

# MA TACHE



Une Création de la Cie O Quel Dommage, Conception et écriture: Clara Lopez

Jeu: Clara Lopez et Natalia Weinger, Mise en scène: Olivier Mahiant, Scénographie: Sandrine Clark,  
Musique: Gilles Kremer, Lumières: Babas et Mark Elst, Conseiller Dramaturgique: Jean Lambert.

Avec l'aide la de Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles et le CCBW. Avec le soutien de: La Cie de la Casquette, Le Théâtre du Tilleul, La Roseaie, le Service Culture de la Commune d'Ixelles, le Cc du Pays des Collines, Le Centre de la Marionnette de la FWB, Wolubilis, la Montagne Magique et le Petit Théâtre de la Grande Vie.

IN PRACTICE

from 4 years old

**Jury's award au International Children's Festival of Bucarest, FITC**

**Best creative work's award au International Children's Festival of Kotor, Montenegro**

### CASTING & MENTIONS

Concept and writing : Clara Lopez

Casting : Clara Lopez et Natalia Weinger or Monica Varela

Directed by : Olivier Mahiant

Outside eye : Marie Limet

Scenography and costumes : Sandrine Clark

Music : Gilles Kremer

Lights : Sébastien André et Mark Elst

Drama advisor : Jean Lambert

Produced by la Compagnie O Quel Dommage

with the help of the Walonie-Brussels Federation, theater department and the CCBW

With the support of la Cie de la Casquette, le Théâtre du Tilleul, La Roseaie, le Centre de la Marionnette de la FWB, la Commune d'Ixelles service culture, le Cc du Pays des Collines, Wolubilis, La Montagne Magique and Le Petit Théâtre de la Grande Vie.

Thanks to Natalia Martinez, Bernard Senny, Vera Glez, Monica Varela, Céline Pelin, Vincent Raoult, Justine Moreau and Antoine Clette.

Show created on August, 2017 at the Rencontres de Théâtre Jeune Public de Huy

Price :

Consult us

HD pictures are available on request (crédit © Bernard Boccara)

# THE SHOW

Click, you push a switch and... the light switches on and obeys you. Isn't that a wonder?

Shadow is also born with the light. And our heroine makes this her playground.

Today is Rita's birthday, but she's not really happy. Her room is tidy as it should be, her clothes are ironed as it should be, everything is neatly arranged, yes, as it should be. But secretly Rita thinks all this is a bit boring... Pff, as it should be... How she would like to see it differently!

When the light fuse goes out, Rita's imagination runs wild and surprisingly she receives visitors for her birthday. From a stranger who, on closer inspection, is not as strange as first thought ...

« Ma tâche » is a visual, wordless performance, in which shadow and shadow play are central. The power of the imagination in combination with fresh play is guaranteed to hold your attention!

"Fun, playful, poetic and magical, something clownish or extravagant, even sharp, 'Ma Tache' is halfway between shadow theater and gestural theater without words".

"A deeply light and slightly deep clown spectacle".

"An elegant show, thanks to the delicacy of its main performer, surprising and sometimes clownish who explores otherness".

"It has the particularity that children laugh happily with the twists and turns of their story because they play with their own shadows. However, the apparent simplicity of their proposal opens up to unexpected levels of reading and stimulating resonances for older children, even for adults. ".



# THE STARTING POINT

*« At every moment of the encounter, I discover in the other another myself. »*

Roland Barthes

Since 2007, I have been working with autistic and psychotic children aged 3 to 6 in theater workshops. One day I arrived with an overhead projector. And with the use of this technique, I discovered the richness of the interaction between the projected image and the acting. The exploration of shadows with an overhead projector then begins with this tool which has the gift of captivating these children who are sometimes very difficult to access. In this whole process, what struck me the most was the playful relationship these children had with their shadows, their way of meeting her as a part of themselves that escapes them and with which they can play. And since then I started to dream and imagine situations.

## Shadow as a character

We thought a lot about the symbol that the shadow represented for us adults but we especially let ourselves be carried away by the naive and playful gaze of childhood since it is above all for them that our show is intended. Their gaze was very useful to us throughout the creation.

We therefore opted for a luminous, playful and very open shade, like the imaginary characters of our childhood.

If the shadow is considered a character in its own right, it is above all a part of Rita who expresses herself. We don't really know if it is a duet or a solo. The tracks are blurred ... especially as Rita will have to learn to accept not to understand everything and to control everything to finally let go, to trust and thus allow the meeting.

Knowing how to stay in the shadows, take one's place in the light, enlighten others, shade someone, ... are all expressions that have inspired us and put us into play.

By playing with these symbols, we want to offer the public strong, evocative, absurd and poetic images within a simple, tender, funny and accessible story.

Clara Lopez Casado





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## THE THEMES

### The relationship to oneself and to the other

During the show, our heroine and her shadow become tame, meet, seek, have fun, tease, clash, surprise, lose, find, accept, have fun,... and thus bring to light the relationship we have with ourselves and others. It tackles the themes of living together, loneliness, power, mourning and friendship in a sensitive, naive and playful way.

### The loss of control

This show reminds us of what must be let go in order to enter fully into a relationship with others. It is literally this acceptance that our heroine will live throughout the show. Rita will gradually learn to let go despite her need to control everything to allow her to connect with her shadow, an imaginary friend as a transitional object with the outside world.

### The imaginary friend

We consider the shadow character as an imaginary friend for our heroine, a fellow traveller whose presence invites her to play, create, imagine and connect with the outside world.

The pediatrician Donald Winnicott has worked on the interest of the transitional object which is the imaginary friend or the teddy for young children. This allows them to better live the maternal and



family separation. It then acts as a reassuring companion, helping them to overcome their anxieties, their fears.

We found it interesting to consider the shadow as an imaginary friend because children are often afraid of darkness. Some of them (about 1 and half year old) may be very afraid of their own shadow. We wanted to reverse the codes, consider the shadow as an ally rather than as an enemy by learning to tame it and to hear what it has to say.

### Loneliness and friendship

*« Let's say "no" to all those who make us believe that we must fight to exist, because to be truly we must open ourselves to the other. »* Albert Jacquard

Knowing how to be alone, without anxiety. Knowing how to have fun, to build, to create, to dream. Knowing how to take care of oneself, become autonomous. Knowing how to reconnect with oneself to go to the other. These are the reflections proposed by the character and her shadow.

How to accept the shadow part of others ? How to respect our own ? To play together is to confront the difference. It is accepting to be upset by the other.

### The game, the competition, the power relationship

Shadow is an ideal opportunity to play with oneself. That is what Rita is doing throughout the show. If she does not play with her shadow, it is her shadow that will play a trick on her. Mirrors, imitations, touch play, hide-and-seek, ... are games addressed in the show that reveal the stakes of power, competition, but also sharing and mutual help.

Together, we can do many things that we can't do on our own. I accept the other, different from me. I discover qualities that I may not have. By imitating the other, I also discover new faculties, things that I did not think I could do or that I had never tried and thus evolve... These are so many ways to learn through difference, amusement, curiosity, playfulness, but also through conflicting situations, errors, frustrations,...

### Arouse imagination and creativity

By creating stories through images, playing with shadow, light, our show is also an invitation to create by oneself, to have fun with this material, to invent games and rules to express oneself, discover oneself. What a pleasure to see the children play with their shadow at the exit of the show !



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Ô Quel Dommage was born in 2010 in Brussels cabarets with three actresses/creators: Justine Moreau, Céline Pellin and Clara Lopez Casado and their first creation "The Mourners". In 2013 the company founded its legal structure (ASBL).

Compagnie Ô Quel Dommages' world is one of absurd, clownish and poetic theatre. Gestures, images and music interact to oust the spectator from his or her habits and surprise them with imagination. We explore a non spoken theatre that brings together audiences of all ages and nationalities.

In their creations, they like to explore the chaos of the modern world and feelings, seeking to bring forth poetry and humor through the universality of gesture.

With each new creation, in a concern for renewal and the search for new techniques, an artistic team is brought together around the core of the company and contributes to the enrichment and quality of its shows. In 2012, the Company will take charge of the organisation and programming of the Festival de théâtre de rue Saltimbanques in Brussels in collaboration with the Centre Culturel Bruegel in Brussels.

At the beginning of 2017, the show "Henri" gained an ASSPROPRO tour in Belgium.

In August 2017, the company will give birth to its first creation for young audiences, "Ma Tache", which premiered at the Rencontres de Théâtre jeune public de Huy in the same year and then toured internationally. The show received the prize for best creative work at the International Children's festival of Kotor, Montenegro and the Jury Prize at the International Theater Festival for Children in Bucharest, Romania.

The company is in the process of creating a new show with the working title "Cosquillas".

A show for young audiences from 4-5 years old, without words, visual, playful and poetic around the theme: The pleasure of having a body and the pleasure of the others' body.

We plan to make this new creation for the Rencontres de Théâtre Jeune Public de Huy 2021.

Today the Company has 4 shows on tour: "Ma Tache", "Room service", "Henri", and "Les Pleureuses".

They have already travelled all over the world: France, Holland, Tunisia, Montenegro, Chile, China, Romania, Spain, Finland, Palestine, Bulgaria, Portugal, Slovenia, Austria, Poland and Czech Republic with more than fifty performances.

The Company is an effective member of the CTEJ (Chamber of Theatre for Children and Youth), Aires Libres (Federation of Street Arts, Belgium) and the ASSITEJ International.

All our creations and excerpts from them can be consulted on our website :

[www.oqueldommage.be](http://www.oqueldommage.be)

## CONTACT DISTRIBUTION

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