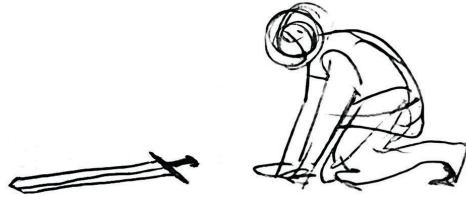


Through the Archenland

A tale of survival



① Paraclete's invitation (Intro)

If you listen closely enough
You will always hear the call of the Helper
It starts with a whisper
And ends with a lion's roar

② The beginning of a knight's journey

A boy wakes up from his slumber on his 16th birthday. In this land it is not an insignificant day, for it marks the day which he can call himself a Hunter.

His mother and father are waiting for him downstairs. They hand him everything he needs for his first adventure: a cloak to keep him warm, a chest plate to protect his heart, and shoes to bring him where he needs to go. Lastly, his father approaches him with solemn dignity, giving him his old Hunter sword. This sword is legendary, for it once fended the village against the Beast.

Finally, the boy is ready. His parents stand by the door to watch him walk across the yard. Opening the gate, he turns around one last time to wave goodbye. The mountains glisten in the horizon behind him. His parents keep watching him get smaller and smaller, until he cannot be seen anymore.

③ Daphne & Paraclete

I was chased by no man
But something much more terrifying

I did not want the grief
So I petrified myself

It was cold and dark for so long

But now there is something calling me
Something softening the bark of my skin
something gently rustling my leaves

Like a breath of wind
But lovelier



4

By the campfire

A girl was on her way somewhere. As she was walking, she came across a path leading to a forest. Standing by the beginning of the path, she thought to herself: somewhere will be there tomorrow, too. So, she followed the path.

Soon, she found herself among an enchanted landscape. There were many strange flowers and glistening spots, like small stars, among the shrubs and the foliage. She followed the path in awe. It led her to a bank of a slowly flowing river.



A peculiar feeling grew in her mind, and to her own astonishment, she started gesturing toward the firmament. Whenever she pointed at, there did a star appear. When she made a twirl in the air, a new galaxy was born, and when she blew air from her mouth, a supernova was brought into existence.

After some time, she was happy with her achievements. She sat on the riverbank to admire the universes she had created. I think she is still there, if you ever should feel like seeing the sight for yourself...

....

It was early spring. I found myself walking in a grove, fresh green leaflets pushing out all the branches above me. The sky was light and open, and all the busy and wonderful spring noises were surrounding me – the birds singing songs to each other from tree to tree – the wind was gently rustling the winter dry hay, soon to be rejuvenated.

After a while I came across a river, but the sight startled me. A roe had gotten stuck in the fast-flowing stream, drifting toward a narrow bridge. There it would certainly get caught by its horns!

I rushed to the bridge to reach for it. I took a sturdy position so that I could catch it without toppling into the stream. When I caught the roe, I lifted it from the water and carefully placed it on a riverbank. To my surprise, it did not stand up and run away. Instead, it turned its head and looked me deep into my soul. How human was that gaze! For a moment I was not sure, who was helping whom.

I stood up, and so did the roe. I waved at it as it left – and felt like we both understood life a bit better now.

5

The family assembly

After having been apart for years, what could be more delightful than dancing with your loved ones?

6

A voyager's homecoming

Long journey behind him, he is on his way to the castle. His heart is full of memories, as well as delight for things to come.

7

The lovers' reunion

My hand reaches for yours
On your cheek, dripping
Not a tear, but a drop of ocean

Will you hold me like a rose when we dance?





8 Sparring in the bailey

Just two noble friends having fun and training for battle.

9 Reaching for the sky

Can you see the sky? If not, you have to reach higher.

10 Stumbling through the dark

Lying face down against the carpet
Listening to my own heartbeat

Looking through a window of a moving train
In a place I do not know

Sitting in an empty room surrounded by flowers
So many flowers

Mirrors without reflection

What do I see?

What do you see?

I walk with the guide of my tender fingertips
Until the fog is lifted

11 Finding the light

Sometimes, you just need music to guide you.

12 The ball (Finale)

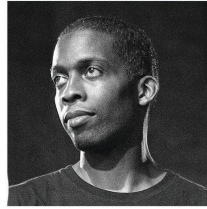
First, you gather your friends and dance
Then, you hear The Word and agree
Hopefully you agree, because The Word is wise
Lastly, you leave. But before you leave,
leave some Hope behind



Through the Archenland

Dancers

Byron Cox



Byron is a community activist, dancer, and businessman motivated by the tenants of the House Dance community. Rising from an unlikely background, Byron has seen to the growth of house internationally while focusing on each individual soul. His company The House Dance Project has produced champion competitors, teachers, and given rise to other companies around the world. He is the assistant choreographer and fighting scene choreographer of “Through the Archenland”.

Tuula Cox



Tuula is a multidisciplinary artist with a passion for community building and storytelling through dance. Graduated from Iwanson School of Contemporary Dance in 2015, she has since established Contemporary Dance Company of Narnia and performed in multiple festivals and competitions around Europe, as well as in New Hope, PA and New York City, NY. She is the co-founder of the art collective Kapybara with her mother, visual artist Heidi Wikström, as well as the singer and songwriter for the band E&E she founded with her brother, musician Tuukka Turunen. She is also a self-taught visual artist and clothing designer for her sustainable fashion project Talo House. She is the main choreographer and person behind the concept of “Through the Archenland”.

Molly McDonald



Molly began ballet at age 3, training with Dayton Ballet in Ohio. Through high school she danced with Gem City Ballet and spent summers training with American Ballet Theatre and Alonzo King LINES Ballet in San Francisco. During her time in Gem City Ballet, Molly choreographed her first contemporary ballet, which became the first student ballet to be accepted into the company’s permanent repertory. She went on to earn a BA in English and minor in Dance from Wake Forest University and an MA in Arts Administration from Columbia University. For the past seven years, Molly has worked for Gaynor Minden, the global pointe shoe and

dancewear brand, where she currently serves as the VP of Operations. After a decade on the operations side of the dance industry, Molly is grateful to have this opportunity to return to performing.

Paul Spalding Jr.



Hailing from North Brunswick, NJ, and currently living in Jersey City, Paul (A.K.A. Excalibur P) found the house dance scene during Covid lockdown. Ever since then, he has been known to others as a house head nomad, traveling wherever the music takes him within NYC, often dancing until after hours, or even until the sun rises. Every experience in the scene helps him grow and gain more knowledge, which he loves to share with people who have the same love for the house dance culture.

Pertti Turunen



Pertti is an M.D, surgeon, and radio amateur, who took his first steps in dance in his 50s in early 2022, when his daughter Tuula Cox started training him online. After some time, he and his wife Heidi Wikström were invited to perform in Tuula Cox’s production “Through The Archenland”. For his part of the piece, Pertti will be presenting a tale of rescuing a helpless forest creature from the river. Pertti’s love for ham radio has taken him to many unusual places around the world, such as Jarvis Island, Chesterfield Reef, Penguin Island, Kiribati, and North Korea. In his free time, he enjoys watching ice-hockey and following politics.

Heidi Wikström



Heidi has from an early age been intrigued by the way things happen to be. She has been exploring reality by the means of science and is an M.D. with a PhD in neuroscience. After completing her thesis, she has specialized in surgery. Besides to the hospitals in Finland, surgery has taken her to war zones in Yemen and CAR. She has also studied visual arts and had several gallery exhibitions presenting her paintings, photographs, and short movies. She is also a writer, with her first collection of poems to be published in 2025. Heidi Wikström has danced for seven years, and her main instructors have been Tuula and Byron Cox. Besides for visual art and writing, Heidi considers dance a tool in her toolbox for self-expression. Of these 3, she finds dance to be special in its dialogical nature.