

Dans l'Atelier
[In the Workshop]
and
Chantier Frigolite
[Polystyrene Workshop]

TOF
théâtre





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Dans l'Atelier

[In the Workshop]

A short wacky performance as a sort of preamble to inviting the audience, both children and adults, to try their hand at making their own puppets.

Eighteen crazy minutes to describe the mishaps of a puppet under construction who decides to make a stab at finishing up the job itself ...

Eighteen 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 ...

A show for all ages up from 8 years and up.

Distribution...

Conception, writing, staging, scenography and puppets: **Alain Moreau**

Acting: **Angela Malvasi, Emilie Plazolles et Yannick Duret** (alternating)

Animation *Chantier Frigolite* : **Angela Malvasi, Emilie Plazolles ou Yannick Duret**

Musical creation: **Max Vandervorst**

Lighting design: **Dimitri Joukovsky**

Creation and collaboration on the scenario: **Sarah Demarthe and Emilie Plazolles**

Participation in the project's creation and scenario: **Gilbert Epron and Dimitri Joukovsky**

Assistance with the scenography: **Sarah Demarthe**

Photos: **Melisa Stein**

Construction of the structure for the set: **Margaud Carpentiers**

Production Manager: **Françoise Fiocchi**

Tour Manager: **My-Linh Bui**





The press...

"For 18 minutes Alain Moreau excites us with his delicious thriller, reaching a height of comic trashiness that rivals Tarantino. But parents should rest assured: it is safe to bring your children (eight and up nevertheless) [...] Two hands poke out of a cardboard box, then a headless trunk. A rectangle of polystyrene on a rod is all you need for the task (with the help of two brilliant and very discreet puppeteers). For this is how it all gets started, sawing out a shape, drawing in the eyes with a marker, losing a few fingers along the way. Existential questions follow and a terrible battle of egos as tyranny sets in. Or so it is that a few marks of a crayon and the hairs of a paintbrush can produce the most irascible dictator. It's sheer madness, clever, brilliant!"

[Catherine Makereel, *Le Soir*]

"It's courageous. It's painful. The puppet enters into a bitter struggle with the material, a schizophrenic struggle with itself and against its makers... [...] The writing of this show is dense, rich in discoveries, with never a dull moment. The madness, while contained in the beginning, builds to a crescendo and reaches a literally explosive finale. A must."

[A. Deb. *L'Avenir*]

Chantier Frigolite



A performance followed by the **Chantier Frigolite** [Polystyrene Workshop]

Following this short, off-the-wall, performance, we invite children and adults to seriously set about building their own puppets under our guidance.

But this is not mandatory as the performance can stand on its own and be presented alone.

For me puppets and theatre depend on each other—there are no puppets without theatre.

Taking up this notion, I felt it would be quite amusing to have theatre be the introduction to this initiation into puppet making, theatre with a puppet of course! While this is far from a didactic performance, as one might expect, my idea is to make the whole experience a theatrical performance.

Fun, hilarious, unhinged and off beat...these are the four key words that follow and guide our team throughout their work of creating... At the end of the show, which I hoped would seem too short, my dream was to have the audience flock to the tools we offer them in a rush to set about sculpting the polystyrene (known as 'frigolite' in Belgium). Then, following the advice of our team, that they would set about making their own puppets.

Clearly an hour of participating in our **Chantier Frigolite** is not enough for the audience to be able to leave with a completed puppet in their hands. They will, however, have the keys for making one at home, for finishing it up in their bedroom, or in the kitchen or, perhaps, to make others...

Alain Moreau [Director]



On a practical note...

A show for all ages up from 8 years and up

The show is autonomous and can be performed without being followed by Chantier Frigolite...

A choice of three options

- The show alone, without Chantier Frigolite. (over a total period of 4 hours maximum, for example : 6 PM, 7 PM, and 8:30 PM)
- 2 shows + Chantier Frigolite (workshop directly following the 2nd showing, over a total period of 4 hours maximum, for example: 2 PM, 3 PM and workshop from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM)
- 2 shows + 2 Chantier Frigolite (1 showing and 1 workshop in the morning + 1 showing and 1 workshop in the afternoon, workshop immediately following the performances).

Length of the show: 18 minutes

Number of spectators per show: maximum 130 (depending on the venue, and whether there are fixed bleachers or improvised seating...)

Length of Chantier Frigolite: 1 hour

Open to the public: 25 (adults and children from 8 up)

Schools: 10 years and up, 1 class, 30 children maximum



Technical Data Sheet...

In the Workshop (Show)

Scenic space: 4m (width) x 2,50m x 2,50m (height)

1st row of spectators at a distance of 2m

Electrical power: 1 x 16 single-phase amps
(1 standard plug)

For the show: darkness or semidarkness

Mounting: 1 hour

Dismounting: ½ hour

For the audience: fixed bleachers or improvised seating (cushions on the floor, low benches, chairs, tables, with adults standing behind the tables)

Chantier frigolite (puppet-making workshop)

A well-lighted space

4 tables (2m x 1m) or 4 large trestle tables (min. 80 cm)

A sufficiently large space for holding both the show and the workshop or a separate space for Chantier frigolite for which the tables could be set up beforehand by our team.

For school showings: 3 adults will be needed in addition to our company with experience in making crafts to assist in animating the workshop.

Have rubbish bags and a vacuum cleaner available and 1 person to operate it after the workshop!



The story of the company...

The Tof Theatre was born in 1986 on Alain Moreau's initiative and following the creation of the show "Le Tour du Bloc".

Originally created for an adult audience, the show was re-worked and presented in it's young peoples version. It was selected to play at the Rencontres/Sélections d'Arlon. The show was an immense success and went on to play 500 times around the world: in Flanders and in numerous other European countries, the ex-USSR, Canada, the USA...

An adept of "miniature realism" the Tof perverts traditional puppet manipulation techniques and allows the spectator to see the manipulator. The puppet, often the centre of the show and measuring from 5 centimetres to 5 metres, is not destined exclusively for young peoples theatre. Often without words, the shows are conceived for a wider public, enjoyed by parents, children and grand parents alike.

Moving out of the darkness of the theatre, the Tof Theatre is also present on the streets with "Les Bénévoles", "Bistouri" and the show "Eugène, Roi de la frite", a sort of a poem to the glory of roadside gastronomy where a tiny puppet cooks real mini French fries in front of your very eyes and with no safety net !... Since 2001 the company has been regulated by the decree relating to children and young peoples theatre and benefits thus from the support of the Minister for the French-speaking Community of Belgium, the General Direction for Culture and General Services for the Performing Arts. The Tof Theatre is a member of the Chamber of Children and Young Peoples Theatre (C.T.E.J) and UNIMA.

Countries that have organised Tof Theatre tours:

France, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Great Britain, Slovakia, Canada, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Grand duchy of Luxembourg, Denmark, Byelorussia, Austria, Finland, Israel, Brazil, Tchequia, Ukraine.

Madness...

In 1996, the Tof decided to organise an international puppet festival at Genappe... And it worked !... The event was named "DES PIEDS ET DES MAINS". We did the whole thing again in 1998 and the event was attended by more than 5000 people during the four day festival. A lack of time and above all financial support has put the festival 'out to grass' for an undetermined length of time...

In 2001, the Tof initiated "**Le Petit Bazar Erotik**" with the complicity of ten European companies. Created at the Halles de Schaerbeek this grand ambulatory evening was presented some 25 times in Europe despite the considerable weight of the project, the 20 or so participants, all working with small forms associated with puppets, objects and eroticism.

From 2002 to 2006 our madness was less obvious... and yet! The Tof set up in an old run-down cinema in Genappe (close to Brussels), the 'MONTY'. Some time later and after much sweat, it now houses a welcoming bar and a small theatre with seating for 100 spectators opened to the public from time to time for evenings where shows or parts of shows in creation are presented.

Shows created...

1987 "le Tour du Bloc", (Co-produced with La Filipendule) conception: Alain Moreau, script, scenography and puppets: Agnès Lebrun and Alain Moreau, "Outside eye": Ioanna Gkizas. 550 performances in Belgium, France, Holland, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Canada, Slovakia, Ex-USSR, England, the USA.

1988 "Radio Tom", conception and scenography: Alain Moreau, puppets: Antoinette Brouyaux, direction: Francy Begasse. 200 performances in Belgium, France, Holland.

1992 "Camping Sauvage", conception, direction, sceonography and puppets: Alain Moreau, Script: Alain Moreau and Caroline Bergeron 530 performances in Belgium, France, Holland, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Denmark, Canada. **Coup de Cœur de la Presse, 'Pierre Thonon' award and special mention by the jury for exceptional work on emotions at the Rencontres/Selection at Huy, 1992.**

1995 **"Cabane"**, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau, script: Alain Moreau and Caroline Bergeron. 550 performances in Belgium, France, Holland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Austria, Portugal, Switzerland, Canada, Israel.

Rencontres/Selection at HUY, 1995, awarded: Minister of Culture Prize, City of Huy prize, Coup de Foudre from the press, special mention by the jury. Grand Prix from the jury at the International Puppet Festival and Animated Forms at Cannes in 1998.



1996 **"Eugène, Roi de la frite"**, conception, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. Street theatre, 800 performances in Belgium, Holland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Finland, Denmark, England, Austria, Portugal, Switzerland, Canada.

1998 **"Patraque"**, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau, Script: Alain Moreau and Caroline Bergeron, Assistant director: Caroline Bergeron. 530 performances in Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Canada.

Rencontres/Selection at Huy '99, awarded: Special mention by the jury for "the exceptional work on emotions and the re-transcription of daily life", "Coup de Coeur" from the press.

2001 **"Le Petit Bazar Erotik"**, co-conception and co-direction: Alain Moreau and Caroline Bergeron, 25 performances in Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal. Participating companies: Vélo-Théâtre (F), Théâtre Manarf (F), Théâtre de Cuisine (F), Green Ginger/Pickled Image (GB), Turak (F), La Balestra (F), Les Petits Miracles (F), Compagnie Gare Centrale (B) and Laïka (B). Co-produced with the Halles de Schaerbeek, EQUINOXE, National theatre of Chateauroux and La Laiterie in Strasbourg.

Within the framework of Premis Fad Sebatia Gasch, awarded the "Aplaudiment Internacional Joan German Schreöder" in Barcelona in 2002. Prize for the best foreign show of the season in Catalonia.



2002 **"Les Zakouskis Erotiks"**, conception, script, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. 60 performances in Belgium, Switzerland, France, Germany, Holland, Austria.

2002 **"Duel"**, conception, direction and scenography: Caroline Bergeron, assisted by Alain Moreau for the direction. 50 performances in Belgium, France, Portugal, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Co-produced with the Centro Cultural de Belém (Portugal), and Très Tôt Théâtre, Quimper.

2003 **"A Tout Jamais ! / Lebwohl, bis morgen !"**, conception, script (in collaboration with the actors), direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. Co-produced with the Theater Marabu, Bonn. 150 performances to date in Belgium, France, Switzerland, Germany, Byelorussia, Portugal, Brazil, Italia, Holland, Tchequia.

"Coup de Coeur" from the press and the Minister for Young Children and Fundamental Education prize at the Rencontres Théâtre Jeune Public at Huy 2003.

2004 **"Bistouri"** (street version) conception, script (in collaboration with the actors), direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. Co-produced with the Festival des Arts Forains "Namur en mai", with the complicity of "Percusos", european project lead by the Centro Cultural de Belém. Performances in Belgium, France, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Canada, Portugal, Israel.

2005 **"Les Bénévoles"** (events and shows) conception, script, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. Co-produced with PASS- Scientific adventure park Mons-Frameries, the Théâtre de Namur/Dramatic Centre. With the participation of the Centre des Arts Scéniques (Performing Arts Centre), and with the complicity of the festival "Théâtre à Tout Age", Quimper. Performances in Belgium and France.



2006 **"Bistouri"** (theatre version) conception, script (in collaboration with the actors), direction, scenography and puppets : Alain Moreau. 250 showings to this day in Belgium, France, Israel, Brazil, Morocco and Ireland.

2007 **"Fritkot"**, a rerun and adaptation of the show "Le Roi de la frite" in a caravan. 50 showings in Belgium and in France.

2007 **"Le grand retour"**, conception, writing, staging, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. 30 showings to this day in France and in Vietnam. **In February 2008, the show was awarded at the International Festival of Puppetry of Hanoi (Vietnam) with a gold medal and the Press and Audience Prize.**

2009 **"Premiers pas sur la Dune"**, a show without words for ages 3 and up... Conception, writing, staging, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. 300 showings to this day in Belgium, France, Portugal, Italy and Denmark. **Winner of the Ministry of Culture Prize and the "Coup de cœur de la presse" (Rencontres de Huy - August 2009).**

2009 **"Sur la dune"**, a show for adults. Conception, writing, staging, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. 50 showings to this day in Belgium, France, Italy and Denmark. **Show nominated with the Prix de la Critique 2010 award in the category of Artistic Creation and Technique.**

2011 **"Piccoli Sentimenti"**, a show for young people ages 3 and up, co-produced with the Teatro delle Briciole, drawing from the world of Antonio

Catalano. **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).**

2013 **"In the Workshop"**, a short performance followed by a workshop in how to make a puppet, aimed at children of 8 years and up. Creation in February 2013 at National Theater- Brussels.

The other shows on tour...

In addition to *In the Workshop* our other shows continue to tour...

Premiers pas sur la dune/Sur la Dune

What is the connecting thread between a cabbage, a rubber duck, clouds, a goldfish, a beach bucket and spade and a house? Evocative of early childhood, these objects make up the inner architecture of René, a little man trying to come to grips with his crumbling identity. Manipulated by four characters who have seemingly emerged from a Magritte painting, this puppet makes his way through an association of comical situations whose sole logic is based on his agitated unconscious. What unfolds is an enigma, sprinkled throughout with recurring, funny clues. This pictorial, wordless show will prompt audiences to question whether they themselves are capable of finding that special balance between one's fantasies and reality. With the ingenious use of rails and pulleys that alter the scenic space in the most unpredictable way, Alain



Moreau has conceived of a machine for questioning—in the style of the Surrealists—the creative process itself: To what extent are we masters of our own lives? Who decides what we are and what we create?

This show exists in two versions, one for young people ages 3 and up and another for adults

Length: 45 min and 1 hour

Number of spectators: 130



Bistouri (street version in a tent or theatre)

A very important patient in bed and, at his bedside, the retired “do-it-yourself” surgeon, delighted to be back at work. What famous patient has the old tinkerer managed to get hold of and what is at stake in the open-heart surgery about to take place?

One way or the other, the operation is going to be tricky!...

Preying on the weak and oppressed, this mercenary will spare no expense to get what he wants!...

Equipped with all the latest equipment such as the endoscopic video camera, a state-of-the-art anaesthetising mallet, a scalpel, a tin-opener, a woodsaw, he’s ready to take a pleasurable trip into the turbulent entrails of his

patient, to discover new, unexplored regions and perhaps come out of there with the desire to add an extra page or two to the dossier on an immortal myth. Whatever the outcome, his mission will be accomplished with a certain degree of gravity, a good dose of humour as well as his renowned professionalism !

A show for all ages, 8 and up

Length: street version 40 min/theatre version: 1 hour

Number of spectators: street version about 70/theatre version: 180

Les Zakouskis Erotiks

Three short shows and an exhibition around a make-shift bar are what make up these devilish treats in which the audience gets to taste its little erotic desserts. After being welcomed by a puppet and the actors, depending on the number of people, the audience is divided into several groups. In this way, the whole audience sees the three shows simultaneously as they are performed several times during the evening...

After each show everyone is reunited around our bar and is invited to peek through the hole of a lock where a few other saucy surprises await them...

For the connoisseurs of these simple but oh so important things... which have nothing to do with pornography, this evening is the occasion for letting loose in the spirit of tenderness and finesse...

Length of the evening: about 1 1/2 hours

Number of spectators : Maximum 150



Piccoli Sentimenti

A show without words for audiences ages 3 and up, drawing from the world of Antonio Catalano.

In an exquisite blending of the Tof Theatre’s unhinged 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!

“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]

Audience: from 3 years old

Maximum house: about 100 for the general public and 130 for schools

Duration: about 45 min

Under preparation

A l'ouest... [Out to lunch..] A show for adults. (a working title)

An exploration on an inner monologue about the passage of time, what gets lost, gets out of hand and gets broken along the way...

In January and February 2014 within the framework of ONZE, the Biennale de la Marionnette and des Formes Animées, in Mayenne, Sarthe and Maine et Loire, a 25-minute show will be presented as a preview. The first steps toward a longer show...

Coproduction: ONZE, Biennale de la marionnette et des formes manipulées - Mayenne, Sarthe, Maine et Loire.

Zedteop Pluk (a working title)

The work of untamed luthier and patamusician Max Vandervorst shares the stage with our puppets. Live music played by the puppets themselves will be central to this new show.

Set in a van that will also house the spectators, this show of about 20 minutes can be performed several times a day.

Coproduction: Arsenic2