



TURNPIKE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

# THE DAM

A NEW SPECTACULAR STAGE SHOW  
By Frode Gjerløw

Written and directed by Frode Gjerløw  
Tapestry by Frode Gjerløw and Laura Naomi Adamson

Original Soundtrack by Wilfred Nash Petherbridge

Starring Kamia "Princess" Hunte  
Demarre King  
Janet Prince  
and Noesis Dance

IN ASSOCIATION WITH





Hi,

We, Turnpike Productions, director Frode Gjerløw and Noesis Dance are seeking to develop a large-scale stage show called *The Dam*, and we would like to invite you to be part of the journey.

This is a unique opportunity for you to house or co-produce a show that combines some of UK's best hip-hop and freeform dance - choreographed by hugely popular choreographer Shaadow Sefiroth and his company Noesis Dance - with the storytelling of writer and director Frode Gjerløw and the large-scale tapestry by visual artist Laura Naomi Adamson.

Below is an overview of the content of this pack, but first we suggest you watch the 6-minute short film:

<https://vimeo.com/285328279>

Vimeo Password: landoffun

...to get taste of the project in its current form.

We'd like to thank you for taking a moment to consider this; we look forward to hearing from you,

Turnpike Prodctions, Frode Gjerløw and Noesis Dance.



*“Both of them were equal none below and none above*

*Both split right down the middle by the river they called Love”*

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contact us on:

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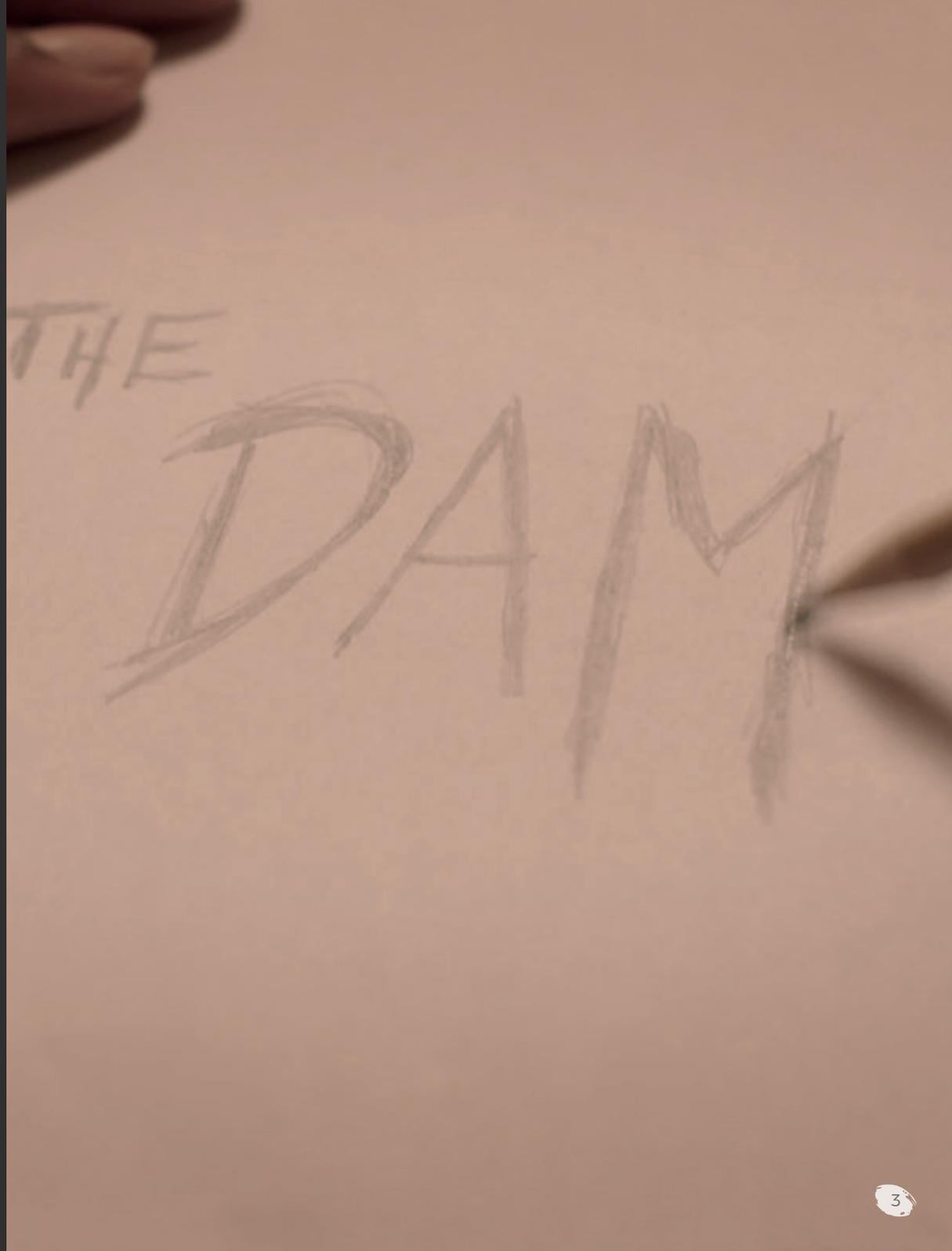
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## WHERE YOU COME IN

There is already a team assembled of about 50 creatives – all with a great momentum to create this live stage show. But we need partners to make this happen: whether you are a venue, an investor or an organisation, we want to talk to you. And production partners to house the project and help secure funding for the project. We are open to tailoring the process to fit with your programme and your venues physical parameters.

For the 1st phase of the development: **RESIDENCY**  
If your venue is small-scale, it might be perfect for the first phase of the development where the core team (8 ppl) would work together for two weeks to develop the full-length concept and vision.

For the 2nd phase of development: **DEVELOPMENT ON STAGE** where the choreographies are developed and presented, we'd be looking for a dance studio of 50sqm and a stage of at least 5x8 meters

For the 3rd phase of the development: **FIRST RUN**  
Here we're looking for a mid-scale venue where we can produce the show in its finished form and do a run of 3-6 weeks.



*“The King of Dull built Dull a dam to regulate the tides*

*But never asked his counterpart who dwelled the other side”*

# LONG TERM AMBITION

Once the three phases of development are finished, we hope to tour the show around the UK, followed by an extended London run, guest performances at large scale festivals like Glastonbury, Wilderness and Latitude, with ambitions to later tour internationally.

Our target audience are young teenagers (13-16) and their families, interested in multi-disciplinary live arts shows that weave storytelling, dance and music together.

During the extensive UK tour, we would like to reach out locally and offer workshops to engage young teenagers in dance, poetry and art - covering a wide range of talents and interests found in the local communities.

If you think you can help realise this vision, please don't hesitate to get in touch:

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*"The Queen of Fun was furious  
cause Fun and Dull together*

*In a Lyfe thus rent by greed would  
both be doomed forever"*





## SYNOPSIS

The Dam is a merge of multiple art forms, brought together to tell a new modern myth about the battle between chaos and structure.

6-year-old Tammy wants to play with her older brother, but he is too busy with his writing, so she angrily plays with her dolls on her grandmother's bed instead.

Suddenly, she is swallowed by the quilt and is spat out through a giant tapestry, only to find herself crowned the **'Queen of Fun'**, and her brother the **'King of Dull'**.

The tapestry is a map of these two lands in the valley of Lyfe. Through the lands runs the river of Love.

The King builds a dam to regulate the tides of Love, causing terrible destruction on the Land of Fun. The Queen declares war on Dull, but during the brutal battle, the armies fall in Love and decide to break the dam together.



Back in the real world, Tammy's brother has been writing a poem all along, called "The Dam" and hands it to his sister. Together they stage a puppetry show for their grandmother and through their shared creativity, Love is finally found again.

The story is inspired by the dichotomies between the left and the right hemisphere of the brain, as understood in My Stroke Of Insight, the TED-talk by Jill Bolte-Tayer. Bolte Taylor bravely asks the audience to consider the dualities of our mind – structure, individualism, definition and reason on one side, versus togetherness, emotions, sensory impressions and impulses on the other – "which side do you choose?"

The Dam seeks to illustrate how this ongoing choice deeply affects our politics, our personal relationships and our global awareness.



*"The Queen had had enough so she declared war on Dull*

*To let the stream of love run free not controlled by anyone in Me"*

# BACKGROUND

Frode Gjerløw wrote the poem August 2015. The original poem was a 3,400-word epic, with several subplots, events and twists.

In collaborations with Patrick J Collier Productions, Frode pitched the project to the Barbican OpenLab Programme. The aim of the residency – to find out how tapestry, dance, poetry and theatre can tell a story together.

The project was accepted, and the 5m x 3m tapestry was designed and realised in collaboration with artist Laura Naomi Adamson.

During the 1-week residency, actors Troels Hagen Finsen, George Finlay Ramsay and Petra Casale (all trained at Lecoq in Paris) developed the performative elements of the poem itself.

An audience of about 60 invitees watched a presentation of the process in the Pit Theatre.

An important idea was conceived during that residency: to write about two siblings within whose story the “tapestry world” represented an alternative reality.

This idea was pitched as a short film to Catherine Bray (Little Dot Studios), commissioning editor of Random Acts Channel 4. A series of meetings later, the project was commissioned.

Tough and Rumble came onboard as production managers.

Noesis dance accepted the invitation to work on the film and developed the movement in collaboration with movement director Daisy Smith.

In January 2018, four shoot days took place at Battersea Arts Centre and one day on location in Stevenage.

In March, Wilfred Nash Petherbridge and Frode Gjerløw recorded the choir the Owl Parliament, conducted by Greg Staw, and Petherbridge composed an original score.

Danielle Kummer and Gjerløw edited the footage, and delivered the short film in April 2018.

The film continues to be selected to film festivals, starting with MOPIFF (Nigeria), Zebra Poetry Film Festival (Berlin), Shakespeare Film Festival (Stratford Upon Avon), Short to the Point (Romania), London International Motion Pictures Film Festival and Fastminds Neurodiversity Film Festival in London.



In August, The Dam was selected as a finalist in the Shakespeare Shorts Competition, where Kenneth Branagh will select the winner.

The Channel 4 premier of The Dam on Channel 4 was midnight 14.08.18.



*“There they stood in warm embrace for longer than I know  
Until they turned to marble and their hearts both turned to gold”*

The Tapestry is a map of "ME", marked in writing top centre. ME is the name of the world in which we find...

... the Valley of Lyfe, illustrated with mountains in the top left corner and the bottom right corner

The blue wiggly line in the middle is the River of Love...

...which runs through the Land of Fun, illustrated in vibrant colours and organic, squiggly, bacterial shapes on a yellow landscape...



...and through the Land of Dull, consisting of corporate blue, grey and silver angled shapes, triangles and squares.

The eye on the right represents the Queen of Fun. The surrounding circle, representing togetherness and a sense of "whole" is embellished with flower petals, signifying nature and growing.

The eye on the left represents the King of Dull. The triangle represents hierarchy and status, monetary systems and male supremacy.

# THE TEAM

Director..... Frode Gjerløw  
Producer..... Alex Levene, Turnpike  
Tapestry design..... Frode Gjerløw  
..... Laura Naomi Adamson

Tammy..... Kamia "Princess K" Hunte  
Tim..... Demarre King  
Nan..... Janet Prince

Composer..... Wilfred Nash Petherbridge  
Choir..... The Owl Parliament  
Choral Conductor..... Greg Staw  
Sound designer..... Ross Flight

Stage manager..... Ina Berggren  
Costume design..... Carley Hague  
Costume Supervisor..... Rachel Owen  
Light Designer..... Tim Mascall



# SET DESIGN



When the story starts, a humble Nan's house is shown with minimal set, in a realist style. Trees serve as garden – not magical (yet).



The tapestry will take on a narrative function, where light design will highlight parts of the map to aid the narration and give the audience overview. The tapestry mainly serves as a backdrop



Giant puppets, assembled by the broken bits of the dam, play out the final scene of the poem, as if they were Tammy dolls in her puppetry show.



Curtains of glistening beads and sequins create an effective, dream-like, glistening world.



And the space leaves room for large ensemble choreographies



*“Finally I see it too,  
just like that pair  
that night,*

*Love is so the only  
thing worth fighting  
for in Lyfe.”*