



Iceland Dance Company presents

# [ Kwart ]

Award winning piece by  
Jo Strømngren

Premiered in Reykjavík  
February 22<sup>ND</sup> 2008

[ Íd ] Iceland  
Dance Company

# Kvart (25 min)

## About Kvart

**Choreographer**  
Jo Strømngren

**Light design**  
Aðalsteinn Stefánsson

**Music**  
Kimmo Pohjonen

**Dancers**  
8 in all, 3 male and 5 female

**Costume design**  
Steinunn Sigurðardóttir

Kvart is a strong and beautiful dance piece performed to a powerful music by the Finnish composer Kimmo Pohjonen. The costumes are by Steinunn Sigurðardóttir, Iceland's leading fashion designer.

Kvart is movements on a square wool carpet. Kvart tries to explore a certain type of dance that is not often shown on a stage – dancers that dance for each other. This type is more relevant outside the theatre, whether it is a ritual gathering in Congo or hip-hoppers on suburban Paris streetcorners.

Kvart was originally created in 2004 for the anniversary of Oslo Danse Ensemble, but was adapted and developed for the Iceland Dance Company.

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## Excerpts from reviews

★★★★

**Fantastic and entertaining  
performance**

Fréttablaðið, February 2008

**“All the dancers were outstanding”**

Morgunblaðið, February 2008

**“The harmony of the dancers  
is great, some of the moves  
linked together in a very nice  
way contemporary dance and  
discreet hip-hop”**

Quest-France, November 2008

**Kvart was technically  
perfectly executed**

Kreiszeitung, Bremen, April 2010



## Awards

Winner of the Icelandic Gríman Awards in 2008 for Best Choreography

## Touring

**Caen**, France November 2008

**Reggio Calabria**, Italy, May 2009

**Akureyri**, October 2009

**Bremen**, Germany, April 2010

**Kuopio Dance Festival**, Finland, June 2010

## About Jo Strømgren

Jo Strømgren is considered by many the king of Nordic Dance Theater and his creations have been performed in over 50 countries. As the artistic director of Jo Strømgren Kompani, a theatre company specializing in nonsensical languages, he has surprised audiences and critics with his peculiar style. The company performs its mix of gibberish, live music, film, and puppet theatre worldwide and has achieved numerous prizes. As a freelance choreographer he is frequently engaged by ballet companies, such as Wiener Staatsoperballet, The Royal Danish Ballet, Ballett Nürnberg, Gothenburg Ballet, The Norwegian National Ballet, Ballet de l'Opera du Rhin, and others. He is also frequently commissioned to do contemporary dance pieces with companies like Cedar Lake, Danish Dance Theatre, Carte Blanche Dance Company, Cloud Gate Ensemble, ITDansa, abcdancecompany, Helsinki Dance Company, Iceland Dance Company, Bern Ballet, Bielefeld Tanztheater, and many others.

As a theatre director he specializes in the plays of Henrik Ibsen and is predominantly commissioned in the Nordic region, such as The Norwegian National Theatre, The Royal Danish Theatre, Reykjavik City Theatre, The National Theatre of Bergen, and others. As a playwright he has had about 10 plays produced at different state theatres in Norway. And finally, he directed his first feature film in 2003, "Destination Moscow", which was played in cinemas in Norway and on several festivals abroad.

## About Steinunn Sigurðardóttir

Steinunn Sigurðardóttir is one of Iceland's most prominent fashion designers. Steinunn studied in Parsons School of Design in New York. After finishing school she went to work in the Fashion Industry and was tutored by three of the most influential designers in high fashion, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein and Tom Ford. Steinunn spent 6 years at Calvin where she learned about the simplicity of a jacket, the minimalism of a skirt or a pant and about the essence of the American women. Steinunn joined Gucci in 1995 to become a member of Tom Ford's design team. Tom Ford's focus on rock and roll stars and high profile glamour, a complete opposite to Calvin's minimalistic style, brought her into a new dimension of herself as a designer. From there she went on to work for La Perla as a Design Director for their catwalk line, which was a new challenge,

Steinunn opened up a store on Laugavegur in Reykjavík in 2000 where she sells her own label "STEINUNN". The label is distributed to stores in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, England, USA and Japan



## Production information

Kvart is a dance performance in 1 part  
Duration 25 min.

### Minimum stage requirements:

10 by 10 meters floor space  
7m. high to the lighting grid  
Black marley (linoleum) dance floor  
Black sidelegs (preferably five (5) on either side  
At least 2m. of wing space on each side  
Black back drop with possibility to open in center.  
White cyclorama at furthest back wall

The decoration consists of a black empty stage, black back drop. A white wool carpet 4 by 8 meters, a white wool carpet 1,5 by 1,5 meters, a 2,5 meters long black bench and a full back drop on fly bar, 2 meters from zero line.

### Cast:

Performers are 8 in all: 3 male, 5 female.

### Technicians and company crew:

1 artistic director  
1 rehearsal director  
1 light technician and stage manager  
1 sound technician

### Set up:

2 days, the first performance on the second day. The set-up time is depending on the venue and its facilities.

## Contact information

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