



MALMÖ  
THEATRE  
ACADEMY

## International Perspectives

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter where once a semester we share updates on the activities of the new Master's program and the Research department at Malmö Theatre Academy. You are receiving this either because you are already associated with our programs or because we would be glad to be in dialogue with you. Enjoy reading!

Ditte Maria Bjerg, prefect

Edit Kaldor, head of Master's Program

Sofie Lebech and Sven Bjerstedt, Research Department

## Master's Program Performing Arts as Critical Practice



## Meet our new MA students

We welcome our first cohort of Master's students: nine theatre, dance and performance practitioners from Poland, the Netherlands, Iran, Latvia, Sweden, Afghanistan, Portugal, Hungary

and Norway. [Get to know the first MA cohort!](#)

## **Partner visits**

During their studies each MA student will develop their work in close collaboration with one or more of the art institutions, societal stakeholders and artistic communities that Malmö Theatre Academy has established partnerships with. After a kickoff seminar with all the partners at the beginning of September, during the Autumn, the students visit the partners on site and become acquainted with the structure, ambition and day-to-day working of each organisation. [Read more about the partners.](#)



## ***Context Project: Borders and Boundaries* with guest seminars by Prof. Mustafa Dikec from Urban Studies and Stefanos Levidis - Forensic Architecture**

Focusing on recent events in Malmö in relation to postcolonial theory and freedom of movement, students work with investigative methods - interviews, discourse analysis, speculative writing – to explore how borders are created within the city. To place the local events into a broader frame, Mustafa Dikec, author of *Urban Rage, the Revolt of the Excluded* discusses with participants the underlying dynamics of urban riots. In the seminar with Stefanos Levidis of Forensic Architecture, he gives an insight into the processes of FA focusing on projects on immigration and border territories.

## ***Critical Thinking* with Gigi Argyropoulou**

During the *Critical Thinking* seminars, we explore the histories and complexities of performativity, context and citation, and read and discuss about politics, policies, the temporality of work, antagonisms, social turns, aesthetics and discontents. Starting with the old questions of “what is performance” and how we might “refuse to reproduce the situations of stuckness” we seek ways to talk about the now and to consider what failure and work mean for us personally, collectively and within the wider contexts we are part of.

## ***From Documents to Gestures* workshop with Arkadi Zaides**

Based on his concept of *Documentary Choreography*, Zaides will construct, together with the students, different modes of (re)activation of documents. His investigation focuses on how different types of documents can become an integral part of a choreographic research, and how to weave these types of factual information with embodied methodologies. It is also a way to question how the intersection between performative and documentary practices could open possibilities of articulating new modes of engagement and intervention in different socio-political contexts.

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## **Research and Research Education**



Photo: *community walk'* by Charlotte Østergaard from the 15th Prague Quadrennial for Performance Space and Design, may 2023. Photo: Adam Mracek.

This autumn the research department will follow a trajectory around *Implicatedness in Dramaturgy* (professor Maaike Bleeker), *Improvisatory Cognition* (associate professor Sven Bjerstedt), *Instituting and Landscapes* (postdoc Gigi Argyropoulou) and *The Politicized Body* (associate professor Sofie Lebech and PhD John Hanse). As a joint effort we will introduce a new format *Thinking Together* where we invite researchers and artists to reflect on topics close to their theoretical, artistic, or curatorial practice in a public setting. The first event will evolve around the individual and collective body in the political sphere. We are continuing as active members of Lund University profile area *Human Rights*.

### **New post doc: Gigi Argyropoulou**

We welcome our new Post Doc Gigi Argyropoulou. Gigi's research will focus on the relationship between performance, publics, social pedagogies and transformational infrastructures. The next two years Gigi will expand on her work processes of instituting and develop specific methodologies of

performance and curatorial practices that work *with and in* the landscape producing critical spatial forms and publics in response to ecological, political, and social challenges. [Read more here.](#)

## Meet our PhD candidates

Five PhD candidates are currently pursuing these research projects as part of their doctoral education at Malmö Theatre Academy:

[Charlotte Østergaard](#), *Crafting material bodies – Exploring co-creative costume processes*. Supervisors: Sofia Pantouvaki, Camilla Eeg-Tverbakk. Upcoming intermediate seminar (75 %) on February 28, 2024; external examiner: Rachel Hann.

[Jury Salustiano Trojaborg](#), *On ancestry and regeneration: Performing decolonial journeys*. Supervisors: Adriana Schneider Alcure, Esa Kirkkopelto. Upcoming intermediate seminar (50 %) in 2024.

[Jörgen Dahlqvist](#), *Based on a true story: In between the fictive and the documentary*. Supervisors: Sofie Lebech, Esa Kirkkopelto. Upcoming intermediate seminar (75 %) in 2024.

[Steinunn Knúts-Önnudóttir](#), *How little is enough? Sustainable methods of performance for transformative encounters*. Supervisors: Guðbjörg Rannveig Jóhannsdóttir, Sofie Lebech. Upcoming doctoral defence in 2024.

[Tanja Hylling Diers](#), *Who cares? – Expanding dramaturgy into an embodied practice of caring and listening*. Supervisors: Edit Kaldor, Stine Hebert. Upcoming intermediate seminar (50 %) on January 19, 2024; external examiner: Bojana Kunst.



## All My Relations 2: Ecological co-learning, Existential Sustainability, and Transformative Performance Practices

The second edition of the workshop *All My Relations* unfolded this year the first weekend of September at Gylleboverket organized together with Agenda 2030

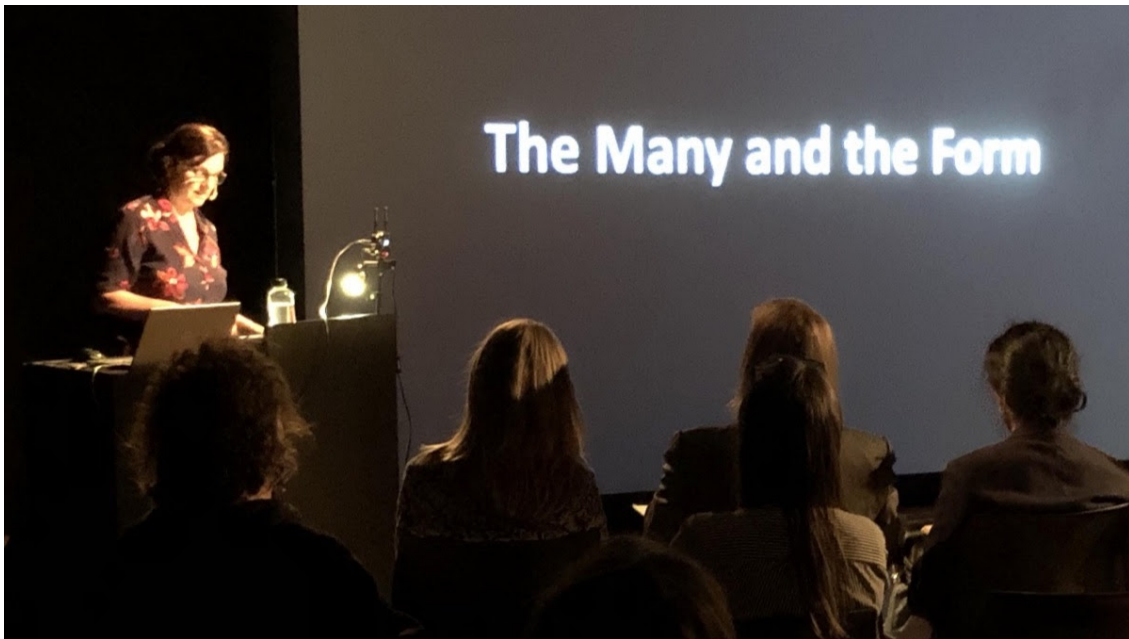
Graduate School, a transdisciplinary Graduate School within Lund University.  
[Read more about it here.](#)

## **New Podcast Series "Transformative Encounters"**

This series forms an integral part of the knowledge dissemination deriving from the artistic research project *How Little is Enough?* that is centered on sustainability and social change, conducted by Steinunn Knúts Önnudóttir under the umbrella of Agenda 2030. [Listen here.](#)

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## **Public events**



### **Edit Kaldor – The Many and the Form**

Welcome to an open lecture with Edit Kaldor, head of the MA Performing Arts as Critical Practice. Edit will present her doctoral research project *The Many and the Form*. During the PhD she explored in various artistic contexts how lived knowledges can be articulated in and through live performance. Notions as social desire, code-switching, performance as situation, and the movement between isolation and socialization were central to her investigation.

**12 October, 17.00-18.00, Bryggeriteatern, [Bergsgatan 31 Malmö](#)**



## **Performance and the politics of landscapes**

In this research event, professor **Shannon Jackson** and curator **Milena Högsberg** discuss curatorial and performance methods that create critical dialogues with a specific landscape. The discussion is facilitated by **Gigi Argyropoulou**, curator, writer, practitioner and post doc researcher at Malmö Theatre Academy.

**13 October, 17.30-19.00, Inter Arts Center, Bergsgatan 29 Malmö**

*It will be possible to take part of the event through Zoom:*

<https://lu-se.zoom.us/j/69883448331>

Photo: C. Theodorou

## **Transformative Resonance & the Arts: Social change, Accountability, and Imagination**

In this seminar, the fourth in the series of the annual “& the Arts” seminars, we invite scholars with an interest in ways of being in society as researchers/artists/teachers/citizens, exploring sustainable knowledge building in Academia. Thinking with resonance (Rosa, 2019) we have curated the seminar to stimulate co-thinking on our relationships to the world. There are no parallel sessions, and the invited presenters represent a wide range of disciplines. We know from previous seminars that the multiple starting points and presentation styles contribute to a vivid sense of engagement in the discussions that follow all presentations. Welcome to a resonant seminar!

**7–8 November, Inter Arts Center, Bergsgatan 29 Malmö** This is a text block. You can use it to add text to your template.



# Forensic Approaches in Live Performance

In this public talk, choreographer **Arkadi Zaides** will elaborate on his concept of *Documentary Choreography* based on examples from a range of his works, including *Archive* (2014), *Talos* (2017), and *Necropolis* (2021). **Stefanos Levidis** will introduce his research and work with **Forensic Architecture** where he oversees the agency's investigations on borders and migration. In the conversation moderated by MA participants they will discuss the possibilities and specificities of forensic approaches in live performance. Hosted by our partner Skånes Dansteater.

**9 November 19.00 – 21.00 Skånes Dansteater, [Östra Varvsgatan 13A Malmö](#)**

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*Malmö Theatre Academy 2023*  
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