



2019 London International Mime Festival in association with Jacksons Lane presents

**PLEXUS POLAIRE**  
(FRANCE/NORWAY)

# CHAMBRE NOIRE

UK premiere

## JACKSONS LANE

**Fri 25 - Sun 27 January**

After-show discussion: Sat 26 Jan (following 8pm perf) led by Simon Hart

**Runs approx 60 mins, no interval**

Creative Team:

Direction – Yngvild Aspeli & Paola Rizza  
Actress-Puppeteer – Yngvild Aspeli  
Dramaturg – Pauline Thimonnier  
Puppetry Outside eye - Pierre Tual  
Sound score - Guro Moe Skumsnes Moe  
Live musician – Ane Marthe Sørlien Holen  
Puppet design/construction – Yngvild Aspeli, Pascale Blaison, Polina Borisova  
Light design – Xavier Lescat  
Video design – David Lejard-Ruffet  
Sound and video manager – Antony Aubert  
Light and stage manager – Alix Weugue  
Production – Sarah Favier  
Touring management – Claire Costa

*Chambre Noire is a wild hallucination around the hotel death-bed of Valerie Jean Solanas (1936-1988): writer, radical feminist, convicted would-be assassin of Andy Warhol and creator of the infamous SCUM Manifesto.*

*“Through puppets we can concretize abstract elements and express in a direct way sensations, states and feelings that are sometimes difficult to put into words. I see the use of puppets as a real dramatic necessity and not just a purely aesthetic element. The choice of materials, and “types” of manipulations, not only engender the external form of the show but are central to my thinking. The stories offered cannot be told without the puppets. I often choose to work with puppets that are a duplicate or a reproduction of a human. Seeking to develop the relationship between the puppet and the actor-puppeteer, to play the created trouble because we do not know who manipulates who. The fact that the puppet - which is a dead object - sometimes seems more alive than the actor who puts himself at the service of this other body, evokes many physical, psychological and social themes. In this space*

*which is composed between these two levels of presence, the right distance appears.*

*This detachment, aroused by the puppet, gives a freedom that allows us to go further, to address more violent or intimate elements, specific to human nature, without crossing the border of the unpleasant or the provocation. In this perspective, a “self-observation” approach is offered to spectators, placing humanity at the heart of my research.”* **Yngvild Aspeli**

A native of Norway, **Yngvild Aspeli** has been living in France since 2003. Her shows are created between these two territories and tour internationally. She develops a visual universe that likes to mix softness and cruelty. Through images, sounds and gestures, imagination and matter, Yngvild gives life to the most hidden feelings. An approach centered around the double presence of the actor, in relation to the human-sized puppet.

Yngvild trained at the Jacques Lecoq International Theatre School in Paris (2003-2005), then at the National School of Puppetry Arts (ESNAM) in Charleville-Mézières (2005-2008). She created her company, La Compagnie Plexus Polaire in 2008. She also works as an actress, puppet manipulator, and mask and puppet constructor for various other companies in France, Norway, and with Open Sky and Jammy Voo in England. Plexus Polaire’s previous work at LIMF was *Ashes* in 2018.

**CO-PRODUCERS:**

Figurteatret I Nordland, Norway. TJP – CDN d’Alsace, Strasbourg; Le Passage, Scène conventionnée de Fécamp; La Maison de la Culture de Nevers et de la Nièvre; Le Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes de Charleville-Mézières, France.

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**London International Mime Festival**

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London International Mime Festival (LIMF) promotes contemporary visual theatre. Its productions have won nominations for Olivier Awards and in 2017 the festival was honoured with the Empty Space - Peter Brook Special Achievement Award for its work over four decades. Founded in 1977, LIMF is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

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Production Manager:

**Bill Deverson**

Artists Managers:

**Stephanie Brotchie & Shanti Freed**

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