



TOF
theatre

Why Not!

From 3 years

Look Out...

This is very important

We appreciate that people who come to see our show would like to know a little more than just the title... but we also appreciate that the programme they are given does not reveal all the surprises the show holds in store for them...


Therefore the contents of this presentation dossier are not destined to be used in a leaflet for the general public ! Confidentiality is important in the introduction text. (no reference to the pregnant man, the egg etc...)

It is important to indicate, however, that the minimum age for the public for this show is fixed at 3 years old.

Photo Bernard Willem

Why Not!

A show without words

A photograph of a man with glasses and a red blanket sleeping on a yellow sofa. A white cloud is visible above the sofa. The background is dark.

And why not... gently disrupt traditional roles between Dads and Mums? This puppet show explores the chemistry which connects Dadum (mix of daddy en mummy) and his/her son.

It portrays the infinite tenderness, turbulent complicity and comical situations in their day-to-day lives. *Why Not !*, a duo for a man-acrobat and a child-puppet is a quirky, moving, yet whacky piece.

Artistic and poetic intention

A duo for man-acrobat and child-puppet, *WHY NOT!* a poetic and whacky puppet show for children from the age of 3 years old and upwards.

A Process and a Philosophy

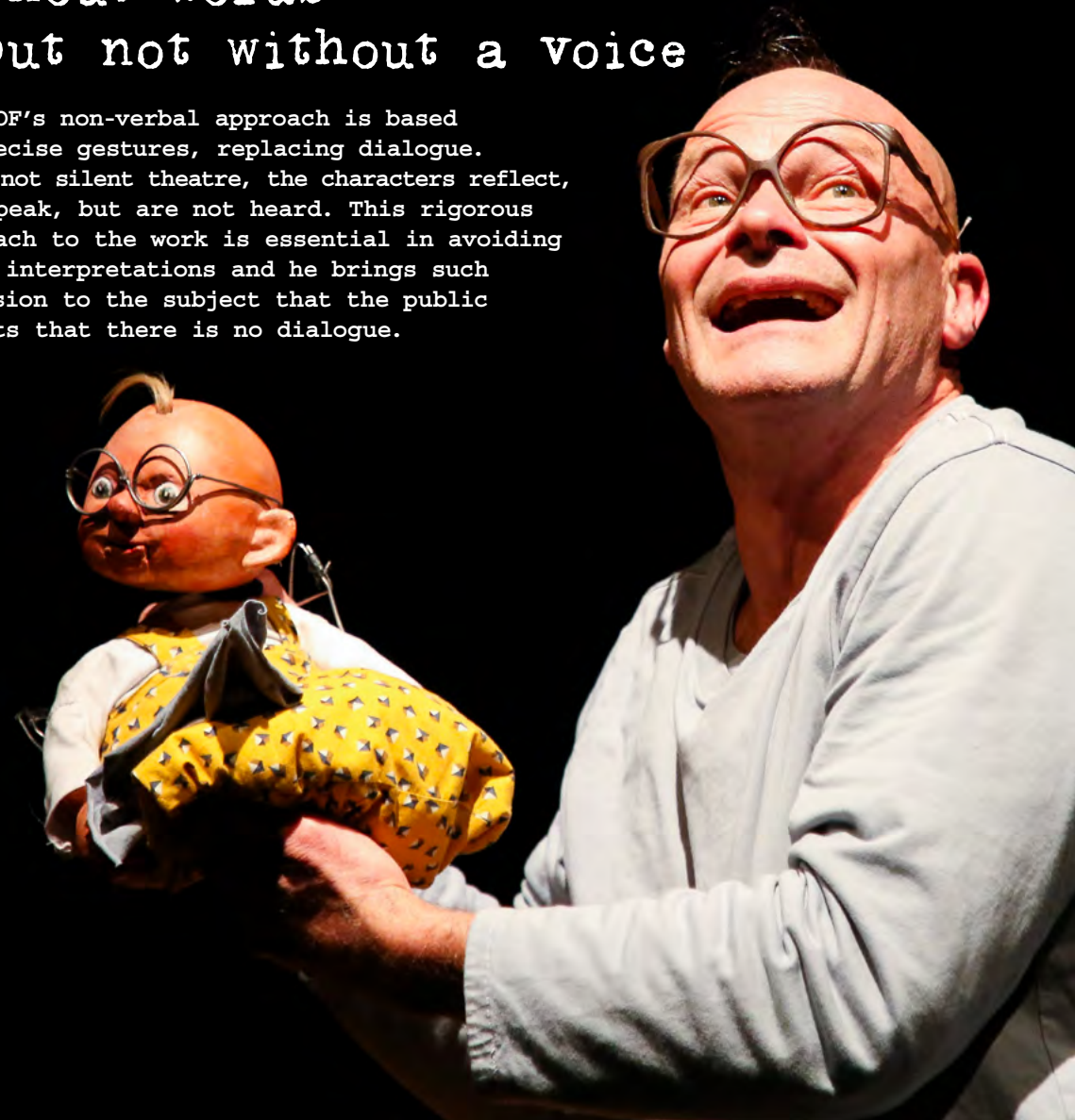
Alain Moreau adopts the same process for each creation: based on an initial idea, he develops the story outline, a set, and puppets.

He brings the puppets to life with the collaboration of his actors, by evoking a subject, a fear, a question and then observes what they express without words. He then structures the raw material paying thorough attention to it's meaning, a meticulous dramaturgic process conserving only the most essential elements.

Alain Moreau constantly attempts to clarify each minute detail in every image. Creating for a younger audience, as with *WHY NOT !*, Alain trusts childrens' instincts, he avoids explicitly exposing the story but suggests just enough elements to allow them to follow the story he is telling. He also has an extraordinary love of emotions which makes these little characters larger than life.

Without words but not without a voice

The TOF's non-verbal approach is based on precise gestures, replacing dialogue. It is not silent theatre, the characters reflect, and speak, but are not heard. This rigorous approach to the work is essential in avoiding false interpretations and he brings such precision to the subject that the public forgets that there is no dialogue.





Collaborations

The TOF théâtre has always worked with actors who are not trained puppeteers. Their playful, generous and enthusiastic approach adds more colour to the show. Alain Moreau explores the complicity between the actor and puppet to form a duo, blurring the role of puppet and puppeteer. Who dominates? This ambiguous relationship with the puppet is the foundation for the artistic work.

With this piece, he manages yet again to unite a dream team, Pierre Decuyperre, Sandrine Hooge and Sybille Van Bellinghen, later joined by Céline Dumont. Together they skillfully and mischievously make the story entertaining.

The spirit of TOF... and much more!

In this production, the company aims to explore the relationship between puppet-puppeteer further. In *Why Not!* More than ever, the language of the body, the body and the expression of the actor-acrobat communicate with this little polystyrene character.

Alain Moreau collaborates with crazy and wise advisors:
Xavier Bouvier et Benoit Devos (Okidok), Gilbert Epron,
Laura Durnez, Sandrine Hooge, François Pilon, Pierre Tual



Cast and crew

Original idea by **Alain Moreau**

Actor: **Pierre Decuyper**

Puppet construction, set design and director: **Alain Moreau**

Assistant director: **Sandrine Hooge**

Artistic advisors: **Xavier Bouvier et Benoit Devos (OkidoK), Sandrine Hooge, Gilbert Epron, Laura Durnez, François Pilon, Pierre Tual...**

Original music: **Max Vandervorst**

Costumes: **Emilie Cottam and Odile Dubucq**

Light design: **Sybille Van Bellinghen**

Stage management: **Sandrine Hooge ou Céline Dumont**

Trainees: **Léopold Terlinden, Jeanne Decuyper et Céline Dumont**

Set construction and armchair: **François Geeraerd, Geneviève Périat, Alice Carpentier**

Graphics and poster: **Mélanie Rutten**

Lift-off and tour management: **Kurieuze & Cies - My-Linh Bui**

Thanks to **Charly Kleinermann, Félicie Artaud, Jean Debefve, Bernard Willem, Katia Kamian, Urteza Da Fonseca, Jacqueline Mathy**

Partners

Production: TOF Théâtre

Coproduction: Centres Scéniques de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (Mars - Mons arts de la scène, Théâtre de Liège, Théâtre de Namur, Atelier Théâtre Jean Vilar, Louvain La Neuve). Rotondes - Luxembourg. Pierre de Lune, Centre dramatique jeunes publics de Bruxelles. Scène nationale du Sud-Aquitain. Centre Culturel du Brabant wallon.

Loyal partners: Teatro delle Briciole - Parme. Le Grand Bleu, Lille. Le Théâtre - Scène Conventionnée de Laval - Théâtre Jean Arp, Clamart. Spectacle fabriqué au MONTY - Espace rural de création - Genappe.

With the support of: Maison des Arts Thonon Evian, Le Trident, Scène Nationale de Cherbourg, Festival Ad Hoc, Le Volcan, Scène Nationale du Havre, CDN de Haute-Normandie, Festival Théâtre à Tout Âge, Quimper, L'Hectare - Scène conventionnée de Vendôme, Le Mouffetard -Théâtre des Arts de la Marionnette, Paris, Festival Export Import, Bruxelles (La Montagne Magique, Bronks), Scène Nationale 61, Alençon, Festival Puy de Mômes, Cournon d'Auvergne, Kulturhaus Niederanven, Luxembourg.



Photo Kalimba



Press

(...) Wavering between comedy and emotion, the Tof Théâtre challenges the preconceptions of traditional roles of men and women and at the same time celebrates the freedom of a child to choose his/her character, games or clothes regardless of what society dictates.

Catherine Makereel - LE SOIR - (Belgian national newspaper) - August 2021

(...) The Tof, the Belgian-based theatre company, has been working with puppets for thirty years and prides itself in crossing boundaries. Their latest creation, a puppet and actor duo, was sparked a "burning desire to explore the stereotypes of gender" and this inversion of roles works marvelously. A gentle playful father (a football fan), learns and grows with his child. But his offspring has already decided to make his own decisions. This amusing story, without dialogue, chronicles a tender and complicit child/parent relationship.

Françoise Sabatier-Morel TELERAMA - January 2019

More effective than any theoretical lecture, this minimalist staging of a touching chronicle about paternal love, interpreted by the astounding duo, Pierre Decuyper as Daddum and his unpredictable child-puppet, forces the audience through clever visual images to reconsider any preconceived ideas on roles between mother and father, girl and boy. An enlightening show for the whole family questioning the sensitive topic of deep-rooted prejudices around gender.

"L'arbre aux contes" blog by Cristina Marino journalis, the MONDE (French national newspaper)

Photo Kalimba



Technical Information

Please get in touch with us for the following requirements for this technical plan.

Technical contact:

Sybille Van Bell - sybille@toftheatre.be - +32 478 225 808

Build up: 1 service

Deconstruction: 1h30

Additional help required: 2 people to load and unload and 1 technician to set up lighting

Duration of show: 47 minutes

Audience age: 3 years upwards

Important !

The performance takes places on a small slightly raised, inclined stage (front +-40cm, back 55 cm). The floor must be visible to the audience as the main part of the show takes place at this level. We request a plan of your seating area and the stage to ensure good visibility.

Depending on the layout, this will allow us to estimate if we need to use stage risers (9) to be supplied by your organization.

Stage:

- total blackout
- dimensions 6 x 6 m (minimum 4x4m)
- On-site curtains (backdrop and sides)
- Black floor
- We bring our own standing platform (3,66m (width) x 1,75 (depth) x 55 cm (maximum height))

Lighting:

Please send us a plan of the perches and lighting rig.

- dmx male input connection for inttec box at back of stage
- Dimmer lightboard minimum 8 circuits (in your theatre lighting)
- 2 x 1000W wide-angle spotlights
- 1 x 1000W spotlight
- 4 dimmable connections on floor

Sound:

- standard theatre speakers
- jack connections back of the stage for soundcard

Dressing room supplies: water (water fountain and water bottles), loads of fruit and vegetables (we love them), dried fruit, coffee... all appreciated. Our stage manager will be ever so grateful.

The company

The TOF Théâtre is a Belgian company founded in Brussels in 1987 following the huge success of its first production *Le tour du bloc*. (Around the block). Alain Moreau founder and artistic director introduce contemporary puppets to a wide audience of all ages.

Passionate about microscopic realism, described as eccentric and absurd, diverse and undefinable, the TOF Théâtre create shows touring in Belgium and internationally. Crossing all boundaries, he explores all artistic forms: theatre, music, puppets and street theatre attracting young audiences, adult audiences and families.

He creates for both stage and street, transporting his art into diverse theatre or non-theatre spaces, thrilling audiences and festivals.

This wide audience includes experienced professionals, regular theatre buffs but also ordinary people, people who do not usually venture into cultural events or places.

The TOF Théâtre; 23 shows, 35 years of touring, 35 countries.

Spectacles créés

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| 1987 <i>Le Tour du Bloc</i> | 2007 <i>Fritkot</i> |
| 1988 <i>Radio Tom</i> | 2007 <i>Le grand retour</i> |
| 1992 <i>Camping Sauvage</i> | 2009 <i>Premiers pas sur la Dune</i> |
| 1995 <i>Cabane</i> | 2009 <i>Sur la dune</i> |
| 1996 <i>Eugène, le Roi de la frite</i> | 2011 <i>Piccoli Sentimenti</i> |
| 1998 <i>Patraque</i> | 2013 <i>Dans l'atelier</i> (In the workshop) |
| 2001 <i>Le Petit Bazar Erotik</i> | 2014 <i>Soleil Couchant</i> |
| 2002 <i>Les Zakouskis Erotiks</i> | 2016 <i>J'y pense et puis...</i> |
| 2002 <i>Duel</i> | 2018 <i>Pourquoi pas!</i> |
| 2003 <i>A Tout Jamais !</i> | 2021 <i>Echappée Vieille</i> |
| 2004 <i>Bistouri (version foraine)</i> | 2021 <i>Mémoire d'un trou de serrure</i> |
| 2005 <i>Les Bénévoles</i> | |
| 2006 <i>Bistouri (version salle)</i> | |



ProgramminG and distributiOn

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