



SIREN

DANISH DANCE THEATRE

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SIREN is a dance work by Pontus Lidberg that premiered and opened the Festival Occidente Oriente in Rovereto, Italy in August 2018.

SIREN is named after the mythical creatures who lured sailors with their song, compelling them to throw themselves into the sea. Only Ulysses managed to resist their call, by plugging his crew's ears with wax and tying himself to the mast of his ship. The work considers Ulysses' desire that can never be fulfilled, and the Siren's song as a source of creative impulse. The work does not retell the myth, or any story, but is inspired by its themes of longing, creativity, and, unexpectedly, solitude.

As part of its visual design, SIREN incorporates film projections and animations by Jason Carpenter that dialogue with the dance. Water, and images of water, create a world defined by the sea, where sailors may get lost and die, and where the Sirens live. SIREN is performed to Franz Schubert's piano Sonata no 18, along with an original score by composer Stefan Levin that mixes acoustic instruments with sampled urban and synthesized sounds.

SIREN received a Villanueva Award as one of the best performances presented in Cuba in 2018. The Villanueva Awards are given by the UNEAC, The National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba.

C/O OPERAEN
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WWW.DANISHDANCE.COM

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PRODUCTION DETAILS

Choreography

Music

Light Design

Costume Design

Dramaturge

Animation

Dancers

Duration

Co-production

Pontus Lidberg

Franz Schubert, Stefan Levin

Raphael Frisenvænge Solholm

Karen Young

Adrian Guo Silver

Jason Carpenter

7

60 minutes

Danish Dance Theatre

Festival Oriente Occidente and
the Stavros Niarchos

Foundation Cultural Center

through an exclusive grant

from the Stavros Niarchos

Foundation

With generous support from

Rockefeller Brothers Fund

SHS Foundation

The Barbro Osher Pro Suecia

The Evelyn Sharp Foundation

Trust for Mutual Understanding

Vineyard Arts Project

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation

through USArtists International

in partnership with the National

Endowment for the Arts

The Andrew W. Mellon

Foundation

The Howard Gilman

Foundation, as well as with the

vital support of generous

individuals.

Original music commissioned

by the Charles and Joan Gross

Family Foundation.

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TOURING

SIREN has toured globally since 2018, and has been performed on stages including Stavros Niarchos Cultural Center, Athens; Auditorium Parco della Musica, Rome; The Joyce Theatre, New York; Havana International Ballet Festival; M.A.P. International Theatre Festival Baku and Festival Oriente-Occidente, Rovereto.

PRESS QUOTES

"Siren has all the features of a masterpiece... A work both delicate and very dense with a feeling of truth, sustained by a rare expressive clarity"

LA REPUBBLICA

"Lidberg demonstrated a consolidated expressive maturity and the capacity to transform an initial idea into choreography and a structured and complete piece."

IL SOLE 24 ORE

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Danish Dance Theatre was founded in 1981 and is the foremost and largest contemporary dance company in Denmark. Since 2018, Pontus Lidberg has been the company's Artistic Director.

The company is composed of dancers from all over the world. The repertoire spans from large stage productions at The Royal Danish Theatre to more intimate productions at smaller venues, and open-air events such as Copenhagen Summer Dance in the middle of the Copenhagen Harbour. Danish Dance Theatre also tours extensively in Denmark and internationally. Danish Dance Theatre receives funding from the Ministry of Culture. In addition, individual performances receive support from private and public foundations.

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PONTUS LIDBERG, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER

Choreographer, filmmaker, dancer and recipient of a 2019 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, Pontus Lidberg has firmly established himself as a creative and visionary artist, merging dance and film. As a choreographer for the stage, Lidberg has created works for dance companies including Paris Opera Ballet, New York City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Vienna Staatsoper Ballet, Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Semperoper Ballet Dresden, Royal Swedish Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Le Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Acosta Danza, Balletboyz and Beijing Dance Theatre, as well as for his own concert group, Pontus Lidberg Dance. Pontus Lidberg Dance has been presented by New York City Center's Fall for Dance Festival, the Havana International Ballet Festival, the Spoleto Festival, The Joyce Theater and the National Arts Center of Canada. His work *Siren* received a Villanueva Award from UNEAC, The National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba, as one of the best performances presented in Cuba in 2018.

His 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* - created during his 2012 tenure as Resident Artistic Director of Morphoses. The New York Times applauded this contemporary story ballet, "[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."

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. He is the Artistic Director of Danish Dance Theatre in Copenhagen, Denmark.

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STEFAN LEVIN, COMPOSER

Stefan Levin, composer, guitarist and music producer, is known for his signature blend of acoustic instruments with electronic sounds. Levin's affinity for contemporary dance has brought his music to dance venues over the world, performed by companies such as the Cullberg Ballet (with Johan Inger); Stockholm 59° North and The Royal Swedish Ballet (with Giovanni Bucchieri). Levin started a collaboration with Pontus Lidberg in 2014 with a work that premiered at New York City Center's Fall For Dance festival. Levin composes music for theatre, as well as for film, and recently worked with the 2014 Emmy-awarded director Maryam Ebrahimi. He studied classical guitar at the Faculty of Fine, Academy of Music and Drama in Gothenburg, Sweden and at the Academy of Music in Malmö, Sweden.

RAPHAEL FRISENVÆNGE SOLHOLM, LIGHT DESIGN

Raphael Frisenvænge Solholm is a light designer working in the areas of theatre, dance, opera and performance arts. He has worked with Danish Dance Theater, Bellevue Teater, Alexander Kølpin's summerballet, Republique Tivolis Koncert Hall, Aalborg Theater, Nørrebro Theater, Mungo Park, Theater Grob, Mammutteatret, Theater Momentum, The Funen Opera, Odense Internationale Musiktheater, Fix & Foxy and the Choreographer Collective E.K.K.O., and others. He also works as Set and Video designer. He is now working full time as Light Designer and Production Manager for Danish Dance Theater.

ADRIAN GUO SILVER, WRITER

Adrian Guo Silver is a dance dramaturg and writer, currently working with Pontus Lidberg, the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company, and Colleen Thomas. He has also worked with Karin Coonrod as movement director, and Martha Clarke as assistant director. His translations from Yiddish have been supported by Target Margin Theater, NYSCA, and The National Yiddish Book Center. He holds a BA in English from Colby College and an MFA in Dramaturgy from Columbia.

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KAREN YOUNG, COSTUME DESIGN

Karen Young is a New York based costume designer who has designed clothes for numerous Dance, theatre and video art projects. Her design work for performance is included in the repertoires of the Martha Graham Dance Company, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Kyle Abraham, Brian Brooks, Ballet Basel, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Paul Taylor Dance Company, American Ballet Theater, Pontus Lidberg, Benjamin Millepied, Pam Tanowitz, Elisa Monte, and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, among many others. She designed the costumes of Third Rail Project's Bessie-award winning immersive shows and Wendy Whelan's shows. Collaborations with contemporary visual artists include costume design for video works of Eve Sussman, Matthew Barney and, and David Michalek (Lincoln Center Festival, the Venice Biennale).

JASON CARPENTER, ANIMATIONS

Jason Carpenter is an Emmy and Annie Award winning independent animation director living in Los Angeles. He directed the animated sequences for several feature documentaries including He Named Me Malala, directed by Davis Guggenheim. Jason's animated short, The Renter, received numerous top awards and accolades from festivals around the world, including an Annie Award Nomination and a Grand Prize from the Ottawa International Animation Festival. Commercially, Jason has overseen animation and design for TV commercials, television shows, and a variety of interactive and live experiences for clients including New York City Ballet, The Skoll Foundation, The Smithsonian, The History Channel, Oculus, Walt Disney Imagineering, Universal, and Sesame Street. Jason received his M.F.A from CalArts in Experimental Animation.

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