

Greig: *Peer Gynt - a geography of lies*

Visual concept: Alexander Polzin in association with Eivind Aadland

Text: Henrik Ibsen

Animation: Claudia Rohrmoser, Benjamin Hohnheiser

Designer: Nicola Minssen

This unique creative project, originally conceived by Maestro Arts, was developed by the respected Norwegian conductor and art collector Eivind Aadland and the German artist Alexander Polzin.

The continuous appeal of the tale of *Peer Gynt* has been more than proven by the numerous versions - theatrical, operatic etc. - that have been created over many years. This project, however, is a unique work of art, offering a fascinating and contemporary visualisation of the familiar story.

At the heart of the project is an original selection of music from Edvard Grieg's *Peer Gynt*. Based on the text from Ibsen's play, Polzin created a visualisation, conveying to the audience Peer Gynt's dreams and fantasies. Polzin's work is not an illustration of the story - rather it challenges the audience and raises questions of universal character.

Using state of the art video techniques, Polzin animates a series of specially-created paintings, together with quotes from Ibsen's text. He depicts Peer Gynt's experiences coming out of his natural surroundings in different ways, e.g. reducing the wider world into the microcosm of a kitchen... thus taking the audience to wherever Peer Gynt's fantasies, dreams and mad adventures take him. Polzin builds and uses models that become "the stage".

The result is similar to watching a silent movie: a beautiful series of fantastical, gently-changing images, inspired by Fritz Lang's Wagner movies from the early 1920s. Watching the screens, the audience becomes entwined into the performance *NB*. this is all captured on video and there is no actual set used in the concert hall. There is no staging, no actors and no narration but screened excerpts of text are incorporated into the artwork. A soprano soloist is required to sing Solveig's Songs.

Commissioned by the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra to commemorate 200 years of Norwegian independence association with Maestro Arts.