



## Promise of Departure

A double bill co-produced by Panta Rei Dance Theatre and Teater Innlandet  
Choreography by Anne Holck Ekenes, Pia Holden and Rachel Erdos

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## CONTACTS

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## COPY

### **Strapline**

*Promise of Departure – a dance theatre production with high pace and intricate choreography aiming to emotionally move you*

### **Brochure Copy**

Teater Innlandet and Panta Rei Dance Theatre have co-produced *Promise of Departure*, a double bill created in collaboration with British dance maker Rachel Erdos. *Promise of departure* is a work that explores vulnerability and strength. How these two factors come to play in the relationships we have and the struggles we are forced to overcome. The promise of connection and the departure from our comfort zone.

Created by Anne Holck Ekenes, Pia Holden and Rachel Erdos

Performed by Julie Drønen Ekornes, Johnny Autin and Anton Wretling

Produced by Teater Innlandet and Panta Rei Dance Theatre

Lighting Design by Olav Nordhagen

Sound Design and Original Composition by Nathaniel Reed

Costume Design by Teater Innlandet and Panta Rei Dance Theatre

Set Construction by Mie Dinesen

## About Panta Rei Dance Theatre

Panta Rei Dance Theatre (PRD) is based in Oslo, Norway. The company is known for fast-paced colourful dance theatre performances that are accessible to a wide range of audiences in a variety of theatrical and no-theatrical spaces.

PRD was established in 2000 and in that time, has created twelve productions and led numerous dance projects. PRD presented 103 performances for over 12,000 audience members in 2016 alone. The same year we held 168 workshops for over 3,880 children and young adults, a level of activity that is set to continue over the coming years.

In 2018-2020, PRD will create three new works. In addition to these productions, the company will create several public art projects with a focus on reaching new audiences.

Panta Rei Dance Theatre has also received a six million NOK project grant from the Savings Bank Foundation Sparebankstiftelsen DNB for the period 2018-2020 to carry out the project TILT. Read about TILT 2016 her: [tiltdans.no](http://tiltdans.no). This is the foundations largest support and commitment to dance ever.

Panta Rei will collaborate with three regional performing arts institutions in Norway for the same time period. The company will produce three dance theatre productions for touring together with The House of Dance Oslo, DansiT and Teater Innlandet through 2018-2020.

## About Promise of Departure by Ian Scott

Is vulnerability a weakness? On a personal and on a public level this new show from Panta Rei Dance Theatre addresses this question head on.

In the first half of the performance, choreographed by the regular Panta Rei team of Anne Holck Ekenes and Pia Holden, three dancers express and confront their personal regrets and ..... keep on dancing. In the second half, with guest choreographer Rachel Erdos the same three dancers confront our public vulnerabilities, and find a positive way forward. "Keep on dancing" is their mantra throughout – and how they dance!

Panta Rei based in Oslo is a truly international company and this especially shows in this production. The seeds of Panta Rei's new double bill contemporary show *Promise of Departure* go back a while. Regular performers at the Ramallah contemporary dance festival in Palestine, and linked events in the region, PRD found themselves unable to travel to Damascus for their planned performance in 2011 due to the developing political situation and the emerging civil war. There was a frustration felt about what to do about this – how to react? From this position and several years later the current production has emerged, as relevant today as ever as the displacement of peoples round the world continues to grip.

In typical PRD style the company gets inside the head of those who in desperate circumstances seek something positive to come out of this. The first half follows three performers immersed in their own world of vibrant movement and dance (maybe in a club) who later individually admit to deep personal regrets about key moments in their earlier lives. Later in the piece we learn about the resolution each of them has found to their particular challenge (by way of finding out what advice would they give now to their younger selves) and their determination to ... keep on dancing.

Panta Rei's method of drawing upon their dancers' specific memories and own words pays off dividends again here as the development of the piece allows each audience member to relate to the arc of the piece, culminating in a very joyous phase of audience involvement bridging the two halves of the evening.

The evening moves on to a darker second half where we see the same individuals shuffling into the performance space each trickling what looks like a trail of sand behind them all over the dance floor. Their collective demeanour expresses their vulnerability and they seem to represent the movement of the vulnerable and dispossessed groups of people we are now all too familiar with seeing across the world. The three exceptionally gifted and strong dancers, Julie Drønen Ekornes, Anton Wretling and Johnny Autin, manage to present a stream of individual movements which show their bodies slumped, but then supported mutually. An elbow will suddenly drop as a dead weight, miraculously caught by one of the others on the point of hitting the floor, an outstretched upturned palm of the hand in begging mode will slide across the floor only to be lifted seamlessly by the others. The early stages of their journey are captured by their repeated rendition of the nursery rhyme 'Row, row, row your boat, gently down the stream, merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream...' This is especially poignant and ironic given what we know is a common and desperate mode of travel between continents...and very much not a dream.

A second moment arrives later in their journey when they have to part from each other and this is conveyed through the airing of a sung version of the Swedish folk song 'I can sail without wind, I can row without oars, but I can't part from my friends without shedding a tear'. Once again this is simply presented and repeated, accompanying movement which perfectly reflects their feelings. Throughout the performance the dancers perform in socks; in the second half the dust they have scattered over the floor adds an additional element of slip to their movements – creating both enhanced flow to this, but also greater vulnerability. There are many breath-taking moments.

The first half of this production explores how individuals confront their personal regrets and vulnerabilities, whilst the second invites us all as witnesses to share in a huge public regret reflecting our common humanity. Both halves are beautifully driven by PR regular Nathaniel Reed's meticulous sound score, and the whole performance lasting over an hour in length feels to be a rich and very satisfying whole.

Casting my rural touring eye on the design of the show I was pleased to see an elegant use of soft adaptable hangings, beautifully but simply lit to create effect, allowing performers to make entrances and exits convincingly on to the central dance space, and allowing for audience to be on either, or all sides of the action. Performers are close to audience members and acknowledge them.

Panta Rei derive their name from the writing of greek philosopher, Heraclitus, and his observation that 'everything flows'. One of the features of any Panta Rei dance performance is the combination of powerful individual movement with a remarkable collective flow exploring what Anne Holck Ekenes calls the 'softer values of life'. Nothing here is propaganda, nobody is told what to think, and the result is very moving. At a time when world developments are increasingly threatening and uncertain the positive force that is Panta Rei is all the more welcome.

## Promise of Departure Target Audience

- 1) *Crossover audiences, i.e. those that might normally see dance/circus/theatre/music/film*
- 2) *Dance Participants*
- 3) *Existing dance audiences and followers*
- 4) *Young People i.e. students, school groups, universities and colleges*
- 5) *Performing Arts Teachers*
- 6) *New audiences 10 years of age and up, in rural and hard-to-reach areas*

## Post Show Discussions

*Panta Rei is committed to making post-show discussions available to all the tour venues please contact us as soon as possible to confirm and arrange these.*

## Downloadable content and social media

*Panta Rei use Twitter, Facebook and Instagram as an immediate communication tool. With the themes of the show the dancers of the company will be utilising this tool to market the show and inform audiences as much as possible in the lead up to the performances using the hashtag #promiseofdeparture across the social media forums.*

*To successfully generate content and interest we need support from the venues we're visiting to help us reach your audiences as well. Please ensure you follow us at...*

Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/pantareidt/>

Twitter: @pantareidanseteater

Instagram: Panta Rei Danseteater

Youtube: search panta rei danseteater

*There will be regular progress postings of Promise of Departure on social media as we tour; which will include video snippets and photos from the rehearsal room and the company on the road whilst touring. On average a Panta Rei post creates 300-1000 impressions, we hope with your support we'll grow these over the tour to reach wider audiences in the SW.*

High res. images: Contact the company.

Vimeo link to teaser trailer (bottom of the page):

<http://www.pantareidanseteater.com/en/forestillinger/promise-of-departure-2016>

Vimeo link to Promise of Departure short documentary:

[http://tiltdans.no/norske/promise\\_of\\_departure\\_-\\_dokumentar.php](http://tiltdans.no/norske/promise_of_departure_-_dokumentar.php)

Vimeo link to TILT documentary 2016:

[http://tiltdans.no/norske/tilt\\_dokumentar\\_for\\_2016.php](http://tiltdans.no/norske/tilt_dokumentar_for_2016.php)

## Quotes on Panta Rei Dance Theatre previous work

"... Panta Rei, goes right to the heart (again) of pressing social and personal issues with an honesty which is startling."

**Tim Smithies, Carn to Cove, UK**

"The traditional stage set-up was challenged when the audience was invited to the stage, allowing for a refreshing and innovative dance theatre experience."

**Sidsel Pape, Scenekunst.no, Norway**

"Strong, physical, fast, beautiful, precise and thought provoking performance as well as fantastic music"

**Camilla Ekelöf, Artistic Director RTV Dance, Regionteater Väst, Sweden**

## Production Information

See separate technical rider

## Box Office Information

The show is suitable for those ages 10+

There is no strong language, nudity or strobe lighting

Promise of Departure is a double bill without an interval

In Venues where possible there might be some light haze use

## *Appendix 1- OUTREACH ACTIVITY AVAILABLE*

**Dance workshops: 60 mins to a full day workshops available. The company tailors the workshop to the need of the venue. Starting cost £150 plus Travel and accommodation if necessary. Full day workshops from £300**

*Panta Rei workshops are fun and educational. Each workshop is tailored to the participants, and include a variety of activities covering contemporary dance, contact work and text*

### ***Workshop Structure:***

- *Workshops begin with games and simple follow on exercises*
- *Depending on the length of the workshop the company includes a technique session – tailored to the level of the group.*
- *The company gives tasks to the workshop participants to create duets, trios or quartets.*
- *Panta Rei teach some routines from their repertoire (level dependent on group ability)*
- *To end – a short showing of the results of the workshop for each other*
- *When possible the company choreograph a short dance piece on all the workshop participants. The piece can be shown as a curtain raiser for Promise of Departure*

## *Appendix 2 – SAMPLE DIRECT MAIL / E-SHOT COPY*

Dear [patron],

We are pleased to tell you that **Panta Rei Dance Theatre**'s show *Promise of Departure* will be performed at **[our venue]** on **[date]** at **[time]**. *Promise of Departure* is a dance theatre production exploring the individual dancer's memories, vulnerabilities and journeys through life.

*Promise of Departure* is a double bill created in collaboration with British dance maker Rachel Erdos. *Promise of departure* is a work that explores vulnerability and strength. How these two factors come to play in the relationships we have and the struggles we are forced to overcome. The promise of connection and the departure from our comfort zone.

“ Fantastic work by Anne Holck Ekenes. Pia Holden and Rachel Erdos who have choreographed *Promise of Departure*. The piece really challenges the dancers to perform their upmost. They work beautifully together and prove themselves to be fantastically good. A joy to watch! You just have to allow yourself to be captured by the magical atmosphere and enjoy three exceptional dancers”

**Dan Cato Røe, Stangeavisa**

“Thank you....SOOOO much!!!! Just awesome, so real, so creative, so just so Good!! “

**Ruben Slob, Audience member Norway**

“Thanks for the performance it was really awesome and inspiring. This was one of the best performances I have ever seen.”

**Abir, Audience member Norway**

We are very excited to present **Panta Rei Dance Theatre** and recommend you book your tickets soon!

**[Insert ticket price information here]**

Best regards