new Artistic Director. The internationally acclaimed Swedish choreographer Pontus Lidberg will join the company in April 2018 and replace Tim Rushton.

Pontus Lidberg joins Danish Dance Theatre after many years as a critically acclaimed choreographer for some of the foremost ballet and dance companies around the world, including New York City Ballet and Martha Graham Dance Company.

Announcing the appointment, Kasper Holten, Chairman of the Board at Danish Dance Theatre, says:

“On behalf of the entire Board of Danish Dance Theatre, I can say we are incredibly excited to be able to announce Pontus Lidberg as our next Artistic Director. When looking for someone to take the company into a new era and further build on the wonderful success and growth our company has enjoyed over the last decades, we cannot imagine anyone better suited than Pontus. He brings a very strong artistic voice to Danish Dance Theatre. His work is known and celebrated at leading dance venues and companies around the world, and he has proved to be able to combine a classical background and vocabulary with thinking out of the box on all levels. This will be an inspiration to our company and to our audiences throughout Denmark, and will help Danish Dance Theatre to tour internationally on the highest level – branding Denmark and the Danish dance scene around the world. “

Lidberg has as a choreographer staged more than 40 works in countries all over the world from France, China, Switzerland, Sweden to the US. Now he is thrilled to return to Scandinavia and to explore his new role as Artistic Director:

“I am delighted to be taking on the role of Artistic Director and very much looking forward to taking Danish Dance Theatre into a new era. The tremendous potential of the company offers opportunities to create new stage and moving image works to share with audiences throughout Denmark and around the globe. I look

Danish Dance Theatre

forward to creating and bringing important choreographic voices from Denmark and beyond to the company, as well as exciting artists and collaborators from other arts and sciences who will surprise, engage and take our audiences on new journeys”, Pontus says.

As Artistic Director for Danish Dance Theatre Pontus Lidberg will be working both as a choreographer and a curator for the company:

“Pontus is committed to curating seasons that include his own work as well as that of leading choreographers and new exciting talents. He will be seeking to work with the entire dance sector and arts world in Denmark in the broadest sense, to make Danish Dance Theatre truly be the link it should be between a strong and healthy local ecology and the highest international level,”

Kasper Holten explains.

Press photos (300 dpi) full CV and biography [HERE](#)

For interviews or further info please contact:

Press contact:

Julie Schlytter / Phone: (0045) 4217 019 / julie@danishdance.dk / www.danishdance.com



Pontus Lidberg – Biography

Raised in Stockholm, Sweden, Lidberg trained at the Royal Swedish Ballet School. He holds an MFA in Contemporary Performing Arts from the University of Gothenburg, Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts.

As a choreographer for the stage, Lidberg has created works for dance companies including New York City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Semperoper Ballet Dresden, Royal Swedish Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Le Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Balletboyz and Beijing Dance Theatre, as well as for his own concert group, Pontus Lidberg Dance. Pontus Lidberg Dance has been presented by venues such as New York City Center’s Fall For Dance Festival, the Havana International Ballet Festival, the Spoleto Festival, The Joyce Theater, the Guggenheim Museum Works & Process and the National Arts Center of Canada, Ottawa.

His dance film *The Rain* received numerous awards. The New York Times wrote “memorably, *The Rain* illustrates what filmed dance can say that staged dance cannot.” His film *Labyrinth Within* won Best Picture at the Dance on Camera Festival in 2012. He was nominated for a New York Dance and Performance Award (Bessie) in Outstanding Visual Design, for his dance and film evening *WITHIN (Labyrinth Within)*—created during his 2012 tenure as Resident Artistic Director of Morphoses. The New York Times applauded this contemporary story ballet, “told without mime and driven by emotional and psychological textures... [Lidberg] sublimates the academic language of ballet, dissolving it into knotty partnering that manages, by and large, to avoid the churning clichés of much contemporary movement in the form. It is refreshing to see a ballet embracing the virtues of restraint.”

Lidberg was a 2012-13 Choreography Fellow at New York City Center and held a 2013 Blodgett Distinguished Artist-in-Residence, co-sponsored by Harvard University’s Department of Music. Additionally, he has been an artist in residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts (2008), Joyce Soho (2010), Baryshnikov Arts Center (2015 and 2010), and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund’s Pocantico Center (2014).

Awards/Honors

- 2013 Nominated **Bessie Award, Best Visual Design**, The New York Dance and Performance Awards, New York, NY
- Nominated **Best Dance Production 2012**, Dance Europe, London, UK
- 2012 **Finalist Award, Creative Promise in Dance**, The Vilcek Foundation, New York, NY
- Best Picture**, Dance on Camera Festival, New York, NY
- 2011 **Prix du Jury**, Festival Court-Métrange, Rennes, France
- 2010 **Best Dance Performance 2010**, Norrland, Teaterbiennalen/nummer.se, Sweden
- 2008 **Outstanding Achievement in Choreography for Film**, The Dance Media Honors, Los Angeles, CA

Danish Dance Theatre

- 2007 **Best Dance Short Film**, Tiburon International Film Festival, Tiburon, CA
Best Film, Best Cinematography, London International Dance Film Festival, London, UK
Special Mention of the Jury, Goteborg International Film Festival, Gothenburg, Sweden
- 2001 **NOKIA Award for young talent**, Helsinki International Choreography Competition,
Helsinki, Finland