

THE LAB STATION

a workshop for experimentation and practical research
in the field of performing arts



The Lab Station

is a workshop space for professional performing arts, supported by The Danish Arts Foundation, whose remit is to develop the craft of performance as a basis for experimental work and practical research into the performing arts. The Lab Station also has an additional commitment to document its work, and to disseminate this material both nationally and internationally. Every year the artistic directorship curates one or more main experimental projects; in addition to this The Lab Station also facilitates members experimental projects.

Since it was founded in 2009, The Lab Station has been housed in a 780 square-meter former cinema, situated in Vesterbro, Copenhagen. We have over 200 annual members and an average of 50 visiting guests a day. The house operates an open-daily policy for members and guests, which includes training sessions, showings of experimental projects, knowledge-sharing, workshops, artist talks and networking.

In recent years The Lab Station has been awarded The Theatre Journalists Initiative Prize and The Spring Prize for its work; in addition, many shows whose research and development took place at The Lab Station have been nominated for- and awarded- Reumert Prizes for their quality and artistic ambition.

The Lab Station is the only house in Denmark whose primary focus is on experimentation and practical research in the field of performing arts. The Lab Station therefore plays a unique and vital role in the Danish performing arts scene.





Membership of The Lab Station

All practitioners of the performing arts, both trained and under training, can be members of The Lab Station as well as theatre scholars. Membership is available to individuals or theatre institutions; member fees vary, depending on whether the applicant is resident in Copenhagen, in other parts of Denmark or abroad.

The primary focus of The Lab Station is experimentation and research. We have therefore developed an informed and focussed framework for our members, in which we offer them the possibility to develop their artistic practice for their own experimental projects (forsøg), by way of professional sparring, knowledge exchange and long-term loan of spaces.

Our understanding of the term "experimental project" is a piece of research on a given subject/question/relationship in the performing arts, which is not guided by the idea of a fixed result, but which entails trial, observation and gathering new knowledge. To undertake a member-initiated project, The Lab Station requires the submission of a statement of intention in order to be given up to three weeks of studio space, and a subsequent report on the results. Finally, every 6 months, we host

Membership of The Lab Station gives free access to:

- **Weekly training sessions**
- **Rehearsal-spaces and sparring for experimental projects/research work**
- **All open, in-house activities (workshops, artist talks etc.)**
- **Use of spaces and meeting rooms, together with free use of the foyer, kitchen etc.**
- **Sharing of knowledge via The Lab Stations network.**

Platform meetings, where all experiment-initiators meet for a practical and theoretical sharing session. We also encourage all experimenters to hold an open presentation during the research period.

All experimental research material generated in The Lab Station is gathered in our database, which is publicly accessible through our website.

Guests, residents and visiting companies in The Lab Station

There are several ways of using The Lab Station in addition to becoming a member. Many of the experimental projects which take place here, involve a wide cross-section of participants, not only other performing arts practitioners but also audiences of all ages, who becomes guinea pigs and "audience-experts" in the experimental work. Furthermore, we regularly have performing arts practitioners from abroad visiting The Lab Station.

All of our professional activities (workshops, readings, seminars) are open to anyone from the professional performing arts, and often also open to the general public.

Several theatre groups are based in The Lab Station, which means that many artists visit the house each day. The spaces in The Lab Station are also rented out for all kinds of performing arts activities. We are visited by production teams from all over the country. All in all, The Lab Station embraces the entire milieu; from children's theatre, adult theatre to all genres within the performing arts: physical and visual theatre, dance, new circus, opera, performance art, music-theatre, text-based drama and animation theatre.

This makes us a representative networking house for the performing arts in Denmark.

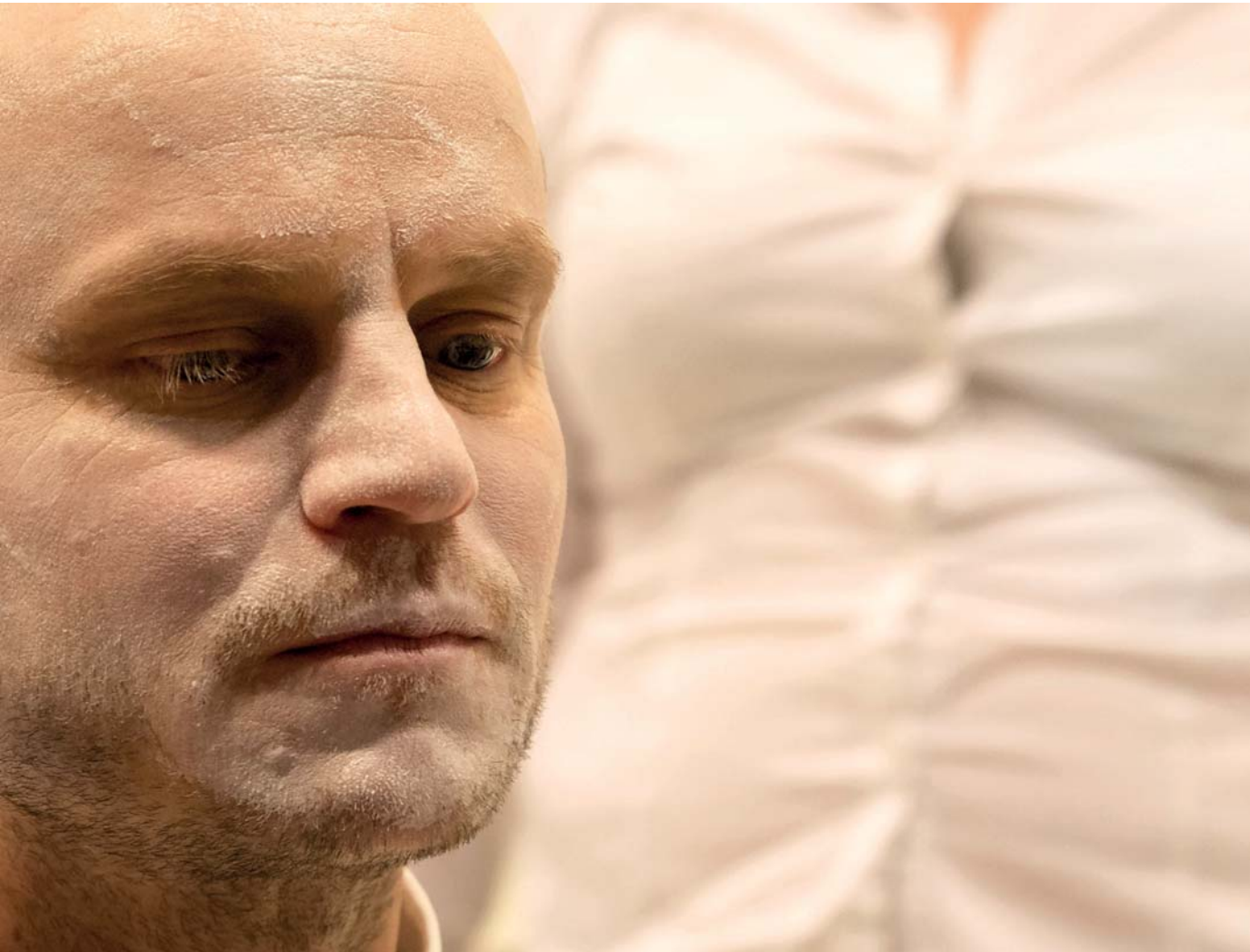
The House Itself

The Lab Station occupies an area of 780m², originally a cinema, consisting of one large studio space "Boulevarden", two smaller studios, "Camera" and "Wittmaarck", a spacious foyer, kitchen, changing room, bathroom, 6 offices/meeting-rooms and access to the courtyard.

In a space which seems historically suffused with an atmosphere of old movies, 1980's theatre and meditation sessions, The Lab station has become its own new chapter of the old cinema; a creative workplace and social networking centre, which draws its lifeblood from the artistic and personal engagement to be found here.

We aim to create an atmosphere of ambition, quality and warmth; a place where both members and guests feel welcome and feel a sense of ownership, both by virtue of the freedom and trust offered to them and because of their own engagement in the house.





Searching for...?

The Lab Station exists to serve the experimental process, in other words the process of taking risks with the possibility of failure. To never fail can be an indication that we are not being brave enough, and that we basically have become set in our ways. At The Lab Station, we regard mistakes as valuable pieces of knowledge, which can lead us towards new innovations. This makes The Lab Station a vital first link in a chain, the aim of which is to develop the performing arts in Denmark. But how does this work in practice? First and foremost we have to secure a professional level by stimulating the craftsmanship behind the research. The Lab Station forges on-going links with artists and their training methods, thereby grounding the experimental projects in a training culture, which creates both an individual and collective artistic practice. Moreover, we aim to develop the experimental work towards the concept of practical research into the performing arts, by setting quality requirements for both the documentation and presentation of the work. And lastly, we work together with several groups and companies to encourage both understanding of, and stimulation of basic research as a concept in performing arts.

Over the years many artists have passed through The Lab Station, carrying out experiments and research which have subsequently led to performances of distinction.

Here are some examples of this research:

Free the audience from a fixed location in the theatre

Lotte Faarup, Karen Vedel / The Lab Station


Creation of a new genre in the combination of dance and juggling

Samuel Gustavsson / Rapid Eye

Communication with the audience through sleep

Vera Mäder/Hello Earth





Kitsch as a creative provocation

Øyvind Kirchhoff, Lotte Faarup /
The Lab Station

Fusing the scenic space and the

audience Nils P. Munck /
det menneskelige teater

**Research into originality with
learning disabled and conventio-**

nal actors Glad Teater, Tue Biering,
Øyvind Kirchhoff, Karen Vedel / The
Lab Station

**Creating solidarity around out-of-tune
music** Det Olske Orkester

Research into the actor as a puppet

Rolf Søbørg Hansen, Øyvind Kirchhoff and
others / The Lab Station

**Seeking new normalities with spastic
dancer** Tora Balslev / Daily Fiction

**Transforming the sounds of the audi-
ence into a musical piece** Peter Bruun /
Forsøgsstationen

**Opening Shakespeare's text to a young
audience** Rikke Liljenberg

**Research into the resonance of
breathing in the theatre** Liv Pflug

**Developing an introverted scenic
expression** Livingstones Kabinet

**Creating choreography from algorithms
in the financial world** Kristian Husted

**Developing storytelling between
children, adults and elderly people**
Jesper la Cour / Det Fortællende Teater

Developing the musical paper theatre
Anette Asp / Wunderverk

Inventing textural sounds Teater Vild
Kammerat, Teater Abstrax

Quotes about performances developed at The Lab Station and artists who have taken part in experimental projects:

"Gripping and intensely dramatic combination of fairy-tale and everyday divorce drama....Like being inside a fairy-tale and out in the real world at the same time... There is nothing worse, than having your ingrown prejudices about interactive theatre roundly confounded!"

On Teater Vild Kammerat's show "How to get rid of your stepmother" – Henrik Lyding, Teateravisen

"If you're the type sleeping in the comfy theatre-seats, while waiting for a cold white wine in the interval, then this piece is not for you. Do you on the contrary find it interesting being awakened by theatre in which active audience participation is obligatory, then grab a ticket..."

"A wonderful sensory bath for body and soul, which left me shaken up and affected"

On Det menneskelige teater's show "Are there vultures in Greenland?" and "Men nu har jeg en hjærne" – Kulturrkongen

"Failure shines of success....Det Olske Orkester certainly dare to walk the plank"

On the show "The Concert" by Det Olske Orkester – Randi K. Pedersen, Teateravisen.

"With an exquisitely gracious quality of movement, playfully, and with a lightness and elegance, they create imaginative acts with bricks, sticks..."

"The show ... is philosophical, mathematical, poetic, humorous, deeply human..."

On Rapid Eye's show "Quiproquo" – by Vibeke Wern, Danstidningen and The Danish Arts Foundation

"Fantastic...a show which, despite a complete absence of any story in the classical sense, constantly holds us gripped."

On Livingstone Kabinet's show "Quiet" – Magasinet Kbh

"He has had the courage, ability and curiosity to attempt to redefine our idea of what theatre in Denmark can also be."

On Tue Biering, 13.5.13 – Berlingske Tidende

"Hjem" also contains uncomfortably topical physical representations and images of what existence is like for those without a home."

On Seimi Nørregaards and Boaz Barkans show "Hjem" – Mette Garfield, Teater 1

"Point Omega" is a courageous attempt at a new aesthetic"

On Kristian Husted's show "Point Omega" – Mette Garfield, Teater 1

"...relevant and moving show which employs a team of precision puppeteers and Rolf Søbørg Hansen's strongly characterised puppets together with an image-rich set design to create a compassionate and uncommonly powerful glimpse into a troubled person's mental downfall."

On Rolf Søbørg and Bådteatrets show "Arne går under" – Rie Hammer, Teater 1

"Anette Asp Christensen has created one of the season's most original solo shows."

On Wunderverks show "The view from my grandmother's kitchen" – Anne Middelboe, Information





Documentation and presentation

Everyone who carries out experimental work at The Lab Station writes a follow-up report on their work and their results. These reports are filed in our database together with the rest of our accumulated knowledge and are publicly accessible to anyone who might glean theoretical or practical benefit from the results.

If you have a research topic and wish to know about previous work in the field, you can search our archives. There, you might find further information, inspiration and perhaps even be able to contact relevant collaborators. We are interested in making our archives a living resource as well. With this in mind, we hold Platform meetings every six months, as well as seminars and presentations on the experimental work. Here we share knowledge and results both verbally and in practice, often with other practitioners with relevant knowledge in the field. In all, we regard it as our distinguished purpose to gather different forms of knowledge generated in The Lab Station, and to create a forum in which it can be generously shared and exchanged, for the benefit of the whole performing arts scene and anyone else interested.

National and international partners

The Lab Station collaborates with many parties within the performing arts scene. We have a main priority of networking and collaborating with relevant university departments and the Danish National School for

the Performing Arts. We also collaborate with grass-roots workshops, branch organisations and other professional groupings. At a local level, we have developed a network with the many performing arts practitioners in Vesterbro, as well as with local residents. As regards the latter, The Lab Station has established contact with residents associations, day-care institutions, schools and language-schools along with social organisations in order to engage these parties in public, participative experimental projects.

The Lab Station also has an international focus, establishing contacts and international networks through study trips abroad. These initiatives have subsequently led to residencies by groups from abroad, readings, artist talks, workshops, presentations and artistic exchanges at The Lab Station. We are especially interested in connecting with other performing arts laboratories abroad; in learning about what they focus on, their conditions of operation and their roles as cohesive forces in the cultures in which they exist. This has partly been facilitated by an extensive EU collaboration via Odin Teatret.

Once upon a time.....

The Lab Station has its home in an old cinema formerly known as "Boulevard Teatret" or, in the local patois: "Bulen". The building was designed by the architect Arthur Wittmaarck who also, at the start of the last century, made his mark on many other cinemas and well-known buildings in Copenhagen, such as Axelborg and Øbro swimming baths. The cinema opened in 1923 at Sønder Boulevard 79 in Vesterbro, showing silent films until the talkies began to take over at the start of the 30's. In 1965, it changed its name to "Camera", and became Copenhagen's first art-house cinema, showing a narrower repertoire of films, a venue which nevertheless survived until 1974 at which point it was forced to close.

Then a period followed in which the cinema acted as an open stage for dance and music, after which the leadership of an establishment known as "Template" took over. For 15 years, this organisation ran meditation sessions and mystical séances, until finally, in 2009 The Lab Station took over, on the initiative of director Lotte Faarup and actor Øyvind Kirchoff. At this time, through the noughties, active performing arts laboratories were thin on the ground, but drawing on their common experience of experimental projects, largely funded within the children's and group the-

BOULEVARD TEATRET
TEATRET • C. 5577
SØN. BOULEVARD 81
7¹⁰ og 9¹⁰ Sidste Dag!
FREDLØS
Sten Lindgren
Gull-Maj Norin

TRIANGEL
Kl. 7¹⁰ og 9¹⁰ Tlf. C. 7047 fra Kl. 4
H.G. WELLS
Den usynlige Mand
Ekstra:
VERDENS STØRSTE SENSATION

Kinografen
Kl. 2-3-5-6-8-9
Buck Jones
NAAR SEKSØBEREN KOMMER!

COLOSSEUM
Kl. 7¹⁰ og 9¹⁰ Tlf. C. 2385 fra 5
3 UGE
KÆMPE-SUKCES!
Den usynlige Mand
Sidste Dag!

Alexandra c. 1601
Kl. 2-3-5-6-8-9-10-11-12
3. Uge
HUN GIFTEDE SIG MED CHEFEN
KLOVERMÅSSE, ROSMARY LESTER
Claudette COLBERT

ROXY
Godthåbsvej 14, Tlf. C. 2191 fra Kl. 5
Kl. 7,10 og 9,10. Løst Sukces'en
WEEK-END
ib. Schenberg - Arthur Jensen
Nr. Plads. Gr. Billetter.

ODEON TEATRET
FALLEDØVE 6
Kl. 7,10 og 9,10 Tlf. C. 5952 fra 5
FREDLØS
Gull-Maj Norin - Sten Lindgren

RAHBK
VESTERBRO 161
EVA 1407
2. WEEK-END
Uge!
Kl. 7,15 og 9,15 Sidste Dag!

FASAN BIOGRAFEN
FASANVEJ 11, BERGVED
Kl. 7,15 og 9,15 Den største danske Lydbillede
WEEK-END
Sukces 81 Dato
Sidste Dag!

UJANLØSE
Kl. 7,10 og 9,10
Tlf. Damse 747
Sidste Dag! De to glade svenske Gutter
Person og Wahlberg i Latter-Orkanen
Den tykke Slægt

RY-KINO
RYESGADE 55
NORA 7195
Edgar Wallace's spændende Film med
Paul Robeson
Leslie Banks
BOSAMBO
Kl. 7,10 og 9,10

Kunstmernes Efteraarsudstilling
i Den Frie.
Hverdag Kl. 10-16. Søndag Kl. 10-17.

18 NOVEMBER
Kunsterforeningen
Daglig 10-16
Ud- & Dec.
UDSTILLING
Udstillingsbyggn. v. Charlottenborg
„og vi spiser hos Kølle“

POLITIKENS BILLETSALG
solger Billetter til:
„Politikens“ Foredragsaal.
Fyrtejet.
Bernematiné.
Palle Muld & Elith Foss:
„For fuld Part Middelhavet rundt
paa Motorcykel“.
Central 8511, Lokal 268.
Statstradioniens 18. Torsdagskoncert.
Grete Jørgensen & Sejr Volmer-Sørensen.
Violoncel og Klaver.
Den ungarske Pianist Stephan Kovacs.
2 Konserter.
Gymnastikforeningen „Athen“.
Tremadskoncertene.

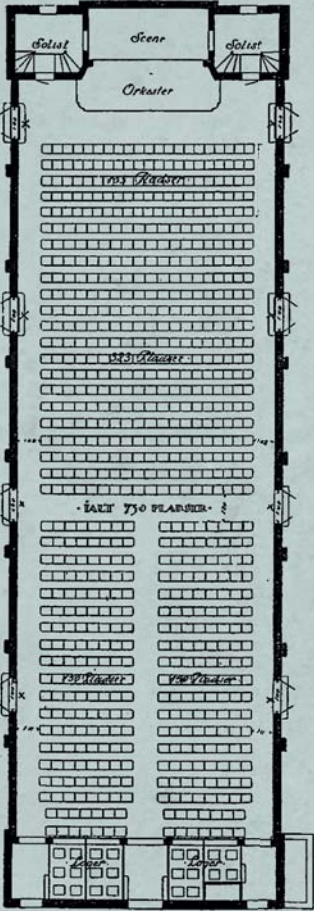
atre scene, these two artists notice a clear need for a place solely devoted to experimental projects. Backed by several artists and performing arts groups, and with the support of a grant from The Danish Arts Foundation, they were able, in 2009, to sign a lease for the cinema and rename it: The Lab Station.

Billettelefon:
C. 5577
Hverdag fra kl. 17
Forsalg 2 dage frem
fra kl. 17-21.30

Boulevard Teatret

Sønder Boulevard 79, V

Billettelefon:
C. 5577
Søn- & helligdage fra kl. 15
Forsalg 2 dage frem
fra kl. 15-21.30



Antal pladser 746

Normale spilletider: Hverdag: Kl. 19,10 21,10
(Se dagspressen) Søn- & helligdage: Kl. 16 17,30 19,30 21,10
(Kl. 16 små priser)

Billetterpriser:	indtil 10 år		indtil 14 år		1. pl.	Resv.	Resv.	1. pl.
	Rk.:	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-22	23-37	38-41	Loger
	Kr.:	0.50	0.75	1.30	1.60	1.60	1.30	1.60

Fodfri række: 23. række

Tilkaldning: Læger og andre besøgende, der venter telefonbesked under forestillingen, bedes opgive navn og pladsnummer til kontrolløren.

Trafikforbindelser: Nærmeste sporvognslinier: Linie 3 ad Enghavevej, 10, 11 og 16 ad Istedgade

Direktør Fru Minna Malmstrøm



Contact

Forsøgsstationen (The Lab Station)
Sønder Boulevard 81, 1720 København V,
Danmark
Tlf.: + 45 38 79 38 28
www.forsoegsstationen.dk
mail@forsoegsstationen.dk
VAT nr.: 32184243

Board

Catherine Poher, Morten Krogh, Jesper la Cour,
Gerd Schottländer and Annelis Kuhlmann

Resident teachers

Nadine George / Voice Studio International
and voice-coach Angelina Watson

Administration

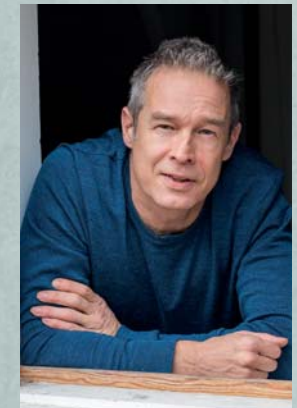
Rikke Jeppesen Rod, Pil Rix Rossel

Project Manager: Charlotte Rindom

Newsletter

Follow The Lab Station's activities by subscribing to our newsletter on our homepage. Here you can find out about new activities, including events that are also open to non-members.

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Artistic Directors

Øyvind Kirchhoff and Lotte Faarup

Photos: Øyvind Kirchhoff, Poul Storm
Graphics: Kåre Larsen
Translator: Pete Livingstone

'In order to be a realist you must believe in miracles'

Ben Gurion

