



## Programme

What links the Farthing Pie House in London's Euston Road to the Tivoli Ballet Theatre in Copenhagen and *Borgen* on TV screens around the world? How is Ludvig Holberg, the founder of modern Danish theatre, connected to Mary Wollstonecraft? And how did Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, get from Elsinore Castle to Shakespeare's Globe?

This two-day symposium maps out cultural exchange between British and Danish performing arts: the mutual influences, inspirations and histories behind the stages and screens of today.

The symposium is a first-step presentation of a Danish-British stage and screen connection, starting out from the world of Ludvig Holberg (1684-1754) who launched a professional Danish-language theatre and was surely influenced by his early experiences of life and thought and theatre in Oxford and London.

The Friday evening performances will follow the flow from a dancing Danish Columbine and Harlequin to a new English translation of Holberg's verbal jousting and rousing call for equal rights for women, and on to a brand-new UK-DK theatre collaboration, PLUS the very special chance to hear the world's most renowned recorder virtuoso...

### 21 September 10-16

10.00-10.30: *Welcome, UK-DK cultural exchange in the modern world – a return ticket*

- Ulla Kallenbach, Associate Professor, University of Bergen/University of Aarhus

10.30-12.00 *Ludvig Holberg: the early makings of a Danish advocate for women's rights – the playwright in Oxford and London*

- Karen Skovgaard-Petersen, Director, Society for Danish Language and Literature
- Bent Holm, dramaturg, theatre researcher
- Ros Ballaster, Professor of 18th Century Studies, Oxford University

12.00-13.00 Lunch

13.00-14.00 *Translating, transplanting, transforming Holberg: context, dramaturgy, performance in English*

- Bent Holm, dramaturg, theatre researcher
- Gaye Kynoch, literary translator
- Sue Hansen-Styles and Andrew Jeffers, Why Not Theatre Company, Copenhagen

14.00-14.30 *Coffee break*

14.30-16.00 *Show and tell – from the British Library Germanic Collections and the Royal Danish Theatre archives*

- Anna Lawaetz, Curator, Performing Arts Collection, Royal Danish Library
- Pardaad Chamsaz, Metadata Lead, Equity and Inclusion, British Library

### **22 September 10-16**

10-11.00 *From commedia dell'arte to pantomime – from the Farthing Pie House to Copenhagen*

- Kate Newey, Professor of Theatre History, Exeter University
- Ellen Gjervan, Professor of Drama, Queen Maud University College, Trondheim

11.00-11.20 *Coffee break*

11.20-12.30 *The archive of the body – pantomime ballet as living tradition*

- Moira Goff, Dance Historian
- Peter Bo Bendixen, Artistic Director, and dancers from Tivoli Ballet Theatre
- Discussion, Kate Newey, Ellen Gjervan, Moira Goff, Peter Bo Bendixen and Tivoli dancers

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-14.45 *Negotiating stage modernisms: Henrik Ibsen, Laura Kieler's objection to 'being' Nora, Edward Gordon Craig's pioneering Pretenders in Copenhagen*

- Ulla Kallenbach, Associate Professor of Theatre Studies, University of Bergen/University of Aarhus
- Billy Barrett and Ellice Stevens, Breach theatre company
- Kirsten Shepherd-Barr, Professor of English and Theatre Studies, Oxford University
- Tzen Sam, PhD Candidate in the Faculty of English, Oxford University

14.45-15.00 – *Coffee break*

15.00-16.00 *Danish film and television – building on the Holberg heritage*

- Claire Thomson, Professor of Cinema History, University College London
- Anne Grydehøj, Lecturer in Danish, University College London

16.00-16.20 – *Coffee break*

16.20-17.00 Roundtable: *Cultural Exchange UK/DK: Past – Present – Future*

- Morten Kirkskov, Artistic Director, Royal Danish Theatre
- Peter Bo Bendixen, Artistic Director, Tivoli Ballet Theatre
- Sissi Liechtenstein, MD, International Performing Rights Ltd

## 22 September 19.00-20.30 Performance

**Michala Petri** is an internationally renowned and beloved Danish recorder virtuoso. She has performed more than 5,000 concerts, on stages all around the world, and has a discography of more than 80 critically-acclaimed and award-winning recordings. Michala's list of collaborators reads like a 'Who's Who' of classical music, and to date more than 150 works have been written for her by many of the most celebrated composers of our time.



**Tivoli Ballet Theatre** is unique – there is simply nothing like it anywhere in the world. Based at the famous Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen, this extraordinary tradition spans the centuries, linking commedia dell'arte to ballet, to contemporary and experimental dance, and to show dance. Dancers from the Tivoli Ballet will perform excerpts from two of the ever-popular works that are usually only seen on the open-air stage in Copenhagen once the famous peacock curtain has unfolded.



**Breach** is a groundbreaking, award-winning British devised theatre company currently making a new show based on Laura Kieler, the Danish woman whose life was 'stolen' by Ibsen to make his Nora. We'll see a brand-new sample of this reimagining of relationships between nations, history and fiction. Breach co-founder **Ellice Stevens** will also perform excerpts from Holberg's 'Defence of Women' – never translated before, never heard in English before. The world premiere of an extraordinarily up-to-the-minute monologue.



**Why Not Theatre** actors **Andrew Jeffers** and **Sue Hansen Styles** will link it all together, reading punchy scenes from Holberg's plays – snippets of a historical past so very relevant to the present day.

