

# THE BRIDGES



© Karmila Zágorová

Franco-Norwegian production, based on « Bruene » by Tarjei Vesaas

[Creation May 2026]



For this Franco-Norwegian creation developed in collaboration with the students of Nord University in Levanger, Elise Vigneron has chosen to the stage *The Bridges* by Norwegian author Tarjei Vesaas.

Through this spare yet deeply poetic polyphonic narrative, we are drawn into the story of three adolescents who, confronted with a secret tragedy, suddenly drift from the shores of childhood to those of adulthood.

Between first stirrings of emotion, the exaltation of life and the murmuring song of the earth, the performance invites us into a human experience attuned to the cyclical breath of nature, a living landscape shaped by metamorphosis and renewal.

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## LETTER OF INTENT

*In English and Norwegian  
Subtitled in French  
Suitable from 12 years old  
60 minutes*



© Johan Karlsson



*"I walk very tensely, listening to my heart hammering against its walls. If we had looked at each other now, we probably would not have recognized each other."*





## A CHORAL FORM

On stage, 14 performers and 6 string puppets of various sizes amplify the presence of those 3 characters, giving birth to a choral and dreamlike form.

This doubling of characters leads to a true ballet, blending the performer' bodies with those of the puppets', creating organic forms, drifting swarms, and shifting landscapes... The strings cross and intertwine, linking identities, forming a vast, ever-shifting living canvas that reflects our interdependence with the living world.

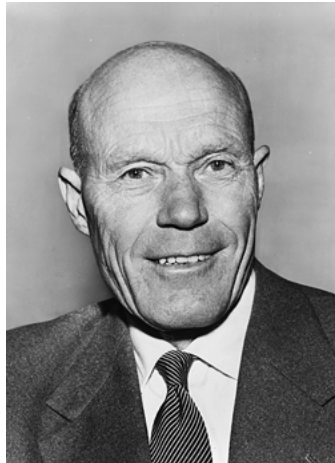
Here, the text itself becomes matter : a malleable material that appears as writing, trace, sign; a musical and choral material that blends English with Neo-Norwegian. It also becomes theatrical matter that alternates between narration, embodiment, and the multiplication of characters, giving life to pure moments of poetry.





## THE AUTHOR, TARJEI VESAAS

Tarjei Vesaas was born in Vinje, Telemark, in southern Norway, in 1897, and died in 1970, not far from the family farm. Vesaas is widely considered to be one of Norway's greatest writers of the twentieth century and perhaps its most important since World War II.



© Leif Ørnelund

He wrote in new norwegian (Nynorsk), a language once known as the « rural language » and his writing is a kind of secretive language that explores the hidden depths of being and the telluric force of nature. He is one of those who can speak to birds, delve into the psyches of adolescents, and « see » reality with the eyes of a simpleton—one for whom, ultimately, « reality » is merely a pretext for awakening us to the signs of nature and the unseen. His characters are marginal figures, socially, of course, and also psychologically and existentially, but above all, they are attuned to the great secret and persistently ask the question, « To whom do we speak when we are silent? »



*"We are all the creeping things that live along the banks, along the shores of the river. We fill the nights.*

*We are all the places in the wood. Even though no one is here now, the wood is dense with memories. We are the places where the words fell, We are the infinitely many kind, hidden places where people have come together.*

*We are the long, gliding hours, and all the places. At every step there is a memorial. If they were visible, we would appear as one ghostly web of life.*

*We are those who have emerged from the earth just for this one short summer, and now wither and click all together on the ground, and will blacken beneath the heavy stripes of autumn rain.*

*We are in the bushes where this very minute something is being slowly devoured inside a spider's web. We are big, radiating spiders' webs with dew and morning sunshine in them, and we trap what we have to trap blindly. We are all nameless death chirps, in a dance known to few. A dance that fills the earth and the heavens.*

*We lie like longing beside the footpaths. We lie like fear above the hurrying highway where life goes to waste, where man hurries and hurries after emptiness.*

*We are the wind behind the wind.*



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# ARTISTIC TEAM



ÉLISE VIGNERON  
Direction  
Scenography



STÉPHANIE FARISON  
Collaboration on  
direction and actor  
coaching



LE GROUPE PØNSJ  
PRODUKSJONER  
NORD UNIVERSITY  
Performers

# ÉLISE VIGNERON

Direction  
Scenography

© Damien Bourletsis



A graduate of the École nationale supérieure des arts de la marionnette (Charleville-Mézières), Élise Vigneron founded Théâtre de l'Entrouvert in 2010, a company supported by the French Ministry of Culture.

Her performances are inspired by literary works, which she translates for the stage through a visual language composed of images, materials, sounds, movement and, at times, words. The phenomenon of metamorphosis and the theme of the in-

between permeate her work, manifesting themselves through the staging of ephemeral materials. Each project re-examines the audience's reception and role through specific devices that foster a synergistic experience.

Her projects are staged on multidisciplinary stages and at international festivals such as the Festival d'Avignon, the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes in Charleville-Mézières, the Seoul Performing Arts Festival, Mime London, the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, the Down to Earth Festival in New York, and the Dialangshan Festival in China. She is currently an associate artist at the Halle aux Grains, the national theatre in Blois (41), at the Théâtre de Châtillon (92) and at the Théâtre Joliette in Marseille (13).

She is the 2026 Villa Kujoyama award winner for a residency in partnership with the dancer and choreographer Azusa Takeuchi, and the 'Aerowaves Twenty26 Artist' award winner alongside Satchie Noro – Cie Furinkai for the show 'Mizu'.

# STÉPHANIE FARISON

Collaboration on  
direction and actor  
coaching



She graduated from the CNSAD in 2000 after training in the classes of Dominique Valadié, Jacques Lassalle and Philippe Garrel. In 2005, she co-founded the collective F71 and collectively created four performances up to 2017: "Foucault 71", "La prison", "Qui Suis Je Maintenant ?" (Who Am I Now ?), "Notre corps utopique" (Our utopian body). Within the collective she wrote and directed in 2022 "Move on over or we'll move on over you, the Black Panthers' workshop", a documentary fiction around a specific African American struggle.

The work of Collectif F71 is characterised by questioning reality, history and particularly struggles, using diverse dramaturgical materials to build a stage writing (archives, literary texts, articles, drawings, spoken words, non theatrical material from reality).

She works as an actress in theatre with Ramin Gray, Joël Jouaneau, Sylvain Maurice, Charles Tordjman, Robert Cantarella, Frédéric Fisbach, Julie Brochen, Vivianne Théophilides, Michel Dydim, Alain Françon, Anne Margrit Leclerc, Frédérique Mainguand, Madeleine Louarn, Stéphanie Peinado, Mireille Perrier, Lucie Valon, Emilie Rousset, Hubert Colas, on both classical and contemporary repertoire. She works with puppeteers, first with Cyril Bourgois on "Le petit chaperon Uf" and "Ubu", and with Alice Laloy on "Sfumato", "Ça dada", "A poil" and "Le Ring", sometimes as dramaturg, acting coach, assistant, and increasingly as performer. She teaches in puppetry schools (ESNAM, TMN). She is currently preparing, in collaboration with an oceanographer, a documentary performance about a recent scientific expedition in the Arctic.

## AWARD

2022, ARTCENA – National grant for the creation of dramatic texts – Encouragement – Autumn session for the text Move on over or we'll move on over you (the Black Panthers' workshop).

# PØNSJ PRODUKSJONER

## NORD UNIVERSITY

### Performers

Third year students from Nord University's Bachelor in Acting and Theatre Production, there are 14 performers from different parts of Norway and Denmark, with a broad range of expertise in the performing arts. Together they have founded a theatre-company called « PØNSJ produksjoner ». Based in Norway, their goal is to create and produce their own professional projects.

Their training is inspired by the pedagogy of Jacques Lecoq and emphasizes physical theatre and object theatre practices, often incorporating a musical dimension. The use of objects in theatrical productions has been a central focus of their studies, participating in several workshops in collaboration with the Figurteateret de Nordland.

The show «The Bridges» is their graduation show.



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> **Based on « BRUENE » (“The Bridges”) from Tarjei Vesaas**

*English translation: “The Bridges” Elizabeth Rokkan, Peter Owen  
Edition London (1969)*

Direction, scenography: Elise Vigneron

Adaptation: Elise Vigneron et Stéphanie Farison

Collaboration on direction and actor coaching: Stéphanie Farison

Lighting design: César Godefroy

Sound design: Karine Dumont

Puppetry coach: Chloée Sanchez

Puppet construction: Elise Vigneron and Vincent Debuire assisted by Ines Ferrandes, Ninon Barthe and Elliott Aubey

Puppet sculpture: Arnaud Louski-Pane assisted by Vincent Debuire, Alma Roccella and Ninon Larroque

Scenography construction: Tim Pieter Lucassen

Technician: Svein Inge Neergard

Assistant director and translator: Mira Bjornskau

> **Groupe PØNSJ**

With: Marie Torre Snipen, Kaisa Marie Brøndbo Rød, Hedda Stenerud Steien, Jakob Figenschau, Linnea Selvik Hellesøy, Josephine Larsen, Therese Bilfeldt, Lucca Olivia Duff, Celeste Faurschau,

Brynjar Heiberg, Peder Sandøy, Ådne Klæboe Rossavik, Ulrik Wasmuth, Magnus Stokkeland

Technical assistant: Ådne Klæboe Rossavik, Ulrik Wasmuth, Magnus Stokkeland, Josephine Larsen

Puppet costumes: Josephine Larsen

Song composition: Celeste Faurschau, Linnea Selvik Hellesøy

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# TOUR

## Stamsund Théâtre Festival

*Lofoten island (NO)*

26 may

27 may

## Vega Scene

*Oslo (NO)*

4 june

5 june

6 june - afternoon

6 june - evening

## Nord University

*Levanger (NO)*

17 june

## Temps d'M Festival

*Charleville-Mézières (FR)*

18 september

19 september

### > Production

*Théâtre de l'Entrouvert*

### > Coproduction

*Figurteatret i Nordland (Nordland Visual Theatre), University NORD - Levanger, Théâtre de Châtillon (92), Avec le soutien de AJT Fund*

### > Supports

*AJT Fund, Vélo Théâtre, Apt (84), MJC, Apt (84), DRAC PACA*

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# PARTNERS

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# THÉÂTRE DE L'ENTROUVERT

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