



NonGrata

creation 2025

**A poetic call to celebrate our vulnerabilities.
An invitation to connect and act together.**

**DIRTZ
THEATRE**



The Show

Creation 2025
All public + 6 ans
60 minutes

Four solitudes cross paths, sometimes without seeing each other, in a neighborhood that could resemble our own. *'What is half of the whole? Is there only the space we leave for the other? If you let me fall, do I break?'* The poetry of the characters and their silent questions echo the absurdity of our world and the urgency of connecting to act together. In this new creation from DÍRTZtheatre, live music accompanies a skewed view of reality, touching us with its somewhat rough tenderness. *'Why will I probably never hug you?'* A physical puppet theater where our bodies are drawn into a dynamic and moving performance to collectively celebrate our singularities.

***NonGrata is an invitation to celebrate our vulnerabilities,
a slightly rough caress where the puppets amplify our humanity.***

De et avec Charlie Denat, Jolanda Löllmann, Eléonore Gresset, Djoo Cuer, Guillaume Kerogues Lepitre, Théo Gayet

Technical informations

NonGrata is a performance designed for public space.

Duration: 60 minutes

Audience: Suitable for all ages from 6 years old

The adpation to public space requires a presence on site the day before

Setup and sound check on show : 4 hours

Ideal audience capacity: 250 people

The company is mostly self-sufficient technically.

Performance Space

We require a minimum space of 30 x 30 meters, ideally with at least one wall and a sense of perspective (squares, street intersections, courtyards, esplanades... We prefer spaces that are lively and inhabited).

Access to surrounding doors and windows is appreciated.

Urban furniture is welcome, especially around the edges (low walls, lampposts, benches, greenery...).

Touring Personnel: 6

- 4 puppet-dancers
- 1 musician-actress
- 1 technical manager (stage manager)
- On some dates, the tour manager may also be present.

We offer a free vocal workshop on the day before the show to prepare a few audience members as audience collaborators.



Photo:Maraudeurs d'Images et Gabriel Condamine

More informations...

Live Music

The music is an original composition, performed primarily live. It can serve as sound design, an evocation of an inner world, an enhancement of the space, or a rhythmic counterpoint to the action.

A quadraphonic setup allows for spatialized sound, which supports and enriches the multiple layers of reality within the performance.

On the Use of Text

Two texts and one song punctuate the performance. They allow for shifts in how the audience is addressed and offer subtle cues for interpreting the meaning of what is unfolding on stage. In this world ruled by silent puppets, they bring a deeply human element: the breath of the voice. One of the texts is excerpted from *Chemins contraires* by Mariette Navarro.

The texts can be translated and performed in english .

Audience Placement

The audience's positioning varies throughout the performance. The action draws upon the unique architecture of the space, and the audience itself is considered a mobile architectural element.

While sitting, standing, or facing a particular direction may be gently suggested, nothing is strictly imposed. The audience is invited to move with us, dynamically inhabiting the space.

How the group organizes itself — its willingness to experience the performance collectively — is one of the core challenges of the piece.

Various tools are employed by the performers and through the spatialization of sound to encourage attentiveness to others and to foster connections among audience members.



Photo: Justine Cerutti-Barbey, Maraudeurs d'Images



A Metatheatrical Reflection on Manipulation

The puppet, operated in full view of the audience, inherently carries this metaphor: behind a character (the puppet), stands a human presence (the puppeteer).

To carry a puppet is also to carry — a gesture we often perform together, through shared or crossed manipulation. It is the quality of this support that gives the puppet its strength and allows it to fully come to life.

By choosing marginalized or seemingly fragile characters, we highlight this puppeteering gesture, evoking how our capacity for resilience relies on essential solidarity.

Puppetry and Public Space

NonGrata brings together multiple layers of reality. The public space provides an ultra-realistic backdrop. In contrast, the puppets carry within them elements of dreamlike fantasy.

This tension offers the company an opportunity to further explore our relationship with reality, and to play with the way we look at the city, its inhabitants, and the bonds that connect us.



Photo: Maraudeurs d'Images

Partners:

Subventions : La Région Auvergne Rhône Alpes ; Le Département de l'Ardèche , La Spedidam



Coproductions : Théâtre les Quinconces, Vals les Bains (07), Quelques p'Arts, Centre National des Arts de la rue et de l'Espace Public, Boulieu-lès-Annonay (07), Espace Périphérique, Paris (75) (aide à la création) Superstrat, Saint Bonnet le Château (42) , Groupe de 20 Auvergne Rhône Alpes

Residencies : La Transverse, Corbigny (58), La Cascade, Pôle National des Arts du Cirque, Bourg Saint-Andéol (07), Le Pied aux Planches, Lagorce (07), Le Silo, Le Mérévillos (91), Animakt, Saulx-les-Chartreux (91), Le MeTT, Le Teil (07), Le Vesseaux mère (07) , Les Alentours Rêveurs , Corbigny (58)

DÍRTZtheatre was founded in 2018 by Jolanda Löllmann and Charlie Denat, two multidisciplinary artists who explore the boundaries between dance, circus, and puppetry.

Their world, tinged with humor, favors metaphor over direct narrative. Their work is distinguished by a strong focus on movement quality and a deep interest in precise manipulation, all in service of expressing humanity through puppets.

Their first creation, *ShortStories*, is the result of an exploration combining contemporary dance and carried puppetry. This triptych of short pieces, performed both indoors and in public spaces, has received several awards at international festivals for its innovative blend of puppetry and dance, as well as for its puppet animation and sound design.

Alongside its artistic projects, the company has been engaged for several years in educational activities, sharing its research on puppetry and dance with professional artists, students, and amateur participants.

Awards

- Special Award for research combining dance, puppetry, and acting – Golden Sparkle Festival, Kragujevac, Serbia, 2024
- Special Award for best animation and sound design – InPut Fest, Karlovac, Croatia, 2024
- Jury Prize – Mimoff Festival, 2019

Videos

NonGrata

<https://vimeo.com/1015665773>



ShortStories

<https://vimeo.com/480364916>



Educational and Cultural Programs

Alongside its performances, the company offers cultural workshops.

Mask and Puppet Making

For children and parents, school groups, and teenagers.

By assembling various materials, participants are invited to create a mask or puppet. In a playful and friendly atmosphere, this workshop teaches different assembly techniques while sharing a creative process where the material guides us toward unexplored aspects of our creativity.

Suitable for children (from 4 years old), with or without parents. We can provide tools and a wide range of materials. The duration of the workshop can be adapted (minimum 1 hour).



Introduction to puppetry and movement

Amateurs, professionals"

Introduction to Carried Puppetry and Movement

For amateurs and professionals

We offer an experimental workshop to explore how dance and carried puppetry can combine to inspire our imagination and surprise us.

Pedagogical puppets can be provided for this workshop. The duration of the workshop can be adapted (minimum 3 hours).

Philo-Art Workshop

For school groups, parent-child workshops, general public

Philo-art workshops allow us to share our theatrical experience as a group. Putting words to emotions and transforming a sensory experience into a basis for reflection.

The facilitator can lead several workshops in the same day. Each workshop will last 1.5 to 2 hours.



Contacts

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