

new work 2024 / 2025



Memory of Mankind

by **Marcus Lindeen**

in collaboration with **Marianne Ségol**

The company

Wild Minds

Wild Minds, founded in 2021 by Swedish theater director and filmmaker Marcus Lindeen and Franco-Swedish dramaturge and translator Marianne Ségol, is an international performance company based in Paris that blends elements of stage arts, documentary, and cinema. Their work is deeply rooted in documentary practices, drawing from extensive research and interviews to transform real-life stories into sensitive, complex, and poetic narratives for the stage.

The Trilogy of Identities, consisting of three pieces — *Orlando and Mikael* (2022), *Wild Minds* (2017), and *The Invisible Adventure* (2020), was presented at Festival d'Automne in Paris in 2022. These pieces have also been performed at venues such as the Schaubühne in Berlin, Wiener Festwochen in Vienna, Teatro do Bairro Alto in Lisbon and the Piccolo Teatro in Milan.

Marcus Lindeen and Marianne Ségol are associated artists at Quai, CDN d'Angers Pays de Loire, CDN de Besançon and CDN d'Orléans. Marcus Lindeen holds an associate artist position at the Piccolo Teatro in Milan, while Marianne Ségol is an associate artist at the Méta-CDN de Poitou-Charentes.

Their new project, *Memory of Mankind*, premiered at the festival Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels in May 2024.



Memory of Mankind

Deep inside a salt mine in the Austrian Alps lies an archive created by ceramist Martin Kunze that he calls "The Memory of Mankind". Since 2012, he has crafted a collection of ceramic plates containing text and images to 'back up' human civilisation and preserve all existing knowledge about our modern times. Kunze's ultimate aim is to create a time capsule that could last millions of years, hoping that future civilisations will find the archive and learn about our story. But what do you want people a million years from now to know about us? How do you even start? And what gives one man the right to tell the story

of everyone? In this captivating theatre performance, the Swedish director Marcus Lindeen and the French dramaturge Marianne Ségol ingeniously interweave the tale of Martin Kunze with other true stories. Among them, we meet a man who suffers from a rare type of amnesia that wipes his memory clean, and a queer archaeologist who questions our relationship to history. Bringing the characters and audience together in the same space, the performance poses an existential question: why would it be better to remember than to forget?



*Someone will remember us
I say
Even in another time*

– Sappho, c. 600 BC



To make sure the archive will be found in the future, **Martin Kunze** has created a ceramic token with a sort of treasure map. He has carefully chosen how to give the information of the location of the archive and trying to take into account that future civilisations might not share the same language or map techniques as us. The backside shows the exact location and the shape of the lake next to Hallstatt in Austria. Kunze hopes that when a modern society comes along, that they will be able to follow the cryptic but precise treasure map all the way into the salt mine and discover the archive.



Two examples of private contributions to the Memory of Mankind archive. Above, Martin Kunze is holding ceramic plate made by a French family in Nantes consisting of a text, two photos of themselves and their house, a map of the stars and some notes to a song the father had composed. Below is a series of images of an American man getting a haircut. It was sent in by the man's husband to save a glimpse of everyday life for eternity.



A time capsule of ceramic plates

For this production, writer and director Marcus Lindeen has together with dramaturge and translator Marianne Ségol joined forces with composer Hans Appelqvist and scenographer and visual artist Matthieu Lorry Dupuy. , who designed a unique stage space without a proscenium, immersing the audience in the performance. A portion of the real archives is physically present on stage, functioning as a prism, illuminating a multitude of stories and ideas.

"When I discovered the story of Austrian ceramist Martin Kunze and his archives in an article, I was struck by the impossibility of his project," says Marcus Lindeen. "It reveals how our obsession with archives and memory is, in reality, an existential quest to conquer death and oblivion: to gather the traces of our existence to ensure that we will be remembered, both as a species and as individual human beings. To write the play, I traveled to Austria

to interview Martin Kunze and also met Jeff Ingram, the man with this rare form of amnesia, as well as several archaeologists whose testimonies served as material for constructing a fictional conversation."

Memory of Mankind will delve into all the themes surrounding memory, with the central story being Martin Kunze's quest and his mad idea of saving the memory of humanity. The archives buried in the salt mine will serve as a meeting point that can shed light on a multitude of other stories and ideas dealing with memory, forgetting, time, and also the art of storytelling.



MEMORY OF MANKIND

Written and directed by Marcus Lindeen

Concept by Marcus Lindeen et Marianne Ségol

Dramaturgy and translation Marianne Ségol

Music and sound design Hans Appelqvist

Set design Mathieu Lorry-Dupuy

Light design Diane Guérin

Voices in sound script Marianne Ségol, Gabriel Dufay,
Julien Lewkowicz, Olga Mouak and Nathan Jousni

Costume design Charlotte Legal

Casting director Naelle Dariya

Stage manager and props David Marain

Stage technician Thomas Nicolle

Sound technician Nicolas Brusq

Light and video technician Lison

Foulou or Boris van Overtveldt

Production and administration

Emmanuelle Ossena, Charlotte Pesle Beal
and Lison Bellanger | EPOC productions

With Sofia Aouine, Driver, Axel Ravier, Jean-Philippe Uzan



Premiere

23 to 26 of May, 2024

Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels, Belgium

Duration

1 h 20 min

Production

Compagnie Wild Minds

Co-production

T2G Théâtre de Gennevilliers CDN

Festival d'Automne Paris

Piccolo Teatro di Milano - Teatro d'Europa

La Comédie de Caen CDN de Normandie

Le META CDN Poitiers Nouvelle-Aquitaine

Nouveau Théâtre de Besançon CDN

Le Quai, CDN Angers Pays de la Loire

Kunstenfestivaldesarts Bruxelles

Wiener Festwochen Freie Republik Wien

Le Grand T Nantes

Le Lieu Unique Nantes

PEP Pays-de-Loire

With the support from **Fondation d'entreprise Hermès**
and **l'ADAMI**

The project is supported by **Ministère de la Culture –**
Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles d'Île-de-
France

The set design is constructed in the workshops of
Piccolo Teatro in Milano and
Nouveau Théâtre de Besançon, Centre dramatique national.



Marcus Lindeen and Marianne Ségol are associated artists at Quai, CDN d'Angers Pays de la Loire, at Nouveau Théâtre de Besançon and at CDN d'Orléans. Marcus Lindeen is an associated artist at Piccolo Teatro in Milano. Marianne Ségol is an associated artist of META, CDN de Poitiers.



Axel Ravier, Sofia Aouine, Jean-Philippe Uzan et Driver

Cast

Blurring Lines Between Reality and Fiction

The cast consists of non-professional performers, meticulously chosen through an eight-month casting process led by casting director Naelle Dariya. Some cast members share life stories that echo the characters they portray. For instance, Jean-Philippe Uzan, a French astrophysicist, is currently working with a team of scientists to create an archive of human knowledge for NASA to be placed on the moon. Sophia Aouine, just like her character, is a writer and has worked as a radio producer. Her debut novel is titled *Rhapsodie*

des oubliés. Axel Ravier, is an academic scholar working on queer themes within the field of sociology. Driver has no experience of amnesia but is a living legend in the French rap scene. The cast sometimes bring their own perspectives into the process and at times the script gets adapted after them, which creates a theatrical experience that draws inspiration from reality, ventures into the realm of fiction, and then circles back to the performers' own truths, all within the shared space of the performance.



Sofia Aouine
The Writer

Sofia is a writer and radio reporter with more than twenty years of experience as a documentary producer. In 2019, she released her debut novel *Rhapsodie des oubliés* with the publishing house Éditions de La Martinière, for which she was awarded the Prix de Flore prize. The novel has also been translated into several languages.



Driver
The Amnesiac

Active as a rapper since a young age, he has made himself a name as an expert and activist on the French hip hop scene. Famous for his stories and anecdotes, he is hosting the radio show *Roule avec Driver* on OKLM Radio, where he talks about the life of famous rap artists and record labels. Since 2020, he is also hosting the podcasts *Featuring* and *La Récré*. A memoir about his life, written together with Ismaël Mereghetti – *J'étais là: 30 ans au cœur du rap Poche* – that was recently released.



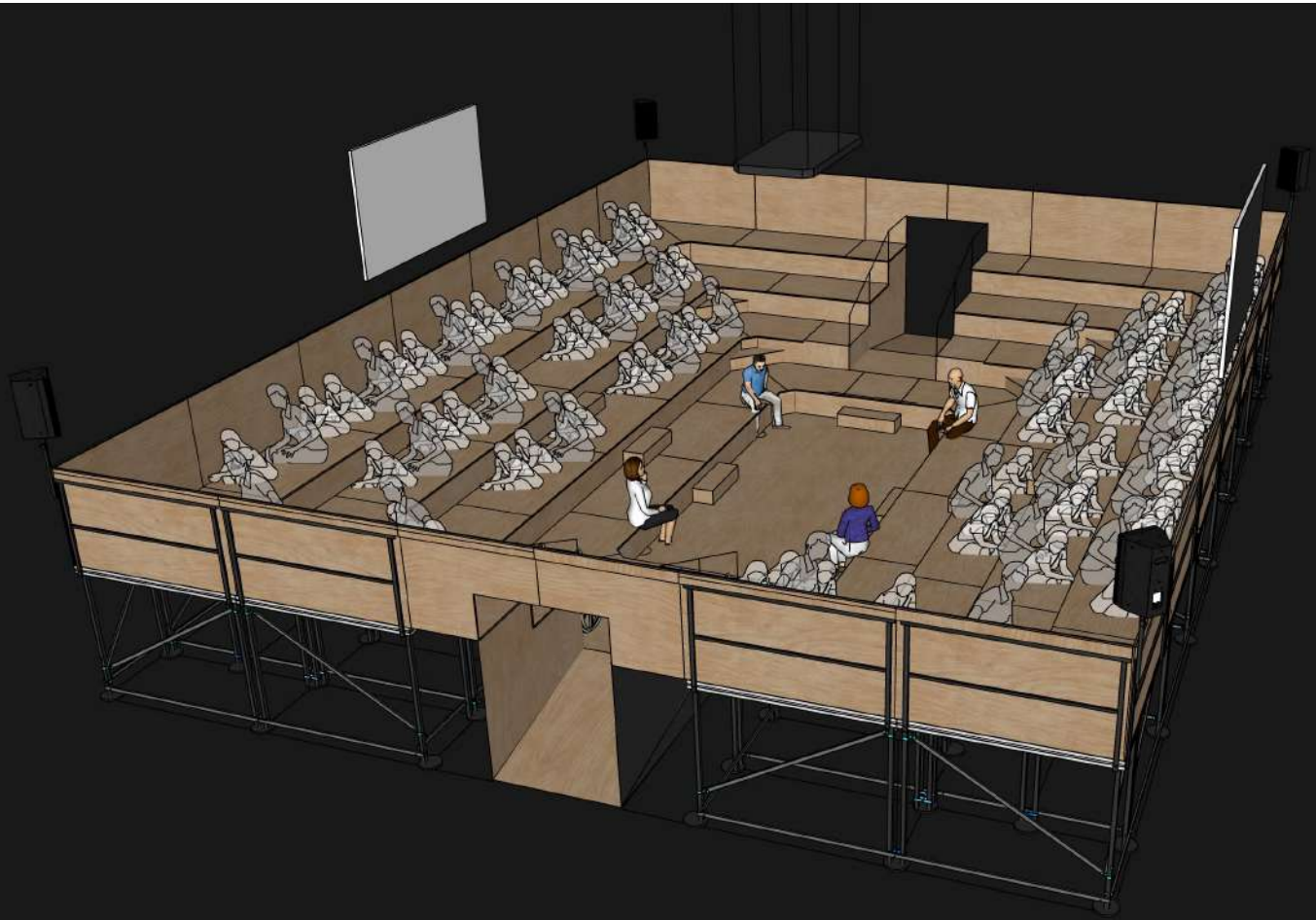
Axel Ravier
The Archeologist

Axel is a sociologist focusing on queer studies. He is educated at l'École Normale Supérieure de Paris-Saclay and is now pursuing a PhD at l'Université de Rouen-Normandie, affiliated with the Laboratory of Social Dynamics at the University of Lausanne, where he is attached to the Center for Gender Studies. He is also a fellow at the Convergence Institute for Migration (CNRS - Collège de France). His research lies at the intersection of LGBTQI studies and urban sociology.



Jean-Philippe Uzan
The Archivist

Jean-Philippe is a specialist in gravitation and relativistic cosmology. Together with a group of scientists he has recently launched the project "Sanctuary on the moon", that together with NASA in 2027 will place an archive of human knowledge on the moon in the form of sapphire discs. He has published over 130 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has received several awards, including the prestigious Georges Lemaître Prize in 2015.



Set design

A theater without stage

Wild Minds continues to explore the concept of a theater without a stage. Following the intimate circular setup of *The Trilogy of Identities*, scenographer and artist Mathieu Lorry-Dupuy has designed a space where the audience and performers sit together, sharing the same experience. This proximity fosters active listening and focused attention. The scenography will be available in two different dimensions, allowing adaptation to various venues.





Sound script Guided by voices

From archival documents and collected testimonies, Marcus Lindeen, whose initial profession was that of a radio journalist, and dramaturg Marianne Ségol collaborate on a montage-style writing. Each interview is recorded, transcribed, and then reworked in writing before being re-recorded with voice actors. During the performance, non professional actors are listening to the sound script and repeating what they hear. The process involves meticulous editing to create a delicate sound composition that artificially recreates the nuances of speech, silences, and the ebb and flow of thought.



The Trilogy of Identities

by Marcus Lindeen

in collaboration with Marianne Ségol

Orlando and Mikael, 2006/2022

Wild Minds, 2017

The Invisible Adventure, 2020

The trilogy of Identities (La Trilogie des identités) is a collection of three plays that explore the theme of identity and transformation. Developed over a period of almost fifteen years, these three documentary theater pieces take us on a vertiginous quest into our inner worlds and challenges the very foundation of our identities. The three plays are all presented in performance situations without a traditional stage. Instead, the audience sits in a circle together with the performers, listening to their conversations.

In *Wild Minds*, the situation is a group therapy session for compulsive daydreamers, a rare but real psychological disorder where people become obsessed by their secret imaginary worlds. *Orlando and Mikael* is based on

the recordings of two Swedish men who both regret going through sexual reassignment surgery and becoming women. And in *The Invisible Adventure*, the spectators listen to a conversation between three characters who share spectacular stories about their identity transformations. One of them is based on interviews with a French man who was the first in the world to receive a facial transplantation and who talks about the challenge of adapting to a new life living with the face of someone else.

Orlando and Mikael premiered with the title *Regretters (Ångrarna)* at Stockholm Stadsteater in 2006 and has since been translated into several languages and performed in countries such as Mexico,

Argentina, Norway, South Korea, and Chile. *Wild Minds* was originally made for Moderna Museet in Stockholm in collaboration with Dramaten - The Royal Dramatic Theatre and The Schaubühne in Berlin. The Schaubühne has staged all the three plays of the trilogy during their festival for international new drama, FIND (2008, 2016, 2022). *The Invisible Adventure* (*L'Aventure invisible*) premiered at Festival d'Automne in 2020. The festival presented all three works together at Théâtre de Gennevilliers in Paris 2022, including a new French production of *Orlando and Mikael*.

In 2022, the three plays were published as a book by the Italian publishing house il Saggiatore.





WILD MINDS (2017)

Daydreaming can help solve problems, trigger creativity, and inspire great works of art and science. But for some people it becomes an obsession. "Maladaptive daydreaming" is a newly identified psychological disorder, where the people who suffer from it get so indulged in their inner fantasy worlds, that it slowly takes over everything. In the performance *Wild Minds* the audience attend an imagined therapy group for these extreme fantasizers. The text performed by the actors is based on interviews with people who identify as maladaptive daydreamers.

Wild Minds was originally produced for the Moderna Museet in Stockholm in an English version and was performed at the Find festival at the Schaubühne in Berlin and the Royal Dramatic Theater, Dramaten, in Stockholm as part of the Ingmar Bergman International Theater Festival.

The French version was created in 2017 for the Comédie de Caen. In 2019, it was selected as part of Festival d'Automne and was presented at Théâtre de Gennevilliers in Paris. It has also been shown at Piccolo Teatro in Milano, as part of the Presente Indicativo festival.



THE INVISIBLE ADVENTURE (2020)

A brain scientist who loses her identity after a stroke, a queer filmmaker who uses art as a form of death ritual to connect with a forgotten queer photographer, and the first transplantation patient in the world to receive a new face from a dead man. Three extraordinary life stories come together in this documentary based conversation drama about identity, death and transformation. The three voices come together in a thought-provoking and illuminating conversation where no question is too intimate to be asked and where the answers bring us on a journey deep inside ourselves – underneath the skin of our faces, and inside our own brains.

The play premiered in French with the title *L'Aventure Invisible* at Théâtre de Gennevilliers in Paris as part of Festival d'Automne in October 2020. It has since been shown at Wiener Festwochen, Schaubühne in Berlin, as part of The FIND festival (Festival for International New Drama) and also at Teatro do Bairro Alto in Lisbon, as part of BoCA – Biennial of Contemporary Arts.



ORLANDO AND MIKAEL (2022)

Mikael and Orlando both regret going through sexual reassignment operations to become women. They meet for the first time to have a conversation about it. *Regretters* (original title) is Marcus Lindeen's debut play as a director and playwright. It is based on recorded conversations between two Swedish men. The play was produced for Stockholms Stadsteater (Stockholm City Theatre) and premiered in 2006. It has since been translated and performed for numerous productions in countries like Mexico, Chile, Germany, Norway, Finland, Argentina and South Korea. For the creation of *The Trilogy of Identities* in 2022, Marcus Lindeen and Marianne Ségol worked on a new version of the play, using material from the original play as well as Lindeen's documentary film *Regretters* (2010), where the two men appear as themselves. The film was awarded several awards, among them the Guldbagge (Swedish Academy Award) and Prix Europa for Best Documentary. The film is currently available on Netflix.

Orlando and Mikael premiered at Festival d'Automne in 2022, where all the three plays of the trilogy was presented together.

The plays in *The Trilogy of Identities* were produced by Comédie de Caen – CDN de Normandie and are since January 2024 part of the productions handled by Le Quai – CDN d'Angers Pays de Loire.



Marcus Lindeen

Writer and director

Marcus Lindeen is a Swedish writer and director working with film and performance. His latest theater play *L'Aventure invisible* premiered at Festival d'Automne in Paris in 2020. It has also played at Kunstenfestivaldesarts in Brussels and will in 2022 be presented at Schaubühne in Berlin, Piccolo Teatro in Milan and Wiener Festwochen in Vienna. The play is the last instalment of a trilogy of plays on the theme of identity that premiered together for the first time at Festival d'Automne in Paris in October 2022. The three plays were released as a book in Italy with the publishing house il Saggiatore.

Marcus Lindeen's feature documentary film *The Raft* premiered at CPH:DOX in Copenhagen in 2018 where it won the main award. *The Raft* has since been shown in over fifty festivals (IDFA, BFI London, Zürich, Melbourne, Sao Paolo, Moscow) and was theatrically released in eleven countries, among them France, Mexico, the UK and the US. The film became a New York Times Critic's Pick and was broadcasted on BBC Storyville. The scenography for the film was exhibited as an art installation at Centre Pompidou. In 2019 the film won the Prix Europa for Best European Television Documentary.

The same prize was awarded to Marcus Lindeen's debut film *Regretters* in 2011. *Regretters* is both a theater play and a documentary film about two Swedish men who talk about their individual journeys through gender reassignment and back again. The play has been translated into several languages and the film went on to win numerous awards, among them both the Swedish Academy Award (Guldbagge) and Kristallen (Swedish Emmy) for best documentary film in 2011. The same year his second film *Accidentes Gloriosos* premiered at The Venice Film Festival where it picked up the prize for best medium-length film.

Marcus Lindeen lives between Paris and Stockholm, where he is pursuing a Ph.D. candidate at Stockholm University of the Arts, exploring the subject of "The Staged Documentary" through an artistic research project consisting of both film and theater works.

Since December 2021, Marcus is an associated artist at Piccolo Teatro in Milan and with Marianne Ségol he is an associated artist at Le Quai, CDN d'Angers Pays de Loire. Together with Marianne he runs the Paris based theater company Wild Minds.



Marianne Ségol

Dramaturge, translator

Marianne Ségol is a dramaturg and translator. She works in Sweden and France with playwrights and directors and travels regularly to Scandinavia to discover new creations, meet authors, directors and agents. She has translated about forty plays and thirty novels from playwrights like Jonas Hassen Khemiri, Sara Stridsberg, Jon Fosse, Arne Lygre, Suzanne Osten, Rasmus Lindberg, Monica Isakstuen and Malin Axelsson, also from film directors like Lars Von Trier, and writers such as Henning Mankell, Sami Saïd, Per Olov Enquist, Katarina Mazetti, and Jakob Wegelius.

Since 2016, she coordinates the Nordic committee of Maison Antoine Vitez, Centre International de la Traduction Théâtrale. Since 2017, she has been working as a dramaturge, translator and at the creation with Marcus Lindeen. In

2022, they co-created *The Trilogy of Identities*, with the plays *Orlando and Mikael*, *Wild Minds* and *The Invisible Adventure*. The performances were presented in Paris at T2G as part of the Festival d'Automne, Schaubühne Berlin, Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Piccolo Teatro in Milan and at the Wiener Festwochen. Together they set up the Wild Minds theater company.

Her translation of Jonas Hassen Khemiri's *Pappaklausulen* was awarded the 2021 Prix Médicis for best foreign novel in a French translation. In 2022, the Swedish Academy awarded her the translation prize.

Marianne Ségol is an associate artist at Le Méta-Centre Dramatique National of Poitiers Nouvelles Aquitaine, at the Quai, CDN d'Angers Pays de Loire and at CDN d'Orléans.

Tour 2024-2025

Created and premiered 23 to 26 of May, 2024
Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Bruxelles

6 to 8 of June, 2024
Wiener Festwochen, Vienne

28 to 29 of September, 2024
Festival Actoral, Marseille

14 to 18 of November, 2024
21 to 25 of November, 2024
T2G, Gennevilliers
presented as part of **Festival d'Automne à Paris**

4 to 6 of December, 2024
Le Quai, CDN Angers

13 to 15 of December, 2024
Le Lieu Unique Nantes with
Le Grand T hors-les-murs

7 to 9 of January, 2025
La Comédie de Caen, CDN

15 to 18 of January, 2025
Piccolo Teatro, Milano

22 to 24 of January, 2025
Festival Transforme à Clermont-Ferrand,
Comédie de Clermont-Ferrand / Fondation d'entreprise Hermès

5 to 6 of February, 2025
Festival Faraway, Comédie de Reims

8 to 11 of April, 2025
Nouveau Théâtre de Besançon, CDN

15 to 16 of May, 2025
Festival Transforme à Rennes, TNB / Fondation d'entreprise Hermès

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