

PROJET. PDF

CRÉATION 2023



# LÉGENDES URBAINES

(TITRE PROVISOIRE)

CRÉATION IN SITU POUR LA RUE




# BACKGROUND


The experience of touring in theatres with Project.PDF during the last 4 years opened new horizons for the collective and gave rise to a multitude of desires: The desire to create and perform in and with public space, and the desire to continue working as a self-managed collective, strengthened by our common experience and the diversity of our singularities.

*The desire to go OUTSIDE, into the open air and to break the fourth*

To work on a socially engaged art-form based on spaces of everyday life and to reach a wider audience. The desire to undertake our positions and responsibilities as artists, in our multiplicity, and to use our visibility and ways of expression that we have at our disposal to reflect about and to participate in actual social changes. This project is born out of a willingness to commit, a need to get rid of the fears that manage our lives and a desire to embrace our creative powers.



The spectacle will be a fiction based on reality, a physical and visual performance based on our lives and those who have entrusted us their testimonies. An invitation to create a dialogue, to build bridges between communities and to give a voice to the voiceless. A space and time to meet each other.



We will start with ourselves as: circus artists; musicians; visual artists; technicians; production, administration and distribution managers, as Europeans we are always on the road experiencing new cities and their public spaces, as women and as artists. We collect stories and we have something to tell.

This immersive form will be a medium to share our stories, to talk about the intimate and make it public.

*We will start creating again and we think big !*



"The impact of artists is even bigger when they come together. I believe in the power of communities and affiliations, whether contemporary or diachronic; they have the potential to catalyse destructive energy and turn it into progressive

Fanie Demeule  
Canadian artist-witch

# CONCEPT NOTE

Who hasn't heard  
that it's «dange-  
rous» for a woman  
to go out... alone  
at night in the  
city ?

*There are fears that come with our realities as being a woman. There are the ones that we've grown up with, those that are obvious, the unspoken, the prohibitions, those that are brandished as a shield to protect us from our own unconsciousness. Those that remind us of real dramas and also those that we imagine and create for ourselves. We have integrated these fears, they condition our schedules, our ways of moving, of dressing, they condition our bodies which, as soon as they are outside, have taken habits of discretion, protection, they condition our minds, our imagination... and our self – confidence.*

*The street, the dark, the night, carry the symbolic charge  
of the fears that weigh on women.*

There is a discrepancy between the way fears are socially structured around the night, and the actual circumstances in which violence occurs in our common and spaces, with assaults taking place both during the day and at night, and much more regularly and violently in personal and intimate spaces than in public spaces. The precautionary measures taken by women to protect themselves sometimes seem inadequate, since urban legends peddle false realities about the dangers in the city.

Now is the time to look closer to these «urban legends», to renew the stereotypes and to offer the public a unifying and participatory experience to change our view of these places full of fear, to question our intimate relationship with these spaces.





---

Public spaces belong to «everyone» and are often part of our «home», but at the same time they belong to «no one» and no one feels responsible for them. They tend to become spaces of control and surveillance, without becoming spaces where we feel safe. These «common» places are also areas where we are constantly viewed as customers, potential buyers or available brains... exposed to advertising in every corner of the city.

Street art makes it possible to ephemerally transform these urban spaces into spaces of dreams and conviviality.

Our project is part of this approach: taking back the streets, infusing them with imagination, changing our view of these places and leaving traces.



# PARTICIPATORY ART

In each city, we will take the time to choose the right location for this project, , in close collaboration with the local organization that will host us and their social partners.

We will take the time to install ourselves and to live in this area for several days, to create space and time for meetings. We invite local people to participate during the construction of a wooden structure through sharing their testimonies.

We will take the time to investigate the local «Urban Legends» by questioning the intimate relation of the local residents with the public spaces within their city.

We will take the time to adapt our IN SITU performance to each venue, nourished by the exchanges with the local residents, to create personalized images and to play with the urban landscape as a scenery.

We host a ritual, to sublimate this event with a fire that lights up, illuminates, burns and extinguishes.

And finally, we will celebrate the pleasure of just being outside together.





# EPHEMERAL CONSTRUCTION

## ACTE I : Setting the stage...

The first stage of the project is the construction of a wooden structure, on the chosen location for the performance, several days or weeks before the date of the show.

An artistic work, whose shape is not yet defined (a double-sided wall, a pyramid, a tunnel...?) will be built with the help of local residents, in order to gather women, men, teenagers, children and elderly people around the construction.

A small team of artists from the Collectif PDF will be on site for 3 days, the week before the performance. And the idea is to create an «free artistic zone», «an open-air art workshop», a participatory workcamp without timetables» ... This construction will be a support table where the inhabitants of the city will be invited to write their experiences, fears, bad memories and dreams in relation to this particular place.

We imagine two spaces of free writing:

« **HERE I AM AFRAID...** » et « **HERE I DREAM OF...** ».






It seems important to us to collect stories from people of different ages, in order to collect different point of views, according to our ages, our physical capacities, our connections with the imagination. and to understand how fears and «**URBAN LEGENDS**» are transmitted over the generations.

We will also have a light device that allows us to collect audio testimonies, a sort of interview-booth installed in the same space, to record more intimate experiences and sound extracts that can be incorporated into the soundtrack of the performance. This soundtrack will evolve throughout the project and will be enriched with testimonials from local residents at each new edition.

Cultural mediation workshops around the structure can be organized at certain times of the day, with groups, in connection with schools and local socio-cultural structures (middle schools, high schools, youth centers, homes, associations, etc.).

The built structure will be left in place until the day of the performance. Passers-by can write on it and read the anonymous testimonies.



To create the unexpected, to take the time to meet each other, to be in action, in a simple way.  
To build and share, to make something concrete, something that we can touch, modify, appropriate

# PERFORMANCE

## ACTE II : Reappropriation of Public Space

During relocation of our public, the idea is to leave traces of the testimonies of the participants on the buildings. The overall idea of the show is to show a **COLLECTIVE WOMEN** who «take back the street» with poetry and humor. We will invite the public to momentarily divert the codes, norms, and usual uses of these public spaces with which they are familiar. We will come to question the gender stereotypes that often show vulnerable and weak women, by showing new possibilities. Team-work and partner-acrobatics are beautiful tools to talk about fear and risk, very close to the notions of responsibility, collaboration and listening, but also to the strength of our bodies and our will. We will work on our self-image and the surpassing of our bodily limits, to the extreme, sometimes comic, sometimes tragic.

The idea is to **LEAVE TRACES** of these testimonies on the streets and walls by using different street-art techniques like pasting collages, graffiti, chalk, printed papers etc... playing with the risks, the heights and our acrobatic body language.

The first part of the show will be in movement with 2 or 3 main highlights, where we will develop the more theatrical scenes, by using the urban space (buildings, windows, street, sidewalks...) and which will be adapted to each venue. This performance will lead the public to the square where our wooden structure is installed.

We will embark the public in a festive event to face darkness, emptiness, the unknown, silence and our imaginary monsters in a playful, symbolic and absurd way.







We would like to investigate with large wooden ladders, to paste words on the walls, to manipulate the public and to perform our acrobatic skills, maybe even in a participatory way with our public. The acrobats can go high up and be very close to the audience, to create a close relationship, a feeling of risk and commitment, for us and for the public.

The performance will start in the early evening, at the moment when the shadows lengthen, when the day slowly slides into the night. Playing with light and shadow is an important dramaturgic element of performance, which resonates with the theme. At night in the city, the darkness frightens us, and the light reassures us...

This moment of the day is the transition from day to night, from  
**THE PUBLIC TO THE PRIVATE,**  
**FROM THE COLLECTIVE TO THE INTIMATE.**



# FIRE

## ACTE III : The Ritual

At the end of the show, we burn the wooden ephemeral structure. We imagine a joyful bonfire with our audience. Fire is a **TRANSFORMING AND LIBERING** ritual for individuals and places, for those who had entrusted a very personal thought or desire. An act of renewal and reunion, found in rituals and traditions all over the world. We will create a warm and intimate moment, a fire of celebration and comfort.

Fire also speaks of danger, risk, the risk of burning. Fire can be indomitable and loaded with fear. But controlling a fire also represents the evolution of humanity and the symbol of an organized society, interwoven with risks, bonds and light. We want to rediscover the symbolic power of this ancient element in our in urban space and modern times.

We will create an **INTIMATE** and warm moment, a fire of celebration and comfort, around which the performance will end.





# CELEBRATING

## ACTE IV : Résonance



The end of the event will slide into a festive moment with a DJ and discussions around the fire, so we can exchange a relaxed moment with our audience.

On the same square where we will have lived for several days, we will invite the public to stay, to exchange, dance and to be together outside, to live a convivial moment to close this whole collective journey.

During the last four years of touring with our show *Portés De Femmes*, we have regularly organized after-show parties in the halls of the theatres. These moments allow us to exchange with the spectators and to express ourselves with our bodies. A dance floor is a space of liberation, joy and humor. Within our collective, having a party is one of our «working tools», we know how to organize and manage it.

In our team there is a DJ who masters the art of making people dance and feel the group's energy.

# ARTISTIC DIRECTION

Elske and Mathilde are part of the Collectif.PDF since the early beginnings and now take the initiative of this second production of Projet.PDF. They are in charge of the dramaturgy and the artistic direction of this **IMMERSIVE EVENT**.

*Writing based to our realities and those we read, hear and collect.*

*Creating multidimensional collages of movement, music and image.*

*Finding poetic metaphors within aesthetic and conceptual material.*

*Starting from the essence develop physical researches .*

*Innovating the methods within our collective creation, which allows us to sublimate our singularities and to achieve a multiple and original aesthetic form.*

*Relying on the artistic talents and technical skills of the artists of the PDF Collective, with the confidence we have built up over the years.*

*A new challenge.*

We are living in a period of international social mobilisations that denounce inequalities and injustices in terms of sexism, racism, class and ecology. These questionings of the systems of domination that govern our society affect us, question us and have direct effects on the way we conceive the world, express ourselves and educate our children. This wind of rage and hope, in the current context, is a source of inspiration and a terrain for creativity and commitment for us as artists.





## MATHILDE GORISSE

A circus artist, a base, aerial acrobat and musician. She is passionate about words, languages and writing, she has worked on projects where dramaturgy, acting and text were always present. Co-creator of the Cie KaouKaFeLa, she has coordinated several creations for public space in duo, solo and collective; and in particular the French-Burkinabe project KENEBA. She has also worked as an interpreter for the companies Les Petits Détournements, Cie Pipototal, Cie Escale. For 12 years, throughout these collaborations, she has refined her artistic universe and her critical spirit. Convinced of the need to bring art to the streets and to cross disciplines, it is with passion that she embarks on this new adventure within Projet.PDF as co-artistic director.

## ELSKE VAN GELDER

She is originally from the Netherlands. She is a circus artist, acrobatic performer and actress. Her interests for anthropology and performing arts within various cultures and subcultures, got her to start her career as a street performer. She continued her circus education in Spain, Ukraine and France at the LIDO in Toulouse. She is co-founder of the company «My! Laika» and created the show «Popcorn Machine», selected by «Jeunes Talents de Cirque 2010». She is co-founder of Cirque Pardi! a modern and experimental circus under a big top and was responsible for the artistic direction of the show 'Borderland', a collective creation with 9 artists. She is currently performing in the new creation «Low Cost Paradise» with Cirque Pardi! Convinced of the social impact of the female collective Projet.PDF, she co-directs this second creation, in which she can express her political and social convictions.



# SCENOGRAPHY

In this project, we will develop a construction and graphic arts dimension that will be a fundamental part of the show. The construction of the structure and the participative building site lead us to create an assembly device and a structure that must meet multiple technical, aesthetic and eco-logical criteria. The collective work must be able to be manipulated by the public, be burned on site, in compliance with safety rules, and embody the values of the project. Maiwenn Cozic, constructor, visual artist and lighting designer, created the lighting and decorative elements for our first creation. Once again, she will put all her technical, artistic and logistical know-how, her taste for social projects and the transmission of skills at the service of this project.



# MUSIC

Music and sound will play an important role for the atmosphere during the performance, just like a soundtrack from a road movie. The aim is to make a musical universe that creates space, underlines emptiness and instills tensions.

Fanny Aquaron composed the music and is a live musician for the show Portés De Femmes. She is familiar with the energy and temporality of our body language, and has several experiences with musical creations for street art projects.

# COSTUMES

We imagine that our costumes will be colorful and extravagant, that stand out of the raw, and everyday city scenery, inspired by the cinematic universe of Tarantino, Xavier Dolan, Jodorowsky, Noémie Lvovsky. We want to find out how costumes can help us to create images of personal identities and singularities within a unified mass. The creation of costumes will be a practical support to address issues such as; clothing and the representations of female bodies in public spaces.

Noémie Bourigault, is a costume designer for performing arts, fashion, hat making and the art of plumage, she created the numerous costumes for Project.PDF.

For this second creation, she will bring her personal artistic way of cloth designing, her knowledge about the requirements related to acrobatics and outdoor wear, and her experience of participatory projects.









CIE POMME BANANE  
CIE TOT DRET

CALI HAYS



CLAIRE RUIZ

CIE RASOTERRA  
CIE PRET A PORTER



ALICE ROMA

CIE RASOTTERA



FLORA LE QUEMENER

CIE PRESQUE SIAMOISES



MARILOU COURTOIS

PROJET.PDF



CIE PRET A PORTER  
CIE XY  
LA MINI COMPAGNIE

LAURENCE BOUTE



CIE CHABATZ D'ENTRAR  
CIE MARTA CARRASCO

PRISCILLIA MATEO



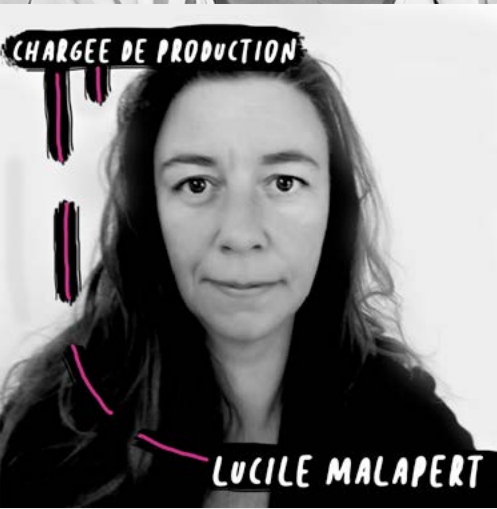
CIE PIPOTOTAL

CLAIRE LASCOUMES



COLLECTIF 45°  
CIE KITSCH KONG

RENATA DO VAL







JE VITRINE MES HISTOIRES  
JE VENT LE DANGER

JE PORTE MON ÉLÉGANCE  
JE PLACE MA PAROLE  
JE FENÊTRE MES RÊVES  
JE PASSAGE MES DOUTES

JE SOUTERRAIN MA FORCE  
JE TERRASSE MA CONFIANCE

ANNA VON GRONINGEN



# CALENDAR OF THE CREATION

Sept 2021 to  
April 2022

- **LABORATORY RESEARCH IN A SMALL TEAM** // Writing and dramaturgy laboratory - writing work, elaboration of collective artistic research works.

June 2022

- **RESIDENCE** for the entire team (2 weeks)
- **«CARTE BLANCHE» FOR THE OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL «ECLATS DE RUE»** city of Caen (14)

Sept 2022 à  
Avril 2023

- **10 WEEKS OF RESIDENCE** for the entire team

Juin 2023

- **PREMIERES OF THE SHOW**

Coproductions

La Verrerie d'Alès, Pôle National Cirque Languedoc Roussillon // Ville de Caen // La Grainerie, Fabrique des arts du Cirque et de l'itinérance (Balma – Toulouse Métropole) // Superstrat – Association Regards et Mouvements, Saint-Etienne (42) // Ayuntamiento de Bilbao (ES).

# TECHNICAL NOTICE

## TOUR PLANNING

- **6 months before the performance date:** First meeting with the hosting structure, site visit, first contacts with socio-cultural partners for the preparation of the mediation workshops. 2 people from the PDF Collective (1 coordinator and 1 technical director) for 1 day on site.
- **D-5 morning:** arrival of a team of 4 people for the participatory work site at the performance venue, installation and start of the set-up.
- **D-4 and D-3:** participatory workcamp, construction workshop, collection of testimonies.
- **D-2 morning:** arrival of the artistic team, IN SITU rehearsal in the afternoon and evening.
- **D-1:** on-site rehearsal, preparation of the collages and paintings, setting up the sound and light system.
- **D:** show at dusk. Stroll, fixed show (fire) followed by the DJ set. Dismantling of all the company's equipment during the night.
- **D+1:** debriefing and departures.

## SPACE

Location of the ephemeral structure and fireplace

- A large and open space, passing by: a large square, an (empty) car park, a park...

**GAUGE :** 600 people, general public.

**LANGUAGE :** show adaptable to the local language.

Languages spoken in the Collective PDF: French, Spanish, Italian, English, Portuguese, Dutch, Catalan, German.

The organization of this show-performance will require a real collaboration between the PDF Collective team and the structure that will host the show. We imagine it as an event that will adapt to each place, each territory, and we will call upon the creativity of the local teams. In the conception of the event, it is already a question of meeting, adaptation, observation and imagination. We will rely on the directors' field knowledge, events or theatres, the technicians, the mediation officers, and on the links these structures have built up with local associations.

## CREATIVE TEAM

### Office :

Cartons Production

### Administration :

Amandine Lemaire

### Sales management :

Magali Caron

### Production :

Lucile Malapert

### Coordination and artistic direction :

Mathilde Gorisse et

Elske Van Gelder

### Technical direction :

MaiwennCozic

### Musical creation :

Fanny Aquaron

### Artistic team :

14 circassiennes du

Collectif PDF

## TEAM ON THE ROAD

### 17 people in total

- 1 technical director
- 12 Circassians
- 1 musician
- 2 coordinators / directors
- 1 sales manager

# CONTACTS

## ARTISTIC COORDINATION

Mathilde Gorisse

+33(0)6 14 47 43 52

&

Elske Van Gelder

+33(0)6 89 96 26 69

pdf.insitu@cartonsproduction.com

## ADMINISTRATION

Amandine Lemaire

administration@cartonsproduction.com

+33(0)6 24 58 22 32

## PRODUCTION

Magali Caron

production@cartonsproduction.com

+33(0)6 26 83 05 32

Lucille Malapert

pdf.insitu@cartonsproduction.com

+33(0)6 77 13 46 38





It is a question of raising awareness and desacralizing certain issues which prevent us from speaking freely and fluently. We make, we dream, we explore, we experiment, we turn everything upside down, we «carnivalize»...

We concentrate on feelings and perceptions without establishing a limit between the inner and outer world, dream and awakening, the dead and the living. In any case, everything is real. We confront ourselves with fears, discomfort and shame, above all. To face our taboos, to understand them and to dialogue with them and see how we can make peace with them. We dare to hope that a more equanimous vision of our own lives can be brought about and say to ourselves: «Well, I'm not alone in this shit».

Fanie Demeule

