

Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival presents

## Plexus Polaire:

### *Moby Dick*

Norway/France

January 18-21, 2023, Studebaker Theater

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## CREATIVE TEAM

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<b>Director</b>	<i>Yngvild Aspeli</i>
<b>Assistant director (on tour)</b>	<i>Benoît Seguin</i>
<b>Actors and puppeteers</b>	<i>Julian Spooner, Viktor Lukawski, Madeleine Barosen Herholdt, Laëtitia Labre, Cristina Iosif, Daniel Collados, Andreu Martinez Costa</i>
<b>Music</b>	<i>Guro Skumsnes Moe, Ane Marthe Sørlien Holen and Havard Skaset</i>
<b>Puppet makers</b>	<i>Polina Borisova, Yngvild Aspeli, Manon Dublanc, Sébastien Puech, Elise Nicod</i>
<b>Scenography</b>	<i>Elisabeth Holager Lund</i>
<b>Light Designer</b>	<i>Xavier Lescat and Vincent Loubière</i>
<b>Video Designer</b>	<i>David Lejard-Ruffet</i>
<b>Costume Designer</b>	<i>Benjamin Moreau</i>
<b>Light Technicians</b>	<i>Vincent Loubière, Morgane Rousseau</i>
<b>Video Technicians</b>	<i>Hugo Masson, Pierre Hubert, Emilie Delforce</i>
<b>Sound Technicians</b>	<i>Raphaël Barani, Simon Masson, Damien Ory</i>
<b>Stage Technicians</b>	<i>Benjamin Dupuis, Xavier Lescat, Margot Boche</i>
<b>Assistant director (creation)</b>	<i>Pierre Tual</i>
<b>Dramaturg</b>	<i>Pauline Thimonnier</i>
<b>Production Director and Tour Booking</b>	<i>Claire Costa</i>
<b>Administration</b>	<i>Anne-Laure Doucet and Gaedig Bonabesse</i>
<b>Producer</b>	<i>Noémie Jorez</i>

“Yngvild Aspeli’s work is magnificent. The atmosphere created by the lights, video and music is magical. The voice of the actors brings out beautiful passages from Melville’s text, the puppets bring the boat, the crew, the world of the depths to life. They are splendid, disturbing, foolish and bearers of death like Ahab.” — SNES

“A creation of great poetic power, melancholic, visually stunning” — UN FAUTEUIL POUR L’ORCHESTRE

“A dark and powerful philosophical tale.” — TOUTE LA CULTURE

<https://www.plexuspolaire.com/>

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## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

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“My grandfather was a sailor. He had a naked woman tattooed on his upper arm, and I remember him as a smell of tar and tobacco. He came from an island on the west-coast of Norway, a tiny harbor filled with foreign ships and languages, fishermen, sailors and children waiting for fathers who never came home from the sea. A landscape of wind, vast ocean and women standing looking out at the horizon. Weathered faces, sore hands and churches with boats hanging from the ceiling in hope of protection. My ancestors were buried in Portuguese soil, because the churchyard on this island didn't have enough earth to bury their own dead.

I like how the sea somehow draws invisible lines between the different corners of the world, how it creates points of connection. How, facing this force of nature, we are all the same. And no-one captures the battle between man and nature like Herman Melville in Moby Dick. An ancient white whale, a captain steering his ship into destruction and the inner storms of the human heart.

Moby Dick is the tale of a whaling expedition, but also the story of an obsession or an investigation into the unexplained mysteries of life. To quote Melville : “It is the image of the ungraspable phantom of life; and this is the key to it all.”

So, with seven actors, fifty puppets, video-projections, a drowned orchestra and a whale-sized whale, I have worked on a visual adaptation of this wonderful beast of a book.”

Yngvild Aspeli