

TOP
theatre

Season 2023/2024...

the 37th



Now 37 years old, and more jaunty than ever, the TOF Théâtre continues to enchant audiences of all ages with its inimitable *TOF Touch* puppet shows. Whether for an indoor venue, for a public space, for young audiences, for families or for informed audiences, our creations travel the world offering humour, modesty, impertinence and tenderness.

This year new shows - including the delightfully tasty *Summer 69 (Pic-Nique)*, created in March 2023 at Brussels' Les Tanneurs theatre - will be on tour alongside our timeless classics. As we go to press, other shows are simmering along nicely in our cooking pots and will be dished out in the course of the season.



The unmissable moment of our season: **the MAboule Festival** of puppetry and associated arts. This off-the-wall collision of contemporary puppetry, object theatre, music and fairground attractions is coming to Genappe from 14 to 17 December 2023.

www.maboule.be

LE MONTY

This community space is a place to meet people, theatre workshop, collaborative grocery store, repair cafe, performance space and cinema all at once. Our company provides the artistic direction. We organise a programme of favourite shows gleaned from our tours, freshly-hatched shows, cult shows by shining-light artists in this field, Puppet Crash Tests and other test events, among other things. With the assistance of a fine line-up of engaged citizens, Le MONTY welcomes, more than ever, anyone looking to cultivate creativity and bring people together.

www.lemonty.be

Mentoring

One of our key focuses is knowledge-sharing and support for creativity. Keen to give a leg-up to the next generation, the TOF Théâtre takes a benevolent look at the creative work of emerging artists and shares its experience from 36 years of practice. We offer them a welcome in residence at Le MONTY that provides the best possible conditions - from both a technical and human point of view - thanks to a skilled team, process assistance, support for administration, production, distribution, communication, etc. This support is sometimes also accompanied by open rehearsals, previews, public Q&A sessions and more.

This season, Nicolas Laine will be the TOF Théâtre's associate artist.

We will also continue the mentoring process with **Emilie Parmentier**, **Céline Robaszynski** and two young Senegalese artists, in partnership with the **association Djarama**.



Partnerships

The TOF joins forces with various partners to host shows (such as the Vilar or Centre Culturel 38), provide cross-residencies (with Froe Froe or De Machienerie in Flanders), create awareness-raising shows (with Lire et Ecrire) and question the puppet's place in the public arena (with M-collectif, Aires Libres, among others).

During the next 2 years, in association with Djarama in Senegal and the support of Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI), we will organise a full project of mentorship, creativity, and reflection on Senegalese theatre for young audiences.

Puppetry and associated arts in public spaces

We've launched a reflection project on this theme by organizing a colloquium in 2021 in partnership with M-Collectif, Aires Libres, Le Centre de la marionnette de la FWB and THEMAA; as well as a conference-workshop-evening by the fire in 2023 with Pascal Le Brun-Cordier, director of the Master in cultural projects in public spaces at the École des arts de la Sorbonne (Paris 1).

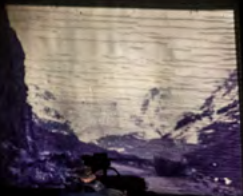
The objective is to encourage creativity, conceive collaborations, discover audacious experiences, cooperate to share resources, experience and artistic information, and to deepen the relationship between artistic creation and public spaces (in-situ creation). Our aim is to offer a space for reflection, on the place of the puppet in the public arena.



Touring shows

Season 2023/2024...





Indoor...

Summer 69

(created 2023)



Close-up

Adults only / Duration: 15 minutes

Wicker basket and check tablecloth, dunes and bushes... and things are getting hot! In search of a shady corner, a couple slips away, out of sight.

Wide view

Jean plays with his memories, they come from his head and his hands. Unless they are those of his creator?...



La Clé du 7e

(created 2021)

Adults only / Duration: 15 minutes

A new form of show/installation/performance for adult audiences, reinvented for each public space that hosts it.

Taking the form of a reconstituted workshop, a cabinet of curiosities, this exhibition depicts intimate scenes where we discover rare objects from the singular life of a puppet and an artist, like so many little erotic secrets shared... at the turn of a lock!

Created in Parma for the S-Chiusi festival at the invitation of Flavia Armenzoni of the Micro Macro association. (www.associazionemicromacro.com)

Why not !



Indoor...

From 3 years +

(created 2018)

And Why not!... gently shake up our preconceptions about the division of roles between mums and dads? This puppet show is a fun ride that lets us discover the chemistry between a "mumdad" (blending together of a mum and a dad) and their son. It also allows us to experience the infinite tenderness, the turbulent complicity and the clownish confrontation that punctuate their daily lives.

A two-hander for a man/acrobat and a puppet/child, Why not! is a snapshot of an offbeat, sweet and mad moment in life.

Production : TOF Théâtre.

Co-production: Performing Arts Centres of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (Mars - Mons arts de la scène, Théâtre de Liège, Théâtre de Namur, Atelier Théâtre Jean Vilar, Louvain La Neuve). Rotondes - Luxembourg. Scène nationale du Sud-Aquitain. Centre Culturel du Brabant Wallon.

Other partners: Teatro delle Briciole - Parma (former management removed with dishonour). Le Grand Bleu, Lille. Le Théâtre - Scène Conventiionnée de Laval - Théâtre Jean Arp, Clamart.



PICCOLI SENTIMENTI

A show without words for audiences ages 3 and up.



In an exquisite blending of the TOF Theatre's uninged and sensitive world of puppetry, the 'art brut' of Antonio Catalano and the 'untamed lutherie' of patamusician Max Vandervorst, Piccoli Sentimenti concocts a hymn to the marvel of the marvellous awakening to artistic sensibility!

Piccoli Sentimenti was attributed the "Prix Résonnances" prize at the 21st "Festival International Jeune Public Momix" in Kingersheim (France). It has been nominated in Belgium as the best show in the category 'Young Audience' at the 2012 "Prix de la Critique". Winner of "Coup de coeur de la presse" (Rencontres de Huy - August 2012).

Production: TOF Théâtre/Teatro delle Briciole (Parma).

Co-production: Le Granit - Scène Nationale de Belfort, MA Scène Nationale - Pays de Montbéliard, L'Yonne en Scène, Festival A pas contés (Dijon).

Press

This precious moment brings us together, big and small, around a miniature landscape, which will progressively reveal its secrets. Nestled right up to the stage play, all tightly squeezed together, we join in contemplating these tiny little things, looking on with amazement as they connect with the great mystery of the world, a world yet to be explored (...)

Dominique Duthuit, France-Inter]



Old Escape

(created 2021)

Outdoor

Age 8+ 25 minutes + DJ set



Show and DJ set in the company of two human-sized puppets and some smaller ones...

Gaby, Antoine are 2 joyful senior citizens. They merrily pull up their trailer on a square, in a park or in the clearing of a woods where they present an amusing show of their own, telling tales of the trials and tribulations of two residents of a retirement home who are determined to escape to savour the flavours of life again, renew social contacts and... party! Somewhere between a funfair and a street show, their goal is clear: to create this coming together, to reweave the intergenerational link that has been taken away. Gaby and Antoine are also peerless DJs, and their heart-warming show ends on the dancefloor, with a little session of boisterous dancing to vinyl 45's carefully selected to suit the audience on the day.

Antoine and Gaby DJs

When Antoine and Gaby have any spare time, they "still love" heading out for some lively DJ sets!



Madness in the Workshop

A show without words for all audiences.

8 years and upwards !

Duration: 18 minutes.

*A short wacky performance
to describe the mishaps of
a puppet under construction
who decides to make a stab at
finishing up the job itself...*

*Eighteen crazy minutes
during which the
character struggles with
the elements, with the
material, the objects,
and sometimes even the
manipulators themselves,
never hesitating to
tyrannize them...*



Press

In 18 minutes, Alain Moreau delivers a juicy trashy thriller with humour that would make Tarantino green with envy. Just to reassure parents, children over 8 are allowed (... sorry!). It's delirious, it's clever, it's awesome.

[Catherine Makereel, Le Soir]



Indoors or Tent...

Show for 8 years
upwards.

*The TOF Theatre
presents Bistouri which
plunges into the belly
of a well-known fable
character...*



So, who is this important patient that discovers a retired tinkerer-surgeon delighted to be back in business by his bedside? Which famous patient found this prankster and this time what is at stake with this open surgery?

Press

A touching show overflowing with so much rare ingenuity and imagination. The life and soul given to these "gadgets" is yet again proof of the high level of artistry. By the end of this thrilling operation, we just want to rush up to these magician surgeons and give them a big kiss for their fine work.

[Lyne Crevier, Ici Montréal]

The Volunteers Outdoor parade



*A band of merry volunteers working
for the community.*

*Life-sized puppets blend into the public
space to try to make themselves useful with
their brand of professional amateurism.*

*With best intentions, they go to
boundless efforts to achieve their mission,
simplify your life come what may!*

A show without words for adults.

The Erotiks Zakouskis



Propped up at a bar in dim light, 3 short shows and an exhibition make up these delicious naughty delights.

Nothing indecent (or hardly!) or pornographic, just a cheeky wink at a cosy twosome.



Press

The TOF theatre explores eroticism so delicately and with such tenderness that we just want more. Nothing sinister or voyeuristic in Alain Moreau's collective. Awkward and poetic tones are ever-present. As with his shows for younger audiences, he delves into humanity, its little joys, and its deceptions with a tint of tenderness and humour.

[Jeanine Dath, *Le Soir*]



M. Tiche à la plage

Short, erotic piece for adults

Duration: 15 minutes

Every year at the beach, Monsieur Tiche indulges in his passion: building sandcastles...

A short piece that tackles love with humour, as well as playfulness, pleasure and consent. Performance offered with an animation aimed at a teenage audience.

Associate artist

↳ Nicolas Laine ↵

Chaud Must Go On

Duration 20
minutes / Age 8+

You're Show, right?



The tension rises, the audience awaits Bernard. But he gets later and later... and fails to appear on stage. The thing is, Bernard is something of a misfit. But Bernard doesn't let it get to him. It's a character trait of his. So he will fight with all his heart and all his might to achieve his ends.

Written and performed by Nicolas Laine. Executive produced by the TOF Théâtre

Project “Artiviste”

┌ Numérique, mon amour... ┐

Duration: 30 minutes

An interactive project for a public space initiated by adult literacy non-profit association Lire et Ecrire in collaboration with the TOF Théâtre.

All the excesses of a hyper-digitalised society played out and recounted by men and women who can't read and write.

It all starts with a strange mayor and a strange machine: the “QQRID” machine. The machine holds out the promise of a bright, shiny tomorrow. On this, the day of the big switch-on, the mayor lauds his great new innovation: all public services accessible in just one click. But when the first not brilliantly literate and not run-of-the-mill member of the public gets involved, the demonstration quickly goes off the rails... and not in a controlled way.

A collective creation by Alain Moreau, Jean-Luc Piraux, Nicolas Laine, Céline Robaszynski and Lire et Ecrire's adult learners.



Lire et Ecrire

~ Work in progress ~

Au bout du fil...

Street show

(provisional title)

Created by Alain Moreau, Sandrine Hooge and Nicolas Laine.

Or: how to enjoy the meeting in a public space of a couple of punk-dog puppeteers in baggy trousers who want to save the planet with their uncooperative puppet. There'll be laughter to the point of tears...



Un petit trou-Piccolo buco...

(provisional title)

Sideshow for very young audiences (from 3 years of age)

Created by Alain Moreau, Céline Robaszynski and Lisou De Henau

All the tenderness and ludicrousness of the little puppet character from Piccoli Sentimenti, who discovers that he has a twin and finds himself facing new situations. A surrealist dive into absurdity.



Dupig nēgandiku

For young audiences

(provisional, Wolof-language title)

Created by Alain Moreau, in collaboration with Astou Ndiaye and Seynabou Faye

*A co-production with the association Djarama
(Ndayane-Sénégal-www.djarama.org)*

A world away... the African twin of the little puppet character from Piccoli Sentimenti also discovers that he is a twin and finds himself confronted with quite a considerable environmental problem! In a show full of awareness and humour, will they be able to stop the bleeding together?





Artists on stage this season

Amaury Bertels (Stage Manager: *Old Escape*, *Piccoli Sentimenti*, *Madness in the workshop*, *Bistouri* and *The Erotiks Zakouskis*)

Matthieu Chemin (Stage Manager: *Madness in the workshop*)

Pierre Decuyperre (Actor/puppeteer: *Why not!*)

Lisou De Henau (Actor/puppeteer: *Piccoli Sentimenti* and *The Volunteers*)

Céline Dumont (Stage Manager, show and manipulation: *Why not!*)

Yannick Duret (Actor/puppeteer: *Madness in the workshop*)

Laura Durnez (Actor/puppeteer: *Old Escape*, *The Volunteers* and *Antoine & Gaby DJs*)

Renaud Gremillon (Actor/puppeteer/music and soundtrack interpretation *The Erotiks Zakouskis*)

Thierry Hellin (Actor/puppeteer: *Les Zakouskis Érotiks*)

Sandrine Hooge (Actor/puppeteer: *Madness in the workshop*, Stage Manager, actor and puppeteer *Why not!*)

Arnaud Lhoute (Actor/puppeteer: *The Volunteers*)

Nicolas Laine (Actor/puppeteer: *Chaud must go on*, *Numérique, mon amour...*)

Angela Malvasi (Actor/puppeteer: *Madness in the workshop*)

Alain Moreau (Actor/puppeteer: *La clé du 7^e*, *Summer 69*, *Bistouri* and Stage Manager: *Madness in the workshop*)

Fred Nyssen (Actor: *The Erotiks Zakouskis*)

Jean-Luc Piraux (Actor: *Numérique, mon amour...*)

Céline Robaszynski (Actor/puppeteer/musician: *Piccoli Sentimenti*, Stage Manager/puppeteer: *Bistouri*, *The Volunteers* and *Numérique, mon amour...*)

Dorothee Schoonooghe (Actor/puppeteer: *Old Escape*, *The Volunteers*, *Antoine & Gaby DJs* and *Mr Tiche à la plage*)

Max Vandervorst (Musical scoring: *Bistouri*, *Piccoli Sentimenti*, *Madness in the workshop*, *Old Escape*, *Why not!* and *Numérique, mon amour...*)

Behind the camera...

Alain Moreau (*Old Escape*, *Dupig nēgandiku*, *Numérique mon amour*)

Pierre Exsteen-Province de Liège (*Why not!*)

Guto Muniz (*Madness in the workshop*)

Melisa Stein (*Piccoli Sentimenti*, *Piccolo Bucco*)

Michel Boudru (*TOF workshop photo*)

Nicolò Cecchella (*Bistouri*)

Eddie Taz (*Pourquoi Pas!* outdoors)

Justine Cochu (*La Clé du 7^e*, *Gouffa*, *Boucle dort*)

Vincent Van Utterbeeck (*Summer 69* et *M. Tiche à la plage*)

My Linh Bui (*Summer 69*)

Artists behind the scenes

Alain Moreau (Artistic and General Director, Stage Director)

Catherine Blanjean (Administrative Manager)

Ysabel Hustinx (Reception Manager)

Joachim Martens (Administrative Assistant)

Pascale Mahieu (Production Manager)

Justine Cochu (Communication)

Matthieu Chemin (Theatre Director)

Amaury Bertels (Stage Manager)

Martine Renders, François Geeraerd, Claude Moreau, Pierre Seraille et Daniel Maes
(our Emergency Board of Directors)

My-Linh Bui (Distribution and Attaining Orbit - Kurieuze & Cies)

Touring Contact

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Visit our Facebook and our websites:

www.toftheatre.be - www.lemonty.be - www.maboule.be



Le TOF Théâtre est membre de [M-Collectif](#)

