

Ti Tou Tou Ti /



Mr Jo

*** Petite forme de Théâtre Gestuel Muet ***

Production * Artistes Associés * Compagnie du Plat pays !

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Compagnie
Production Artistique

Création 2012
www.cieduplatpays.be

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« Mister Jo's obsessions »

« Small shape of dumb gestural theater / A Pantomime. »

(30 min / for all audiences from 5 years old.)

« **Mister Jo** » is an eternal child in an adult body who has a series of experiences and who always wants to «do well». He is genuine and lets his emotions betray himself in his attitudes and mimicries. Mister Jo's character is inspired from burlesque film heroes. Heroes that are themselves inspired from theatre tradition, popular circus tradition (clowns) and pantomime. Pantomime sometimes punctuated by sounds and outbursts in a simple and childish way.

« **The Show** » Despite himself, Mister Jo causes chaos in a world defined by social or moral norms. It is a parody of our use of cell phones, a time shift, and a chain reaction. The character is propelled by his folly, his innocence, his pretensions and his clumsiness. Though absurd and irrational, Mister Jo makes us see the world as it is.

Author & Performer :

*Sébastien Domogalla

Direction & Acting direction :

*Goos Meeuwsen & *Aude Droessaert.

Technical conception & Sound :

*Damien Hubert & *Antoine Hénaut.

Costume :

*Carnabi Street

Image, Photography & Video :

*Mara De Sario & * Nicolas Simon
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Administration & Production :

*Marleen De Poortere
*Sébastien Domogalla

A Production :

* Artistes Associés * Compagnie du Plat pays !

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The cultural centre «Escale du Nord» of Anderlecht (Belgium)/
The cultural centre of Dour (Belgium)/

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1. The show and its forms.

* **Mr Jo's obsessions.** (30 min / Street & inside venues / for all audiences from 5 years old.)

Small shape of dumb gestural theater / A Pantomime.

This show can be programmed on an inside venue or in an outdoor stage.

- During theatre, circus (in the street, a theatre, plane, boat etc.)
- During rural events, festivals, car boot sales, etc.

* **Allooo Mr Jo.** (15 min /inside venues / for all audiences from 5 years old.)

Short presentation to start a show, a cabaret, a seminar etc.

This show can be programmed on an indoor stage, on risers, and in a movie theatre.

- As first part of a program (Theatre/Music/Dance) in a room or in a tent.
- As an introduction, during a seminar or a dinner.

2. Description of the artistic process :

From the beginning of this project, the artistic process has been to question the meaning of our existence, the relation between us and our environment on our daily use of mobile phones. It is a study of the evolution of attitudes and behaviours towards mobile phones that is part of the everyday life of a citizen at the beginning of the 21st century. A pantomime is created treating this social issue with a distorted view on the use of a tool common to everybody by amusing situations through nonsense and situation comedy. The creation of the character «Mister Jo». He is capable of adjusting to any situation without changing his identity; and despite himself, Mister Jo causes chaos in a world defined by social or moral norms. The character is obsessed by cell phones. Under the influence of this communication device other obsessions become part of his everyday life. He has the constant need to reassure, look, photograph, and call himself, probably to show that he exists. Several times during his life every human being has ideas and feelings born from his own psychic activity that make him feel uneasy and persist despite his efforts to get rid of them. One links these common obsessions to actions accomplished against the conscious will. Often, they disappear without consequences, but can be more serious and reveal a neurosis.

« My foot is gone, I walk with a foot memory »



3. A brief history of the telephone.

In 1876, Graham Bell's vibraphone transmits voice remotely for the first time, the telephone is born and will evolve steadily until till the 1990's when wireless phones appear thanks to satellites. It allows us to instantly reach anyone, anywhere in the world. This evolution influences civilization's attitudes and behaviours. Nowadays, one uses more and more cell phones which can be carried around everywhere. And they are often so small that one can put them in ones pocket! One has entered in a world of hyper communication with a phone that can do everything, from calling, seeing, listening to music, to ordering on the internet.

The difficulty is to be able to isolate oneself from the world, to have private time, without anybody being able to join us or offer us products to buy. A Japanese editor, writing for the Japanese Daily Yomuri, said that young people seem to consider their mobile phone as an extension of their body and sometimes panic when they don't have one with them; fearing to be cut off from the world. Many people leave their phone running everywhere and at all times. If they don't receive a message on their mobile, they become irritable and anxious: they tell themselves that nobody needs them: that is what pushes them to answer immediately to any small text-message even if it is not necessary.



« Slavery. That's what telephone is. It rings: you run. Or you are agonizing with regrets or unsatisfied curiosity. »

Gabrielle Roy (Writer)

4. Age bracket and potential audience.

Show for public from 5 years old.

This is essentially a sound and visual show aimed at a large audience. The use of circus techniques, body language, a form of pantomime sometimes punctuated by sounds and outbursts in a simple and childish way, a universal language accessible to all audiences. The simple structure of the show allows it to be presented in the street or in unusual locations, but also in locations during various events or happenings.

5. Technical requirements.

***Technical conditions for « Mr Jo's obsessions » :**

Show in semicircle or frontal/ indoor and outdoor stage

Duration: 30 minutes

Team: 2 persons (1 performer + 1 stage manager accomplice)

Audience: all audiences from 5 years old

Recommended audience capacity: 50 people standing or 200 people on risers.

Installation time in the performing space: very fast (max: 20 min)

Preparation time, warming up outside the performing space: 1h15.

Stage (dimensions): 5m x 5m of flat and hard surface (tarmac, wooden floor, paving stones)

Minimum height: 3,50 m

Sound: Company provides its own (no requirements for the organizer)

Stage lighting: in case of night performance a full lighting is necessary.

Miscellaneous: this show can be programmed on an indoor stage or in an outdoor stage space.

- * It is recommended to install benches or risers in order to welcome the audience.
- * Plan to have a responsible person from the organization available during the performance.

***Special conditions of performing :**

Special conditions of outdoor performing: in order to preserve the artistic content, the show requires suitable listening conditions (Not too much competing noise, like traffic noise, music and other sound disturbances.) In case of a too loud environment, the performer will take solely the decision to cancel the show or to keep going..

- It will be impossible to perform in the rain if the ground is too slippery.
- In case of nocturnal performance, a full lighting on the performing space will be required.
- In case of indoor performance, the company will transmit the lighting plan to you.
- Maximum 2 performances per day.
- Minimum 1 hour break between each performance.

6. Financial terms.

Fee: on demand / condition.

Travel costs: (1 van/0,50/Km for travel each way.)

For the financial terms, please contact the Company, distribution manager.

Either by email: info@cieduplatpays.be



7. Presentation of the artistic team.

*Sébastien Domogalla – Author, performer. (Comedian, Circus Artist, Dancer, Photograph & Video Artist.)

At the age of 8 years old, Sébastien took his first steps on stage and discovered the performing world through theatre and circus. Multidisciplinary Artist, he holds a diploma of « **Visual Arts and Techniques** » and a « **DEE in Circus Arts** ». He has acquired the essentials of his circus performer training successively at the Honnelles's Circus School, «Mômes Circus» l'Espace Catastrophe and at the Brussels Trapeze Workshop, **National Circus school of Châtellereault** (France), and at the **Montreal National Circus School** (Canada), from which he graduated with a diploma in June 2003. Sébastien has created a solo act « **The afternoon when I was waiting for Marcel** » where theatre mixes with physical performance in the aerial space with the choreographer Howard Richard and Jacinthe Tremblay. He has appeared in numerous international festivals. He has also collaborated with several companies among which the Belgian company Feria Musica, « Le Cheptel Aleïkoum » and « Hvdz » of Guy Allouche (France), Cirque Eloize, Cirque du Soleil (Québec) and Nau de Icaro of Sao Paulo (Brazil). In 2005, he has been the interpreter of « **Danses circassiennes** » of Pierre Paul Savoie Danse at the Montreal Agora Dance. Interested as much in creation as play, writing or stage directing, it is with the « **Compagnie du Plat Pays !** » that he set up in 2004, that Sébastien engages in the organization, the writing and the artistic directions of projects. He started research workshops inviting artists of different backgrounds and produced in 2005 and 2010 «Hey Boy, In this place, Performance in action, Suspiro, Tchín Tchín Cabaret as well as Raoul and Company- a Borinage History ». In 2008, he took part in the European project around aerial writing « **Circle Around** » with Eric Lecomte and Odile Gheysens « Cie 9.81 » (France), hosted in «Les Halles de Schaerbeek (Belgium) and in the Kopenhaguen Internationnal Théâtre (Denmark). In 2011, he engaged in research on the theme of media's influence on human behaviour and created « **Mister Jo's Obsessions** » with the help of **Goos Meeuwesen** and **Aude Droessaert** en 2012. The essence of his work is centered around observation, feeling and listening. The decompartmentalization of genres, crossbreeding of artistic disciplines are a constant that he follows in his work



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* **Goos Meeuwsen – Director, assistant writer, and accomplice. (Clown, Circus Artist.)**

At 10 years old, Goos discovered the joys of the ring and the audience while participating to his first circus show in Arnhem (Holland) his birth town where he presented his first clown act. Following this experience and during several years, he worked with a partner on clown acts and duos and gave numerous performances in circuses, theatre, television, and took part in several festivals throughout Europe, like the 21th « **Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris** (France) and at the **Gran Premio Internazionale Del Circo Versilla à Viaregio** (Italy). Hungry to learn, Goos decided to continue his training at the school « **On y Danse Dance** » in Arnhem (Holland) and then at the **Montreal National Circus School** (Canada) from which he graduated with a diploma in 2004 with a « **Clown** » specialty. From then on he has taken part in several creations « **AAatchoum** » of the Théâtre de l'Aubergine, « **Les Anges de l'Orage** » of Jerry Snel and took part as a clown in diverse circuses, festivals and theatre in Canada and Europe. In 2005, the « **Cirque du Soleil** » invited him to join their new creation « **Love The Beatles** » in which he played the main part for 1 year and a half in Las Vegas (USA). After this experience, desiring new horizons, Goos took part in several projects throughout the world with his own clown work, from Taiwan to Paris he took part in 2010 in the creation « **Paradis perdu** » («Lost Paradise») a musical and spectacular odyssey of Dominic Champagne, Jean Lemire et Daniel Bélanger in the « **Place des Arts** » of Montréal. After that experience, he threw himself into a duo clown project with Gabriel Alejandro Rosas, together they created «Adios» in 2011. In parallel with his path of performing artist, he developed a taste for directing and has worked for several theatre and circus companies, such as « **Coulisse** » **Cirque Starlight** (Suisse), « **La Folie** » **GOP Munich Variety**) « **World Exposition Shanghai Canadian Pavillon** » **Cirque du Soleil**. In 2011/2012 Goos collaborated as a director with the « **Compagnie du Plat pays !** » for the creation of the show « **Mister Jo's obsessions** » (« **Les Obsessions de Mr Jo.**»)



* **Aude Droessaert - Actors coach, accomplice eye & direction. (Actor.)**

Daughter of magicians, Aude began her acting training in 1995 in Marseille with the mime Patrice Keller de Schleithem who included her in the « **Compagnie Rythme de Lune** » for two years. The desire to continue her actor's training through movement led her to **Brussels' International Lassad theater school**, from which she graduated in 1999. The Brussels adventure went on with the creation of the « **Compagnie du Chien qui Tousse** » («the coughing dog company) in 2000 and four collective creations « **Les Portes ouvertes** » («the open doors») -the town of Huy price to the youth theatre meeting 2002 - **special mention for acting** ; « **Poézique Cabaret** » – 2004. Interested as much in creation, writing and directing, it is with « **En suivant les pointillés...** » that Aude engages in writing and directing actors in 2006. Finally, « **Braque à Fond !** » **has received an award for Comedy** at the « **Rencontres de Theatre Jeunes Public**» in Huy 2002 directed by **Pierre Richards**. At the same time her encounter with the puppet theatre company « **Les Zerkiens** », led Aude to the creation of the show « **Les petits poissons qui vont dans l'eau** » («the small fishes who go in water») – which received an award for Technical Mastery at the « **Rencontres de Theatre Jeunes Public** » in Huy 2002, which was followed by an international tour and also the shows « **Qui se cache** » and « **Bandits** » («Who is hiding» and «Bandits»). In 2010, still in theatre, Aude was a member of the second cast of the show « **Premiers pas sur la dune** » («First steps on the moon») of the «Tof Théâtre» awarded at the « **Rencontres de Theatre Jeunes Public** » in Huy 2009. Aude has worked with the José Besprosvany's dance company where she assisted at the revival of Lara and the coordination for the sketches of « **La princesse de Babylone** », presented at the **Kunsten Festival des Arts**. In 2011/2012 , Aude collaborated as a director with the « **Compagnie du Plat pays !** » for the creation of the show « **Mister Jo's obsessions** » .



8. Presentation of the **Compagnie du Plat pays ! (Asbl)**.

The non-profit association **Compagnie du Plat pays !** identifies itself as an « **Association of Artists, artistic production of Arts and Performing Arts** ». It is devoted since 2005, to help artists, authors, performers in the realization of their projects with expertise, commitment and humour. It is born from a desire to reassemble, to mingle arts by taking them out of their ordinary frame and to interchange with all artistic backgrounds as circus, dance, theatre, audiovisual, music, plastic arts and craft. By emphasizing the artist's commitment and his position within the society, the company presents practices, varied artistic styles by making choices with a definite preference for social themes, it contributes in its own way to the research of a conscience, a dialog, and a cultural identity.

In 2005 the company started its first workshops writing improvisations mixing up different languages and trades by inviting for research, artists coming from the theatre world, circus, music, video and plastic arts. It is in this form of workshop, with limited time and space, that creation can take place. **The Compagnie du Plat pays !** is a flexible ensemble of professional artists active in Arts and Performing Arts. It has achieved recognition with audiences and planners by crossing Belgium borders, making productions in France, Switzerland, Spain, Holland and Canada.

At all times, realization of artistic creations has needed talent, inspiration, work and a good dose of dreams, risks, follies and passions. There is a long road between the birth of an idea and the accomplishment of a work of art whatever its final form. Our creations, our shows, and our research strive to present a common culture which is both challenging and appeals to people.

Compagnie du Plat pays !

Mail : info@cieduplatpays.be

Site : www.cieduplatpays.be

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Mr Jo

8. Contacts.

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Image © Mara De Sario



Pictures taken with the Nokia Mobile Monsieur Jo, during performances in 2012.

The Obsessions of Mr Jo in action ...

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