

## Local Transformations – Vinderup Stories

Vinderup , September 3 - 22, 2019

[www.vinderupstories.space](http://www.vinderupstories.space)

*"There is no ready made plan or a map. We have come without speaking Danish and without previous experience in Vinderup. We don't come with art that is to be shown, instead we bring our curiosity, our ears and our yellow raincoats. We come as two strangers meeting Vinderup as it comes to us. The town speaks for itself and we do our best to encourage it's stories to appear. Together we catch glimpses of the million invisible cities in every street, and behind each front door. "*

Vinderup Stories took place in Vinderup, a small railway town and center of the old Vinderup Kommune, and the surrounding area. It was the second Urban Story Hunters project, after Gullestrup Stories in 2017. During the month of September 2019, Urban Story Hunters Vilja and Marije lived in hotel Vinderup, dressed in their yellow raincoats and met people from Vinderup, hearing their life stories. Each meeting was an encounter with a life, some who had been there for generations and others who had just arrived. And one by one, like flashes of light, the stories showed us glimpses of an hidden web of lives and experiences, human and other. During the project the concept of mapping was explored in different ways. Vilja and Marije also led two workshops in the Real Skole, where class 7a built their own collective maps of their way to the school and then shared the stories that were connected to them.

We are happy that the Urban Story Hunters have been invited by the project Nye Tiden i Vinden (coordinated by artists Sara Holm Strandby and Ingrid Hvass) to bring back their yellow raincoats in 2020. They will also continue the work with class 7a of the Real Skole.

### **About the Urban Story Hunters project**

*The urban story hunters project shifts some of the natural roles and expectations of artistic and theatrical work. Instead of creating a performance we make expeditions through a town and have countless personal meetings with the people. In these meetings we gradually reverse the roles. The story hunters become audience to the life story of each 'protagonist', while still keeping the dramaturgy of the encounter in hand. The elements that we consider in the project run parallel to theatrical elements: scenography, actors, narratives, dramaturgy. The urban story hunters are visible and recognisable as characters by their yellow raincoats, which helps to frame the moments of meetings as theatrical encounters. Yet they become personal very quickly because the approach is so personal and informal, hiding the dramaturgy and the project goals.*

*The consistent presence of the strangers creates a curious buzz in the town, spreading energy and information around the project and infecting even those who are encountered personally with our questions 'what is Vinderup, how is life here?'*

*Some of our notes were collected in the projects webpage  
[www.vinderupstories.space](http://www.vinderupstories.space).*

Numbers:

People reached during the expeditions : approximately 300 people

Private meetings with citizens of Vinderup and surrounding area: appr. 80 people

Final gathering at the Hotel Vinderup: 47 people

Workshop at the Realskole, two sessions with 25 kids

Media coverage: One article in the Holstebro Dagbladet and three articles in the Vinderup Avisen

57 people following the Vinderup Stories facebook page

Daily messages in several local FB pages

