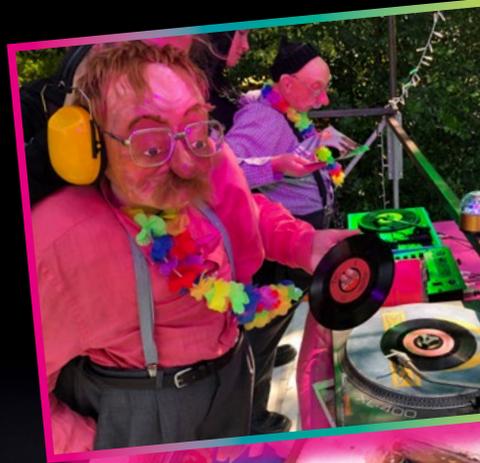


Old Escape

A show featuring life-sized
and other smaller puppets,
followed by a DJ set.

TOF
theatre



All public since 8 years - 25 minutes + DJ Set

*"A quirky,
uplifting and nostalgic show,
all the more touching by the fact that
Alain Moreau's puppets radiate
a real sense of humanity."*

Laurence Bertels - La Libre Belgique



Old Escape

Gaby, Antoine and Nadine are 3 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 about their generation, portraying the troublesome adventures of two residents in a retirement home. They are determined to run away to taste the flavour of life again, renew social contacts and... party.

Between carnival and street performance, our heroes long to meet new people and reconnect with their stolen intergenerational relationship. Gaby and Antoine are fantastic DJs. Their heart-warming adventures finish with rollicking moves on the dancefloor, to the sound of carefully selected vinyl singles for the public of the day.

The genesis of the show

Without a doubt, this project was instigated by the successive lockdowns during the covid-19 pandemic. Seniors were literally locked up in their retirement homes. Entire sectors - cultural, carnivals, nightclubs... all considered non-essential, were closed down for more than a year: Appalled, we had to react... find alternative solutions to closed-down theatres with no perspective of re-opening; tell a story about escape; bring back connection, enjoyment and freedom.

We delved into our stocks and retrieved the puppets; Gaby, Antoine, and Nadine. These gentle, mischievous "volunteers", human-sized puppets, were created in 2005 for performances/animations of the same name. They subsequently featured in "I think and then"... in 2016.

And we gleefully entrusted them to tell their own story in an absurd way by playing the role of... puppeteers.

Although the show's genesis took place in a particular context, we should, however, keep in mind that these are not new problems and have not disappeared with the end of lockdown. Some of these issues urgently need to be highlighted: lifeless existences in retirement homes, no access to culture, constant control in our social lives...





Cast and crew

Concept: **Laura Durnez, Alain Moreau and Dorothee Schoonoghe**

Actors: **Laura Durnez, Arnaud Lhoute and Dorothee Schoonoghe**

Directed by: **Alain Moreau**

Music: **Max Vandervorst**

Stage management: **Arnaud Lhoute**

Set design, puppets and props:
Alain Moreau assisted by **Céline Robaszynski** and **Odile Dubucq**

Costumes: **Céline Robaszynski**

Set construction and tinkering on the trailer: **Matthieu Chemin, Amaury Bertels, Jean-Christophe Witmeur, Magda Kulaga and Antoine Steier**

DJ coach: **Klaus Carter**

Photos: **Jean Goovaerts, Bernard Willem, Alain Moreau** and **Amelia Denisa Zabava**

Press

La Libre Belgique - Tuesday, 28 September 2021

Reporting by Laurence Bertels special envoy at Charleville-Mezieres.

The Belgians are present yet again at the Avignon of puppetry.

Depending on the edition, Alain Moreau is a regular to in and off-festival. His new show, a jovial and daring escape by residents of the Bon Repos/Peaceful Rest home, is a sell-out.

Using a few knotted bedsheets, our 3 affectionate miniature puppets, Gaby, Antoine and Nadine, make an escape, seek out adventure, discover the joys of the beach. They shed their night gowns, dance to the rhythm of a scratched old version of "Sea, Sex and Sun", and run naked in waves, splashing passers-by. Followed by the staff nurse, on their tails with ambulance sirens and the whole shebang...

Nothing can stop the DJs as they roam from village to village reconnecting with the population, encouraging them to dance and rediscover the taste of freedom.

A quirky, uplifting and nostalgic show, all the more touching by the fact that Alain Moreau's puppets radiate a real sense of humanity.

When puppeteers Dorothée Schoonooghe, Laura Durnez and Arnaud Lhoute dry off our adventurers with a handkerchief, we literally melt at this heart-warming moment.





Technical plan

The show takes place outdoors. Our trailer can be parked in a street, a park or on a square.

Situated in a calm environment without interference from music or heavy traffic.

An indoor version, without the trailer, is also available.

3 versions:

- 3 performances per day 30 minutes
- 2 performances 30 minutes, the second performance followed by a 1-hour DJ set.
- 1 performance 30 minutes, followed by a 1-hour DJ set.

Audience capacity: 50 to 100 spectators

Dimensions including audience space: 8m X 10m minimum on a flat surface, accessible with vehicle and trailer (1500 KG). These dimensions are adaptable (please contact). We position our trailer so that the audience is blinded by our talented crew and not by the sun.

Stage dimensions: 8m X 5m (8m X 3m without DJ set)

Dimension of trailer:

Length 4m + drawbar (1,50m)

Width : 2m closed, 2,5m open

Height : 3m

Weight : ± 1500 kg

Parking space for vehicle

VW Transporter, dimension : 5m X 1,80m / 1,95m Height



Electricity: source 16A in 220 for the trailer

Audience seating: we supply cushions for the first row, 4 benches (H+/-25 cm) and 4 higher benches for the last row (+/-60 cm). To be supplied : 10 benches for the intermediary rows benches or 50 chairs..

Toilets and dressing-rooms: 3 people.

Arrival: 2 hours before first performance (Please contact us if access with vehicle and trailer is difficult so we can allow for time...). If in a pedestrian zone, provide access (bollards lowered).

Deconstruction: 1 hour

Please provide 2 people to assist with hitching of trailer.

Contact stage manager:

Arnaud Lhoute

0032 494 44 94 80

larnooz@gmail.com

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.

Shows created

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



Contact Tour Manager

My-Linh Bui

+33 6 88 18 72 32 (France)

+32 473 594 325 (Belgium)

mbui@toftheatre.be



58 rue de Charleroi,
B-1470 Genappe, Belgium

+32 67 34 14 30

info@toftheatre.be

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