

## Ansökan om medverkan vid forskningsveckan 2022.

Önskat presentationsformat: 30 min + 20 min diskussion

Forskare: Kersti Grunditz Brennan & Annika Boholm

### Method to the Madness – Lili & Nadia goes BLOD

*Svenska*

#### Forskningsprojektet Lili & Nadia

Den hyllade kompositören Lili Boulanger försvann från musikhistorien. Den inflytelserika kompositions läraren Nadia Boulanger slutade komponera. Är vi Lili? Är vi Nadia? Hur är deras öden och val relevanta hundra år senare? Komplexa frågor som manar fram ett experimentellt förhållningssätt till både form och skapandeprocess.

#### Beskrivning av presentationen

Presentationen speglar utvecklingen av en hybridfilm som använder fragmentariskt, associativt berättande förankrat i dokumentära skeenden, utslungade i fantasier som hålls samman av musikaliska och koreografiska trådar. Med faktiska trådar i rummet gestaltar presentationen hur metoder från forskningsprojektet BLOD kan appliceras på ett projekt med andra tid-rum och fler samarbetare.

#### Forskningsetiska överväganden

Hur överföra villkoren för samskapande från två personers överenskommelser till roller och ansvar i ett större kollektiv. Hur handskas med andras levda erfarenheter, därtill människor som inte kan försvara sig för att de är döda. Hur förhålla sig till omarrangemang av Lilis verk; inga juridiska hinder finns, men integriteten i kompositionerna vägs mot möjligheten att själva framföra verken.

*English*

#### The research project Lili & Nadia

The lauded composer Lili Boulanger vanished from music history. The influential composition teacher Nadia Boulanger stopped composing. Are we Lili? Are we Nadia? How are their fates and choices relevant a hundred years later? Complex questions that call for experimentation with both form and creative process.

#### Proposed presentation

The presentation mirrors the development of a hybrid film; fragmented, associative storytelling is anchored in documentary events, propelled into fantasies united through musical and choreographic threads. Framed by actual threads through the room, the presentation reveals how methods from the research project BLOD can be applied to a project with different time-spaces and more collaborators.

#### Research ethical considerations

How to transfer conditions for co-creation from a two-person agreement to roles and responsibilities in a collective. How to relate to lived experiences of others, especially people how cannot speak for themselves since they are dead. How to consider rearrangement of Lili's work; no legal barriers, still weighing the integrity of the composition against its performability within the project.

## Research interests



*Lili och Nadia Boulanger in Paris around 1916*

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2021 we still ask: What artists become part of history, who gets encouraged to chart new paths and does there have to be a tension between teaching and creating?

## Research methods

The research is through practice and at its center is the creation of a short film, implementing and exploring the methods developed for the research project BLOD (2017-2021) with some aspects inverted: where BLOD had a small cast and crew (two people total), a multitude of locations and a filming period spanning over two years resulting in a large amount of material, The Sisters B. project will have a larger cast and crew, one single location and a limited and concentrated filming period (one week) producing a focused amount of film material.

A core aspect of the BLOD method is the reflexivity of its film material; that the research method is embedded in the story content and exposed through the cinematic storytelling. The method also aims at producing conditions for story creation / composition to take place in the editing process. These conditions form the basis for the project's chosen form and style.

### *Synopsis for the short film the project is working towards*

A bunch of middle aged women - musicians, filmmakers, performers - and their adult children spend a week in the French country side to make a music video and a dance film inspired by the life and art of Lili and Nadia Boulanger.

Through role play and examination of their own experiences they explore potential explanations to why the lauded composer Lili Boulanger disappeared from music history and why the influential composition teacher Nadia Boulanger stopped composing.

While preparing and filming they talk about conditions for female artists through the role models they've encountered in their education and artistic careers and through the positions they have been assigned. The questions that linger revolve around who gets inscribed in history and why, how much uncharted terrain one can transverse, how to hold fast in the face of minimal encouragement...

Rehearsals of Lili's piece *Vieille priere Bouddhique*, swimming in the ocean, bed time stories, creative collisions, blinis and soup in the kitchen, late night talks about life, filming of wild film scenes – during an intense week the diverse group live, breathe and create a celebration of The Sisters B.

### *Form and style of cinematic language*

The form experiments depart from fragmentation or fractured narratives – associative storytelling anchored in documentary events, propelled into fantasies united through musical and choreographic threads.

Styles are borrowed from screen dance with its augmented expression and from music video where anything goes as long as music is at the center. Documentary rehearsal scenes are mixed with glossy stagings and charged cinematography, period costumes mixed with contemporary wear, playful with serious, surreal turns with everyday moments.