



The flying whale

By RasOTerrA

freewheeling circus



The flying whale

[Street Creation March 2014]

“The flying whale” is an opportunity to mess about with the norms. With the Company RasOterra, only the unexpected is to be expected! Flying across a 10-metre-wide ring on an acrobatic bike right in front of the audience, the trio overcome the rules, their own bodies and gravity itself, managing to give wings to the “whales” and to double volume without gaining weight. Will you give yourselves over to “whalemania”, to the art of the absurd, to nonconformity and above all to fantasy?

Created by and starring Claire Ruiz, Alice Roma and Damiano Fumagalli
Outsider’s eyes and help with the staging : Nicanor de Elia aka “TaTI”, Sabina Scarlat
Costumes : Sari Brunel

Picture : Massao Mascaro , Mickael Seidler, Francesco Pala
Distribution and production : Cécile Imbernon- La chouette diffusion
Production : Cie RasOterra



What if we walked on our heads?

We are interested by the relations base-acrobat. Instead of a unidirectional relationship in which the base, the strong man, lifts up in turns one or the other acrobat, we offer other visions :

Damiano balancing on the heads of the two girls
 Alice going from Damiano's shoulders to Claire's
 Alice lifting Damiano, lifting Claire

We refuse to accept the constraints imposed by our size and build and we want to use the acrobatic lifts in order to create off-the-wall images.



And what if we pedalled with our legs up ?

The acrobatic bike is omnipresent during the show. All of us have had experience of working in duos: Claire with the duo Tandem at l'École Supérieure des Arts du cirque de Bruxelles (Graduate School of the Circus Arts in Brussels); Alice and Damiano with the duo Rasoterra. And since 2012 we've been developing our act as a trio.

Since this discipline has hardly been codified, we go from one discovery to another and we create a range of movements and figures adapted to our constraints of volume, following our desires and our imagination.

Norms as a Diktat



In our society, physical appearance has huge importance. No matter what our predispositions are, the media convey only one ideal. All women dream of being slim, of having a good complexion and beautiful eyes, as for men, they have to be tall and strong.

Beauty standards change according to place and time. But everywhere, in all periods, the non-standard, the “different” has been marginalised. Stepping out of the norm is to step out of society, to leave the line already drawn. And therefore to be on the wrong side (the side of evil?).

Our decision to appear “fat” on stage prompted some questions. How does a “real fat person” relate to her body? Does she feel part of the norm? How does her body affect her lifestyle, her movements, her relationship with others?

We don’t want to fall into the trap neither of mockery nor pity. But to be able to treat such a delicate issue with subtlety, we would like to set up workshops with a group of people with weight issues in order to work on movement with them and therefore have an informed knowledge of our subject.

At this point of our research, when overweight becomes obesity seems to us to be a real factor affecting behaviours. With the flying whale, we simply want to take the opposite point of the diktat, to take the heat off, to call out the audience, to give “unusual” images. We want the audience to face up to their prejudices and laugh at them.

Heavy as feathers



Costumes made of pillows allow us to change our volume instantaneously and in front of everybody. Sometimes enormous, sometimes slim, our images are caricatural. Dressed in comfortable daily clothes, the three characters become your average person-in-the-street. Except that with a weight of 150 kg, they do acrobatics!

Acrobatics reveal a paradox between the volume of the bodies and the lightness of the characters. This clash volume-weight, which would be quite impossible in reality, helps create a fanciful universe which encourages the audience to put aside their value judgements.

Neither beautiful nor ugly, neither good nor bad, it’s just 3 people, 3 circus artists who enjoy themselves performing. A simple presence, without judgements or fuss, non-standard and off-the-wall images, it’s this imaginative and acrobatic poetry that we defend!



The RasOTerrA Company

[freewheeling circus]

In Italian, “RasOTerrA” means near the ground or low flying. The work of the company is like a jump, a take off, a challenge to our feet stuck on the ground.

The Rasoterra company was born in 2009 from an intense, physical and creative work between Damiano Fumagalli and Alice Roma. In 2011, “Linge Sale” (Dirty Laundry) saw the light, fruit of the encounter with the director, writer and performance author Firenza Guidi.

In the Spring of 2012 Claire Ruiz, acrobat from the company Tandem from the ESAC (Brussels), crossed the road and started to venture on the path of the two Italian cyclists.

The trio was born, the two Italian cadors took under their wings the French outsider to complete the peloton Rasoterra. Together, they created their first act: Totem.

In March 2013. The asbl RasOterrA saw the light and it’s been riding since then towards the creation of the flying whale .

THE ARTISTS



CLAIRE RUIZ

Career path

After finishing circus school, Claire toured with the Company Tandem for a year, performed as an acrobat in the opera Carmen at the Bastille Opera House in Paris, and then met the duo Rasoterra...

Academic background

From the Lido of Toulouse in her childhood to the Ecole Supérieure des Arts du Cirque of Brussels to master her skills- via the Arc-en-Cirque school of Chambéry to get ready for it- Claire has spent over 10 years nourishing her technical and artistic skills : acrobatic bike, balancing handstands, acrobatics, the art of movement, actor skills...

ALICE ROMA and DAMIANO FUMAGALLI

Career path in common

Alice and Damiano are founders and performers of the French-Italian company "4Quarti" with the street shows "Pensione Splendor... 1 stella" (2004-2007) and "Les trois bosses du Caméléon" (2007-2010) which toured in France and Italy.

In 2009-10, they developed research into movement as a pair and tackled a new discipline: the acrobatic bike. The new formation in duo took the name "Rasoterra".

In 2011 they participated in a collective creation in situ for the Company NoFitState Circus with the show "Labyrinth" on the 10th anniversary of the Eden project (St Austell, England).

Academic background in duo

Both of them began their vocational training at the circus school FLIC of Turin, and then at the circus school Ménival of Lyon where they specialised in acrobatic lifts.

They continued their formation through intensive training courses in acrobatic lifts with Abdeliazide Senhadji and Mahmoud Louertani (Cie XY, Baroque Circus) at the École des Arts du Cirque de Lomme (FR).

Since 2011, they have been exploring the acrobatic bike in duo with the help of Thomas Sénécaie (base on acrobatic bike in the Chéri d'Amour company).

The flying whale

Street show
All Ages
40 minutes

Please contact Claire Ruiz 00 33 (0) 6 07 69 27 13 once the show booked to confirm the technical rider.

SPACE

Stage requirements

Performance area : 10M diameter circle

Height : 6M minimum

Ground : flat, smooth, hard ground and level (example: tarmac).

If grass or gravel, provide a wooden floor of 14x14M

Total area needed (performance area and audience) : square (or circle) of 14x14M.

From June to August, avoid performance before 6pm (please contact us if 2 performances are requested the same day). A shaded area is welcomed.

Audience requirements

In a circle around the 10M circle.

Depending on the number of audience :

-from 0 to 150 members: the company provides their carpets

-from 150 to 300 members : carpets + the promotor provides 10 benches

-over 300 members: carpets + the promotor provides a 360 degree seating.

MATERIAL AND SET UP

Equipment provided by the promotor

1 x 16A socket power supply

1 x 16A cable long enough to go from 16A socket to tech booth

1 multisockets 4 ways

4 speakers on stands of a total of 1000W with each their own power supply

1 sound desk with XLR Inputs (1 Input used)

Sound provided by the promotor

If PRE-AMPLIFIED SYSTEM, provide the necessary as :

3 x 10M electrical cable

3 x 20M electrical cable

2 multisockets 4 ways

1 x 5M XLR cable

3 x 10M XLR cable

If SYSTEM WITH AMPLIFIER

1 amplifier and power supply

3 x 20M speakon cable

4 x 10M speakon cable

1 multisockets 4ways

Lighting provided by the promotor

Only if night performance : provide a full stage dimmable lighting state focused on all the performance area including 5M minimum high

3 x 20M XLR cable

Touring :

3 performers (with 2 kids (1 and 3 years old)) : 1 double bedroom and 1 sigle bedroom

Our booker may be touring too.

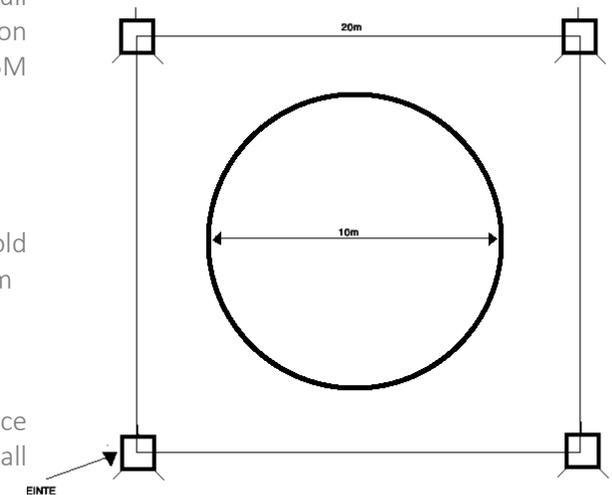
Please provide the following

-A warm-up space away from the audience view, shaded and 4m50 high, available all day of the performance.

-A dressing room with mirrors, shower, toilettes and sink

-Quality catering with bottled water and fruit for performance days, get-in days and get-out days

-Secure parking spaces for 2 vehicles.



Builds
Get-in : 2h
Get-out: 30min

FEEES

1800€ net of taxes for the first performance
1700€ net of taxes for each of the following performances

TRANSPORTATION

1 car 0,6€ / km return from Frassinello in Monferrato (It)
2 ticket – return from Toulouse (Fr)

DETAILS

On tour: 3 artists (travelling with 2 children) + eventually the tour manager

Arrival D-1
Departure D+1

Food for 4 people
Accomodation
1 double room + 2 single rooms



Production // Diffusion

Magali Caron- Cartons Production
0033 6 26 83 05 32
production@cartonsproduction.com



Artistes

Damiano Fumagalli et Alice Roma
(BE) 0032 486 11 32 40
Claire Ruiz
(FR) 0033 6 07 69 27 13
rasoterra.cirque@gmail.com



Cartons Production
La Grainerie
61, rue Saint Jean
31130 Balma

www.rasoterra.net - www.cartonsproduction.com