

**Into the Kingdom of Peer Gynt
- a performance from Kulturproduksjoner**



With:

Musician Martine Kraft
Actors Nils Jørgen Kraft, Karen Høie
Tecnician Svein Gundersen

Composition: Martine Kraft
Text, based on legends: Karen Høie
Direction and scenography: Svein Gundersen
Video projection: OriginalCopy
Costumes: Denise Bredvig
Production: www.kulturprod.no

More about Martine Kraft and her music at
<http://www.martinekraft.com>

Into the Kingdom of Peer Gynt

In this performance, you get to know some of the tales about the legendary and heroic Peer Gynt. The tales are characterized by nature mysticism, Peer is hunting in the mountainside, where he meets the seductive milkmaids, approaches the people from the underground, like Huldra and her housemaid Silverlin, stumbles into Bøygen, the big monster that no-one can grip, and the stupid but powerful and strong trolls... We play with music, storytelling, shadows, video-projection, puppets... the stories are sometimes interrupted by songs, to make a certain distance to our main figure, and to the tales.

First thing to happen, is Peer's encounter with Bøygen. Wherever he is walking, he says, this monstrous creature is around him and tries to capture him. After Peer has escaped Bøygen, he gets hold on a reindeer buck. He shoots the buck, and goes to get it - but it shows up that the buck has only fainted, and it is now running as hell, with Peer on its back. Up the steepest mountains of Norway they go, and suddenly they fly through the air, into the waters far below them. The stories of Peer continue to exaggerate like this. He will dream about the most beautiful milkmaids in the world, and of course of Huldra, the daughter of the Mountain King. He is losing his path, goes away from the human society, and is welcomed into the mountains, into the underworld. He is about to marry Huldra, when he hears the churchbells from the valley. When someone hears the bells chime, legends tell the underground people have to give up, and Peer is released from the mountain. But still Bøygen is threatening him. It is not before Peer comes to the graveyard where the undergrounds are buried, that he realizes what he has been on to, and is begging to get down to the valley again, to be a real human among humans.

We have translated the text into English – in fact we did also translate the songtexts, but have not used the translation of the songs after all, as we thought you should hear some Norwegian words during the performance. So – we hope you will enjoy both that, and the story. Welcome to a meeting with our national anti-hero!



Kulturproduksjoner

www.kulturprod.no

is a production company/touring theatre, run by playwright and director Svein Gundersen and actor/puppeteer and playwright Karen Høie. The company has made performances for both children and grown-ups: big outdoor performances, as well as smaller productions for touring, both Drama and Puppet theatre. Even in the company's drama performances puppets and shadows are often used, in interaction with the actors.

Kulturproduksjoner is mainly touring with their performances in Norway, but have also toured abroad. The company often collaborate with other theatres and artists.

The members of the company also teach, as they are both associate professors, connected to the University College in Oslo and Akershus, and the University College of Hedmark. Svein Gundersen has initiated and is the leader of a Puppetry study at Oslo and Akershus University College. He has also been the president of UNIMA-Norway for a period of ten years, while Karen Høie pt is the leader of the Norwegian storytellers association.

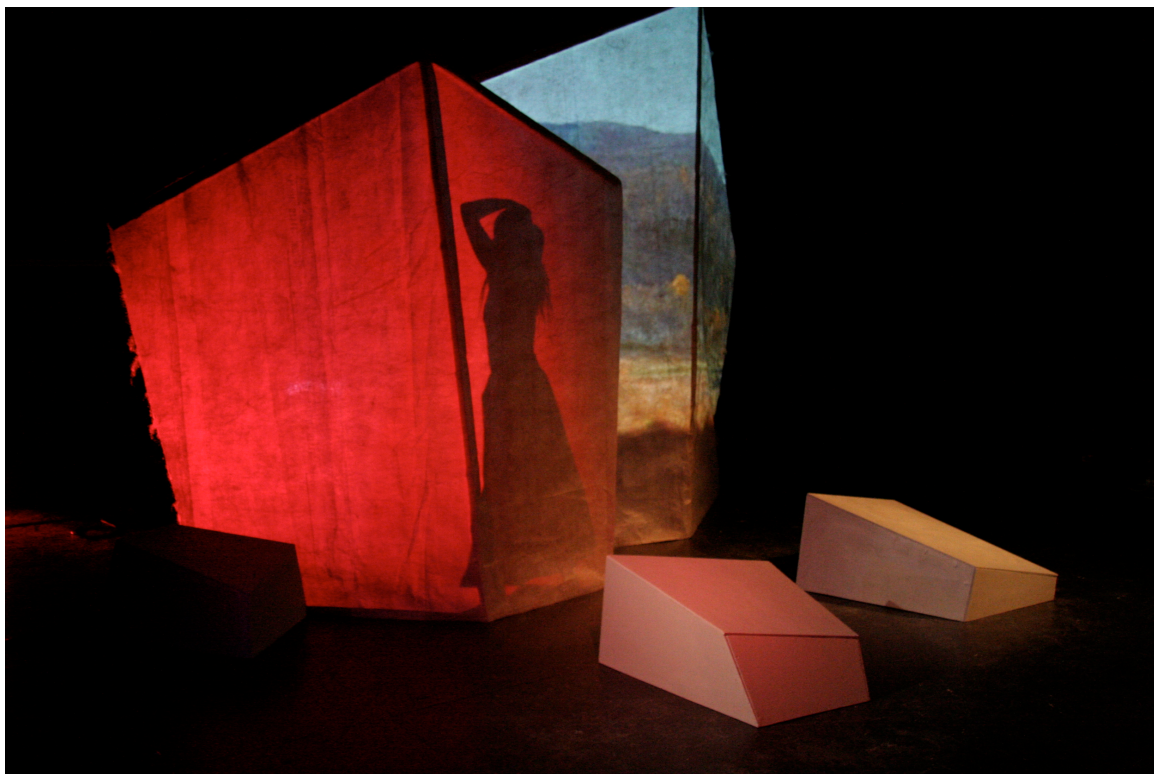


The legends about Peer Gynt

The legends tell that Peer Gynt was a deer hunter that lived in the biggest valley in Norway, Gudbrandsdalen. He became famous, not only because of his great skill as a hunter, but also because of his boasting, when exaggerating his own personal stories of hunting and skiing in the mountains. If he was a historical figure, he must have lived sometime in the 1600s. The legends about Peer Gynt are often concentrated on how he managed to chastise the trolls, or how he was tempted by both Huldra and her fairy girls, but in the end managed to leave them.. in short, how he met and reviewed all the supernatural creatures that people thought lived in the vast areas in the mountains of Norway.

Ibsen and the Peer Gynt-legends

When Henrik Ibsen was in Gudbrandsdalen, he got tellings about Peer Gyn from his friends in the valley, as well as from our great storyteller Asbjørnsen. The main character in Ibsen's famous play Peer Gynt is based on the famous figure from those legends.



Martine Kraft duo

When we are playing, it is also possible to book Martine Kraft duo for a concert. More about Martine Kraft here: <http://www.martinekraft.com>