

## **WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY**

### **PONTUS LIDBERG (Choreographer/Dancer).**

Choreographer, filmmaker, dancer, and recipient of a 2019 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, Pontus Lidberg has firmly established himself as a 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, Ballet Theater Basel, Beijing Dance Theatre, and many more, as well as for his own concert group, Pontus Lidberg Dance. His work has been commissioned and presented by festivals and venues including Montpellier Danse, Théâtre National de Chaillot, The Joyce Theater, the National Arts Center of Canada, New York City Center's Fall For Dance Festival, the Havana International Ballet Festival, and the Spoleto Festival. 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. His first feature film, *Written on Water*, starring Aurélie Dupont premiered at Le Festival International du Film sur l'Art in Montréal in 2021. Raised in Stockholm, Sweden, Lidberg trained at the Royal Swedish Ballet School and the Conservatoire National de Musique et de Danse de Paris. He holds an MFA in Contemporary Performing Arts from the University of Gothenburg, Faculty of Fine, Applied and Performing Arts. From 2018-2022 he was the Artistic Director of Danish Dance Theatre in Copenhagen, Denmark.

**GAMAL GOUDA (Choreographic Assistant/Project Coordinator)**, born in the culturally rich city of Port Said, Egypt, embarked on a journey into the arts that led him to the prestigious Academy of Arts in Cairo. There, he honed his craft, graduating in 1977 from the Higher Ballet Institute. Thereafter, Gamal quickly ascended to the role of a soloist, captivating audiences with principal performances at the Cairo Ballet. In 1979, he joined the Hamburg Ballet. Within a mere four years, his exceptional skills elevated him to the status of Principal Dancer, a title he held with distinction throughout his 20-year tenure with the company. During his illustrious career at

the Hamburg Ballet, Gamal formed a profound artistic partnership with the renowned John Neumeier. This collaboration saw him bring to life numerous roles not only by Neumeier but also by other ballet luminaries such as Mats Ek, Maurice Béjart, and Gigi-Georghe Caciuleanu. In 2009, Gamal transitioned into an influential role behind the scenes, becoming the First Ballet Master for the Semperoper Ballett. Before his tenure at the Semperoper Ballett, he served as Ballet Master at Bayerisches Staatsballett from 2005 to 2009, and from 2003 to 2005, he was an integral part of Ballett Nürnberg. His freelance work from 1999 to 2003 saw him collaborate with an array of prestigious companies, including the Staatsballett Hannover, Ballett der Deutschen Oper am Rhein, and the Ballett der Deutschen Oper Berlin, among others. Gamal's role as a choreographic assistant brought him into creative partnerships with notable choreographers such as Graeme Murphy, Jacopo Godani, Jirí Kylián, Martin Schläpfer, Pontus Lidberg, and Stijn Celis. His extensive coaching repertoire spans the masterworks of ballet, including timeless classics and contemporary masterpieces by David Dawson, Frederick Ashton, George Balanchine, and William Forsythe, to name a few.

**ADRIAN GUO SILVER (Dramaturg/Writer)** is a dance dramaturg and writer, currently working with Pontus Lidberg, 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 University.

**KAREN YOUNG (Costumes/Wardrobe)** is an artist and costume designer based in New York. She has worked extensively with world renowned dance companies, choreographers, directors, and artists. The breadth of her work has spanned from fine art exhibitions to costumes of many genres of contemporary performance and dance. Amongst others, she has worked with artists Eve Sussman, Matthew Barney, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Kyle Abraham, Wendy Whelan, The Royal Ballet, and Miami City Ballet, to name a few. She is currently the costume design consultant to the Martha Graham Dance Company during the process of reconstructing all of the costumes of the Graham Repertoire. Young holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design, received a design fellowship from the N.E.A and Theater Communications Group, and was a visiting fellow at London College of Fashion.

**RACHEL QUARMBY-SPADACCINI (Rabbit Costume)** designs costumes for dance and film, including for Pontus Lidberg, Jo Strömngren, Tero Saarinen, Joelle Bouvier, and Carolyn Carlson. For film and television, she has created special-effect costumes for Roman Polanski, Luc Besson, and Dany Boon. Her collaboration with Pontus Lidberg spans companies including The Royal Swedish Ballet, New York City Ballet, Vienna Staatsoper, Grand Théâtre de Genève, and The Royal Danish Ballet. Born in England, Rachel studied constructed textiles in Manchester College of Art receiving a BA Honors Degree. Her early career was in sculpture installations for public buildings. In 1992 she moved to France, where her love of textiles motivated her to begin her career in costume design.

**STEFAN LEVIN (Composer).** Composer, guitarist, and music producer Stefan Levin blends acoustic instruments with electronic sounds. Levin started a collaboration with Pontus Lidberg in 2014 with a work commissioned by New York City Center's Fall For Dance festival, after which they have created multiple works together, for Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo, Acosta Danza, Danish Dance Theatre, and Pontus Lidberg Dance. Levin composes music for theater and film, and recently collaborated with the 2014 Emmy-awarded director Maryam Ebrahimi. He WHO'S WHO IN THE COMPANY 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.

**JASON CARPENTER (Animations/Projections).** Emmy and Annie Award animation director and artist based in Santa Monica, CA, Jason Carpenter has over 20 years of experience creating animation and artwork for film, TV, interactive installations, and live events. His theater work includes projects with Pontus Lidberg for New York City Ballet, The Vienna Staatsoper, and Danish Dance Theater. His documentary series credits include directing the animation sequences for Worn Stories on Netflix and Watch the Sound with Mark Ronson for AppleTV+.

**KJ (Lighting Design)** is a UK-based lighting designer for Dance, Theatre, and Opera. They trained at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. KJ is a professional member of the Association of Lighting Production and Design and a graduate of the ALPD 20:20 Lumiere Scheme, under the mentorship of Adam Silverman. In 2021, they were one of the recipients of the Hull Truck Theatre Grow bursary. They have worked with many companies, choreographers, and institutions including Phoenix Dance Theatre (Sharon Watson MBE, Miguel Altunaga, & Dane Hurst), Joss Arnott Dance (Joss Arnott & Annabelle Lopez Ochoa), and for Avant Garde

Dance, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Northern Rascals, and Fubunation. Their work in opera and theater includes productions for Opera North, Birmingham Rep, Theatre Clwyd, HOME, Liverpool Playhouse, Leeds Playhouse, Northern Broadsides, and Roots Touring. Additional theater credits in 2023 include Flip! for Fuel Theatre and The F\*\*\*\*\*s and Their Friends Between Revolutions for the Manchester International Festival which will be performed at London's South Bank Centre in 2024.

**DAMIANO ARTALE (Dancer)** was born in Sicily (1987). At the age of 16, he entered the Teatro alla Scala ballet school in Milan, where he graduated in 2007. During 2007/08 season, he danced in the Ballet de l'Opéra National du Rhin in Mulhouse (France). From 2008 to 2013, he worked with Ballet du Grand Theatre de Geneve (Switzerland) where he played solo and first dancer roles. From 2013 to 2020, he was a soloist of Aterballetto (Italy). He collaborates as a guest teacher and choreographer with various professional training schools and companies like the John Cranko School in Stuttgart, Eko Dance Project in Turin, Balletto di Siena, Padova Dance Project, and W.O.M. Brancaccio Danza in Rome. Since 2020, he has served as artistic director of the Castle Summer Intensive.

**JENS ROSÉN (Dancer)**, born in Sweden, completed his dance training at the Swedish Dance Sport Federation and at the Royal Swedish Ballet School, among others. He danced with the Royal Swedish Ballet (1995-2001), where he was appointed principal soloist in 1999, Ballet de la Comunidad de Madrid (2001-02), and Compañía Nacional de Danza (2002-07). In 2007, he returned to the Royal Swedish Ballet, where he remained as principal soloist until 2019. He has also been a dancer and artistic director of the company Stockholm 59° North. He has worked with choreographers such as Nacho Duato, Mats Ek, William Forsythe, Jiří Kylián, Ohad Naharin, John Neumeier, Pontus Lidberg, Jean Christophe Maillot Patrice Bart, and Mauricio Wainrot, among others. As a rehearsal director, he has worked at the Greek National Ballet, Paris Opera, and Opéra Grand Avignon.

**NADJA SELLRUP (Dancer)** was born in Sweden and received her dance education at The Royal Swedish Ballet School where she graduated in 1994. After graduation, she immediately became a soloist at The Bayerisches Staatsballett. In 1995, she joined The Royal Swedish Ballet. In 2000, she worked with the Victor Ullate Ballet Company in Madrid, and in 2001, she joined

Compañía Nacional de Danza. Since 2007, she has been back at The Royal Swedish Ballet as a principal dancer. Leading roles throughout her career include: Odette/Odile in Swan Lake (Natalia Conus, Pär Isberg), Giselle in Giselle (Natalia Makarova), Aurora in Sleeping Beauty (Marcia Haydée), Mother in Julia and Romeo (Mats Ek), Juliet in Romeo and Juliet (Kenneth MacMillan), The Chosen One in The Rite of Spring (Maurice Béjart), Raymonda in Raymonda (Pontus Lidberg), and Queen of Arts in Alice in Wonderland (Christopher Wheeldon), among others. She has danced works by renowned choreographers such Nacho Duato, Paul Taylor, Alexander Ekman, Christopher Wheeldon, Pontus Libberg, Pär Isberg, William Forsythe, and Jean-Christophe Maillot, among many others. Nadja has been a company member of Stockholm 59° North since 2000 and in November 2017, became Artistic Director.