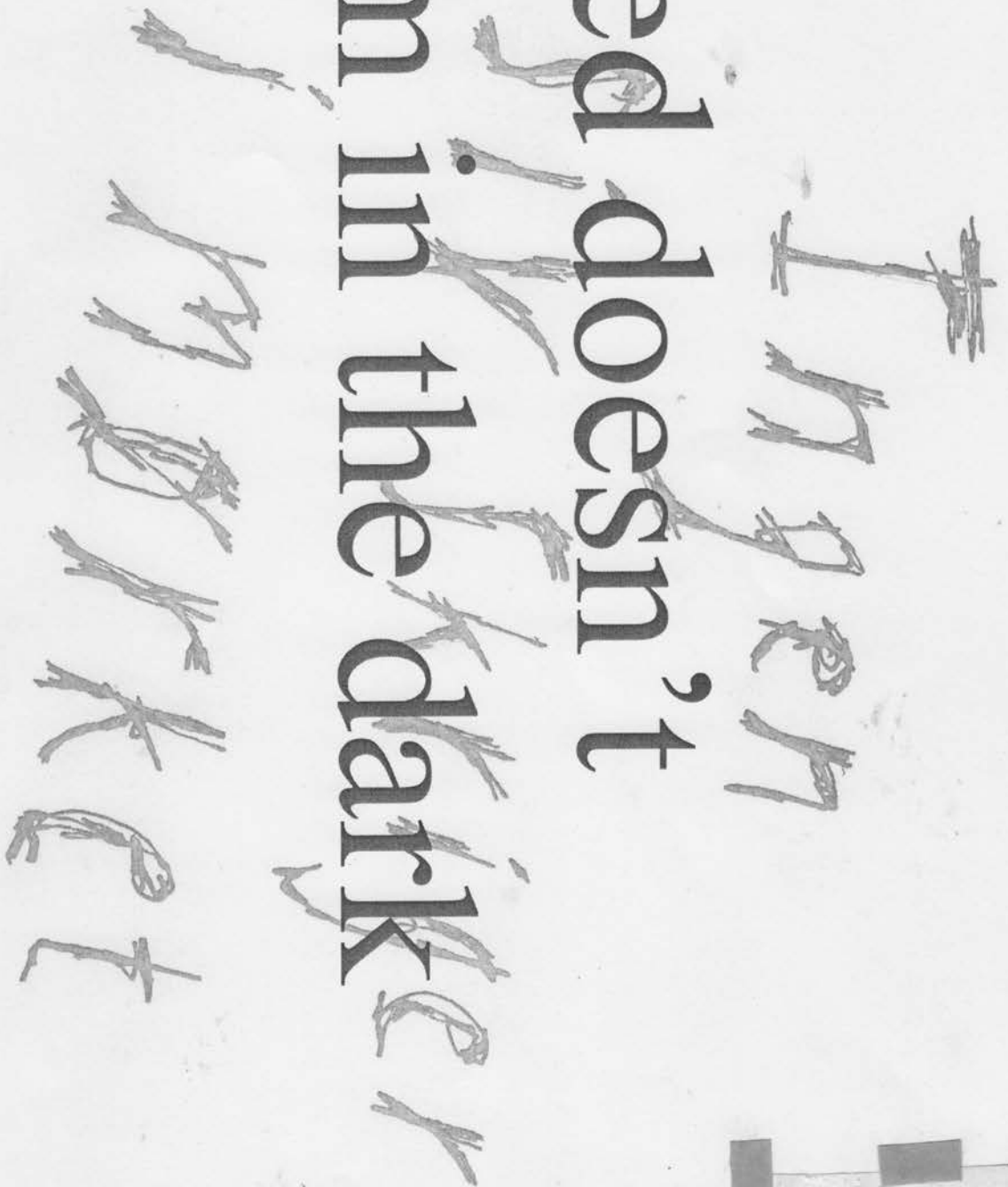




Udsigt

Reed doesn't scream in the dark

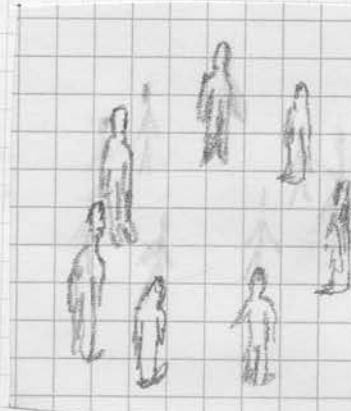


A play by
Aske Høier Olsen

Opening reed dance

Everyone is standing in a big circle, where everyone is able to stretch their arms, without touching each other

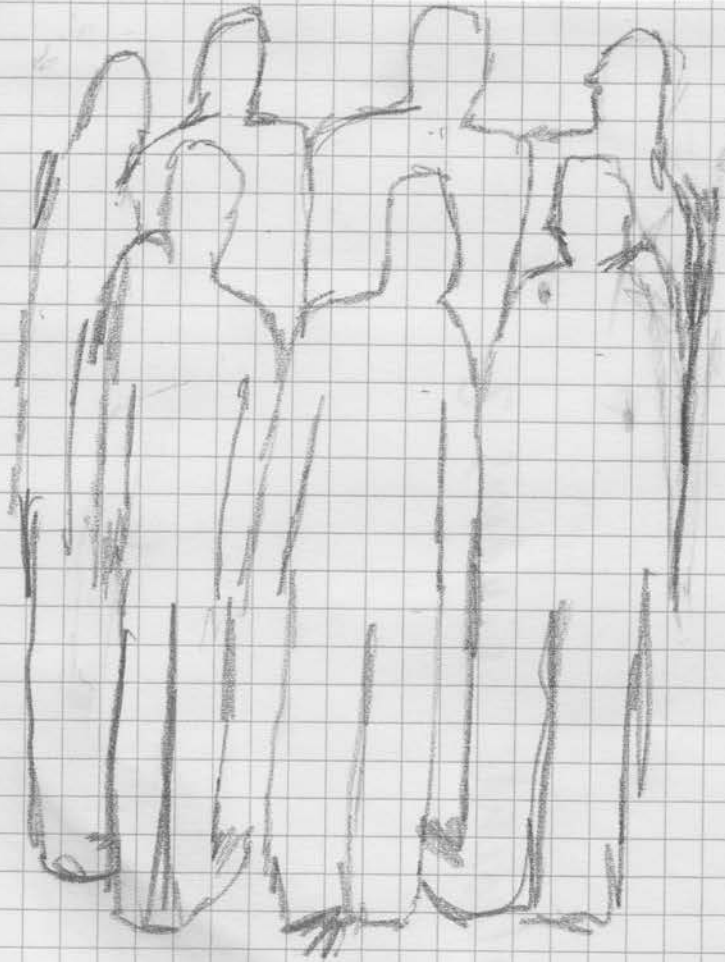
Stand with your two feet close to each other and with your arms by your sides



Close your eyes and imagine that you are a reed swaying in the wind. When you can feel it in your body, open your eyes again. When everyone has their eyes open, read out loud all together:

All reeds together: We are the reeds standing here around the lake, it is small, but big enough for....yes....yes big enough for you to spend half a day getting all the way around it. The water is most of the time dark-green, or dark-blue, but.....but that doesn't have much to do with the water, maybe more to do with the weather.....at sunset..... or at sunrise for that matter....the lake can turn red, and if it's cold and the lake is frozen it might turn grey. We stand along the lake, it winds out in small pockets of sand or clay.....and here we stand. We like standing here staring at people, without blinking, we listen to human conversation.....and yes....we have seen a thing or two through our time.

When you are done reading out loud, everyone walks to the center of the circle and creates a smaller circle, where everyone is standing shoulder to shoulder against each other



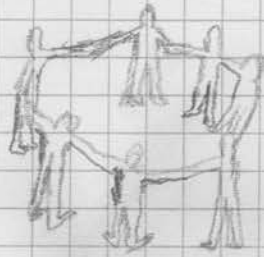
When you are standing there:

first place your whole weight on your right leg, and lean against the person on your right side, to not lose balance

After a while, place your whole weight on your left leg and lean against the person on your left side, to not lose balance

When you are done :

take each others hands, walk backwards
and make the circle as big as possible
without breaking the chain



while holding each others, start ~~start~~
walking around in the circle as if
you were dancing around something

while you are still walking around
in the circle, everyone says
a line, until there is no lines
left:

a reed: Saturday, August 19 1972, 1:22 pm, It isn't worth it, the container was emptied long ago

another reed: Thursday, January 3 1152, 12:15 am., But... No.... it can't be true. no it must be a dream...

no....

a third reed: Tuesday, January 3 1363, 4:14 pm., yea.. I would agree with you, but no reeds scream in the dark

a fourth reed: Thursday, February 12 1835, 8:10 pm., the time is 20:10 and you're under arrest

a fifth reed: Tuesday, July 19 1785 9:12 am, is it just me or is that blackberry bush over there not completely identical with the one which was in the garden?

a sixth reed: Friday, April 30 1277, 5:09 pm, you can always smell when she has been here.... she washes herself in ta special soap

a seventh reed: Wednesday, February 16 1966, 12:00 a clock, Well, that's very interesting except it's not possible.

When you are done let go of
each others hands, and take
a step backwards

You are CIVILIAN 1 (The mother, the dead old lady)

Everyone stands in the circle

walk to the middle of the circle,
take out your phone, and place it
against your ear. You are in contact
with your son:



Civilian 1 (The mother): *hallo?*

Civilian 2 (The dead son):

Civilian 1 (The mother): *But.. why don't you say anything?*

Civilian 2 (The dead son):

Civilian 1 (The mother): *hallo?*

Civilian 2 (The dead son):

Civilian 1 (The mother): *My son, answer me for god's sake, i can hear your breath*

Civilian 2 (The dead son):

Civilian 2 (The mother): *Where are you? It's in the middle of the night and the wind is blowing heavily in the phone...*

Civilian 2 (The dead son): *(screams loud)*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *Hallo.... no..... oh no, oh... No... what has happened?*

You have nothing to do for a while
sit down and wait ~~some where~~ for
the police, the police will come and
talk to you:

Police 2 (HL): *The victims mother, is she here?*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *Yes it's me (sniffles)*

Police 2 (HL): *My condolence*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *Thanks*

Police 2 (RK): *I know what you probably need the most, is to mourn in peace, but we have to ask you some questions. It will be helpful for the investigation and help us find the murder of your son...Would you mind comming with us for a little talk?*

Civilian 1 (The mother) *No.....oh yes okay...(sniffles)*

The police will interrogate you by the biscuits and the
ra ter

Police 2 (HL): *Yes.....you can take seat (points a finger to the ground)*

(Civilian 1 (The mother) Sits down on the ground, Police 2 (HL) and Police 3 (RK) sits down in front of Civilian 1 (The mother))



The interrogation
continues:

Police 3 (RK): *You're welcome to take some water or a biscuit, and please tell us if you need anything else*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *Thanks...thanks to both of you...I wish with all my heart that you find that devil, ohh I can't believe it...ohh my little boy...(breaks into tears)*

Officer 2 (RK): *We know it's tough, but we have some important questions that you'll have to answer.*

Police 2 (HL): *Would you mind if we record this?*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *No.....of cause not....you can record this...*

(Police 2 (HL) Finds a phone, place it on the ground and starts recording)

Police 1 (HL): *Interrogation of suspect, the victims mother, present are criminal assistant RK and criminal assistant HL*

Police 3 (RK): *You had contact with your son last night? is that understood right?*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *Yes....I was laying, already asleep at home, when the phone suddenly rang. I realised it was my son, so I picked it up....but there was no voice in the other end...only his heavy breath, he sounded like he was running, fleeing from something.....I kept on calling into the phone, but no answer....No answer....suddenly he screamed, oh what a terrible scream (starts crying heavily).....Oh my son..... (sniffles)...after the scream, there was nothing left other than the wind hauling into the phone....(cries).....*

Police 3 (RK): *did you hear anything after the scream, a splash? the sound of water?*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *No nothing, only the wind*

Police 3 (RK): *What was the agreement with you son? Is it normal he comes home after you go to bed?*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *No, he wasn't supposed to come home...or I mean...at some point he was....(cries)....but he slept at his good friends place...that was the agreement.....*

Police 2 (HL): *who is that good friend of his?*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *The good friend? she's from my sons class*

Police 3 (RK): *Can you tell us a bit about your son?*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *Oh my son, he was such a nice boy...doing well in school, had a good heart (sniffles)....he was friendly towards everyone..but I have to admit...he caused some problems lately...*

Police 3 (RK): *What kind of problems?*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *Mmm, he stole some small things from the supermarked and things like that...minor stuff...I guess it started after he began seeing that good friend of his, that one he slept at yesterday...(sniffles).....you know how teenagers are trying to stretch the limits...*

Police 2 (HL): *Were they often together? your son and the good friend?*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *yes...oh yes quite often....I never really liked it..... them spending time together....I have always thought that there was something wrong with that girl...but again...teenagers are teenagers...there's not much to do about it ...*

Police 2 (HL): *Ok.....thanks...that should be enough for now*

Civilian 1 (The mother): *Okay (sniffles)*

Police 2 (HL): *The interrogation is over*

(Police 2 (HL) stops the recording and puts the phone back in a pocket)

When the interrogation is over,
return to where you sat before
and wait. You have no more
to do today

When the day is
over everyone
returns and stands
in the circle

Walk around for a while, without getting too far away from the circle.

suddenly scream loud, fall to the ground, and lay on the ground:



You are dead

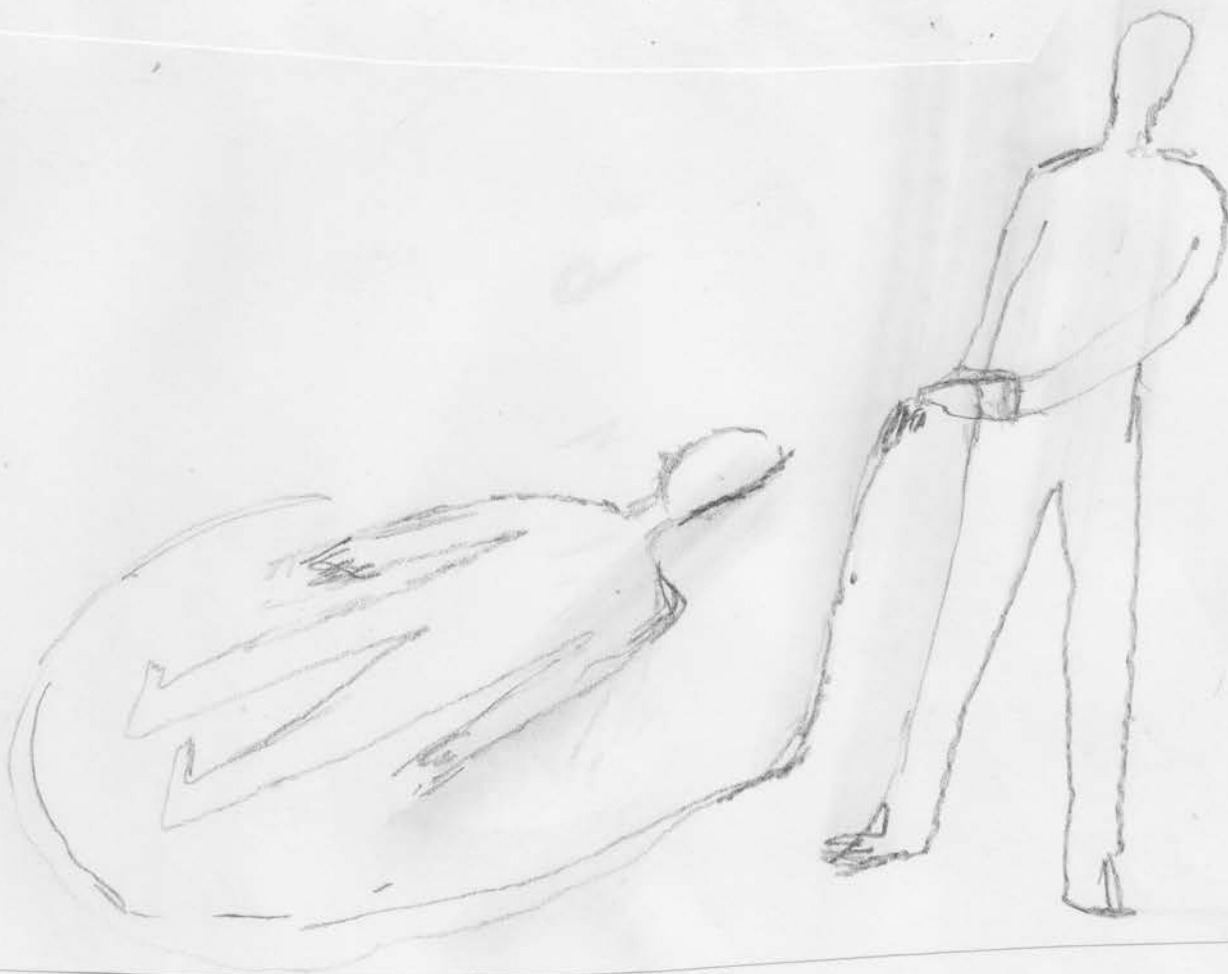
A person will come and pour water in a circle around you, later the police will come and set up a barrier around you.

You are dead, and have to stay lying on the ground, until the end of the day.

When the day is over
everyone returns and stands
in the circle

Everyone is standing
in the circle

A pair of lovers are taking a walk
when one of ~~them~~ the lovers has screamed and fallen
to the ground, take a water bottle and pour
all the water from the bottle in a circle around
the person lying on the ground:



When you are done, sit
down some where and
wait. You have no more
to do today.

When the day is over everyone
returns and stands in the circle

Closing reed dance

Everyone stands in a big circle, where everyone is able to stretch their arms without touching each other

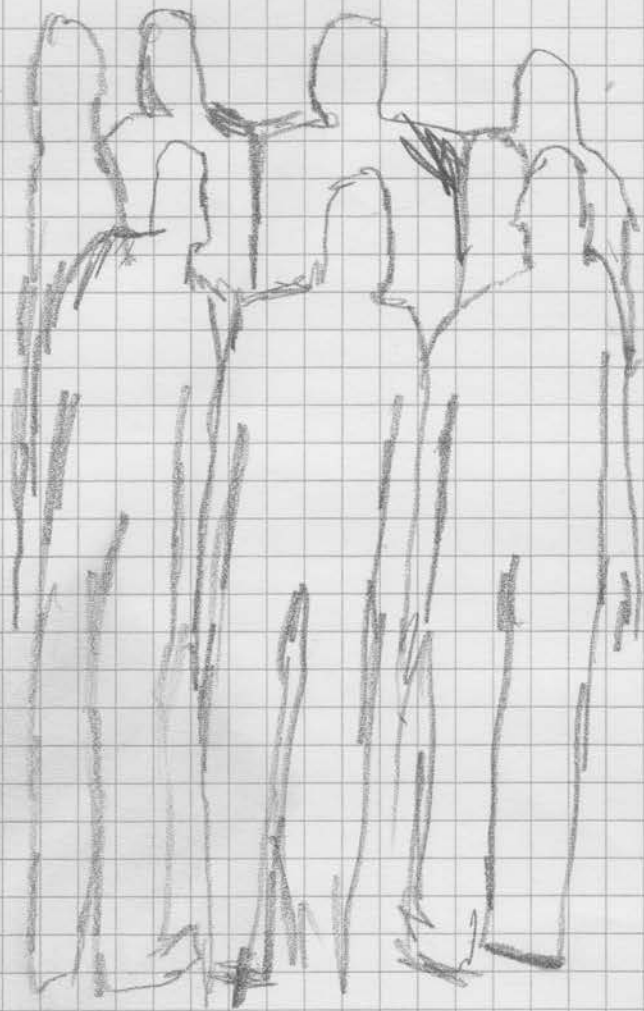
Stand with your two feet close to each other, and with your arms by your sides



Close your eyes and imagine that you are a reed swaying in the wind. When you have the feeling in your body, open your eyes again. When everyone has their eyes open, read out loud all together:

All reeds together: Time produces marksor....at least as time goes on, there seems to be more and more footprints around the lake. The police disappeared again, but not much time passed before they returned, like not much time had passed before they arrived last time....or you know....they were here....as they were before, as they arrived again later....or you know...it wasn't the last time we saw them.

When you are done reading out loud,
everyone walks to the center of the circle
and creates a smaller circle, where everyone
is standing shoulder to shoulder against each other:



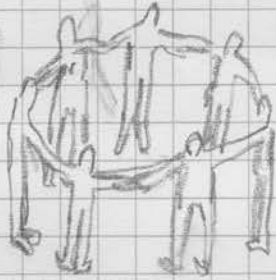
When you are standing there:

First place your whole weight
on your left leg and lean against
the person on your left side
to not lose balance

after a little while, place your whole
weight on your right leg, and lean
against the person on your right
side, to not lose balance

When you are done:

take each others hands, walk backwards and make the circle as big as possible without breaking the chain



While holding each others hands start walking around in the circle as if you were dancing around something

While you are still walking around in the circle everyone says a line, until there is no lines left:

a reed: Saturday, September 30 1995, 12:20 pm, yea.... so you know, she has always been her own

another reed: Tuesday, February 7 1110, 7:00 am, A relationship? But.... what, do you think?

a third reed: Thursday, January 5 1865, 2:56 pm, I don't want to talk about it right now, I have to prepare for a meeting....

a fourth reed: Saturday, May 17 2008, 4:20 pm, it rings a bell.... wasn't it something about an earring?

a fifth reed: Wednesday, March 7 1470, 10:10 pm, what do you mean?

a sixth reed: Tuesday, August 31 1339, 8:30 pm, i can't believe this...

a seventh reed: Wednesday, December 13 1922, 12:20 am, yes.... if you just....follow me this way....

When you are done, let go of each others hands, and take a step backwards.

Played for the first time in July 2017.

Originally written for Udsigt, as the third out of 10 similar roleplays.

Translated for Ywenhøj, together with Yvenhøj, in July 2018.