

COUAC.....

Physical
Comedy



Physical Theater
Non-Verbal
VoiceOver
9 +
50'

Make in
Belgium

A one-man clown show that oscillates between humor and reflection on the relationship between man and nature. COUAC explores the loss of the man-nature relationship and the alienation of society through excess technology.

COUAC . . .

** A word that reminds us that perfection is not of this world, that the unexpected is part of life and that it is sometimes good to know how to laugh about it.*

One-man show in physical theatre with a clownish orientation / Non-verbal - Voiceover

.....

Can a human-technology relationship fill the void of a true human relationship ?

SYNOPSIS :

In the near future, Jo lives in a world permanently connected to the «Network», which sets the rules of life for each citizen. Eve, the artificial intelligence, directs and controls all of Jo's actions. Eve assists Jo in his choices, pushes him to consume more and more and makes him dependent on useless services. Jo tries to acclimatize to this ultra-connected world, generating disasters around him that highlight the absurdity of this technological overflow where human error and free will no longer have a place.



© Mara De Sario

Does technology make us happy ?

Or is it distracting us from the things that are really important ?

.....

COUAC is a show, around a character whose universe refers to the work of clowns in silent cinema and is freely inspired by the work of Jacques Tati (in particular through his film «Playtime»), on the evolution of attitudes of the citizen of the 21st century.



COUAC : a look at our consumer society

In short, COUAC tackles a topic of burning relevance and invites us to reflect on our relationship with technology, the impact on our human relationships and our relationship with nature. COUAC's strength lies in its ability to skillfully mix laughter and reflection.

We laugh heartily at Jo's misadventures, while becoming aware of the potential dangers of a world where technology is becoming ubiquitous. The show is a true mirror held up to our society, and it encourages us to question our choices and our priorities.

Can human contact be replaced by machines ?

Has consumption become our only entertainment ?

COUAC . . .

** A polysemic word that invites us to reflect on our faults, our imperfections and our fragilities.*

Nature of the artistic work and intention of the Author :

Today we see that we speak less and less with people who are physically close to us.

The desire or need to communicate with those who are on the other side of town or the world obsesses us. Society has changed with the advent of technology, «It has changed a lot» say the old ones, and they are not wrong. When we venture into the streets, we observe people lost in front of their smartphones, in stores, on public benches, in restaurants or even on public transport... Some talk to themselves, others are as if hypnotized, asphyxiated by their screen. Technology is everywhere and changes everything, who we are, what we are, how we work, how we perceive ourselves.

We are almost lost or even isolated from the world without our smartphones, laptops and other connected gadgets.

These objects have become essential to our functioning; for some people, they are unconsciously an extension of their body and panic if they are no longer connected. For others, they are introduced into their lives like a member of the family. Our dependence on technological tools sometimes makes us experience absurd situations and we are disoriented when they no longer work or when we are deprived of them.

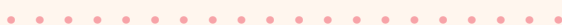
Across all age groups, people are evolving in an environment where technologies tend to take an increasing place in relationships. humans and the functioning of our society. The acceleration of our economic and technological development leads to an increasing desynchronization with the natural rhythms of the planet and men. We live in a society where we confuses the urgent with the important, even the essential, and despite the signals showing that we are reaching our natural limits, we are accelerating further.

In our ever-changing society, characterized by overconsumption and hyperconnection, today's young people operate in a complex and stimulating. They are confronted with a flood of informations, changing societal models and increasingly present global issues. **COUAC** offers a playful and critical reflection on these questions, aimed at people from 9 years old.



© Mara De Sario

Above all, there is the idea of a humorous show that can appeal to any generation. A speechless, visual show with an endearing anti-hero who presents himself as a hyperconnected modern being, like this generation who from childhood are lulled in this hyperconnection. **COUAC** is a mirror of our current culture anchored in the news of our world and its major concerns. By adopting the perspective of a smiling sociologist, our goal is to provoke laughter and reflection from the Alpha generation, by encouraging them to decipher the multiple aspects of their daily lives.



COUAC . . .

** A word to say that everything is not always under control,
that things do not always go as planned expected.*

THE CREATION :



COUAC is a wordless scenic exploration that questions the fragile relationship between man to nature and the drift of our society towards an excessive dependence on technology. Mixing humor and reflection, the show offers a scathing critique of our consumer society.

This show is a unique creation, centered on a character whose universe is inspired by the great clowns of silent cinema. The universe of **COUAC** unfolds through a succession of rhythmic visual sequences, reminiscent of silent films, where the writing of the gags is of surgical precision, creating a perfect harmony at the heart of a chaotic movement.

On stage, a clever device of translucent tulle allows the spectator to observe a character imprisoned behind a screen, whose existence is punctuated by omnipresent and superficial technologies. This metaphor of our addiction to technologies offers us a worrying glimpse of our near future and invites us to question our ultra-connected lifestyles.



© Mara De Sario

Physical Expression and the character :

This stage solo is in fact a physical and theatrical duet between a performer and an artificial intelligence, a sort of his closed where time and space are distorted. Here we follow the journey of Jo, a somewhat naive and clumsy character. Mr. Jo is a kind of Mr. Bean parachuted into a world close to Terry Gilliam's film «Brazil». This lonely bachelor tries to survive in this ultra-connected world, generating around him disasters that reveal the absurdity of this technological world where human error has no place.

With its burlesque and artisanal aspect, **COUAC** refers to the childhood of cinematographic art (a little like in the manner of Jacques Tati or Kaurismäki), for better bounce back and flourish in the present time. The writing of this show follows the rules of the dramaturgy of a cinematographic scenario, constructed of a sequence of scenes, where the viewer is taken as we gradually follow this tragicomedy in which the character dives into.



COUAC . . .

* *A burlesque onomatopoeia that resonates like a dysfunction, a break in harmony, a clumsiness, an incident.*



© Mara De Sario

COUAC explores several major thematic lines :

COUAC does not just point out the excesses of our society. It also offers an alternative positive, inviting the audience to reflect on their own choices and explore new paths for a more fulfilling existence. This creation is part of the register of clown physical theater to explore, in a playful and poetic way, two major themes : **the loss of the man-nature relationship and the alienation of society by an excess of technology.**

An anthropological reflection :

Behind the absurd humor and the comical situations lies a scathing critique of consumer society and digital surveillance. It invites deep reflection on the anthropological mutations induced by technologies and questions the future of human beings in a world dominated by artificial intelligence.

The audience tells the story of the show :

We laugh and delight in discovering a Mr. Jo who can no longer return home, because with his bandage on his head, the facial recognition system can no longer identify him. This comical and satirical visual spectacle shakes us with laughter while warning us about our own excesses with the use of technologies. *(Diane, Spectator)*

Visual and clownish, this show without words tells in a playful and poetic way, our accustomance to technologies and the loss of the relationship between man and nature. We laugh and delight in this fable of graphic and satirical anticipation. Without moralization and through humor, the show stings us, shakes us, warns us of our own excesses and invites us to reflect on a thousand aspects of everyday life. *(Virginie, Programmer)*

If we had to summarize the story and the character who takes place in it, we would define it as visual and burlesque comedy in the vein of clowns, silent film actors with a bit of Tati, Abel & Gordon, immersed in the universe of Brazil by Terry Gilliam and 1984 by George Orwell. *(Alice, Young journalist U-Mons)*

COUAC is a daring creation that is absolutely worth a detour !

Couac is a smart, funny and poignant show that will not leave you indifferent. Behind its scathing humor, Couac is a real invitation to reflect on the place of technology in our lives and the importance of preserving our humanity. *(Plan B, J.Bell - 2024)*

COUAC : A satirical and burlesque show that resonates in our digital era.

Couac, by the «Compagnie du Plat pays» , is a funny and scathing fable of anticipation that explores the dangers of an ultra-connected world. The show immerses us in the daily life of Jo, an ordinary man who tries to survive in an environment where technology controls every aspect of his life. COUAC is an original and daring show that is worth seeing. It is a play that will make you laugh, think and, perhaps, change your outlook on the world around you.

(Dour info - 2024)



COUAC . . .

** A word to remind us that imperfection is what makes us human, and that it is often in moments of disharmony that we find opportunities to grow and learn.*

PUBLIC :

COUAC is a committed and entertaining play that encourages deep reflection on our relationship with technology and nature. We want to address audiences from 9 years old and encourage dialogue between generations in order to bring about reflection on the challenges of modern society.

A show for everyone, young and old.

The show is accessible to children, teenagers, as well as adults via different levels of reading. Children will be charmed by the character and the funny situations, while adults will appreciate the depth of the message and the finesse of the humor. Its universal message and its inventive staging make it a must-see show for all those who question the excesses of modern society and aspire to a more authentic way of life.

School audience for primary and secondary.

This show has strong educational potential and can be usefully integrated into a school setting. It explores in a playful way topics that encourage important thinking about the issues of modern society, while encouraging students to develop their critical thinking.

Supporting file for the show - Philosophy / Pedagogy - available on request.

A marriage between humor and reflection on our consumer society which invites us to reflect on a thousand aspects of everyday life.

DISTRIBUTION :

Author & Performer : Sébastien Domogalla

Management & Technical Direction : Filippo Cavinato

Stage Management : Séverine Bernard / Camille Loquet

Artistic Collaboration : Xavier Bouvier

Sound Composition : Antoine Hénaut

Costume Design : Evelyne Meersschaut

Set construction : Vincent Rutten, Camille Loquet

Images produced by : Mara De Sario, Edouard Cuvelier

Graphic & Visual Animation : Sébastien Domogalla

Lighting Design : Filippo Cavinato

TECHNICAL DATA SHEET :

Black box

Opening : 8m

Depth : 6m

Height : 5m / min. 4m

Duration : 50 minutes

Assembly : 8 hours (2 services)

Disassembly : 2 hours

Gauge : 200 School and Family

A production by Compagnie du Plat pays !

With the help of the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Administration générale de la Culture, Service général de la Création Artistique, Service du Cirque, des Arts forains et des Arts de la Rue / S.A.C.D. Belgique / Coproduction : CCBW - Centre culturel du Brabant Wallon / MARS - Mons arts de la Scène / Fondation Mons 2025, Capitale culturelle / With the support for the creation of LookIN'OUT - Le BAMP (Brussels Art Melting Pot) - Ad Lib - Le 140 / La Fabrique de Théâtre / Service des Arts de la Scène de la Province de Hainaut / Centre culturel de Dour / Centre culturel du Roeulx / Arrêt59 - Foyer culturel de Péruwelz / Centre culturel de Colfontaine / Technocité (Digital Média) / CCBW - Centre culturel du Brabant Wallon / Atrium57 Centre culturel de Gembloux / Espace Columban / Aires Libres - Fédération des arts de la rue, des arts du cirque et des arts forains /

COUAC . . .

** A word which, in its simplicity, challenges us and invites us to take a step back from our sometimes too hectic and too perfect lives.*



© Stephoto

La Compagnie du Plat pays !

Belgian Artistic Company producing works in an interdisciplinary approach mixing physical theatre, circus, dance, audiovisual and DIY. It creates a unique visual, metaphorical and poetic language. The creations focus on man, the world, our social behaviours by taking with humour subjects outside their ordinary environment, in order to make them accessible to the greatest number and to the youngest. The company has been broadcasting its creations since 2005 in Europe, North America and the Middle East.

The company's latest creation, **Triple Buse**. A non-verbal show that humorously questions the world of work by inviting everyone, from childhood, to ask themselves the question of obligatory work, of profitability. Triple Buse has been performed more than 150 times with its boxes on 3 continents and received in 2018 the Audience's Favorite Youth Award and the mention of the show of the season from the Réseau Accès culture Montréal (Canada). It was notably presented in 2015 at the Rencontres de Théâtre Jeune Audience in Huy (Belgium), at the 34th edition of the International Festival of Mime & Gesture Arts - MIMOS in Périgueux (France), in the official selection of the 17th edition of the International Biennial of Performing Arts - CINARS in Montreal (Canada), at the 39th edition of the FESTIVAL ASSEMBLY at the Edinburgh (Scotland), at the 1st Pan Arab Culture Meeting 2020 during the Sharjah International Festival (UAE) and at the 31st edition of the Mostra Igualada (Spain).



CONTACT :



Compagnie du Plat pays ! Asbl
203, Rue d'Onnezies
7380 Baisieux - Belgium
www.cieduplatpays.be

- Production : Sébastien Domogalla
- Phone : 0032 (0)473.35.61.85
- Mail: info@cieduplatpays.be
-

COUAC.....



Plat
AYS!
Compagnie
Production Artistique

