

# SKAUT



Photo: Halgrim Hansegård

The 70 minutes ensemble piece exists in a touring version for 5 dancers.

World Premiere: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at Bærum Culture House, Norway.

## Theme

### ***SKAUT = Norwegian term for female head-scarf***

What is considered feminine and masculine behavior when dancing? What happens to the outdated and old-fashioned gender roles when there are only women on stage? These are questions that choreographer Hallgrim Hansegård asks in FRIKAR's latest production **SKAUT**.

Reflections around traditional female head scarves are in the center in the piece *SKAUT*, which consists of five female dancers. In most parts of the world, both clothing and physical work has traditionally been different between women and men. And in Norway, the hijab entered the society as the traditional Norwegian head scarf *SKAUT* faded out.

*SKAUT* focuses on the historically complex traditions regarding the female body, not only through gender segregation's imposed physical restrictions, but also through the ways that the female body has been controlled. With their hair both pinned up and let down, the dancers in *SKAUT* present unique, contemporary dance combined with wild traditional, Norwegian folk-dance.



Photo: Antero Hein

## Press Quotes

Exciting and important! This dance performance is an open post in a debate. It could be very interesting to see how it is received in environments where wearing a hijab is common. It is very interesting that in the performance quotes about covering up are drawn from the Bible as well as the Koran. This perhaps actually shows a similar cultural connection.

**Professor Tore Bjørgo, Norwegian Center for Research on Extremism**

"Skaut" is full of energy, beautiful choreographic images, fierce folk-dance movements combined with traditional vocal sounds that speak their own language. It is a very interesting and powerful performance that brings out old traditions and further allow them to face resistance through liberation, female identity, humor and equality. Our own complex time meets the past.

**Karen Frøsland Nystøyl, NRK (Norwegian Broadcasting)**

Bunad (Norwegian national costume) or burka? Feminine or masculine? The dividing lines are broken, challenged and explored in FRIKAR's recent dance performance "SKAUT". Dynamically and delicately, the threads are woven together into a whole through dance, instrumentals, sounds, "lokk" and words. The dancers embody penetrating power even when their faces are covered up. Self-irony and humor have also found their place when FRIKAR undisguisedly touches on current and complex topics. However, "SKAUT" does not give definitive answers, but challenges, amazes and fascinates on its exploratory path through its own free, folk dance-based form.

**Ingri Valen Egeland, Valdres (Local Norwegian newspaper)**



Photo: Hallgrim Hansegård

## Credits

**Choreography/scenography** Hallgrim Hansegård

**Music** Erlend Apneseth Trio

**Light design** Gard Gitlestad

**Costume design** Inger Stinnerbom

**Dramaturg** Celestine Hennermann

**Dancers** Nora Svenning, Sigyn Åsa Sætereng, Anna Benedicte Andresen, Julianne Solli

Anita Vika Langødegård

**Executive Producer** – Kirsti Buchanan Ulvestad

**Produced by** FRIKAR

**Co-produced by** The Sámi National Theater Beaivváš / House of Culture, Bærum, Norway

**Funded By:** Arts Council Norway / The Fritt Ord Foundation / The Saving Bank Foundation DNB /

Norsk Tipping / Eckbos Legat / Innlandet County / Valdres Nature- and Culture Park



Photo: Antero Hein





## Music

The music is originally composed by Erlend Apneseth and is now released as an album “LOKK”. The album was nominated in the “open category” in the Norwegian Grammy Awards in 2021. Erlend Apneseth is known for his critically acclaimed albums on HUBRO / Grappa, with his trio featuring drummer Øyvind Hegg-Lunde (drums, percussion) and Stephan Meidell (guitar, electronics), as well as his own solo-projects. He has written music for cinema, theatre, dance performances, poetry, and musical ensembles and orchestras in different genres. As a soloist he has appeared with Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra and The Norwegian Chamber Orchestra among others. He has received several awards, such as the Gammleng-prize, Øyvind Berghs Memorial Prize and the Folkelarm-award. Erlend Apneseth Trio's album «Salika, Molika», featuring accordionist Frode Haltli, received both the NOPA prize and the Norwegian Grammy Awards, and was nominated for the Nordic Music Prize 2020.

## Company

FRIKAR make past and present dance together, while celebrating the freedom of the human spirit. The company places the human being on the edge of raw nature and virtuous arts to release visceral power that lies beyond the conscious mind.

FRIKAR studies how dance in Norway has boosted imagination for 7,000 years and uses contemporary tools to amplify the ritual power of the past. In a digitalized age, the company believes dance is a good way of knowing how it feels to be alive.

FRIKAR runs a dance company, an academy and a choreographic center by the Norwegian mountains of Jotunheimen.

## Prizes, Awards and Recognition

2023: FRIKAR Company: Awarded **Gulljerven**  
Category: Sustainability  
Awarded by: SCENEKUNSTBRUKET

2021: SKAUT Light design by Gard Gitlestad: Awarded **Lysprisen**  
Category: Light design  
Awarded by: LYSKULTUR

2021: SKAUT Soundtrack “LOKK” by Erlend Apneseth: Nomination **Spellemannsprisen**  
Category: Open Category  
Nominated by: SPELLEMANNSPRISEN (Norwegian Grammy Awards)

### Hallgrim Hansegård (1980)



Photo: Pål Laukli

Hallgrim is a Norwegian choreographer, dancer and entrepreneur known for brave and playful projects blending physical, mental and cultural boundaries. He has made the relatively unknown local dance tradition “halling”, known through computer games and television programs. His work has been performed in more than 35 countries, censored by the Catholic church in Italy and seen by more than 100 million on YouTube. In 2006 he established FRIKAR, a dance company that created work opportunities for dancers working within expressions such as “halling”, break dance, capoeira and contemporary circus. In 1999, Hallgrim founded “FJELLDANSEN”, a regional competence center for dance based in Valdres supported by Arts Council Norway, Oppland County and Valdres Nature- and Culture Park. In 2012, he established The FRIKAR ACADEMY LTD which organizes FRIKAR´s educational activities throughout the year. In 2017 he started a talent development program called **FRIKAR X** in collaboration with Talent Norway. This is a program which runs over three years giving ten professional and semi-professional dance artists, independent of genres, further training within folk-dance, contemporary circus, mask-work and contemporary dance. Hallgrim has also committed himself to refugees and are working against racism through art-projects and written articles.



## Repertoire and Touring

The company is touring world-wide with performances of medium to large scale, in addition to spectacular tailor-made site-specific “in-nature” shows, based on Norse mythology and folklore.

The company also offer tailor-made elements such as vertical dance and folk-dance, accompanied by either live or recorded music.

### Available repertoire:

#### 2024 – 2027

- *SKAUT: 5 female dancers / recorded music*
- *GANDR: 3 -4 dancers / 3 musicians (both indoor and outdoor version)*

#### 2025 - 2028

- *VOLUSPÅ: 5 dancers / 3 musicians (premiere fall 2025)*

## Contact

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