

GAZED – a choreographic tale of human nature

by choreographer Þórunn Guðmundsdóttir

Co-produced by Teater FÁR302 and Half of Things (H.O.T.) Collective, premiere October 2026

GAZED is a solo dance performance that invites the audience into a sensorial, semi-conscious landscape where pleasure becomes a method of survival, resistance, and worldmaking. Through movement, voice, proximity, and relational observation, the work unfolds as an encounter with a being, slowly decentralizing itself from the machine.

Pleasure is visceral, feral, and intuitive; a way of thinking from the gut rather than the head. In contrast stands unpleasure, the machine: the grinding rhythm of modern society that organizes humans, time, productivity, and perception. The performance explores pleasure not as indulgence, but as a collection of relations between bodies, rhythms, and memories.

Furthermore, *GAZED* explores the friction that arises when the mind hesitates between recognizing something as human or not. Through live performance, *GAZED* seeks to create a setting where this uncertainty shapes the audience's emotional journey.

The work stems from the choreographer's research *The (in)Animate Body*, which examines the psychological effects of empathy and anthropomorphism and its usage in art. It questions how a human performer can evoke the same eerie sensations often associated with anthropomorphic objects, challenging the audience's perception of humanity and observation itself.

STAGING

The performance is visually minimal and precise in its technical needs, relying solely on the performer's body, voice, and costume choices. Sound emerges from the body alone rather than from external amplification. Light is used to create a coherent atmosphere that fits the worldmaking. The costume functions as a character design, focusing on details: altering surfaces, and silhouette in ways that complicate the performer's outline and amplify the sense of surrealness.

At the beginning the audience is standing alone in a black box. A being enters slowly from behind, with long white hair altering its outline. Its fingers slightly reaching out, searching. By listening to this being's audible breath you become aware of your own. The performer weaves through the spectators, passing by: is it looking at you, or through you? Fragments of spoken text become audible as the being calls for the decentralisation of external rhythms and to tap into pleasure. A shift takes place.

GAZED is accessible to a broad audience of young people and adults (12+), including both experienced theatre-goers and newcomers to contemporary performance. The work does not rely on specialized knowledge but engages the audience through proximity, breath, voice, and physical presence. Feedback from previous residency sharings indicates that the intimate format and clear spatial setup allow diverse audiences to enter the work through direct sensory experience rather than conceptual understanding. The format supports close audience proximity in black box and flexible performance spaces.

COLLABORATORS

GAZED is Þórunn Guðmundsdóttir's choreographic debut, created with dramaturgical support from Ida-Elisabeth Larsen, choreographic assistance by Joana Öhlschläger and vocal and textual consultation by Eyrún Björk Jakobsdóttir. The costume is designed and crafted by Benedikte Beate Hansen to strengthen the work's perceptual and material coherence.

The project has been developed through residencies at Aaben Dans (DK), Udviklingsplatformen (DK), and Dansverkstæðið (IS). While the work has benefited from strong artistic collaborations and institutional support, it has not yet received financial production funding. This application seeks support to secure fair working conditions and complete the production phase leading to its premiere.

The final development period will take place during a residency at Aaben Dans in August 2026, followed by set-up and premiere at Teater FÁR302 in October 2026. Additionally, Inkonst is interested in showing the work in 2027 and we are in close dialog with Reykjavik Dance Festival to show the work in their 2027 edition.

PRODUCTION PLAN 2026

August:

Residency at Aaben Dans – finalize choreographic material, costume concept development and PR work.

September:

Forsøgsstation – PR & producer/admin work and costume realization

October:

Teater FÁR302 – Set up & premier in week 41. Post production admin work.

