



Part Two of Hotel Pro Forma's underworld trilogy

# AMDUAT. An oxygen machine

19 April–10 May 2020

Teater Republique, Østerfælled Torv 37, 2100 Copenhagen

**After a completely sold-out season with GILGAMESH at Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Hotel Pro Forma will now present AMDUAT. An oxygen machine. This is Part Two of Hotel Pro Forma's underworld trilogy, based on Harald Voetmann's book of the same name, which enjoyed rave reviews**

AMDUAT. An oxygen machine is a visually compelling performance with newly composed, live music, ambient sound-landscapes, video art, lighting and performance – all on a rarely-seen 28-metre stage. Here the audience has a panoramic view of the musician/DJ, six dancers, the sick man in bed and a young boy. The narrative unfolds against a background of fascinating Egyptian animal and human figures, while rotating sculptures from the ceiling cast shadows and stationary floor apparatus reminds one of the very nature of a hospital. Father and son as the travellers in the underworld.

Like Harald Voetmann's book, the performance is an amalgam of the story of a man dying at Holbæk hospital and the journey of the Egyptian sun-god through the land of the dead at night. *Amduat* means 'that which exists in the underworld' and is the name of the ancient Egyptian understanding of the land of the dead.

Music and sound-images are the work of the composers Hari Shankar Kishore / DJ HVAD and Marie Højlund. On stage, DJ Hari Shankar Kishore creates rhythmic sound narratives by blending electronic music with authentic present-day Egyptian music of choirs, voices and sound-images from Egyptian street life. The rhythmic music is interrupted and framed by ambient sound landscapes created by the composer and sound-artist Marie Højlund from her research into auditive hospital environments.

### **About letting go of life**

With AMDUAT. An oxygen machine, Hotel Pro Forma focuses on the theme of life's basic conditions and of letting go of life, but also on how myths can have a softening effect on taboo and difficult issues. Kirsten Dehlholm says the following about this:

*If the process of dying which is described in AMDUAT. An oxygen machine were to be told clinically and soberly, it would be exceedingly grim and sad. But precisely with the vitality of Harald Voetmann's language and his use of the interweaving with Egyptian mythology and an ancient-Egyptian understanding of the land of the dead something fantastic happens. The story produces strongly evocative and highly visual universes, and the dying process is thus charged at the same time with black humour, and becomes absurd, sensual and highly present.*



### **Hotel Pro Forma's trilogy of the underworld**

Using the ancient primordial tales of the underworld as her point of departure, Kirsten Dehlholm and Hotel Pro Forma have created a trilogy of performances: *Gilgamesh* (18/19), *Amduat. An oxygen machine* (19/20) and *Operation: Orfeo* (20/21). The reason why these narratives are still relevant after millennia have passed is that they bring to life a diversity of timeless subjects and bear witness to an underlying humanity. From the underworld we fetch our understanding of the world, a greater view and insights about ourselves.

*There is an underworld and an archetypal human in all of us. We are actually not all that different when it comes to it. We look different, but all of us consist of basic elements such as needs, urges, longings and wishes. We are dosed and filled up differently. The underworld is where we meet Lars von Trier.*

Kirsten Dehlholm, artistic director, Hotel Pro Forma.

GILGAMESH is Hotel Pro Forma's first primordial tale in the trilogy and it forms a natural backdrop for the two subsequent narratives. As the earliest recorded narrative, written in cuneiform characters on clay tablets 4000 years ago in ancient Mesopotamia, *Gilgamesh* is a natural beginning for the trilogy. *Gilgamesh* deals with King Gilgamesh, tyranny and power, valour, chaotic love, friendship and deep grief, the search for immortality and eternal life. *Gilgamesh* had its premiere at Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek on 4 April and was performed to full houses until 28 April 2019.

AMDUAT. An oxygen machine is, as mentioned, part two of the trilogy. Its premiere will be on 19 April 2020 at Teater Republique, Østerbro Teater.

OPERATION: ORFEO is the last part of the trilogy. The performance is Hotel Pro Forma's classic from 1993. The myth of Orpheus' journey to the underworld is not told directly, but serves as a dramatic sequence of events, with the classic three-part division as the starting point for a series of images, composed and translated into a modern scenic visual idiom. The three-part division refers to the developmental phases of the myth: descent, ascent and loss, staged with songs and music. *Operation: Orpheus* will be revived and performed as a main attraction at the stage art festival Homo Novus – International Festival of Contemporary Theatre in Riga on 4, 5 and 6 September 2020. It will subsequently be performed at musikhuset Aarhus on 11 February 2021 and be the main attraction during CPH STAGE – the largest Danish stage art festival – in The Royal Danish Playhouse, The Royal Theatre on 2, 3, 4 and 5 June 2021.

### **ABOUT HOTEL PRO FORMA**

Hotel Pro Forma is an international production house, an artistic meeting place for cross-border artistic work, installation art, performance, musical drama and opera.

Universal themes are placed in conceptual, visual and aesthetic frameworks that exploit the very latest technological and artistic effects. All the works are created in collaboration with professionals from the fields of art, science and technology. Hotel Pro Forma was founded in 1985 by Kirsten Dehlholm. As artistic director her work with Hotel Pro Forma has led to strong recognition both nationally and internationally.

Kirsten Dehlholm has been awarded a great many prestigious prizes, including Reumert's 'Merit Award of the Year' in 2015 for her life-long artistic activities and as an original innovator of stage art. Also in 2015, she was given 'The Distinguished Artist Award' by The International Society of Performing Arts.

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## TAKING PART

<b>Musician, DJ</b>	Hari Shankar Kishore
<b>Performers</b>	Bo Madvig and Frederic Linde-Fleron (a 15-year-old boy)
<b>Dancers</b>	Jernej Bizjak, Joel Fritzon, Simone Wierød, Snorre Jeppe Hansen, Love Hellgren and Christine Sollie

## ARTISTIC TEAM AND PRODUCTION

<b>Instruction, scenography</b>	Kirsten Dehlholm and Jon R. Skulberg
<b>Text</b>	Harald Voetmann
<b>Composer, DJ</b>	Hari Shankar Kishore
<b>Composer</b>	Marie Højlund
<b>Video</b>	Magnus Pind Bjerre
<b>Lighting design</b>	Jesper Kongshaug
<b>Costume design</b>	Kit Wan
<b>Sculptures</b>	Astrid Myntekær
<b>Sound design</b>	Kristian Hverring
<b>Mask design</b>	Marie Dahl
<b>Costumes</b>	Kit Wan and Lena Bjerregaard
<b>Production</b>	Hotel Pro Forma
<b>Producer</b>	Lisbeth Jacobi
<b>Manager and PR</b>	Ulla Katrine Friis

## TIME AND PLACE

<b>Duration</b>	80 minutes
<b>Premiere</b>	Sunday, 19 April 2020
<b>Performance period</b>	19 April — 10 May 2020 Wed – Fri, 20.00. Sat–Sun, 15.00.
<b>School performance</b>	Wed 29 April, 12.00.

## TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased via Østerbro Teater.  
*Recommend from 16 years*

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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