



Marie Baudet, « Brotherhood according to Karine Ponties », La Libre,
6th February 2020, [https://www.lalibre.be/culture/scenes/la-fraternite-selon-karine-ponties-5e3b10069978e234870ec867?](https://www.lalibre.be/culture/scenes/la-fraternite-selon-karine-ponties-5e3b10069978e234870ec867?fbclid=IwAR0A4qUdCXchmXyKRgW1TbmQvm8EBAEGMEx4d2loqOPTxqACYdbRaEo2o9Q)
[fbclid=IwAR0A4qUdCXchmXyKRgW1TbmQvm8EBAEGMEx4d2loqOPTxqACYdbRaEo2o9Q](https://www.lalibre.be/culture/scenes/la-fraternite-selon-karine-ponties-5e3b10069978e234870ec867?fbclid=IwAR0A4qUdCXchmXyKRgW1TbmQvm8EBAEGMEx4d2loqOPTxqACYdbRaEo2o9Q)



© Alexander Kabanov

Brotherhood according to Karine Ponties "Every Direction is North", a virtuoso piece from Moscow to Brussels and beyond

The lights gently come up on a man and the noises he produces from inside a wooden box that covers his entire head. While said box might interfere with both sight and voice, it barely impedes his movements. Falling eventually to the ground, the box becomes the man's stand, pedestal, seat, container, before other men and other boxes join him, becoming a wider table, a higher shelf system, a more organized set of coffins.



To conceive set and lighting design, as well as the scenic space, Karine Ponties worked once more with Guillaume Toussaint Fromentin. © Alexander Kabanov

A clever and discrete set design, made of nothing, finds its rightful place in the immensity of a stage structured by Guillaume Toussaint Fromentin's lighting design which sculpts the space

in distinct perimeters. A small crowd tramples on a tight square, crossing paths and brushing past one another. Then, suddenly they spread on the entire stage.

Languages full of life on a magistral technical background

Devised in Moscow in 2016, with the contemporary section of city ballet company Balet Moskva, *Every Direction is North* was the 2017 recipient of the prestigious Golden Mask awarded by the Russian National Theatre.

[Balet Moskva & Karine Ponties - Every Direction is North \(teaser\)](#)
from [Charleroi danse](#) on [Vimeo](#).

If the cast has in part changed since its premiere, the company performing in Belgium does not pale in virtuosity or body diversity in comparison with the original company. Mutual listening between the choreographer and her performers allows technique, no matter how dizzying, to never overshadow individual personalities. The result is a unique and diverse choreographic language, deeply connected with the changing universe that [company Dame de Pic](#) has been developing over the past twenty years and forty pieces.

A darkness-tainted lightheartedness

Flexible, energetic, and yet raw, the world present on stage evokes the universal language of communities, from school playgrounds to prison courtyards, without ever getting stuck in its themes. Joyous skirmishes, fleeting rivalries, escapes. A playful promiscuity characterized by its rites, codes, and anarchy. Ruled by a contagious lightheartedness, and yet continuously brushing darkness. A Buster Keaton something mixed with a tad of Esther Williams.



In the Balet Moskva dancers, Karine Ponties found "rigor and abandonment", the perfect conditions for a show that isn't done touring yet. © Alexander Kabanov

Efficient as the devil, perhaps a little too present, David Monceau's music accompanies these very living *tableaux*, where the initial squares melt into circles. Familiar with those male bodies that she choreographs most often, Karine Ponties shows here that a woman can paint brotherhood and make it finely and incredibly tangible.

📍 **Bruxelles, Théâtre national, until February 8th. Info & res. : 0032.2.203.53.03 - www.theatrenational.be**

- ❓ **On February 11th at Cultuurcentrum Brugge, and 14th at [Charleroi danse](#)**
- ❓ **From March 5th to 7th, Karine Ponties will present her latest piece "Lichens," at Les Brigittines: the result of a long research around Yuri Norstein's animation film "The Tales of Tales" (Russia). In the context of [festival In Movement](#) (part of the [Brussels Dance](#) program)**

**[Every Direction is North - Karine Ponties - Interview](#)
from [Théâtre National - Bruxelles](#) on [Vimeo](#).**