

**COPENHAGEN
EDITION**

**From street
performer to
Netflix star –
an interview
with Lars
Mikkelsen**

**Anti-Russia?
Pro-Europe?
What were
Ukraine's
Maidan pro-
tests about?**

**The initiative
that puts a
human face
on a horrid
immigration
debate**



ISSN 2246-6150

Spirituality and the state

The national church Folketinget wants to remain relevant in a modern world

THE MURMUR

There's an election coming. You can tell, because of the ugly political campaigns targeting society's least powerful.

Opposition leaders Venstre promise to reduce unemployment benefits so that "it should pay to work" (det skal betale sig at arbejde), while the ruling Social Democrats printed a campaign informing immigrants and refugees that they should expect to work in Denmark.

Superficially, it does seem problematic that a family with three children can receive around 450,000 kroner without having to work. And it's definitely worth asking why three-quarters of refugees and immigrants who arrived in Denmark between 2000 and 2003 are still out of work a decade later.

There certainly are people who should be working but aren't, and are instead living on other people's taxes. But there are also multinational corporations that haven't paid a krone of tax in all the time they have operated out of Denmark, while charity IBIS estimates that the Danish state loses between three and five billion kroner a year through tax avoidance.

Acting tough on the poor and immigrants must be a vote winner; that's a sad fact. It appeals to our contempt for the weak, and our fear of being cheated. So we cut benefits and let immigrants know we have our eye on them. In turn, those who really couldn't fend for themselves end up even poorer, and immigrants have to fight discrimination to earn a place in a labour market they are already having a hard enough time joining.

There is broad political agreement that benefits and immigration need tightening. Which is interesting

in a country with a national church, Folkekirken, whose religious text states, in Deuteronomy 15:11, "There will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'"

We aren't a religious publication, and you don't need to be to recognise the wisdom in that statement. Making the poor poorer, doesn't create jobs. In fact, lowering unemployment benefits is likely to further reduce wages and create a low wage economy with working poor reliant on government support – the Walmart Model.

Something has clearly gone wrong if 75 percent of refugees are out of work. But being unemployed is the worst. Remember, many refugees are people who sold everything they owned and left everything they knew, to travel thousands of kilometres in search of a better life. So what's more likely, they suddenly arrive and lose all ambition? Or that those who try and find work – the ones not suffering from PTSD – come up against a labour market in a small homogenous country they are completely unfamiliar with?

We interviewed the Copenhagen Bishop in this issue for an article about the relevance of the Folkekirke in modern Denmark. He agreed that Jesus probably wouldn't be so happy with society today. But even through The Murmur's secular humanist eyes, we think politics has clearly gone wrong when at least one of the parties will win the election by bashing the underclass.

The more resources you have, the more responsibility you have to help others. Ayn Rand be damned!

THE MURMUR

Negative discourses have a greater weight than positive discourses. It's easier to use negativity to steer a debate

GABRIEL SABAN

page 10

CONTRIBUTORS



Elias Thorsson Elias is pursuing his masters degree at the University of Copenhagen, studying American politics. He is the assistant editor at The Murmur and wrote the article about the street attorneys, Gadejuristen.



Lesley Price An Australian freelance journalist hailing from Sydney, Lesley recently completed a masters degree focusing on Arctic media at The University of Copenhagen. This issue she interviewed the ethics professor Thomas Søbirk Petersen.



Khara Lewin Before moving to Denmark, Khara was a News Assistant at CNN and is now studying at the IT University of Copenhagen. This issue she wrote about the redevelopment of churches in Copenhagen.



Lesley-Ann Brown A Trinidadian American freelance writer living in Copenhagen, Lesley-Ann studied writing at The New School, NYC. She wrote about getting kicked out of school and moving to Trinidad aged ten.



Thomas Fleurquin Co-founder of The Copenhagen Post newspaper and founder of the Distortion Festival, Thomas writes a monthly column.



Oliver Raassina An editorial intern at The Murmur, Oliver focuses on art, culture and nightlife. In this issue, he selected three locations to eat, drink and party in the city.



Tali Padan A Copenhagen resident, Tali runs Mellem Education, offering trainings in intercultural conflict management. She wrote about the alienation of Danish bureaucracy.



Alice Minor Hailing from Seattle, Alice is working to understand Danish society through the lens of intersectional feminism. She wrote about the trans issues related to the filming of 'The Danish Girl'.

MASTHEAD

Peter Stanners Editor-In-Chief, peter@murmur.dk

Mark Millen Director, Sales and Marketing, mark@murmur.dk

Mette Salomonsen Art Director, www.salomet.dk

Kevin McGwin Journalist, kevin@murmur.dk

SALES For advertising sales, please contact: advertising@murmur.dk
CONTACT THE MURMUR, Hedebygade 14, st.tv., 1754 Copenhagen V.
info@murmur.dk

PRINT Trykkeriet Nordvestsjælland, www.tnvs.dk

DISTRIBUTION THE MURMUR is available at a range of businesses, institutions, cafés and public libraries across Denmark.

THE MURMUR is also available as a free digital download. Visit www.murmur.dk

SUBSCRIPTIONS For home or corporate delivery of the printed edition please contact: subs@murmur.dk

THE MURMUR is published 12 times a year.

This issue was published on March 30, 2015.

Cover photograph: Peter Stanners

Circulation: 15,000

CVR: 36198966



MURMUR.DK



FACEBOOK.COM/MURMURDK



@MURMURDK



DANISH
COURSES
IN HELLERUP
& LYNGBY

TIME ON YOUR HANDS? LEARN DANISH

INTENSIVE COURSES – SIGN UP NOW
WWW.SPROGCENTERHELLERUP.DK

T 3946 3050

W sprogcenterhellerup.dk

Bernstorffsvej 20, 2900 Hellerup
Klampenborgvej 221, 2800 Lyngby



SPROGCENTER
HELLERUP

MONTH IN REVIEW

Mark Harkin



Dane killed in plane crash

A Danish citizen was among the 150 who died when Germanwings flight U49525 crashed in the French Alps. Recovered flight recordings suggest that the co-pilot Andreas Lubitz locked the pilot out of the cabin and initiated a controlled descent, resulting in the crash.

Social Democrats not welcome

The Social Democrats launched a new campaign depicting PM Helle Thorning-Schmidt along with text stating that foreigners moving to Denmark should expect to work. The campaign was aimed at immigrants and refugees in particular, and belongs to a larger campaign aimed at reducing the number of people receiving benefits.

The campaign was met with hefty critique from the left wing, though the most poignant critique arrived from Swedish sister party Vänsterpartiet. Its Malmö branch released a mock poster with a picture of its Swedish-Gambian councillor Momodou Jallow. The caption called the Social Democratic campaign racist, and instead urged foreigners to move to Sweden where they would be welcomed.



JAIL FOR DEALERS

Cannabis dealers and distributors operating out of Christiania have been in court this week at the climax of a massive anti-drugs operation in the district.

66 people were convicted and handed a collective 157 years and nine months in prison for selling 12,539 kilograms of cannabis products. Police also confiscated 34,709,000 kroner in cash.

The longest sentences were four and a half years, and the shortest six months.

Elias Thorsson



Venstre attacks 'high' benefits

Liberal party Venstre also launched a new political campaign aimed at people on unemployment benefits, last month. The campaign claimed that a family with three children could receive around 454.215 kroner annually, if neither partner worked. With such little incentive to join the labour market, they want to introduce a benefits cap to bring the sum down – though they so far refuse to state how this cap would function. Their campaign was criticised, however, as the total included several benefits, such as child support, that are available to all people, not just those on benefits. “The numbers are misleading, as they give the impression that the unemployed have a relatively high income, but the benefits that are included have nothing to do with unemployment benefits, but that are also paid to all people with low income,” The Economic Council of the Labour Movement wrote in a press release.

- Classical, Jazz & Pop Piano
- Music theory & rhythm
- Courses for absolute beginners
- Courses for children & adults

www.jhmms.org
about@jhmms.org

Harman Music Methods®



MØ WON'T BOYCOTT ISRAEL
Pop artist Mø found herself in hot water last month when over 2,000 people signed a petition calling for her to cancel her planned concert over Israel's human rights record, and violations of international law. Over 5,000 people also joined a Facebook page demanding that Mø 'boycott apartheid'.
Mø replied by announcing that she would still go ahead with the show, but donate all proceeds from the show to Heartbeat FM, an organisation that works to foster understanding between Palestinian and Israeli youths. On Facebook, she wrote that performing in Israel does not mean she "endorses the actions of the state of Israel".



Shootings at a shopping mall
Two people were injured following a shootout at the parking lot of the Fields shopping mall in Amager last month. The incident is thought to be a showdown between rival gangs. Nine people have been detained in connection to the shooting.



FEW RECEIVE VACCINE COMPENSATION
A recent TV2 documentary claimed to uncover widespread side effects among girls and women who received the HPV vaccine. But of 88 completed claims for compensation, only three were successful – they received a total 4.3 million kroner. In the rest of the cases the symptoms were not found to be linked to the vaccine.

THOUSANDS DELETE HEALTH DATA
Last september it was revealed that doctors illegally sent large amounts of patient information to the health database DAMD. Doctors are only supposed to report a very limited set of information, but it was discovered that they were actually supplying far more sensitive information than they were legally allowed to. The practice was stopped and the responsible health authority, Region Syddanmark, offered to delete the data.
But despite the objection of culture minister Marianne Jelved, the state archive demanded that Region Syddanmark hand over the data for storage. While the data won't be publicly available for 230 years, Danes were offered the chance to have their data deleted and over 17,000 did so before the deadline on March 27.

GOVERNMENT LOSES BILLIONS IN BAD DEAL
Last year the Danish state sold 18 percent of its share in DONG Energy to American investment bank Goldman Sachs. The decision was met with strong criticism at the time, which has now resurface following the discovery that the shares were sold well below their actual worth. Finance Minister Bjarne Corydon's estimation was that the company was worth 31 billion kroner. This did not take into the account an already-decided deal with the UK government which would give the company a further 21 billion kroner in profits.



RYGAARDS SCHOOL
INTERNATIONAL AND
DANISH DEPARTMENTS

- High Academic Standards
- Christian Ethos
- Conveniently located in Hellerup

NEWSMAKER

SWEDEN TAKES ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS

Human rights violator and solid oil ally Saudi Arabia was outraged when Sweden cancelled an arms deal. It's actually a perfect gesture

We often roll our eyes at our neighbour across the bridge to the east. Drawn like moths to a flame, Swedes pour into Copenhagen's downtown clubs on weekends, slamming down beers that cost a mere 60 kroner, compounding the misery of inner city residents.

Their politically-correct ways are also a mystery to us. For while Denmark champions artistic bigots like Dan Park, Sweden sends them to prison. When Denmark tried to export a pro-tolerance black face performance piece to Malmö last summer, we were promptly told to leave.

But once again the Swedes have outdone us. Not content with just having the best pop band of all time, the best system for selling furniture, as well as the safest cars in the world, they have now stood up for their beliefs and entered a costly diplomatic brawl with possibly the worst country on Earth – Saudi Arabia.

THAT ESCALATED QUICKLY

The tussle started in January, when Sweden's foreign minister Margot Wallström criticised Saudi Arabia for its abhorrent record on human rights.

"This cruel attempt to silence modern forms of expression has to be stopped," she tweeted, referring to the 1,000 lashes and 10 years' imprisonment that had been handed out to Saudi blogger Raif Badawi for political dissent.

Then, in March, Saudi Arabia decided to block a speech that Wallström was due to give at an Arab League meeting in Cairo. Her speech did not explicitly mention



Sweden's foreign minister Margot Wallström condemned Saudi Arabia for its human rights record before cancelling an arms sale to the Gulf state.

Saudi Arabia, but was focused on human rights in the Middle East and the need to recognise Palestine.

Sweden responded to the snub by refusing to renew a lucrative decade-long arms agreement with the Arabian tycoon. Saudi Arabia and its close ally the United Arab Emirates accused Sweden of violating their sovereignty and recalled their ambassadors. Later, Saudi Arabia extended its rebuke by cancelling the business visas of all Swedish citizens working in the country.

Saudi Arabia is Sweden's 18th biggest trading partner and the business community has condemned the government for interrupting relations with such a lucrative export market – last year's Sweden's trade with Saudia Ara-

bia was worth around nine billion Danish kroner.

Saab said they would continue to sell radar technology to the country and the heads of 31 companies, including our favourite low cost, poor quality garment provider H&M, wrote an open letter criticising the move.

RIGHTS OVER TRADE

The move might harm Sweden's bottom line, but it is worth noting that Freedom House, a U.S. based human rights watchdog, consistently rates Saudi Arabia at the bottom of its *Freedom in the World* index, where it gets the lowest score in all possible categories.

There the country occupies a space with such countries as Somalia and North Korea, with the

This cruel attempt to silence modern forms of expression has to be stopped

MARGOT WALLSTRÖM, SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER

Elias Thorsson

latter being routinely faced with strict international sanctions.

Sweden is not the first country to cancel an arms deal with Saudi Arabia. Last year Germany cancelled the sale of Leopard tanks to the desert kingdom, due at least in part to their human rights violations.

In both countries there was opposition to the decision to cancel trade agreements, not only for economic reasons, but also because Saudi Arabia is an ally of the West in a region facing increased instability due to the conflicts in Syria and Yemen.

But in a world where profits and pragmatism are consistently put ahead of principles, it's reassuring when a country dares to take a hit for human rights. Bra gjort! **M**

Institut Sankt Joseph seeking Mathematics, Science and English teachers for our International Bilingual Program

Institut Sankt Joseph is looking for highly skilled, experienced primary and secondary teachers to join our exciting International Bilingual department. We are looking for teachers who are professional, committed to excellence and wish to promote the educational and formational mission of Institut Sankt Joseph.

THE POSITIONS:

From 1 August 2015 we need teachers to lead on the following subjects:

- Primary/Secondary Mathematics and Science following the Cambridge International Curriculum
- Primary/Secondary English following the Cambridge International Curriculum

OUR REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ You are a mother-tongue English speaker
- ✓ You have experience with the Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) program
- ✓ You are fluent or almost fluent in Danish (B2-C2 according to the C.E.F.R)
- ✓ You will be dedicated to the educational and formational mission of Institut Sankt Joseph
- ✓ You can be a classroom leader and contribute to the dynamic bilingual team
- ✓ You are able to communicate effectively with parents and students from different educational and cultural backgrounds

EVEN BETTER:

- ✓ You have experience with bilingual education
- ✓ You intend to be in Denmark for the long term
- ✓ You have a working knowledge of the Danish educational system

WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING:

As a teacher in our program, you will be required to work in a unique bilingual team, composed of both Native Danish and English speakers. You will report directly to the International Department Head and be involved in the following activities:

- lesson planning
- teaching
- parent teacher conferences
- student conferences
- evaluation
- daily communication with students and parents via the intranet
- team meetings
- participation in training programs
- participation in school committees that promote our formational/educational mission and team building

YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRAINING PROGRAM:

- Work at least one week in our bilingual summer program, which will run from weeks 29-31



MORE ABOUT YOUR PLACE OF WORK:

Institut Sankt Joseph is a private Catholic school located in the heart of the Østerbro district of Copenhagen. As of 2015, there are over 675 students, 65 employees; with both the students and staff representing culturally diverse backgrounds. We expect overall well-being and high academic levels to complement each other for both students and employees as we live our formational/educational mission. Our wonderful children come from over 55 different countries, which on a daily basis enliven our school with intercultural learning and international discovery. We see ourselves as a humanistic formation centre grounded in Catholic-humanistic values that are expressed in our school motto: "It is every human beings task to become human."

HOW TO APPLY:

You must have the necessary international and/or Danish teaching credentials, as well as meet the aforementioned credentials to be eligible. All applications should include a cover letter and CV. Please send both applications and CV's by mail to Thomas Knudsen Mulhern at tkm@sanktjoseph.dk

Conditions of employment will be according to the common agreement with the Danish Ministry of Finance and the LC collective bargaining agreement for leaders and teachers in private schools.

DEADLINE FOR APPLYING: 16 APRIL



Institut
Sankt Joseph

Copenhagen | www.sanktjoseph.dk/en

Dag Hammarskjølds Allé 17 | 2100 København Ø | +45 35 38 47 35



OBSERVED

'Crackpot' professor loses

It's a bad day to be a 'Truther'. The Eastern High Court ruled that it was OK for Weekendavisen journalist Søren Villemoes to call Niels Harrit – a 9/11 skeptic and Copenhagen University professor – a 'crackpot'. In an opinion piece, Villemoes condemned the decision to let the Turkish embassy deny the Armenian genocide at an exhibition in Copenhagen, comparing Turkey's position to 9/11 truthers, creationists and holocaust deniers. Harrit sued, lost, appealed, and lost again.



News Oresund

THE RENT IS TOO DAMN HIGH

Copenhagen's crazy rent levels can leave you crammed, broke and broken. But finally a majority in the city council have decided to embark on the biggest investment in affordable housing in recent history. 552 million kroner will be spent on building 6,350 apartments to ensure that Copenhagen remains a city where people of lesser means can live. "One of my biggest political ambitions is to maintain a capital where all kinds of people from different income levels can live side by side. A mixed

city where people can meet others from different social and income backgrounds," Lord Mayor Frank Jensen (left) said in a press release. Employment and integration mayor Anna Mee Allerslve struck a similar chord as Jensen. "Copenhagen is growing fast and especially families with children need sizeable apartments. That is why we are very pleased with the deal," she said. The programme will help keep rent levels down as the city continues to expand by 10,000 new residents a year.

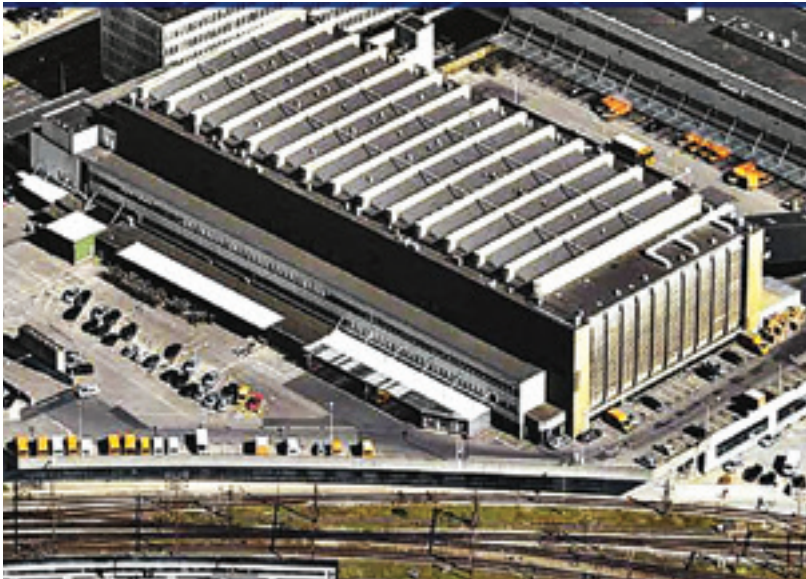
McFascist

The fast food industry is quite literally a dirty business. The food is awful and the wages are terrible, but recently the filthiness was taken to a whole new level by Taco Bell. The company aired an – admittedly rather beautiful – ad depicting "Same Land", where Gulag guards with clown makeup chase people down yellow slides, use ball pits as moats and make sure that everybody eats the same stale burgers. I wonder who they're referring to? Not. <http://bit.ly/1Cs0Dqn>

Elias Thorsson

PILLAGING THE POST

One of the most iconic buildings in Copenhagen, the post office's sorting terminal by the central station, Postterminalen, has been sold. The stately example of brutal modernism was bought for 925 million kroner by pension company Danica Ejendomme with backing from American capital fund Blackrock. The new owners plan on turning the iconic building into a business centre and office space. The Post Nord sold the building in response to a decrease in the amount of mail it has to handle in recent years. Operations will now be moved to a cheaper location.



Danica

THE MURMUR



Download the newspaper and discover additional online-only content **visit murmur.dk**

RESEARCH

Checking the health of the European environment

The European Environment Agency's latest report paints a picture of a continent driven by good intentions, but lacking the long-term policies needed to transition toward a sustainable future

Agriculture, fisheries, transport, industry, tourism and urban sprawl: human activity continues to degrade Europe's natural capital. Add to this global environmental pressures, driven by population growth and changing patterns of ever-increasing and unprecedented consumption.

This state of affairs is outlined in the 2015 State of the Environment Report (SOER 2015) from the Copenhagen-based European Environment Agency (EEA) – an EU agency that provides objective information on the environment. They release a SOER report every five years that reflects on trends and the state of the European environment, informing environmental policy over the coming five years.

This year's report is significant, as Europe is halfway between the beginning of its environmental policy in the early 1970s and major goals that have been set for 2050. The hope is to start living within the planet's limits within the next 35 years. But despite some positive short-term trends, the long-term outlook is less encouraging.

POLICIES ARE WORKING

One key finding is that political policies can make a positive impact on the environment. For example, despite a 45% rise in economic production, European greenhouse emissions have dropped by 19% since 1990. This move toward a low carbon economy is positive for the climate in general, while also resulting in cleaner water and air.

Environmental policies can al-

so positively impact the economy. For example, policies to reduce environmental degradation and preserve natural resources have driven a 50% growth in industries that provide these services between 2000 and 2011.

Europe is much less successful in its efforts to preserve biodiversity – the richness and variety of life forms on the continent. The EU estimates that biodiversity loss costs the European economy around €450 billion per year. But despite policies to protect vulnerable habitats and species, Europe is not on track to meet its target of halting biodiversity loss by 2020. Factors to blame in this regard include constant habitat loss, over-exploitation of resources, the growing impacts of invasive alien species and climate change.

Speaking of climate change, Europe is performing well in the short term but the long-term outlook is less optimistic. While the economic crisis lowered transport demand and reduced emissions, new policies are needed if we are to create sustainable transport systems. And despite the massive reduction in emissions since 1990, current policies are insufficient to bring the EU towards a planned decarbonisation in 2050.

DENMARK'S STATUS

Compared to other countries, the environmental outlook in Denmark isn't as dire. Recycling increased by 20% between 2004 and 2012, while the share of renewable energy in the energy mix rose from 5.8% in 1990 to 23.3% in 2012 – one of the three highest increases in Europe.

But while pesticide levels in groundwater have decreased, pesticide use still exceeds national limits. Air pollution remains a concern, especially particulate pollution from wood stoves and diesel engines, and levels of nitrogen dioxide in cities still exceed EU limits.

Denmark also remains one of



We might be using far more renewable energy, but the state of the European environment could be much better.

the most wasteful countries in Europe, producing 668kg of municipal waste per resident per year – the EU average in 2012 was 492kg.

Only around 3% of waste is land-filled, however, while over 52% is incinerated for heat and energy use. The government's resource strategy from 2013 aims to increase household recycling by up to 50%.

TECHNOLOGY AND POLICY

SOER 2015 cannot be adequately summarised in this research column. However, a key conclusion of the report is that systems of production and consumption are the root cause of environmental and climate pressures.

So if we want to live within ecological limits, a fundamental transition in how we produce and consume energy and goods is needed. The globalised nature of these issues makes them difficult to tackle. But by taking a lead, The EEA

A fundamental transition in how we produce and consume energy and goods is needed

argues that Europe can put itself, "at the frontier of science and technology".

But while environmental policies have benefited the health of Europe's ecosystems and its residents, more action is needed if we are to achieve the EU's ambitious long-term goals. By 2050, the EU envisions a sustainable, waste-free and so-called 'circular economy' that is low-carbon and whose growth is not dependent on resource use.

Achieving this, the EEA argues, will require environmental policies, technology innovation and changed behaviours – none of which are sufficient on its own. Ultimately, we will need to find completely new ways of doing things. Above all, transitioning to this new and sustainable "green" economy will require profound changes in institutions, technologies, policies, lifestyles and thinking. **M**

Peter Stanners

Putting a face to the immigration debate

A Facebook page tells the stories of Copenhagen's immigrants with the hope of painting a more nuanced image of its newest residents

Gabriel Saban isn't happy with what he sees when he turns on the TV. Politicians and other talking heads stand and discuss the problems of the day, and all too often the problem is he – the immigrant.

Instead of tuning out the debate and anti-immigration rhetoric, Saban decided to change the conversation. His course of action was to start a Facebook page, 'Mød os – Indvandrere I København' (Meet us – immigrants in Copenhagen) where he posts short interviews with immigrants, accompanied with a portrait.

Similar to Humans of New York (HONY) – a widely popular page that served as Saban's main source of inspiration – he doesn't include the names of the interviewees. What's most important, he argues, are their stories, which he hopes will create a new and more positive narrative about immigrants.

"When I read the posts on HONY I almost always identified with the people, even though I had never met them. So I thought this could be a way to connect Danes and immigrants," Saban explains over a light lunch in the University of Copenhagen's canteen.

"There are reasons Danes and immigrants aren't connected. I know I'm generalising, but the Danish culture is very closed. Danes are curious but shy, so they don't tend to make the first move. The language barrier is also a problem because Danish is hard!"

STARTING A NEW LIFE

Saban is originally from Argentina, and is married to a Dane he met in Cuba. Her strong family ties brought them to Denmark, but they were forced to spend six months in Sweden until they both turned 24. This is because of a

I knew
that if
they got to
know more
immigrants
they would
realise that
every single
story is
different

Peter Stanners



Peter Stanners

Originally from Argentina, Gabriel Saban is starting a life in Denmark with his wife. They have a child on the way.

law that prevents family reunification for couples if either person is younger than 24.

"The law makes me so angry. It's nonsense, you can't put an age on marriage!" he exclaims indignantly.

When he eventually was allowed to live in Denmark, he found a country with a simmering scepticism towards the intentions of foreigners.

"I kept hearing the same story: that foreigners were coming to Denmark just to claim welfare. It annoyed me, because it is such an oversimplified idea about immigrants. I knew that if they got to know more immigrants they would realise that every single sto-

ry is different. The fact is few people want to live off the state, and most come here to work and start a new life."

Saban was discouraged from starting the Facebook page by a number of friends, he says. But he's glad he didn't listen, as must the 5,200 people who follow the page – an incredible achievement, given that the page has only been live since December. Some posts have gathered close to 1,000 likes, and he has been interviewed by both metroXpress and on TV2 Lorry about the project.

The stories vary widely. There's a Lithuanian student who volun-

teers at an asylum centre and who decided to stay in Denmark two years ago after splitting with her Danish boyfriend. And a Syrian refugee who suffers from PTSD but is now a master's student and married to a Dane.

Not all stories chime with the readers, however. One post shows a woman, originally from Somalia, who is covered head to toe, accompanied by a very brief interview: "My story is a secret, my hair is a secret and my appearance is a secret."

A number of people objected, arguing that she was a poor example of integration. Saban disagrees, arguing that the woman is still a mem-

One example from the Facebook page 'Mød os - Indvandrere i København'



Gabriel Saban

"What I like the most about Viking age reenactment is that you get to be another person for a few days, while you meet other people that share your interest. That can be very difficult in other circumstances. For example, I lived for a week with an engineer that works for NASA, and every night we ate together like a family in Viking times, even though in reality we were from two different worlds. It was fun!

I am thankful to Denmark and my boyfriend for introducing me to this hobby. It encouraged me to start reading historical books, visiting museums and Viking settlements. I have learned so much about cultural artifacts and symbolism that are similar to the other Baltic tribes at the time, that I came to realize that we all have very similar cultural roots."

From Lithuania, four years in Denmark.

ber of the community, despite wanting to remain private.

"Her decisions are her own, and all we can do is listen and respect her right to express herself as she wishes," he says.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Saban ultimately wants to present a nuanced view on immigrants to challenge their overwhelmingly negative portrayal in the Danish media. For while there can be concerns related to immigration, the current narrative completely overstates the issues.

"Negative discourses have a greater weight than positive discourses. It's easier to use negativity to steer a debate. It's stronger because we pay more attention to it. Then [the arguments] get repeated and become self-reinforcing," Saban says, explaining why he thinks curtailing immigration is always high on the political agenda.

It's unlikely that Saban would make such an effort to affect how Denmark looks at immigrants if he wasn't invested

in the country. With a child on the way, he expresses little interest in returning to Argentina.

He can't completely escape his roots, however. When meeting a Dane for the first time, he tries to break the ice, but Danes can find the approach too confrontational. Despite this, he still opts for it.

"I left my culture and came here and chose to learn and embrace the Danish culture. Now I'm in a position to pick the things that I like from both cultures. This will, of course, modify culture and create something new. This is normally better, because we are creating bridges between cultures," Saban says.

"For example, I can now see a bad side of the Argentinian culture. When people have a debate where I am from, it is the person who gets angry faster who wins. That's because it must be the person who is most emotionally affected who must be right. But it's not like that here. If you get angry, you lose. You have to give arguments. And I very much believe that." **M**

IS LEARNING DANISH TOO BIG A CHALLENGE?



IA Intensive aims at making the impossible possible with a strong focus on pronunciation.

ia
SPROG



**IA SPROG Vibevej 9-11
2400 Copenhagen NV
+ 45 3888 3233
info@iasprog.dk
www.iasprog.dk**

"We're not as liberal as we think"

INTERVIEW Ethics professor Thomas Søbirk Petersen sheds light on the hidden problems of the 'liberal' Danish culture and shares his perspective on the concrete moral problems of society

"There was a case in Aarhus where two half-siblings – who hadn't seen each other for 18 years – met, fell in love and had a child. Danish law says they should be imprisoned for two years. But why should that kind of act be criminalised if they are consenting adults and if no one is harmed?"

Professor Thomas Søbirk Petersen caused a stir last November when he argued in favour of consensual sex between adult siblings. But it's not surprising that he holds such a view, as he's known for publicly raising ethical questions that most others avoid.

"A lot of people contact me because they think I have something controversial to say – which is often the case," he says, self aware of his progressive opinions on delicate subjects, ranging from sexual behaviour to modern medicine.

"I'm driven by all the important ethical questions, and I firmly believe that we are doing ourselves a major disservice if we don't try to answer these questions in a systematic and rational way."

Originally from Aarhus, he relocated to the capital as a teenager where he later started his study of philosophy at The University of Copenhagen. But instead of applying his studies to the theoretical, he was encouraged to use philosophy to reflect on some of the major problems our society has to face.

"It all began when my professor said 'Hey listen, we shouldn't waste our time asking ourselves if other beings exist. We should be asking, what kind of society should we have?'" Petersen explains. "Now I believe philosophy should be the basis of all our decisions."

HEALTH CARE FOR THE 'NORMAL'
Now a professor at the University of

I'm not saying bestiality is OK, I just questioned the necessity for a new specific law

Lesley Price



Thomas Søbirk Petersen is known for his controversial views on ethical matters.

Roskilde, Petersen has a column in Politiken newspaper where he has advocated punishing parents who don't vaccinate their children, and decriminalising performance enhancing drug use among athletes.

For while Denmark is ahead of the curve on many issues, Petersen argues that his homeland isn't quite the progressive nation it thinks it is.

"We're liberal, but we're not as liberal as we think we are. Take gay politics for example. We were front-runners but we lost our focus. For example, until 2007 lesbian couples were not allowed to participate in assisted reproduction and many still don't have access to reproductive assistance."

Infertility is a major issue in

Denmark and in many parts of the world, and around ten percent of all children born in Denmark are currently conceived following fertility treatment, according to the Department of Public Health at The University of Copenhagen. Despite the low fertility rates, women aged over 45 are not permitted to seek assisted reproduction through the public health sys-

tem. Between three and six percent in the age group are childless.

According to Petersen, one of the main justifications for the policy is the concern for parental lifespan – older mothers will be active for a shorter period of time than women who procreate earlier – and they will, on average, die earlier than young mothers.

"Should we really judge women according to their age in the realm of public health care?" Petersen asks. "We certainly don't do that to men, we don't say 'Oh you've reached a certain age - we can't help you anymore'. By the same logic you could say soldiers or policemen shouldn't be allowed to be parents as their jobs put them at risk of an early death as well."

Petersen criticises laws that prevent the adoption of embryos and the use of surrogates, and points for inspiration to the UK, which recently legalised the creation of children from the DNA of three people.

Petersen says while the freedom to give life should be available to everyone, the choice to safely end it in dire medical circumstances should also be permitted.

"We should legalise euthanasia entirely - there are very good arguments and situations that warrant it," he explained. "Particularly if a person is terminally ill, and if it's predicted that they'll suffer, and of course if it's consensual. There are types of cancers where you simply cannot relieve the pain, sometimes the patients cannot communicate with us so we just let them linger on in suffering."

THE LAND OF THE FREE?

Aside from Petersen's focus on modern medicine, much of his research has focussed on the philosophy of law and sexual behaviour, particularly the justification for what behaviour should be illegal. He has also focused on criminalisation theory and has been published in various international journals for his unique

observations.

"How can we justify what sort of sexual conduct is not OK? In Denmark we allow many lifestyles that other nations condemn as immoral – prostitution is illegal in many countries, and even homosexuality."

Petersen has actively participated in the debate about banning bestiality, after reports suggested that Denmark had become a popular destination for animal sex tourism. But Petersen doesn't think the law banning animal sex is necessary.

"I'm not saying bestiality is OK, I just questioned the necessity for a new specific law. During the debate the agriculture minister Dan Jørgensen actually posted on his Facebook wall that I was against the law that he had proposed, implying that I was in favour of bestiality – you can imagine the backlash!"

While the law passed, Petersen's views was supported by the president of the parliament's Animal Ethics Committee Bengt Holst, who argued that legislation already exists protects animals from suffering, pain, distress or lasting harm.

Ministers aren't alone in criticising Petersen's views, and he says it's not uncommon to receive threats on social media, or anonymous phone calls and letters.

"Some really want us to close down our university programme, but it's a small price to pay when you democratise your research," he said.

While most of Petersen's widely publicised perspectives generally divide the population, he does uphold one core philosophical belief that most can't argue with – everyone should make it their personal responsibility to alleviate global poverty.

"I think it should be compulsory for us to donate a certain percentage of our income – saving people's lives should be our number one priority," he says.

"If everyone could accept this as a basic principle, imagine where the world would be." ■

www.cis.dk



Our students go to Harvard, Cambridge and Bollywood Dance

As a parent you don't just want a school with strong academics. You want an international school with strong academics that makes your child happy. A place that offers exciting After School Activities in addition to the renowned IB curriculum. A school where children from all over the world fit in, feel welcome and find new best friends.

CIS is such a school. We are a founding member of the IB and we offer the Primary Years Program, the Middle Years Program and the Diploma Program, which gives access to outstanding universities worldwide. **For more information please visit cis.dk**

Copenhagen
International
School





Bishop of Copenhagen, Peter Skov-Jakobsen, photographed beside Copenhagen's cathedral Vor Frue Kirke.

The church that built Denmark

In a nation that praises secularism, it's odd that there is a national religion that receives a privileged status in the constitution. But while Folkekirken struggles to stem its diminishing membership, the Bishop of Copenhagen argues it has a lot to offer in a complicated, modern world

I think that if Jesus saw today's society, he would admonish us for how we treat minorities and for our lack of community and togetherness. He would also be deeply disturbed by how we forget each other, don't grieve together, and how we run from our problems," says Peter Skov-Jakobsen, Bishop of Copenhagen in Denmark's national church, Folkekirken.

His opulent office overlooks Copenhagen's cathedral, Vor Frue Kirke, whose neo-classical columns hint at both lasting and fading power. Folkekirken has certainly been stronger, as church membership has been dropping over the past 25 years. However, 78% of Danes remain members, making Folkekirken Denmark's undoubted spiritual powerhouse.

The church's origins lie in the Reformation of 1536, which split the Protestant church from the Catholic and forever changed Europe. The church became integrated into the monarchy, with the king as its highest authority. The first Danish constitution of 1849 formalised this relationship, cementing Folkekirken – the 'People's Church' – as Denmark's most important institution after the monarchy and the government.

"The Evangelical Lutheran Church shall be the Established Church of Denmark, and as such shall be supported by the State," reads section four of the Danish constitution.

Skov-Nielsen's sumptuous office and the subdued, yet palatial, Vor Frue Kirke, are a testament to Folkekirken's status at the heart of Danish society. In an age of increased secularisation and scientific understanding, there is reason to wonder about the role, status and the future of this grand old establishment. But Skov-Nielsen is adamant that a place remains for the Church in modern society.

"We have now lived so long with natural and social sciences, that we know they are subject to interpretation – religion is no different. Folkekirken symbolises the fact that truth must always be interpreted, because the church has to accommodate voices from both the right and left wings. But regardless of interpretation, religion gives us the opportunity to think about the existential and the banality of existence – of joy, loneliness, sorrow. All these things can be understood and expressed with religion," says Skov-Nielsen.

A ROLE IN A SECULAR SOCIETY

Skov-Nielsen has a warm demeanour and his eyes light up with conviction when discussing the future of the church and Christianity. He speaks a little like a politician, which isn't surprising given that, as Bishop of Copenhagen, he is one of the most powerful and influential people within the church.

The other ten bishops of Folkekirken's dioceses are his equals, however, as the organisation has no centralised authority and no archbishop – as in the Church of England – who can speak on behalf of the whole church. Instead, individual parish priests settle matters of faith and doctrine, with each diocese's bishop having the final say on all decisions.

"Our job is to be an open forum where we can discuss and debate. I believe that Christianity has solutions and that it can give the powerless a voice, a means of expression," he says, adding that in these fast times of technology and individualism, the need for Christianity has never been greater.

"Christianity has a lot to offer to people in this complicated world," he says. "We live in a very different reality than our ancestors. We are constantly affected by speed and acceleration. It's a world where we don't have time for deep conversa-

People don't feel that they need the church following its merger with the state. When we have problems, we don't turn to our priest, we turn to our social worker

ANDERS HOLM, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

Elias Thorsson

tions. We sometimes need a reason to stop. There is a church on every street corner in Copenhagen, and when you enter that space most people can sense that the walls can accommodate both the large and small questions that we all carry with us, regardless of what life we lead."

It is difficult to argue with Skov-Jakobsen's observation about the speed of our society and his diagnosis of post-modern individualism. Just a few generations back, the complicated questions we face had superficial answers – God, King and Fatherland are simple truths for difficult issues.

While Jesus might not be happy with modern society, Pope Francis has taken a strong stance on material inequality. The Catholic leader's entry into the political sphere has aroused critics, but Skov-Jakobsen argues that it is the role of Christianity and churches like Folkekirken to remain opinionated and active in society.

"In 1943, the Danish bishops released a statement saying that the murder of Jews was wrong and that we had to speak up. But we must also protest injustice today. Jesus always pointed to the powerless and he always said that those who serve are the great."

But just because Folkekirken takes a stance on social and political issues, that doesn't make it a political party Skov-Nielsen argues. "We don't march," he says, succinctly. And while Christianity has been tainted by immoral acts carried out in its name, Skov-Nielsen says that abuse and mistakes are a sad part of life and being human.

Folkekirken's declining membership is balanced by a growing use of church facilities in recent years. One explanation is that its loose structure has allowed individual parishes to develop their own way of reaching out to the public – from night services and

brunch, to youth outreach and nude weddings.

A SHARED CHURCH

But Folkekirken's role in Denmark has involved more than simply caring for the spiritual wellbeing of the Danish people; it has also been instrumental in forming the modern state.

Anders Holm, associate professor at the University of Copenhagen's Department of Systematic Theology, claims that the legacy of Christianity is still alive and well in Denmark and that understanding its influence is vital to understanding Denmark.

"I have a colleague who claims that there is more Christianity in Denmark than Islam in Saudi Arabia," he says, joking about the connection between church and state in Denmark.

"It's interesting that even though most people don't go to church regularly, there is a lot of Christianity in both our culture and society," Holm says, explaining that Folkekirken played a pivotal role in shaping two of Denmark's most characteristic features – social cohesion and the welfare state.

"When you have an institution that connects such a big share of the nation, you help create social cohesion. In the US, for instance, you have many small independent churches that were often built around a single community. Because of the way the church was set up here, people have been forced to associate with others they otherwise would not have. So Folkekirken helped establish a sense of community across society and class boundaries."

This sense of shared identity and religion helped form a society that believes in the public good; but in Holm's view, the Reformation's massive administrative overhaul was equally important.

"People often overlook the his-

Parish pries Liane Dambo keeps Krist Kirke in Vesterbro open late on Thursday nights. She thinks people don't realise how diverse the Folkekirken really is.

torical fact that the church was the central provider of social programmes and welfare. So when the church merged with the state, the state effectively took over duties such as caring for the poor.

"People often credit the Social Democrats for the state's social role but, in reality, the welfare state has a lot to do with the combination of church and state."

The situation is different in countries where the church and state have always been separate, Holm argues. In these countries – such as the US and many African countries – local churches are often the main supporters of the poor and disenfranchised.

"Maybe people don't feel that they need the church following its merger with the state. When we have problems, we don't turn to our priest, we turn to our social worker."

CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

The status of the church and its tight-knit bond with the state has been widely discussed. The government's coalition platform included a call to further separate the two – a move supported by professor Svend Andersen from the Department of Culture and Society at Aarhus University.

"In many ways, we have the most old fashioned connection between church and state in Europe. A modern society would not want to be associated with, or give financial support to, one form of religion and church," he explains. "I also think the Folkekirken would find it beneficial to have more of a say in its own actions."

Folkekirken takes its orders from the government's Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs, but their relationship has, at times, been tense. Recently, a priest went on the radio to criticise the more modern ways of worship, but was promptly reprimanded by his bishop. This led former priest and current MP for the populist Danish People's Party, Christian Langballe, to call on the Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs to fire the bishop.

"Judicially, this form of intervention is permitted, but it doesn't make much sense that politicians would intervene and decide what is right and wrong for the church," Andersen says.

The government's recommendation to modernise Folkekirken's structure was ultimately shot down by right wing parties in parliament, leaving the church and state entwined in a relationship that has been abandoned by its neighbours in Sweden and Norway.

Folkekirken's future is subject to

We live in a very different reality than our ancestors. We are constantly affected by speed and acceleration. It's a world where we don't have time for deep conversations

PETER SKOV-JAKOBSEN, BISHOP OF COPENHAGEN

far more pressing issues than its administrative structure, argues Andersen. Fewer people may be leaving Folkekirken, but it faces its greatest challenge in the capital, where only around 61% of residents remain a member – significantly below the 78% national average.

"Folkekirken isn't in crisis, but it is clear that the church needs to find a way to communicate in a modern society," Andersen says.

Another challenge facing the church is Islam's increasingly visible role in Danish society. Danes would better understand Islam if they first understood their own religious heritage, Andersen argues. The meeting of the two faiths could even serve as a positive platform for bringing together the people behind them.

"Folkekirken will need to decide how it wants to interact with Islam. Some within the church are very sceptical, while others are very open. So the question is how to find a sensible way of approaching the topic. I think a big part of that is getting young people to study theology so

that we can produce some good and clever priests."

A NIGHT IN A CHURCH

Moments before the bishop ducks into a taxi that whisks him off to dinner with the American ambassador, he declares that Folkekirken's current pluralism means there has never been a better time to be a priest.

"You meet so many different people and have so many interesting conversations. There is also an increased interest in Folkekirken's offerings in recent years. So even though the membership numbers may be dropping, we are very privileged."

You don't need to travel far to find it. Walking home one evening from The Murmur's offices, I passed Kristkirken on Enghavevej, its illuminated interior lighting up the grey sidewalk. It wasn't the first time I had noticed it open so late, and I recall feeling that it was out of place among Vesterbro's hip cafes and trendy bars.

Remembering the bishop's final words, I decided to go inside. I have hardly spoken to a priest since two

grumpy old conservative men performed my confirmation when I was a teenager in Iceland. This mental image of a typical priest remained imprinted on my mind, so I was surprised to be met by parish priest Liane Dambo. She spun through the atmospherically-lit church in her puffy red skirt, as two groups of young women enjoyed coffee to the sounds of soft electronica music.

"People don't know about how many different things we have to offer, because we aren't good enough at telling them," Dambo confides.

"When people go to a bad service they often write off the church and don't go and check out another church. That's a shame because there might be a priest they like more."

Being in church at ten in the evening on a Thursday is definitely different. And Dambo breaks the mould of what I expect from a priest. Sitting there, listening to her speak, I couldn't help but feel that this sanctuary from Vesterbro's trendy individualism might actually have its place in this world. **M**



Peter Stanners



Thomas Skou

Christianity might be on the decline in Denmark, but it remains deeply embedded into the national identity.

The Life, Death & Rebirth of Absalons Kirke

Shrinking congregations forced the closure of eight Copenhagen churches in recent years. Now enterprising developers are transforming the former places of ritual, into sites of spontaneity



Peter Stanners

Absalons Kirke in Vesterbro is in the process of being repurposed as a community centre. The pews on the left have been removed to help the developers reimagine the space

ON ONE of the first sunny days of the year, I start the four-storey climb up to the bell tower of Absalons Kirke. I reach the top landing and Henrik Gadegaard opens up the windows, letting in a cool breeze.

“We just took the church bells out a few days ago,” Gadegaard says. “We’re not sure what we’ll do with the space yet, but we’ve discussed converting it into a hotel room available only to those who have been married here.”

It is difficult to imagine what the bells looked like when they were there, or how far they could be heard when they rang. All that

remains in the now-empty room is the mechanism for the tower clock and the view over Vesterbro. Sønder Boulevard snakes below like a green river dotted with jungle gyms, skateboard ramps, and basketball courts.

Gadegaard is the business director of Absalons Kirke's redevelopment into a community centre. After serving as a church for around 80 years, the church was put on the market and bought last year for 10.25 million kroner by Lennart Lajboschitz, the mastermind behind the Tiger chain of stores.

We head downstairs and survey

the immense, half-empty nave from the balcony where the organ once stood. There's space for almost 300 people beneath the vaulted ceiling, but the pews are now stacked on one side of the building. The radiators hidden below are now bare and exposed.

“No decisions have been made on the pews. But we’re working on brainstorming some new applications. And in the basement, we’re adding toilets and showers that will be available for public use,” says Gadegaard.

Lajboschitz's ambitious vision for Absalons Kirke is not his first foray into cultural life. Last year, he

We just took the church bells out a few days ago.

HENRIK GADEGAARD

Khara Lewin

opened the Tiger Spil Bar, what he calls an ‘anti-café’ in the city centre, where people can meet over a game of table tennis, backgammon, chess or just pop by for a cup of coffee.

His vision is for Absalon Kirke to become something similar.

“We hope that the place can become a catalyst – a space where your thoughts and values can be transformed into actions,” Lajboschitz explains.

It's a counter-intuitive proposal – a church that looks like a church and smells like a church but isn't a church. Repurposing churches is not a new idea, however, and Lajboschitz believes this one will ful-



Peter Stanners

OLD CHURCHES - NEW LIFE

LEFT: Absalons Kirke in Vesterbro was closed last year and was bought by Lennart Lajboschitz, the mastermind behind the Tiger chain of stores, for 10.25 million kroner. Lajboschitz's plan is to turn the former church into a community centre.

BELOW: Colliers International is in the process of finding a new buyer for Blågård's Kirke in Nørrebro. The rendering is a winning proposal for how the building could be repurposed by a future buyer, and was dreamed up by Robert Fournais from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, and Catrine Zorn from the Danish School of Media and Journalism.

We hope
that the
place can
become a
catalyst
– a space
where your
thoughts
and val-
ues can
be trans-
formed into
actions

LENNART LAJ-
BOSCHITZ, FOUN-
DER OF THE TIGER
CHAIN

fil a new need in the community.

“My mission here is to provide the ideal conditions for social cohesion. It's what I believe in. We hope to create a ‘hyggelig’ setting where you can be with your girlfriend, boyfriend, father, mother, kids, grandkids, friends and so on. And have fun. If we do that, then we will have succeeded.”

NEW TIMES, NEW SOLUTIONS

In 2013, the Diocese of Copenhagen put forward 14 churches for closure in response to the dropping number of church members in the city. The government agreed to close just eight of them.

Several of these churches found new congregations, such as Bavnehøj Kirke, which now houses the Serbian Orthodox Church, while three, including Absalons Kirke, were put on the market. The sales of Blågård's Kirke and Samuels Kirke, both in Nørrebro, are being handled by commercial real estate firm Colliers International.



Robert Fournais and Catrine Zorn

Peter Lassen, Colliers' chief operating officer and partner in commercial real estate, finds himself in a unique position, operating in a relatively new market while trying to find suitors that meet the high standards of Folkekirken's independent outreach organisation, Kirkefondet.

“We conduct an intensive screening process of every bidder, because we can only present offers that our seller, Kirkefondet, is willing to consider,” he explains.

After the successful sale of Absalons Kirke to Lajboschitz, they also managed to sell Samuels Kirke in Nørrebro, which will be converted into youth apartments. With only Blågård's Kirke remaining, Lassen and his team want to find an even more radical solution.

The possibilities with these types of properties are nearly endless, they argue. To prove it, they hosted a design competitions for students who were asked to come up with ideas for repurposing the

properties, with the goal of inspiring potential buyers.

“Students often have a different way of thinking than established professionals do. They aren't concerned with the various restrictions surrounding historical and preserved buildings, or the economic aspects of a development process. And these factors can become limiting,” Lassen says, adding that students tend to focus on ‘softer’ values.

“These are values that Kirkefondet is also very interested in embracing and finding in potential buyers.”

The person responsible for reviewing all the submissions is Louis Becker, a partner and International Director at Henning Larsen Architects, who is looking for ideas that open the church up and turn it into an integrated public space.

The winner won't necessarily see their ideas materialise, Lassen hastens to add. Instead, the competition is about starting a conversa-

tion about the property, and inspiring bidders in the process.

A NEW DAWN

Today on Sønder Boulevard, Absalons Kirke is in the early stages of a transformation that will see it switch gears from a place of worship to a community centre – from a place of ritual to a home for spontaneity.

“We are planning to be open from seven to midnight during the week, and until two AM on the weekends, so we'll need a lot of activities in order to keep the place buzzing all the time,” says Lajboschitz excitedly. “We hope to be able to cooperate with all the many fantastic things that are happening in Vesterbro every day.”

The gravity of the task facing Lajboschitz and Gadegaard isn't lost on them.

“A church is a spiritual place. And in that way, this space is perfect to live out the mission that we have for it,” Lajboschitz concludes. **M**



Bavnehøj Kirke was also among the churches slated for closure. It now houses the Serbian Orthodox Church.

DRAMA

COOKING

DANSK

ENGLISH

SPORT

DISCOVER
INSTITUT SANKT
JOSEPH
AND YOUR
POTENTIAL

SUMMER
PROGRAM

SOMMER
SKOLE

13/7-31/7 2015

PRIVATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL - AGES 5-16



Institut
Sankt Joseph

Copenhagen | www.sanktjoseph.dk/en

Program and registration

www.sanktjoseph.dk



CLOSE TO
ØSTERPORT STATION

TANYA HAWRYLYUK – 27

Tanya played concerts from a stage during the protests and between the front lines of the police and demonstrators. She sees Maidan as the birthplace of a new nation that isn't owned by either the EU or Russia.

"There was a sense of cohesion at Maidan. We know this is true. We can't linger in the past or get lost in dreams of the future. The biggest change has occurred in the hearts of the people – we feel like a free people and we are proud to be Ukrainian. No Russian propaganda can change my mind."



Cobblestones were dug up and used as projectiles during the maidan protests.

a breaking up

Photojournalist Malte Kristiansen returned to Kiev a year after the Maidan protests, which unseated president Yanukovich and sparked a conflict with Russia. We interviewed him about his experiences in the country

What started as a popular uprising has now descended into a proxy war between Russia and the West. Over a million people have been displaced and, by some estimates, as many as 15,000 have been killed in the Donbas War in eastern Ukraine, where Russian-backed separatists are attempting to seize control of the region.

The first dominoes fell in November 2013 when protestors occupied Kiev's central "Freedom square", Maidan Nezalezhnosti, after President Yanukovich refused to sign a free trade agreement with the EU. The protests continued and became more violent, culminating in a confrontation between police and protestors in February 2014 that left almost 100 dead and thousands injured.

Russia's ensuing annexation of Crimea and the subsequent Donbas War have since stolen the headlines. Noticing a lack of focus on the Maidan movement, photojournalism student Malte Kristiansen decided to travel to Kiev in November 2014, a year after the protests started. Through portraits and interviews, he attempted to gauge the mood in the city and people's reflections on the movement.

The resulting work, entitled "Opbrud" ("Breaking up"), was Kristiansen's final project in his photojournalism studies at the Danish School of Media and Journalism. We sat down with Kristiansen to find out more.

Why did you decide to focus on the Maidan protests

"I couldn't believe any of the heavily biased media stories I had been reading. Russia cast the protestors as Nazis and argued that it would be the second time that they would

have to defend themselves from them. I couldn't believe that, but I also couldn't believe the beautiful portrait painted by the Western media of a pro-democratic youth who want to be part of the EU. I think many Ukrainians don't really know what the EU is and I don't think that was what the protest was about for most. Mostly, they were just against Yanukovich and not necessarily for something.

"But I also went because the Maidan Revolution had taken place in Europe's backyard but was only covered intensely in February 2014, even though it had started in November the year before. When Russia annexed Crimea, the Ukrainian revolution was co-opted by larger geopolitics.

"The Maidan Revolution was superseded by a discourse about the "New Cold War". So the project was about trying to maintain a focus on what happened on the Maidan Square one year earlier – to take the discourse back from Russia."

What was your process for choosing and meeting your portrait subjects?

"It was actually a pendulum between being very organised and totally going by chance. I needed a broad representation of men and women, young and old. I also wanted to show how people participated – there were old women making soup and medical students building makeshift hospitals – and how these people's perceptions differed. I found that the Maidan Revolution was seen as everything from a revolution of dignity – some really feel this was the key to a brighter future – to a revolution that was just replacing one set of

corrupt politicians with another.

"I made a matrix out of these different factors and used it to start reaching out to different people. I think I made 21 portraits, and there are ten in the final project."

What are your lasting impressions of Kiev?

"What I really found inspiring is that the Ukrainian people seemed to feel empowered by it. People told me that after the USSR collapsed, all these rich corrupt politicians had gained power, so nobody cared about voting because they knew they would get cheated anyway. And now there is a real feeling that they can do something.

"When you look around Kiev, you see the Ukrainian flag waving and the slogan "I am Ukrainian" everywhere. They are embracing their nationality and really trying to define what it is to be Ukrainian.

"Coming from Denmark and being Danish, this is very interesting. I feel we have lost that debate because it has been taken over by the far right. I would never wave my own national flag because if I did that, people would think I was voting for the far right. So I think it was interesting to see how they are now able to have that sort of open discussion."

What about the process of actually getting people on camera?

"Sometimes it was difficult to get the kind of picture I wanted, because they have a visual culture where you stand, smile, and have your picture taken. And I don't work that way. They were very willing to let me photograph them, it was easy to get access and peo-

The Maidan Revolution was seen as everything from a revolution of dignity, to a revolution that was just replacing one set of corrupt politicians with another

Phoebe Cowen & Peter Stanners

**All images and interviews:
Malte Kristiansen**

ple were eager to talk, but it took some time before people understood that it wouldn't just take five minutes."

"It actually helped that I was shooting on film and that I used a big clunky camera, a Pentax 67 mark II, which is essentially a massive SLR that shoots onto 120-film. I shot lots of rolls of each of them and it took time to change the film, which slowed down the whole process, so people understood it was a process and not just a photo."

Do you think there are divided communities, that the country is split in two?

"No, I think that many people want to paint that picture. I can only speak for what I experienced in Kiev, but there are not these strict divisions between people's perceptions. Many people have talked about the language divide between those who speak Ukrainian or Russian, but I really didn't experience a clear divide. You couldn't even reduce it to simply saying that the youth are pro-Maidan and the older population is pro-Russia."

What about the name of the project, "Opbrud", which means "breaking up" in English? Is that what you felt?

"The meaning is not that rigid. It doesn't just mean the breakup of the country. In Danish it's more like something that has been set into motion. I wanted a title that had a hint of revolution – it's not a stretch to call it that, as the violent protests brought about political change. But it also has the sense that something is on the move, or that a change is coming."

The word Ukraine means 'borderland'. The country finds itself wedged between Europe and Russia, and that has defined it both historically and geographically. Following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, it arose as an independent nation, but has had difficulty forming an identity. The Maidan protests have made some progress, however. While the protests were called both pro-European and anti-Russian in the media, the label that seems to stick among the Maidan protestors is that it was pro-Ukraine.

Excerpt from 'Opbrud'



GEORGIY LUKIANCHUK – 54

"During the protests, people slept wherever there was room. Some came from far away – others just needed a rest and a bath," he explained.

His little office was transformed into an interim hostel for demonstrators. Among piles of paper and computers, three stones stand in a row. They are from Solovki Island, where his grandfather was worked to death in a labour camp under the Soviet Union.

Georgiy demonstrated for independence from Moscow in 1991, during the Orange Revolution in 2004 and in the Maidan protests. "I demonstrated against Yanukovych and Russia on Maidan Square. I don't think we need more revolutions – now the country just needs to flourish."

**VALENTYNA VARAVA – 50**

"The changes are coming more slowly than I had hoped. Maidan was a turning point. Before that we didn't believe that changes were possible and we could take responsibility for them."

During the protests she helped the injured. First she stood guard at the public hospitals to ensure that injured demonstrators were not arrested at the entrance. Later she was an assistant in an underground hospital. Now she prepares first aid kits for soldiers in the east and has just one overriding wish for the future: "peace".

**ALEX RYABCHYN – 32**

"I see myself as a little virus that will dismantle the corrupt system from the inside."

Alex is a newly elected member of the parliament and knows that changes will come slowly.

"I hope that in 20 years we can look back and say that Maidan was a turning point where we headed for less corruption and a more modern society. It's not only about economic growth – it's just as important to create a society where people can realise their potential. We might fail, but if we fail we have only ourselves to blame."

**ALEXEY PEDOSENKO – 30**

Alexey takes out his winter coat. It still smells of smoke from the bonfires and burning tires last winter. After a few weeks of protest, it became routine to meet at the square every day. He helped break up cobblestones that were used as projectiles, cleaned up and occupied the area so it couldn't be vacated. Memories of the night at Maidan are as fixed in his mind as the smell of smoke on his jacket.

"Most of us are changed after the long winter on Maidan Square. It was overwhelming. I have never experienced so many good people in one place and I don't think I will ever again be a part of the energy created by such a gathering."

**MARYNA CHORNA – 31**

It was impossible for Maryna to stay home after she saw the violent pictures of students being beaten up. She started to help with providing food for demonstrators and finding places to sleep for the many out-of-town activists.

"I lived in Poland for a few years and was considering moving away from Ukraine. But I decided to stay in my country to fight for a free and democratic Ukraine."

**MARCO SHARYI – 27**

Marco's first impression of Maidan was its absurdity – women with expensive manicures breaking cobblestones and businessmen cancelling meetings to demonstrate. With time he discovered a different, more appealing structure of society. It was efficient and self-organised, without the bureaucracy that plagues Ukraine.

"It dawned on me and other Ukrainians that we could do anything ourselves. We realised that we could determine our own destiny and fight for the right to live an ordinary life. Maidan pushed us out of the bubble where we thought we had no choice." M





Rolf Konow

Kjeld Jensen, Yvonne Jensen and Benny Frandsen, and Egon Olsen – the characters otherwise known as Olsen-Banden.

Looking for answers in the Olsen-Banden films

From gender roles to drinking culture – my integration journey was given a massive boost once I started watching Egon and the gang

When I moved to Denmark from the US three years ago, I didn't know the language, I didn't know the culture, and didn't really know what to expect.

Learning Danish was a priority. Only then could I really participate in the culture I had chosen to live in, to understand its norms and relate to their different ways of living. For while most people here speak English, Danes speak Danish to each other.

So this past year I have immersed myself in the language and culture. From learning Danish on the job, attending language classes or participating in social events, I'm learning more and more about the Danish culture every day.

For example, gender roles here are almost non-existent. Women might not have achieved

equal pay for equal work, but the trend is definitely in one direction. I've seen a bearded hunk picking up his kids from school and met the women carpenters, construction workers, executives, small business owners, each one hustling in everyway like their male counterparts.

It has been exciting to witness, but fresh questions arose. Why are gender roles in Denmark less fixed to what I'm used to? How did women create this level playing field? It couldn't have happened overnight – someone must have led the way.

Soon after I was introduced to the Olsen Banden films – an iconic series spanning over 30 years. My friend assured me that the films would provide some insight into contemporary Danish culture and the changing role of women.

Why are gender roles in Denmark less fixed to what I'm used to?

Khara Lewin

And he was right.

For the uninitiated, the films focus on a trio of non-violent thieves, led by Egon Olsen. Each film normally starts with Kjeld and Benny picking up their fearless leader Egon from prison. They then head to Kjeld's home where they sit around the dining room table and plan their next heist.

YVONNE CALLS THE SHOTS

It takes some time to sink in, but after a while it's clear that Kjeld's wife, Yvonne – who cooks and cleans and is in almost every way femininity personified -- is the one with the actual power.

For example, in Olsen Bandens *Store Kup*, Egon shares his plans to carry out the biggest heist they've ever committed. Although the

score will be relatively easy, Benny and Kjeld are skeptical about going after millions of kroner. That is, until Yvonne enters.

She reminds Kjeld that they have to pay for an expensive party for their son Børge, and tells Egon he would be better off finding a new gang if Kjeld and Benny don't get their act together soon.

Egon is speechless and, with nothing else to add, is forced to give her the last word. While Kjeld and Benny are busy licking their wounds, Egon tries to understand how Yvonne convinced the gang to follow the plan when he, himself could not.

Then there is *Deruda* where, to Egon's dismay and confusion, Yvonne breaks gender stereotypes one after the other. As the gang assembles around Kjeld and Yvonne's dining room table, Yvonne hands Kjeld and Benny a list of chores to be completed before she returns home. Wash the dishes, clean the kitchen, and don't forget to move the sofa when you vacuum the living room, she says.

Egon can hardly believe his eyes as Kjeld and Benny promise to take care of the house work. When he asks Yvonne where she is going, she replies rather matter-of-factly that

she has a driving lesson. Egon's jaw drops. He cannot believe that Kjeld has *allowed* his wife to learn to drive, and asks why Kjeld has let it go this far.

But once again Yvonne gets the last word, and when the gang is in desperate need of a getaway car driver later in the film, her prowess and control behind the wheel impresses not only Egon but Mr. Larsen too, Yvonne's driving instructor.

SACRED TUBORG

Whether Yvonne's character was written intentionally to highlight these gender roles and then to crush them is hard to know. But there could be a bit of revisionist history at play here. The first film, *Olsen Banden*, from 1968, stands in stark comparison to the rest of the series in many ways but in particular, Kjeld and Yvonne have three children: Børge, Birge, and Lillesøster but no mention of Birge and Lillesøster is made in the following films.

Perhaps it was just a minor oversight? Or maybe it was done to free up money the budget? Whatever reason, it gave Yvonne's character the opportunity to represent Danish

Yvonne is stunned by Benny and Kjeld's cowardice and unleashes her fury on the two of them

women on a number of levels and not only as a mother of three.

Although, today these instances may not seem so out of the ordinary, when these films were released, they were. This is made apparent through the other female characters portrayed in the films – mostly Bond-girl types, prostitutes and cleaning ladies.

They represent the status-quo and exist to remind us as viewers that Yvonne is different. Yvonne is in a class of her own. She represents where women are going and not where they've been.

The Olsen Banden films provide many other insights into Danish society and culture. For example, in one film the gang manages to evade the police after hiding in a Tuborg beer-truck. The police wouldn't stop and search the truck in fear of delaying crucial lunchtime deliveries of the essential thirst quencher.

Today, most young Danish women haven't watched these films in the same way that I have and may not see Yvonne as the trailblazer that I believe her to be. But Yvonne's impact doesn't resonate with this generation of Danish women, her impact resonates with their mothers, with the women that raised them. **M**

INTERNATIONAL FULL-TIME
MASTERS PROGRAMME
(IN ENGLISH)

MSc SPATIAL DESIGNS AND SOCIETY

Consumption, designed places and design processes from a societal perspective. Strong analytical skills to become a design consultant.

APPLICATION DEADLINE
International students 1 March
Danish students 1 April

RUC.DK/SPATIAL-DESIGNS-AND-SOCIETY
ROSKILDE UNIVERSITY, DENMARK



A
star
struck
star

Lars Mikkelsen, photographed the back yard of his apartment building in Vesterbro.



Lars Mikkelsen used to earn a living as a street performer. He even considered becoming a professional clown. Instead he became an actor and recently starred opposite Kevin Spacey in House of Cards. Probably the right career decision then



Lars Mikkelsen slowly lopes across the street, hands stuffed in the pockets of his puffy coat. Head stooped, the sun catches his face, forming dark valleys across his sharp, sunken features.

They've portrayed the optimism of mayoral candidate Troels Hartmann in *The Killing* (Forbrydelsen), and the ruthless Russian Presi-

dent Viktor Petrov in the Netflix series *House of Cards*. Released this winter, the latter is his second major international breakthrough, after he was cast as a villain in the acclaimed TV series *Sherlock*, alongside star British actors Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman last year.

But the success hasn't gone to his head. The 50-year-old arrives wearing the same jacket and hat combo he has worn in every interview I've seen him in, and we meet in a Vesterbro cafe, close to where he lives with his wife of 25 years. With his sideways smile and reluctance to make eye contact, Mikkelsen is an unorthodox TV and movie star.

"I hate being cocky, I loathe it. I'm just not that secure, I'm not afraid to admit it. But I know it's silly and that I should find something else to do than stand up in front of loads of people. I've been offered the chance of hosting live events and I always turn them down because I need a part or role to play. Give me a part or role, then I can stand up," he says, before laughing. "It doesn't sound too healthy does it?"

STAYING CLOSE TO HOME

The parts he receives tend to be powerful, taciturn and intelligent men, such as Danish detective Harald Bjørn he played in the recent pan-European crime drama *The Team*.

"Scandinavian actors are known for a brooding, naturalistic style, which I took a little further with Harald. He's very good at his job, but very private. Which I think is true of Scandinavians. We aren't Victorian, but we are a little suppressed on a personal level. The Scandinavian man holds back because their women are so strong."

Mikkelsen comes across as a thoughtful and modest 'Scandiman' whose professional ambition is buried beneath a reticent exterior. So it's hard to detect the entertainer buried within.

"I was pretty convinced that I wanted to be a clown," he says of the five years he spent as a professional street juggler before he joined the Dan-

You have to have complete awareness of that apparatus – of your emotional state, your bodily expression, the whole thing.

Peter Stanners

ish National School of Theatre aged 27. "I didn't exit the womb with a clear notion that I wanted to end up here."

From performing on the streets to appearing in an internationally-acclaimed television series available to almost 60 million people worldwide, Mikkelsen might have come a long way professionally, but he hasn't travelled far geographically – his new home is only a few kilometres from where he was brought up in Nørrebro.

Back then it was a working class district, with buildings in the now-spacious court yards. These back buildings were cheaper, and was where he and his family first lived as a young boy. But as his parents found better jobs they moved into a front building, just off Nørrebrogade.

"It was a good life. There was an old printing factory in the back yard that was rather abandoned and only used for storage. We broke in and started up clubs, climbed roofs that were five or seven metres above ground. Thinking back I realise how fucking dangerous it was."

NOT STICKING OUT

Few people pay attention to Mikkelsen as we talk in the café, and he likes that. It's a typically Scandinavian experience, he explains, that famous faces blend into the surrounding and are left alone. It's one edge of a double-edged sword called 'Janteloven', the Danish tall poppy syndrome best summed up as, "you're not better than anyone else".

But while many deride Janteloven for suppressing the celebration of success, Mikkelsen sees it as a unifier. Belonging to a community of talented achievers enables you to elevate your craft – without them you can't succeed.

"Scandinavian nations are very laid back, you feel part of a bigger community. Standing out too much isn't valued, but there is also a nice feeling of belonging, so you don't want to rise above it."

What pulled him out of the tight-knit Danish acting community was his performance in the crime series *The Killing*, which was an unexpected hit in the UK. While he was unsure of his ability to succeed abroad, he was in need of new experiences.

"At some point you have to shove off and try something else. Even when you're constantly being challenged with creating new characters, it can get repetitive here. And really, I've only just discovered that this craft could take me other places – I didn't quite believe that I could. I didn't really think I spoke English well enough, and I thought it was too difficult. I didn't want to presume. I'm not that confident, so it took a while to really give it a go."

SIBLING SUCCESS

And he's glad he did. Working with Cumberbatch, Freeman and Spacey is the highlight of his career,

he explains, though it took some getting used.

"I was always star struck because these guys are so good at what they do. I really look up to people who are good at what they do. So a bit of healthy star struckness isn't out of the way," he says offering an embarrassed half laugh.

"I love the job, I really do. I love cultivating what I know and getting better at my craft. I love meeting people like Mr [Kevin] Spacey or Benedict [Cumberbatch] or Martin [Freeman]. They are such kick ass actors; you really have to step up to match them. The investigation of the craft is the most interesting thing for me, and not the pay off."

Mikkelsen's international success is all the more remarkable given that his younger brother is Mads Mikkelsen, best known abroad for his role as the Bond villain in *Quantum of Solace* from 2006, and as the cannibal psychiatrist Hannibal in the eponymous TV series.

With less than two years separating them, they started their careers as actors almost simultaneously in the mid 90s. Mikkelsen says they've never been in competition – in the early years Mads preferred cinema while Lars focussed on theatre – and they've managed to coexist in the industry without it fraying their relationship. Having a sibling who understands what you're going through can be an asset too.

It is notable that a sibling pair has achieved such success in the same competitive field. They both graduated from the Danish acting education that only accepts 24 students per year and is notorious for being the second-most expensive state education after pilot training.

"You're not playing a Stradivarius, you're playing yourself," explains Mikkelsen on why the acting education can be a gruelling and unforgiving experience for some young people he has encountered.

"You have to have complete awareness of that apparatus – of your emotional state, your bodily expression, the whole thing. That can make you weird for a few years because you're constantly in conflict between what you can do with it, and what you're supposed to be able to do with it. You can get disconnected from real life."

We cross the street and enter the back yard of his apartment building. As I take photographs we chat about how he chose Bjørn's British accent in *The Team*, before talking again about the joys of working with talents like Spacey.

We take some photos inside the fenced off basketball court, but they're no good, so I tell him to stay where he is while I look for a better angle.

I walk away and when I turn back toward him, he appears transported far away. Relaxed, with his hands in his pocket and eyes closed, he takes a deep breath and savours the air – the simple satisfaction of early spring air. **M**



His latest appearance on Danish television was in the period drama '1864', in which he played Thøger Jensen.



As Russian President Viktor Petrov opposite Kevin Spacey in the third season of 'House of Cards'.



As detective Harald Bjørn (centre) in the pan-European crime drama 'The Team'.



HERLUFSHOLM SCHOOL

- Two fantastic weeks at summer school

Herlufsholm Summer School
17 July - 31 July 2015

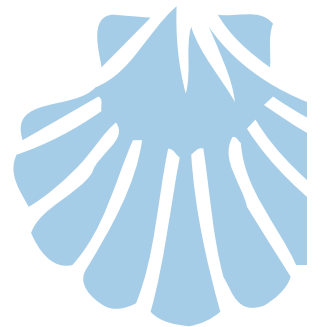
Two fun weeks for
teenagers between the
age of 13 - 15 years old

Spend two fun and exciting weeks during the summer holidays at Denmark's oldest boarding school in the company of 13-15 year olds from around the world.

The programme offers Danish studies divided into different levels, sports and creative activities, as well as field trips and other experiences. Learn about Denmark, meet new friends and enjoy the unique, historic and beautiful surroundings Herlufsholm has to offer.

Herlufsholm School is a Danish school rich in traditions with many students who have parents living abroad.

The beautiful surroundings, historical traditions and strong values all contribute to the framework for education at a high professional level. At Herlufsholm School there is room for individuality and ambition as well as focusing on both personal and academic development.



SPONSORED CONTENT

Summer School at Copenhagen International School

For three weeks this summer, children and adolescents will have the opportunity to experience an international learning environment.



From drama and creative writing, to physical education and sailing, there is a wide range of activities and learning available at Copenhagen International School's summer school programme. Running for three weeks from Monday, June 22 through to Friday, July 10, the programme is available to children and adolescents ages 4 to 15. Danish children are welcome to join on June 29 when their school is over!

AGES 4-6 – *Music, Drama, Physical Education, and Art*

Back by popular demand, we are pleased to offer a summer programme for the younger students. The two-week programme is an excellent opportunity for children to engage in exciting, fun learning activities to further stimulate their language and social skills. This will be achieved through differentiated activities, and a developmentally-appropriate practice to accommodate all learners.

The early childhood summer programme is based on the PYP curriculum, and will consist of a daily schedule designed to engage your child's interests. The focus is to provide a wide-range of language-building activities in a positive, play-based setting. Your child will enjoy exploring the many interesting learning experiences. There are limited spaces available.,

This is a great opportunity to experience the atmosphere of the country's largest international school

so sign up quickly to secure a spot for your child. For further information, please contact: FarinaMarriott@cis.dk.

AGES 6-8 – *Cheerleading, Art, Introduction to Danish, Drama, EAL (English as an Additional Language), EAL & Computers, Irish Dancing, Let's Build It! and Sport.*

Each activity lasts for one week, and is sometimes repeated in the second week. The exception to this is EAL where the second week will be a continuation of the work started in the first week. For those students starting the EAL programme within the second week, integration within the already established programme is facilitated.

For the seventh year running CIS Summer School will be offer-

ing the opportunity for students to take part in an original Drama workshop. This programme hopes to develop the workshop method further by creating alternative possibilities of performance to include more music and possibly the creation of their very own characters!

AGES 9-12 – *Cheerleading, Art, Creative Writing, Introduction to Danish, Intermediate Danish, EAL (English as an Additional Language), EAL & Computers, Fencing, Forensic Science, GeoCaching, Sailing and Sport.*

Each activity lasts for one week, and is sometimes repeated in the second week. The exception to this is EAL (English as an Additional Language), which will pick up in the second week where it finished in the first. We are very excited about the Exploratory Science Class, which will delve into the Forensic Sciences. Furthermore, there are new course offerings! Within the areas of language we are pleased to offer Danish courses for both beginners and intermediate students. For those who are more active, we are pleased to offer GeoCaching and Sailing.

AGES 13-15 – *Cheerleading, Art, Creative Writing, Intermediate Danish, EAL (English as an Additional Language), EAL & Computers, Fencing, Forensic Science, GeoCaching, Diploma Art, Improv*

Theater, Sailing and Sport.

Each activity lasts for one week, and is sometimes repeated in the second week. The exception to this is EAL, which will continue in the second week where it finished in the first week. GeoCaching and Sailing are activities that run the entire day.

GREAT DIVERSITY

Last year, we welcomed students from 38 different countries, each with varying levels of English competency. Our highly trained staff offers a dynamic classroom environment. This truly international learning environment challenges students from both Denmark and abroad to practice their English and challenge their skills. One of the great results of the programme are the international friendships that students make.

Kristjan Jespersen is responsible for the Copenhagen International Summer School: "This is a great opportunity for local Danes as well as expats to experience the atmosphere of the country's largest international school. We have assembled a group of highly qualified and enthusiastic teachers and they have the most modern technology at their disposal - the result should be very dynamic and exciting activities."

Visit the school's web site under "Student Life" for further details and to sign up: www.cis.dk



OP-ED



XiaoJun Deng

“Be satisfied, the system works”

How is it that a system that prides itself on its fairness, is so frustratingly impossible to access?

Three years in Denmark taught me how far understanding can be from empathy. It started at a visit to the immigration office. I was amazed at the efficiency of the queuing system. You take a number for a quick query at the reception, and they place you into the appropriate waiting section. It is a perfect waiting system. You can't complain. And if you can't complain, you must be satisfied.

Having the perfect system guarantees equality, and fair and just treatment – but only if you fit into the system. If you don't, this equality is not for you.

So, for my first year and a half in Denmark, I tried to fit in. I learned Danish and looked for work, thinking my MA in Conflict Management and my fresh attitude towards making a difference would be in demand. It turned out that both worked against me – there was little interest in my skill set, and much less in my energetic approach to changing the system. Even in the NGO sector, the best candidate seemed to be the person who could keep the system exactly as is. I wrote many emails trying to meet with people working in this sector, and after getting very few replies, I tried to resist the temptation to become cynical.

I met a Dane at a bar one night who, after some small talk, said,

“Let me get this straight. You're from Israel, and you want to do conflict management in Denmark?”

I laughed too, but his question got me thinking. Perhaps I'm in the wrong place to do what I want to do. Perhaps the system is too perfect. It doesn't need change.

Then I joined the Trampoline House, a community centre for refugees and asylum seekers in Denmark. I didn't go there to volunteer or to try to help anyone. I just wanted to be in a place where you don't have to plan two weeks in advance to have a coffee with someone. To meet people who, like me, are somehow outside the system.

It turned out to be my refuge, too. The people I have met there, from Denmark or elsewhere, have all felt the frustration of the closed system. While many of us don't really know what to do about it, we share an impulse to try and make the conditions more bearable, especially for those who are not outside of the system by choice.

The people I met at the Trampoline House showcase the world's inequalities, debunking and laying to rest the notion that the system works. Youth workers in Danish NGOs can luxuriously fly to the Middle East and

Africa to 'fix' and 'develop' what is deemed 'underdeveloped', but when those countries' citizens come to Denmark, they need to sit in a classroom, learn Danish and 'integrate'. They need to smile and be *hyggelige* and bow down to the democracy that reigns around them.

I wonder if the comforts of such an organised system as the one that exists in Denmark have blocked people's ability to empathise. I once entered a friend's collective as they were eating a great big dinner and exclaimed, “Wow, that looks great, I'm so hungry.” They looked up and smiled. On the wall was a list of who was eating dinner that night, with guests included. I wasn't on the list.

I don't expect to be warmly invited to every dinner I happen to walk in on. And I would not label any of those people as cold or stingy. I just wasn't part of the plan. I am pretty sure the topic of “how to bring guests over” had been discussed at a house meeting. Each person would raise their hand to express their opinion. If too many hands are raised, one person would be assigned the moderator's role, and set an order for people to speak.

In the process of giving everyone a voice, we end up with a series of individual contributions,

I just wanted to be in a place where you don't have to plan two weeks in advance to have a coffee with someone

each expressed in isolation from the next. The meeting ends up being another waiting list. Take a number, wait, speak, next. Equality and fairness is maintained. Uncertainty is avoided, along with spontaneity. An unexpected guest comes along, and there is no need to think about what to do.

The system works.

The problem with such a perfectly organised system is its certainty. The uncertain and uncomfortable moments in life are access points to life's biggest lessons. The need for answers to every possible future uncertainty kills our natural intuition, our spontaneity. We fall asleep at the wheel as the system drives us around in circles.

The perfect system is best viewed from inside the bubble. Once in a while, someone will come along to remind the people inside that he cannot get in. What will they do? Create another system so that they don't have to deal with this uncertainty? Or question the borders of the system?

Questioning the borders of the system also means questioning your own internal boundaries. Are you ready for this? **M**

Tali Padan

COLUMN

The transrepresentation of Lili Elbe

The life of artist and transgender woman Lili Elbe is being filmatised in *The Danish Girl* – but not all transgender advocates are thrilled

Hollywood stars have descended on Copenhagen, closing Nyhavn and Charlottenborg for two weeks. They're filming a biopic of Danish artist Lili Elbe who, in 1930, was the first transgender woman known to undergo sex reassignment surgery.

But while the *The Danish Girl* promises to be a blockbuster, it is highly controversial in transgender communities. Elbe will be played by Oscar-winning Eddie Redmayne, a cisgender man (see factbox).

The problem is this: casting a man in makeup to play a transwoman has the potential to reinforce the notion that transwomen are men in heels – that transwomen are men acting like women.

To many transgender people this description is not simply inaccurate: it is an affront to their self-truth.

The issue was also raised when Jared Leto was cast as a transwoman in the movie *Dallas Buyer's Club*. Online trans resource TransAdvocate argues that regardless of the quality of his performance, "[Leto's] presence at publicity events and awards shows [makes invisible] the people on whose backs Leto has earned accolades. When Leto shows up, on-screen and off, he's aiding the idea that trans folks aren't real."

It could be argued that this critique asks too much of *The Danish Girl*. The film will at least portray a strong, creative, influential transwoman to a general public largely clueless about the transgender community.

Concerns, however, are well founded. A ten-year study of transgender representation in scripted US television carried out by GLAAD – a US-based media monitoring agency – found that: transgender characters were cast as 'victims' at least 40% of the time, at least 21% of storylines showed

Cisgender: A person who has been perceived as and identified with the same gender their entire life.

Transgender: A person who identifies with a gender different from their assigned gender at birth.

Gender Affirming Surgery: Surgeries that change a person's body to align with their desired gender expression.

Sex Reassignment Surgery: Surgery to change a person's sex organs.

Alice Minor



Lilie Elbe, photographed in Paris in 1926

transgender characters as killers or villains, 20% of transgender characters were sex workers (this was the most common profession portrayed), and at least 61 percent of episodes catalogued included anti-transgender slurs.

"Until the media treats transwomen with respect," explains Janet Mock, American author and transgender advocate, "society will continue to see us as less-than-human creatures – to be gawked at."

The story of Lili Elbe currently circulating in international and Danish media portrays a man, artist Einar Mogen Wegener, who decides to become a woman. Purportedly Lili Elbe came out when her lover's female model cancelled and Elbe offered to fill in.

I don't know Lili Elbe's gender

identity. If Lili Elbe were alive today she might tell us she grew up a man and became a woman – contrary to the description of gender identity above. Perhaps she would explain she was always a woman who had the opportunity to express her true gender as an adult. Regardless of Lili Elbe's personal truth – the transgender experience portrayed in *The Danish Girl* holds the power to cement truths about being a transgender person.

This poses two problems. First, the "man-to-woman" narrative assaults the personhoods of transgender women and sensationalises transwomen by shifting focus from identity journeys, to genitalia.

Secondly, without contextualization *The Danish Girl* can easily be spun to suggest that Den-

mark has been at the forefront of transgender rights. But Lili Elbe had to travel to Germany for medical attention as a transwoman in 1930. And, 85 years later, Danish transpeople continue to seek healthcare in Germany and elsewhere because the Danish health system fails to provide adequate or timely access.

Since September 2014 there has only been one treatment option available for all transgender people in Denmark, the government-run gender clinic Sexologisk Klinik. Transgender people face a dismal set of choices. They can stay in Denmark and wait years to start a treatment in which patients have reported being met with suspicion and homophobia, they can pay for treatment abroad, or lastly risk the black market.

According to activists and founders of Transpolitisk Front, Magnild and Elvin, the clinic still considers transgender identity a mental illness. Focus is placed on sex organs as determinants of gender. Transgender people who do not wish to undergo sex reassignment surgery are met with suspicion regarding the authenticity of their trans identity.

Outraged Danish trans activists are demanding to be treated as experts over their own bodies. They insist on the right to equal treatment in the medical system under the premise of informed consent, which is available to most people with comparable health concerns.

For Lili Elbe, pioneering the surgery was important enough to risk – and ultimately lose – her life. Some transgender people may choose to be a man with a vagina or woman with a penis. Others don't bother with the categories of 'man' and 'woman' at all. As *The Danish Girl* enters popular awareness it is critical that trans individuals are neither forgotten, nor have their identities invalidated. **M**

Wikimedia Commons

ESSAY

Don Quixote and Patrick Swayze: A modern love story

Often the story of how we fulfilled our dreams can seem as implausible as the tale of a misguided knight errant and his trusty steed

When the classic surfer film *Point Break* was released in 1991, I was sitting in a small classroom in Manhattan, poring over books in an elite, left-wing university. I had ignored my high school teachers' warnings, and opted for the lesser-known university and its radical syllabus. I was thrown into Marx, Keynes, Kierkegaard and Descartes, and introduced to one of my favourite books of all time, *Don Quixote*.

I had landed in literary heaven. Reading it before the class was an enthusiastic and buxom blonde who cried when Don Quixote died at the end. She taught us the book's historical significance, and I laughed out loud as I read Cervantes' masterpiece to myself.

The story follows Don Quixote, a man so obsessed with books about knights errant that he eventually convinces himself that he is one. And so off he goes, confounding everyone he meets with this fantastical idea of who he believes himself to be. To him, Rocinante is the most gallant of horses, while to others he is a sack of bones. How could you not fall in love with a character so in love with his own vision of the world?

The story demonstrates the genius of narrative and the ability of what we read to affect us. Before movies, there were books. Before books, oral tradition. Narrative is important – we learn vital lessons about life through storytelling. And my story back then was, well, yes, *Don Quixote*.

At about this same time two young men in Copenhagen were watching *Point Break*. After watching it, they decided they needed to move to Hawaii and learn to surf. Just like Don Quixote – they decided to go out into the world and be surfers.

But unlike Don Quixote, they



Ben, with his surfboard and sun-bleached hair.

couldn't just walk out their front door and declare that they were surfers. They had to work, save money and exercise discipline. And they did. And they went to Hawaii. They learned how to surf, made friends with the notoriously standoffish locals, and got gorgeous tans. After their stint in Hawaii, they were ready to return to Denmark.

But to get home to Copenhagen, they had to travel through New York. It is the day of my

graduation – the night where the writing majors present excerpts from the novellas that we wrote to pass the course. In The Atrium, a beautiful room on 11th Street right off of 6th Avenue, I am reading from *The Mothers of Memory*, and in walk two very blonde, tanned Danes. One of them, Benjamin, would later become my husband and the father of my son, Kai.

There's a lot more to the story, but this was the point at which

Narrative is important – we learn vital lessons about life through storytelling. And my story back then was, well, yes, 'Don Quixote'

the seeds of a new narrative were sown. Which narrative would it be? Once, long after our son was born, Benjamin and I were sitting on a beach in Maui. As we looked out to the horizon, he said, full of wonder, "I wonder what it must have been like to be on those ships sailing towards these islands, seeing them for the first time."

Without missing a beat I replied, "I wonder what it was like for the inhabitants of these beautiful islands when they first saw those ships coming towards them, forever altering their world?" Hawaii didn't even have mosquitoes before the Europeans came. Can you imagine Hawaii without mosquitoes?

Although we were worlds apart, there were some things that united us. Benjamin introduced me to nature. I slowly shed my big-city fear of sleeping in tents, and one of my best memories forever will be of camping with him and Kai in Hawaii (it rained all night through a hole in the tent, and while Kai and I slept soundly through the roar of the flash storm, he remained awake, bailing the water out). Benjamin introduced me to Tisvilde – off-season, the best time to be there. We went camping throughout Denmark and Sweden.

Our marriage didn't last, but there is one thing that does: my respect for him. It's not often you hear someone speak highly of their ex-husband, but his integrity is the stuff that greatness is made of.

Thank goodness for *Point Break* and the hopeful dreams of two young Danes. For if it weren't for them, I wouldn't have had the biggest treasures in my life: my child, and the fulfilment of my lifelong literary dream of a life in Europe. **M**

Lesley-Ann Brown

COLUMN

We need to talk about drugs

In our modern age, why is it that a successful and healthy mother of three cannot publicly admit to her moderate drug habit?

I recently met an old friend from high-school, and we got to talking about how weak-willed and politically-correct daily life is in Europe anno 2015. Even with the internet – mankind’s gigantic common subconscious – you would hope that there would be more honesty and straight talking than there is. Instead, we have Facebook, a giant pile of conformity and superficiality.

It’s sad that we can’t share truths, for risk of a social backlash. Like this story my friend told me, that she shares anonymously. Here goes.

“I am a 42-year-old modern European female, raised in Paris with a French father and a Dutch mother. I live in a big European city and in every imaginable aspect of life, I am a healthy, successful modern woman. I work as a chief executive for my own NGO where I direct several mid-to-large size projects in Africa and Asia, with almost 20 fulltime employees and over a thousand volunteers.

I am not a millionaire, but I make a very comfortable living – think senior lawyer or doctor type of income. I have three children, am happily married, my husband is also self-employed, though he makes much less than I do. We eat organic food, have a semi-luxurious home, a beautiful cottage in a forest and I am regularly featured in lifestyle and culture magazines for my workspace – for being a successful wife and mother of three. Moreover, I am physically and mentally healthy, I am not driven by fame, success, power or money. Occasionally I exercise.

“Simply put, I live a good life. And I do drugs.

“Not because I am stressed out, addicted, or in need of escape. I do drugs because I see no reason not to. When others open a good bottle

Cocaine is boring on its own, but it is the perfect companion to alcohol and a dinner party of six or eight guests

**Thomas Dalvang
Fleurquin**



Ryan Haran

of red wine after putting their children to bed, my partner and I like to take hallucinogenic mushrooms.

“I have no idea how often it happens, probably less than once a month. I just starting taking recreational drugs during my youth, and I simply never found any reason to stop.

“Cocaine is boring on its own, but it is the perfect companion to alcohol and a dinner party of six or eight guests. I hold such dinners a few times every year where we openly use cocaine during and after dinner. Our favourite drug is MDMA or ecstasy, the only problem is that it can take a few days to recover from the lack of sleep and since we have three small kids, we do this rarely.

“I find cannabis to be more destructive, potent and antisocial than any of the ‘hard drugs’ we use, and I find it hard to understand that cannabis use is legal where I live in Holland. But when it comes to health issues in general society, cigarettes and alcohol are ultimately the worst health offenders.

“I don’t smoke and I drink in moderation. I have run marathons

and birthed three kids and I never took drugs while I was pregnant. At most I have taken drugs twice in a month, but because it takes a little time to recover, often I can wait six months. In these periods, I get no random urges to take cocaine or any other drug.

“I understand that these drugs can be addictive to others, but they aren’t to me. The simple fact is that all the cocaine, opium, ecstasy, mushrooms, ketamine, 2CB and acid I have taken has had very little impact on my life.

“And drugs aren’t going away. The war has failed, and it doesn’t make any sense to keep drug use hidden in a shadowy, secret and illegal world. All of my friends in my generation – doctors, architects, marketing people, executives, consultants, and politicians – have a relaxed outlook on drugs. I also know many people who have never touched hard drugs and have only ever smoked pot. To each to his own.

“So I have borrowed Thomas’ column to say that drugs are alright. It’s sad that even in liberal Holland, I cannot stand up and publicly say

this, because I am a small-time public figure. I work daily with politicians, and interact with teachers at my children’s schools and kindergartens. Speaking out would do more harm to them than to me.

“There are caveats. You should never work under the influence of any drug. And while all can feel low from time to time, I never take drugs to escape. Instead, I go for a run or lie alone in bed and watch some TV. I don’t find it hard to not take drugs in these circumstances, though I know others might be more tempted. But for people like me, who can manage a safe, responsible and moderate relationship with drugs, it really makes no sense to keep quiet about it.

“I have heard about the Danish magazine *Illegal!* that is sparking debate about the drugs issue. And I am constantly reading articles about how drug legislation in Europe and the US has failed. This column is my small contribution to this debate.

“I just want us to speak more openly, not only about drugs. About everything.” **M**

COLUMN

Punk Jesus: The truth and the fury

We learn a lot from our mothers. Most importantly, I learned the two gospels of the powerless

I was raised by a single mother who was the lead singer of a punk band during my early childhood. Her band wasn't famous – it was the early 90s, and punk was pretty much over – but I still remember watching her concerts and listening to her punk records.

One band I connected with almost immediately was The Clash. Their catchy riffs and socially conscious lyrics instantly resonated with me, and I still regularly listen to songs like 'Know Your Rights', 'Straight to Hell', and 'Magnificent Seven'.

I was also drawn in by the charismatic persona of their front man, Joe Strummer, whom I admired throughout my teen years, but I was never particularly interested in the fashion of punk – you've got to be pretty shallow if your clothes have to do the talking for you.

But what I did get out of punk, besides the music, was the ethos – that it's better to focus on the weak than the strong, that you should always strive to be yourself, and that you shouldn't let others hold you back from being who you want to be. With all of that came a healthy dose of fuck-the-system mentality.

This early punk upbringing was one of two schools of thought that shaped my worldview. The other was Christianity. After all, my mom the punk is also very religious. I was baptised and confirmed and spent many wonderful summers at a Christian summer camp. Before bed, my mother and I would pray together.

The form of Christianity I learned from my mom and the National Church of Iceland is a far cry from the firebrand version practiced in American megachurches. I don't remember anyone talking about hellfire and damnation,

teaching that homosexuality is an abomination, or seeing priests that lived like kings.

I was taught to love my neighbour, to try to be a good person, and to accept my flaws. In many ways, this was the same theology that punk preached – to be kind and to care for those who are worse off.

I try and live by these principles, but I'm not ideological. Ideologies are too narrow, and they lack the pragmatism needed to tackle real world problems. Principles, on the other hand, are more like a lighthouse in a fog. They don't tell you where to go, but help you as you find your own way. There is no set course, just a general direction. That's why I know that politicians who say they have simple solutions to complicated problems are either ignorant or fraudsters. They are often both, but they are never neither.

It is worth mentioning that today, I don't consider myself a Christian – more a Christianity-inspired agnostic – and I am way too preppy to be a punk. But these ideas are still with me.

Both these schools of thought were based on an underlying idea, the rejection of rampant materialism, which they were later completely lost to.

Christianity started out as the religion of the poor, a social movement that spread amongst the destitute and starving. British Punk, in particular, was started by the young and unemployed in the de-industrialised urbanity of the late seventies. In many ways, Jesus was the original punk.

Later, one would become the most powerful entity on earth, and the other would become a multi-million dollar industry.

Christianity started dominat-



The author, backstage with his mother before she played a punk show.

ing people's lives instead of liberating them. Punk became a massive moneymaking enterprise. The camel squeezed through the eye of the needle, and The Clash sold out to Levi's.

Movements lose their way when they transition from a collection of ideas into institutions with an agenda and followers. Punk and Christianity were meant to break down power structures and offer an outlet to unhappy outsiders, but now they belong to the status quo that they were meant to challenge in the first place.

When the angry poor attacked shops and looted flat screens and sneakers during the 2011 London riots, they were severely condemned. No matter how angry you are, you don't attack private property, and you don't steal. The public and politicians rightly criticised the rioters for grabbing materialistic objects and for trying to benefit financially.

But what else did the rioters have to believe in? There are no rev-

**Movements
lose their
way when
they transi-
tion from a
collection
of ideas
into institu-
tions with
an agenda
and follow-
ers**

Elias Thorsson

olutionary ideas anymore. Labour unions are fading, and don't resonate with young people. Politicians are all basically the same people, from the same economic and educational class. All the while, the only value left is dangled in front of our eyes – materialism.

If you want to be hip, buy an Apple product. Spend a fortune on clothes, or people won't have sex with you. If you want a job, accept that the rich will first have to get richer. They are, after all, the 'job creators'. Given this, how people behave when they get mad is hardly a surprise. If we as a society want people to worship riches, then that is exactly what we get.

We are so used to worshipping the wealthy that we hardly flinch when we learn that corporations routinely cheat on their taxes, or hear that a corporation has posted profit figures that we can't even begin to fathom. It's just the norm. They are the Job Creators.

In the meantime, ordinary people are earning less and less. The Dow Jones is 50 percent above where it was before the crisis in 2008, corporate profits are at their highest ever, billionaires buy football clubs to play real-life football manager. And the rent continues to rise.

So even if Punk Jesus were alive and well today, we would probably just put him on t-shirts and give him a Grammy®. What we wouldn't do is listen to what he has to say.

*Working for a rise, better my station,
Take my baby to sophistication,
She's seen the ads, she thinks it's nice,
Better work hard - I seen the price.*

M

SPONSORED CONTENT

At Last, Muspaci!

For musical expats, Muspaci provides all the services you need for artful music education

On a cold and grey afternoon in March, a new international musical education venue had an open day. Despite the unwelcoming weather, the international music event drew a crowd that buzzed with warmth and excitement.

The guests were greeted with music from a gypsy jazz guitar duo who take their inspiration from the French masters in the genre, Stefan Grappelli and Django Reinhardt. The music was highly contagious and bubbly, bringing sunshine to the otherwise grim day.

As the guests were transported from Copenhagen to a small Parisian café, it was clear that Muspaci had hit the right note. But there was more superb music to come!

Located in the up-and-coming Nordvest district, Muspaci is the ultimate music resource for musicians, teachers, parents and students living in the international community – helping parents, expats, music teachers, musicians and international schools connect.

Muspaci provides:

- Teaching facilities for teachers and their students;
- Large and small practice rooms;
- Basic recording facilities;
- News and information for public and private childrens music education;

The first thing you will notice about Muspaci is that all the music rooms are open, clean, bright and soundproof. At the event, one music teacher commented: “This is great! I never knew this place existed. When I first moved to Copenhagen, music information in English was hard to find. I didn’t know which English-language schools taught music, where to get a music education in English



Qinfang, below, warmed up the audience before the string quartet arrived, above. The large and clean practice rooms, bottom, are an ideal learning environment



Muspaci is the ultimate music resource for musicians, teachers, parents and students

or even where to find a piano tuner. Muspaci is great because it provides all of this information in one place!”

The Muspaci open day continued with smiles and chatter as children eagerly tried out the facilities. Eight-year-old Qinfang played the piano flawlessly, leaving her audience gobsmacked. Along with some classical pieces and a beautiful arrangement of Greensleeves, the highlight of her performance was a piano piece called Summer by Hisaishi.

After the guests had tucked into some delicious snacks, and the adults had indulged in a glass of wine, a string quartet arrived. They unpacked, tuned their instruments, and performed an elegant array of pieces by Mozart.

Any lingering clouds had by now long departed...

To find out more about Muspaci visit www.muspaci.dk or call +45 3696 0791

OLIVER'S 3 CITY PICKS



Photo: no.2 / Facebook

NO. 2 Nicolai Eigtvædsgade 32, 1402 Copenhagen K

Right across the river from one of modern day Copenhagen's most distinctive symbols, the Black Diamond, you will find one of the finest purveyors of Nordic cuisine. no. 2 was started as a sister restaurant to renowned Michelin star restaurant AOC and has become a respectable institution in its own right.

The restaurant has its own spin on Nordic cuisine, which relies on the best produce Denmark has to offer, featuring sea-

sonal delicacies from the sea, forests and fields as well as local farms around the country. The menu changes weekly and in accordance with the current season.

The main courses offered features an assortment of dishes comprised of meat and fish including Danish beef tenderloin with salt baked beetroot, parsley and smoked marrow and a pan fried cod with violet carrots and browned butter. There is also a limited but delicious selection of side orders offered, including a green salad with green herbs, a

corn risotto and triple fried fries. In addition no. 2 has a miscellany of starters and desserts of which the selection is plentiful. To go along with your meal, no. 2 boasts an impressive selection of wines from all over the world curated by Christian Aarø – owner of AOC and an award winning sommelier in both Denmark and the Nordic region.

If wine is not your poison, the cocktail bar will surely meet your needs, with a menu of drinks comprised of classics and the restaurant's own drinks made from local produce.



Photo: Kind of Blue / Facebook

KIND OF BLUE Ravnsborggade 17, 2200 Copenhagen N

If you're tired of going to bars and hearing the same old radio tunes that you're accustomed to, then there is an alternative available in the heart of Nørrebro. Named after the classic Miles Davis album of the same name, Kind of Blue is situated within walking distance from Nørreport station.

The reference to Davis is fitting, with the walls covered in blue and the bar itself convey-

ing a jazzy atmosphere, not unlike the watering holes where the beat poets of old would kill time.

The bar was started in an attempt to recreate the same feeling the owner had when hearing the Kind of Blue album for the first time at a party on the beach.

That experience served as inspiration for the philosophy and concept of the bar. For those coming to quench their thirst, the bar offers a selection of Danish and foreign beers as well as a wine and cocktail

menu which includes a varied collection of beverages. As for non-alcoholic drinks, there is also a variety of hot and cold drinks available.

Although the name would perhaps suggest otherwise, the music selection is not limited to solely jazz, with a collection featuring over 60 albums including releases by Bob Dylan and Leonard Cohen.

Kind of Blue offers an interesting and enjoyable alternative to the standard bar in Copenhagen.



Photo: Kristoffer Trolle

CULTURE BOX Kronprinsessegade 54, 1306 Copenhagen K

Culture box is the premiere electronic venue in Copenhagen, having hosted some of the most renowned DJs and producers from around the world.

Located in the centre of the city and a short distance away from several major train stations, the club is ideally located for those seeking a good time in the Copenhagen nightlife.

Featuring multiple dancefloors and stages for per-

formances, the venue is well equipped with a high quality speaker system that is worthy of the best names in the electronic scene.

Some of the notable names to have graced the stages of Culutre Box include Richie Hawtin, Nina Kraviz, James Blake and Robert Hood. In addition to the host of internationally known names, Culture Box has long served as a platform for up-and-coming artists to showcase their talents. Each of the stages has its own bar, each with its own atmos-

phere. This includes the main bar, a high-end cocktail bar and smaller bars.

The prices are affordable with beers from 30 kroner and relatively cheap entrance fees. Culture Box sells their tickets at the entrance, with no pre-sale beforehand and events take place on Fridays and Saturdays all year round. If you have a love for underground electronic music, there is no finer place in Copenhagen to consume it than Culture Box.

WHAT'S ON • APRIL



CPH:PIX
The always excellent CPH:PIX is on all month, with a fantastic selection of movies being played almost every day. A most for all movie lovers.

Venues across Copenhagen
<http://cphpix.dk/>

ALL MONTH

THE SCULPTED
Glyptoteket showcases some of the best Danish and French sculptures from the nineteenth and twentieth century, with the focus being on the body.

Glyptoteket
<http://www.glyptoteket.dk/>



WATERWALKER
The Cisternerne have been drained of water, but now artist Ingvar Cronhammar has pumped the water back in, allowing visitors to walk in the dark to ominous music.

Cisternerne
<http://cisternerne.dk/>

ALL MONTH

LESSON IN ART
Art museum ARoS provides an insight into the development of Danish art over the last 200 years in this wonderful exhibition.

aros.dk
ARoS museum of art, Aarhus

2

ICE FILM
Icelandic movie 'Life in a Fish-bowl' has been met with amazing reviews wherever it has been shown. This screening will be preceded by a talk by screenwriter Birgir Örn Steinarsson.

Valby Kino
<http://valbykino.dk/>



ISLAND POP
The Faeroes musician Teitur has been around the world charming the socks of audiences for almost two decades and like always he never misses.

Bremen Teater
brementeater.dk
April 3

4

BUBBLY BAR
Kødbyen is opening their new market Mad & Market with a bubbly champagne bar. A perfect event for all those fizzy heads out there.

Kødbyen
<http://on.fb.me/18XPwJZ>
Ends April 5



METALLIC MUSIC
Eyehategod have been setting the tone for metal music since 1988. The New Orleans-based band are sure to raise the heartbeat of the city's metal heads.

loppen.dk
Loppen
April 7



THE OLD GUARD
The oldest still functioning hussar regiment in the world, Gardehusar-regimentet, will honour the Queen's birthday by galloping around, and even letting visitors try it out too!

Jydsk Væddeløbsbane
danskvh.dk
April 8

9

STREET FOOD
The long winter of eating indoors is coming to the end as the street food season gets underway. Learn what is in to eat out at the Rebel Foods' opening event.

Halmtorvet
<http://on.fb.me/1CPBUN7>
Ends April 12



TIVOLI ROCK
The opening of Tivoli's Fredags Rock season is always an anticipated event, and this year pop-rap group Outlandish has the honour of singing in the summer.

<http://www.fredagsrock.dk/en/>
Tivoli
April 10

Elias Thorsson

11

SPRING MARKET
Art and design market Flid is back in Nørrebro, presenting work from contemporary artists and craftsmen, selling everything from illustrations, ceramics and graphic work, to jewelry and photography.

Nørrebrohallen
<http://on.fb.me/1GZmNQu>

WHAT'S ON • APRIL



BLACK LESSONS

The kings of sample-driven electro Den Sorte Skole take to the stage for this extra concert after the first show sold out.

Pumpehuset
<http://pumpehuset.dk/>
 April 15

18

BORNHOLM INVASION

The island of Bornholm has plenty to offer in terms of deliciousness. Today the islanders are taking over Rådhuspladsen to showcase themselves.

Rådhuspladsen
<http://on.fb.me/1Bo5Nzx>



Rikke Mølling

LET IT OUT!

We all need to just scream sometimes. If the impulse arises, head to the Screaming Room for a sound-proof opportunity to yell, scream or roar as loud as you want.

Bunkeren in Kongens Have
<http://on.fb.me/1GzBsDQ>
 April 22 - 26

24

48-HOUR PARTY PEOPLE

The annual 48-hour festival starts at Nørrebro with plenty of activities around the neighbourhood. Music, parties, artshows and a lot to drink.

Nørrebro
www.48timer.com
 Ends April 26

DRAMA

COOKING

DANSK

ENGLISH

SPORT

DISCOVER
 INSTITUT SANKT
 JOSEPH
 AND YOUR
 POTENTIAL

SUMMER
 PROGRAM

SOMMER
 SKOLE

13/7-31/7 2015

PRIVATE CATHOLIC SCHOOL - AGES 5-16

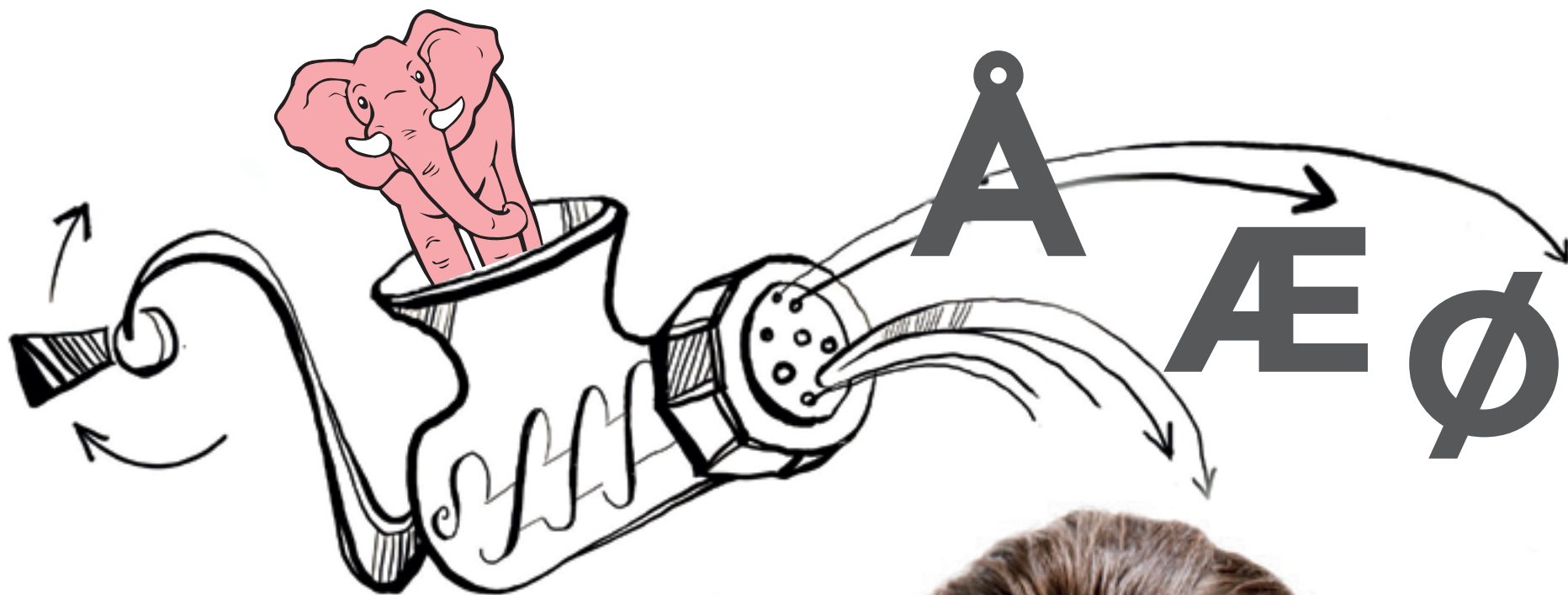


Institut
 Sankt Joseph
 Copenhagen | www.sanktjoseph.dk/en

Program and registration
www.sanktjoseph.dk



CLOSE TO
 ØSTERPORT STATION



HOW DO YOU EAT AN ELEPHANT?

IT'S LIKE
LEARNING
DANISH AT **ia**
BIT BY BIT!



SPROG

IA SPROG Vibevej 9-11 • 2400 Copenhagen NV •
+ 45 3888 3233 • info@iasprog.dk • www.iasprog.dk