

MASACRADE

BY MARCEL ET SES DRÔLES DE FEMMES

Circus for public spaces

First performance : 2023

Running time : 45 minutes

Age suitability : For all audiences

Audience capacity : 600 persons



A TRAGI-COMEDY OF SUICIDAL VAULTING

INTENTIONS

Masacrade is a 45 minutes performance for all audiences, 7 acts of mini-flying trapeze, 1 voice over, 3 performers, 1 inflatable mattress, 25 costumes et 1 arsonist technician.

Masacrade is a fight between absurdity and logic, where we look for the meaning of death in order to understand the meaning of life, or better yet where we make sense of living by practicing dying before we die...

7 acts of flying trapeze; not the 7 lives of a cat but the 7 deaths of the Marcells. Could this be a lucky number ?

In an epic exploration of the non-sense of life, Masacrade delights in turning death's pages. The passing that strikes, that we fear, which we would prefer to choose, or face with panache, upon which we can stumble inadvertently, the one that will inevitably catch up with us in the end... death.

For choosing one's own death is no easy feat; an easy feat would be to die after being deceased. During this fatal ceremony, our protagonists, guided by a narrating voice-over, will question that without which passing would be of no substance, and a tomb would shelter nothing but nothingness because it is the source of all existence... they will question life.



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THE PROJECT

The “Marcel” is a trio of complicit and generous performers, with an idiosyncratic touch of craziness that makes them dreadfully endearing.

They are tactful enough to tackle a heavy subject with a light touch, to address with the utmost seriousness absurd matters, and to bring virtuosity without ever taking themselves seriously. Convinced that fear won't prevent danger, they have decided to laugh at death as a way to better apprehend it.

As if the physical challenge wasn't enough, they decided to include drama, texts and a myriad of props, costumes and effects, as if they were surprise gifts to share. They act while vaulting, with an uninhibited fantasy that is never gratuitous. They play with their own fears as much as ours, and everytime we think we have figured them out, they elude our expectations. Don't be fooled, it takes density to fly, and talent to embed silliness in the sublime and awe in a farce.

“The voice”, played by Théo Godefroid allows the audience to connect, offering a common thread to dive in the drama. Alternatively a comforting narrator, a poet, musician or wise witness, it can also be an ill-tempered demiurge calling out on the protagonists when everything goes wrong, combining bad faith and flights of poetry. Embodying the “meaning”, this voice-over has its own personality, its own failings and flamboyance, allowing us to create a bond that will accompany us throughout this “fatal ceremony”.



THE PROJECT

The show is constructed as a succession of seemingly independent scenes in a Monty-Pythonian manner, switching from one aesthetic to the other, shifting acting styles, exploring a variety of treatments of sound and speech, utilizing all the spaces offered by their stage / apparatus, an inflatable castle made of metal poles, wires, ladders and platforms.

An epic plastic peplum with dubbed voices is followed by a gymnastic cartoon with bouncing mascots, then by a tragic wrestling match featuring amplified helmets and lines from Shakespeare's Hamlet, later by an absurd sequence inside their brain where emotions quarrel in a foreign language, then a lyrical agony with a trapeze stabbed in the back, a demo of aerial trapeze training, a model funeral, all this leading to an explosive techno-pop finale...

As the show progresses, we bond with these performers who keep trying on new skins in the hope that they will manage finally to thwart the foretold outcome, ripping off layers of costumes as if they were peeling an onion, thus drawing us seemingly closer to their own selves. Always conscious that they are playing parts, they never forget that "All the world's a stage" and blur the lines of the performance, both snatching and delighting us..



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COSTUMES

Togas made of plastic sheets, cardboard wigs, large mascots, fringed caps, Elizabethan sportswear, glittery acrobats leotards...



SPECTACULAR ELEMENTS

Suicidal vaulting that never fails
Aerial hula hoop
Slack ropes
Contorting bodies
A severed arm
A three man high
A plastic sheet stage curtain ripped out
A dropping wig

CREDITS

Writing and performing

Marine Fourteau
Angèle Guilbaud
Marcel Vidal Castells

Writing and sound

Théo Godefroid

Writing and dramaturgy

Claire Schumm

Stage management

Thomas Bares &
Marius Ollagnier en alternatively

Création costumes

Bastien Poncelet

Coaching

Jordi Montmany

Photographer

Loïc Nys

Production & Booking

Emilie Dubois

Administration

Chloé Delpierre



PARTNERS

Production : Marcel et ses Drôles de Femmes

Co-producers and residencies :

- Théâtre ONYX, Scène conventionnée - St Herblain
- Nil Obstrat - Nil Admirari - Saint Ouen l'Aumône
- Atelier 231, Centre National des Arts de la Rue et de l'Espace Public - Sotteville-les-rouen
- La Cascade, Pôle National Cirque - Pôle National Cirque Ardèche - Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes
- Le Palc, Pôle National Cirque Grand Est - Chalon-en-Champagne.
- L'Eclat, Scène Conventionnée d'Intérêt National « Art, enfance, jeunesse »
- Plateforme 2 Pôles Cirque en Normandie / La Brèche à Cherbourg et le Cirque-Théâtre d'Elbeuf
- CIRC'a, Pôle National Cirque Auch Gers Occitanie
- Le Plongeoir, Cité du Cirque - Pôle Cirque Le Mans

Provision of premises : Théâtre Wolubilis - Bruxelles

Subsidies : DRAC Normandie • Région Normandie
• Conseil départemental de la Seine-Maritime (CD76)•
SPEDIDAM



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THE COMPANY

Defining our circus ? It is raw and immodest, and questions the senselessness of movement, both through aerial vaulting or circus acts using hula-hoop, slack ropes, rollerskating, acrobatic lifts...

Falling is part of the game, it is present, both revealing danger and making it less dramatic. Our characters portrayed evolve in a burlesque environment, both theatrical and sensible. Our attempt : To reveal with humor and sensitivity the absurd complexities of human lives that keep astonishing us. To zoom out in order to let beauty appear where it might not be expected.

To find out how to tell about the solitudes and vulnerabilities of human beings desperately trying to find their place in the world even though there might not be one.

To tell ourselves that there is no light without darkness.

Our shows are created instinctively, and nourished by our encounters, desires, and the visions that illustrate our dreams. . We are always trying to surprise each other, seeking each other's imagination and stimulating our curiosity. We are shameless peepers.

Every show is not only an opportunity to connect with the people around us, but also to build bridges between reality and fantasy. Life might seem harsh, all the more reason to turn it into an everlasting feast where the ability to create is in all of us.

We advocate for shows made for all audiences, with different levels of interpretation for older or younger viewers. We like creating a level of intimacy with the audience, when we are complicit in the storytelling, whether outdoors or in theaters. We highly value teamwork, when the ideas, wishes and opinions of everyone can be heard, bringing out the best of every backgrounds. Every creation is the fruit of encounter and collective writing.



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Production & Booking

Emilie Dubois : diffusion@lesmarcels.fr,

Administration

Chloé Delpierre : administration@lesmarcels.fr

Technical direction

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Graphics & Web design

Marcel Vidal Castells : marcel@lesmarcels.fr

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Artistic direction

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Photographer

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