

CANADA

Chosen for Copenhagen Stage Festival International Days Programme 2022
Performances at Bådteatret, Copenhagen 7–10 June 2022

Immersive, visually absorbing animation theatre with live music about war, survival, fear of xenophobia, and fleeing... to Canada. By LIVINGSTONES KABINET



Music-theatre ensemble LIVINGSTONES KABINET present CANADA, a darkly comic music performance about a family's past, a child's plans to flee the country, an inherited trauma, the absurdity of racism, the drawing of false conclusions and the basic human wish to live a life of peace and safety; a wish which no one can take for granted.

A memory emerges from the darkness. On Bådteatret's small stage we hear a female narrators voice as she shares an outpouring of recollections. Bathed in an immersive sound environment and live music, the voice guides us through a powerfully visual performance in the style of a graphic novel.

This is the jumping-off point for the music performance CANADA, which draws parallels between the personal and the political, and the historical and the contemporary.

On a personal level, CANADA is the story of Nina Kareis' family: of her mother, Brigitta, who, as a child in the aftermath of World War II, was evacuated to Denmark from Vienna by the Red Cross as a "Wienerbarn", subsequently returning to Denmark as an adult, meeting and marrying a Danish man and having a child. This is also the story of Nina's maternal grandfather who, according to the Nazi's anti-semitic "Nüremberg Laws" of 1935, should *not* have been interned, but who wound up in a concentration camp anyway. And this is the story of an inherited trauma which Nina's mother bore with her to Denmark.

Nina Kareis' childhood was spent in Århus in the '70s with her Austrian-Jewish single mother. This was a time when the first Turkish "fremmearbejdere" ("foreign workers") came to Denmark. As a child, Nina could

already see that in the spiralling tone of racism in Denmark at that time there lay the seeds of a repeat of the horror tales of wartime Austria in the '30s and '40s on which she had grown up. She therefore began to make plans for her escape.

These plans involved fleeing to a country far away from Europe. A land of dreams. "The Land of Milk and Honey" – CANADA

Press Release

In CANADA, Nina's childhood thoughts from the '70s and her dreams of escape are placed in the context of an implied present-day narrative. This is a time in which such dreams, and the circumstances which lead to them are, once again, uncomfortably commonplace; a society where strangers and people in desperate need are not always welcomed with open arms.

Onstage:	Pete Livingstone, Amia Miang and Bo Carlsson
Director/Recorded speaks:	Nina Kareis
Set Design:	Johan Kølckær –nominated for Reumert Prize 2021 and winner of Danish Arts Council Stage Arts Award 2019
Composer/Musician:	Pete Livingstone
Text:	Pete Livingstone and Nina Kareis
Sound Design:	Erik Christofferson
Lighting Design:	Martin Danielsen Barnung
Dramaturgical Consultant:	Jörn Burmester Wium

CANADA was created with the support of:

The Arts Council of Denmark, The Danish Actors Union, The Frederiksberg Fund, Copenhagen City Council Stage Arts Committee, Åben School, Attorney General L. Zeuthen's Memorial Scholarship

ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE LIVINGSTONES KABINET

Livingstones Kabinet are an international live-arts ensemble based in Copenhagen. The group was established by Danish director Nina Kareis and Scottish composer Pete Livingstone.

Livingstones Kabinet have always seen themselves as a collective with a shifting core of actors, writers, composers, choreographers, performers, dramaturgs, musicians, set designers and directors who together create cross-disciplinary live arts with a unique and very characteristic theatrical language. Their work has a signature, image-rich, tightly-choreographed staging style, using original live and recorded music together with sound design. Whether narrative or non-narrative, Livingstones Kabinet's pieces often reflect a darkly humorous, oblique world-view. At the same time, there is always a demonstrably straightforward and unpretentious humanity which clearly reveals itself in form, playing style and staging.

Since 2002, the group have produced and co-produced 15 shows – in both small- and larger-scale formats. Livingstones Kabinet have, in addition, collaborated and co-produced with other theatres in Denmark: The Royal Danish Theatre, Funen Opera, Teater V, Kaleidoskop, Bådteatret, Riddersalen, and Cafeteatret. In 2012 their show KLIP received an award for excellence from the Danish Arts Foundation as one of the most exciting works of that year. In 2008, their show BABBLE BABBLE was nominated for a Reumert Prize. Livingstones Kabinet are currently in receipt of core funding plus international project support from The Danish Arts Council.