

# DANSK DANSETEATER



**Pontus Lidberg revisits the famous myth from a contemporary perspective, questioning our criteria of failure and success. It will be performed for a limited period at The Royal Playhouse, Main Stage.**

On October 21-24, ten outstanding dancers of Danish Dance Theatre enter the stage of The Royal Playhouse in Copenhagen. The perspective is queer. Many people know the myth of Icarus, the youth who flew too high and so plunged to his death. In his new work, choreographer Pontus Lidberg draws on the history of Daedalus, the master inventor, who together with his son, Icarus, try to escape the labyrinth on Crete by building wings and flying away. Whereas in the classical myth, the dream of flying fails tragically, Pontus Lidberg looks at the myth from the idea of “queer failure”, challenging the more usual concept of a successful existence based on reproduction and gain. Icarus is the last part in a trilogy that takes Greek mythology as a point of departure to reflect on what it means to exist as a human today. The first two parts, multi award-winning *Siren* (2018) and *Centaur* (2020) were based on liminal beings who were born half human, half animal. Icarus, on the other hand, is inspired by a young man who is not born a liminal being but dies as one.

*“I’ve taken the liberty of looking at the significance of the myth with new eyes. Though Icarus falls to his death, I consider the attempt to fly a moment of vision and transcendence. Instead of focusing on the ultimate result, I focus on the daring initiative and process of building wings. I’ve done away with the father-son relationship in the story, distilling it into simply, a relationship between two men.”*

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## Artistic collaboration

Icarus has been created in collaboration with multiple established artists. Among these is Swedish composer Stefan Levin, with whom Lidberg has worked for many years on creations for Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo and Acosta Danza in Havana, among many others, and most recently on "Siren" in the same trilogy.

The costumes and wings are created by costume designer and special-effects expert Rachel Quarmby, who has created for both stage and for film, with directors including Roman Polanski and Luc Besson. The costumes are made of upcycled vintage and second hand stock.

**PRESSE PHOTOS [HERE](#) / FILM TEXTS [HERE](#)**

## TIME & PLACE

21.-24. OCTOBER 2022 · THE ROYAL PLAYHOUSE, MAIN STAGE

## CREDITS AND INFORMATION

Choreography / Direction Pontus Lidberg  
Dramaturge Adrian Guo Silver  
Costume Design Rachel Quarmby  
Light and Set Design Raphael Frisenvænge Solholm  
Original Music Stefan Levin  
Video trailer Omid Zarei  
Icon Image Clément Legrand  
Sketch drawings Rachel Quarmby  
Duration 90 minutes without intermission



## WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

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## PONTUS LIDBERG

Pontus Lidberg, recipient of John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship (2019) is a critically acclaimed choreographer, a visionary artist and film maker raised in Stockholm, Sweden. Lidberg is trained at the Royal Swedish Ballet School and 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 Paris Opera Ballet, New York City Ballet, Martha Graham Dance Company, Vienna Staatsoper Ballet, Les Ballets de MonteCarlo, Semperoper Ballet

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Dresden, Royal Swedish Ballet, Royal Danish Ballet, Le Ballet du Grand Théâtre de Genève, Acosta Danza, Balletboyz and Beijing Dance Theatre Morphoses, as well as for his own concert group 'Pontus Lidberg Dance'. Lidberg is also known for his dance films, and the 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. His latest film *Written on Water* has just had its premiere with showings at the International Festival of Films on ART (FIFA) in Canada and the Dance on Camera Festival in New York.

## **PRESSE KONTAKT**

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