

The Coronet Theatre &
The Norwegian Ibsen Company present

WHEN WE DEAD AWAKEN

By Henrik Ibsen

Directed by Kjetil Bang-Hansen

Thu 24 Feb – Sat 02 Apr 7:30pm

Press Night: Tuesday 1 March at 7.30pm

"When We Dead Awaken is a strange, beautiful and bitter play about art, love, ambition and freedom. Like a musical quartet, 4 people, 4 elements, 4 voices, 4 instruments play different songs in a complicated melody. It is a play for our time, as they find themselves living in a changed world. Bewildered, how do they move forward?"
Director Kjetil Bang-Hansen



The Norwegian Ibsen Company returns, in collaboration with The Coronet Theatre, with a new adaptation of *When We Dead Awaken*, Henrik Ibsen's enigmatic final play, directed by one of Norway's most celebrated directors Kjetil Bang-Hansen, following the award winning *The Lady From The Sea* in 2019.

It is rare that anyone gets the chance to rediscover a lost love.

In the depths of a winter Rubek, once a celebrated sculptor, returns to Norway with his estranged young wife Maia – only to encounter, by chance, his great lost love and muse Irene. Is this their opportunity to return to a world where there is meaning, hope and happiness – to awaken from the dead?

The production is directed by eminent director Kjetil Bang-Hansen, in his first production in the UK. It will have a Norwegian/British cast, and be performed in a mixture of Norwegian and English with surtitles. The production will tour Norway after its UK Premiere – The Coronet Theatre's first international tour.

The cast includes Norwegian stars Ragnhild Gudbrandsen, Andrea Bræin Hovig and Øystein Røger. Biographies below.

When We Dead Awaken has been considered the drama that draws together the threads from Ibsen's other plays and from Ibsen's own drama - his life. Published in 1899, its first performances were at the Haymarket Theatre in London

"The production brings with it an inherent knowledge of Norwegian culture, where Ibsen is celebrated both for his insight into the human condition, and for bringing to his work the humour and biting irony people use to get through the most difficult situations."
Kåre Conradi, Artistic Director of The Norwegian Ibsen Company

Kjetil Bang-Hansen is one of the most revered and accomplished directors in Europe. During a career spanning over 60 years he was appointed Artistic Director of The National Theatre of Norway, been the recipient of every major theatre award in Norway and many in Europe, and published several books and writings about the art of theatre directing and stagecraft. He has directed *When We Dead Awaken* twice before, in 1990 at Theatre National de Strasbourg and in 1994 at Nationaltheatret in Oslo. His many productions include Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* and *A Doll's House*; Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and *Coriolanus*; and contemporary British work by Harold Pinter, Michael Frayn and David Hare. Dramatizations of novels include Fjodor Dostojevskijs *Crime and Punishment* and Ingmar Bergman's *Fanny and Alexander*. Kjetil has undoubtedly

Kean Lanyon
07973 843133
keanlanyon.com

photos are
available at

www.keanlanyon.
smugmug.com

password:
download

made one of the most significant contributions to theatre in Norway in the last century as he continues to create new work and direct.

Set and Costumes by Mayou Trikerioti.

The Norwegian Ibsen Company collaborated with The Coronet Theatre in February 2019 with **The Lady From The Sea**, which followed the UK's first visit by the Norwegian National Theatre with **Little Eyolf** in 2018, also in collaboration with The Norwegian Ibsen Company. Both were acclaimed by both critics and audience. Ibsen is the most performed dramatist in the world after William Shakespeare. However, Norway did not have a professional Ibsen Company until ten years ago, when one of Norway's leading actors, Kåre Conradi, founded The Norwegian Ibsen Company. Its aim is, by producing Ibsen's work in both Norwegian and English, to create a theatrical bridge with the rest of the world and Ibsen's homeland.

When We Dead Awaken is presented with the support of the Norwegian Embassy.

For further information and reviewing tickets please contact Sharon Kean 07973 843133 sharon@keanlanyon.com

Photographs can be downloaded at keanlanyon.smugmug.com Password: download

BOOKING INFORMATION

Venue: The Coronet Theatre

Dates and Times: Thu 24 Feb – Sat 02 Apr 7:30pm

Tickets:

previews (24 - 28 Feb): £35, £25, £15, £10

standard: £40, £30, £20, £10

concessions: £20

How to Book:

020 3642 6606

thecoronettheatre.com (no booking fee)

In person at the Box Office (Mon - Sat, 10am - 6pm)

Address: The Coronet Theatre, 103 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3LB

Nearest tube: Notting Hill Gate (Central, Circle and District lines)

Website: thecoronettheatre.com

t: @thecoronettheatre

Biographies

Andrea Bræin Hovig has performed since she was a child. She worked with Jon Fosse and Lars Norén, and played the leads in *Romeo and Juliet*, *Iphigeia in Aulis*, *L'école Des Femmes*, *Chicago* and *Guys and Dolls*. Many roles at the Norwegian National Theatre include leading roles in Ibsen's *The Wild Duck*, *The Lady from The Sea*, *Ghosts*, and Hedda in *Hedda Gabler* on all three of the National Theatre stages – a first. She has also performed internationally. She has worked with director Kjetil Bang Hansen several times, most recently as Roxanne in *Cyrano de Bergerac*.

She has worked on many film and TV productions, written three children's books, and one novel for young adults. A new novel will be published 2022.

Awards include: Friends of The National Theatre, The Kanon Award for films *I belong* and *Hope*, and The Film Critic's Awards in 2014, 2020, and 2021. In 2019 she had major roles in three international films; *Hope*, *Disco* and *Beware of Children*, and was nominated Best Female Actress by European Film Awards for *Hope*, the first Norwegian speaking actor.

Øystein Røger last appeared at The Coronet Theatre in the critically praised *The Lady From The Sea*. A highly acclaimed and experienced actor, he has been a lifetime employee of The National Theatre of Norway (NTN) since 1993. Previous Ibsen parts include: *Ghosts*,

Rosmersholm, A Doll's House, When We Dead Awaken, League of Youth, Love's Comedy, Lady From The Sea, Brand and Peer Gynt.

Awards include: The Hedda Award for Best Actor and The Norwegian Theatre Critics Award, both for *To Damaskus*. The Norwegian Theatre Director Association Award for *Ghost*, The Continental Award for *Stones in His Pockets* and The National Theatre Award.

More than 70 productions at NTN include: *To Damaskus, An Ideal Husband, Arcadia, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Shakespeare in Love, The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, The Celebration* and *Cleansed*. He is a highly acclaimed performer of Jon Fosse's plays. He was an Artistic Director of NTN's studiostage (2000-2003). Musical credits include *The Rock'n Roll Wolf* and *Chess*. TV and film includes: *Post Mortem* (Netflix Original Series), *Oslo 31. August* (Cannes Film Festival 2011), *Beforeigners Lilyhammer, Acquitted, Occupied* and *Struggle for Life*

Ragnhild Gudbrandsen

Ragnhild Margrethe Gudbrandsen is known for her appearances on stage, TV and film. A lifetime leading employee at the National Theatre in Bergen (DNS), she debuted in 1993 in Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*, in which she played all the female parts. She has a wide-ranging repertoire, performing in more than 60 productions including; Ibsen's *Hedda Gabler*, Almodovar's *All About My Mother*, Jon Fosse's *Dream of Autumn, Trilogy* and *Wakefulness*, Reza's *God of Carnage*, Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. Awards include outstanding stage performance for *Shirley Valentine* and *The Seagull*, and the 2018 nomination for performance of the year for Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. She has a considerable body of work as a singer, narrator, director and has dramatized several texts including a 2018 monologue of *Babette's Feast* which she successfully toured in Norway. Ragnhild's diverse theatrical experience has led to international projects in countries such as Russia, Austria, France and England. Ragnhild will play the part of Mother Åse in The Norwegian Ibsen Company production of *Peer Gynt* in Norway/ Grimstad/ Fjæreheia, in July 2022.