

Thunderstruck

Stina Nyberg

"Modern science says: The sun is the past, the earth is the present, the moon is the future. From an incandescent mass we have originated, and into a frozen mass we shall turn. Merciless is the law of nature, and rapidly and irresistibly we are drawn to our doom. (...) Meanwhile the cheering lights of science and art, ever increasing in intensity, illuminate our path, and the marvels they disclose, and the enjoyments they offer, make us measurably forgetful of the gloomy future."

Nikola Tesla "The Problem of Increasing Human Energy", 1900

Thunderstruck walks in the footsteps of the genius and madman Nikola Tesla. In the end of the 19th century, the Serbian-American inventor brought us several of our century's most important innovations in electricity and communication. He also invented the Tesla coil, an electrical resonant transformer circuit used to produce high-voltage, low-current, high frequency alternating-current electricity. Basically, a device that produces lightning bolts and now can be used for entertainment in live electricity shows.

Thunderstruck departs from the 19th century phenomena of touring electricity shows. At a time when electricity was still a scientific novelty it was displayed in public performances as acts of magic. Today, a contemporary heir to the electricity magic show is the Tesla coil performance, making use of the spectacular sound and light effects the coil produces, but often performed in hyper-masculinized, technique-masturbatory and rock'n'roll-fetishistic shows.

In *Thunderstruck*, Stina Nyberg returns to a time when the artist and scientist believed in transforming the forces of nature into the forces that propel society, harnessing natural energy for crafting nearly magical devices.

Creating an alternative to the existing macho-spectacular Tesla coil shows, *Thunderstruck* pairs effective technical innovations with a long-term research on science and magic.

For more information, visit Stina Nyberg's webpage: www.1200m.org/stina

Choreography and performance: Stina Nyberg

Assistant on stage: Niklas Ren

Choreographic assistance: Andros Zins-Browne Research: Sandra Linnell, Stina Nyberg, Zoë Poluch Composition and sound design: Maria W Horn

Light design: Josefin Hinders

Technical supervisor and coil operator: Katti Alm / MDT

Producer: Frida Tiger / MDT
Technical assistance: Axel Norén
Coiler: Finn Hammer / Hammertone
High voltage consultant: Roya Nikjoo
Management: Nordberg Movement
Administration: Interim kultur

Residency, co-production and performances: MDT in Stockholm, Station in Belgrade, The National Touring Theatre of Sweden and residency support by C.off. Supported by: The Swedish Arts Council, The Swedish Arts Committee, Kulturbryggan, City of Stockholm, Stockholm County Council and [DNA] Departures and Arrivals network which is

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The choreographer and performer Stina Nyberg works in collaboration with a range of artist in her field. She always has a feminist approach to the body as a starting point, exploring its social and political construction - and ability to move. Acknowledging that the way we organise work is integral to the works we produce, she engages in methods for working together. Her works are marked by an investigation of the blurry divides between science and belief, aiming to rearrange the hierarchical relationships between different kinds of knowledge.

Nyberg has created a body of independent works, many co-produced and supported by MDT in Stockholm. Meanwhile, she has also been commissioned to create works for, amongst other, the Cullberg Ballet and the Royal Swedish Ballet. She is part of the group Samlingen which choreographs situations dealing with the herstory of dance, and is also a recurring member of New York based collective The Bureau for the Future of Choreography. During 2012–2014 she developed, choreographed and performed in the 'Shaking the Habitual' show with the Swedish band The Knife. She is based in Sweden and has a master's degree in choreography from DOCH (University College of Dance and Circus), Stockholm.

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