



Stina Nyberg: ‘Thunderstruck’

By Claudia Bauer, April 25, 2019



Swedish choreographer and performer Stina Nyberg plays with high-voltage electricity in her solo work “Thunderstruck,” getting its U.S. premiere at CounterPulse. Photo: Casper Hedberg

Expect Stina Nyberg’s upcoming performances of “Thunderstruck” to be electrifying. In this 65-minute dance-theater-storytelling solo, the Swedish choreographer takes her chances with a live Tesla coil onstage, playing with its crackling current while wearing a mesh spacesuit worthy of Riff Raff. “Thunderstruck” is a solo, but Nyberg can’t perform it alone: Katti Alm operates the coil to produce flashes of light and sound (strobe lighting is also used) and plays Maria W. Horn’s metal drone sound score.

Nyberg has a wide-ranging artistic palette at her fingertips: She's choreographed presumably less-shocking works for the Cullberg Ballet and the Swedish national ballet, and is a member of New York's avant-garde collective Bureau for the Future of Choreography. She also brings to bear a feminist point of view, and "Thunderstruck" is as much a referendum on the macho bias of science as it is a theatrical spectacle and a time trip to an era when audiences thrilled at electrical gizmos and quack inventions. The lightning strikes twice at CounterPulse: on Thursday, April 25 (followed by a Q&A with Nyberg), and Friday, April 26 (post-show reception with the consul general of Sweden).