



Sisypholia

Directors Natacha Belova *and* Dorian Chavez

Creation 5 octobre 2022 /Espace public

for the La Biennale – Festival International des Arts Vivants
Toulouse Occitanie

SISYPHOLIA

Director

Natacha Belova and Dorian Chavez

Outside eye

Nicole Mossoux and Tita Iacobelli

Design of the ball

Natacha Belova

Realization of the ball

Nathalie Trouve, Atelier Théâtre de la Cité

Interpretation

Dorian Chavez

Duration

1 hour

Production

IFO asbl

Coproduction

Biennale Internationale des Arts Vivants
Toulouse Occitanie, Théâtre de la Cité, Usine,
Arto, Marionnettissimo, Théâtre National de
Bruxelles, Festival Namur en mai

Collaboration

with achACT – Actions Consommateurs Travailleurs

RESUME

Sisypholia is a performance project that consists in evoking a mythical figure in urban consumer spaces to create a poetic disruption in a commercial movement.

The main scenographic object of *Sisypholia* is a giant ball of clothes that is rolled down a shopping street or shopping mall by an everyday Sisyphus, who looks like everyone else..

Freely inspired by the myth of Sisyphus, we have imagined a strange puppet figure who will embark on an absurd and repetitive quest, within an environment unsuited to his approach in order to create a slight disturbance. An image with a free interpretation that blurs the tracks of understanding, but will create a blank, a pause, a disturbance of meaning in a daily crowd movement.

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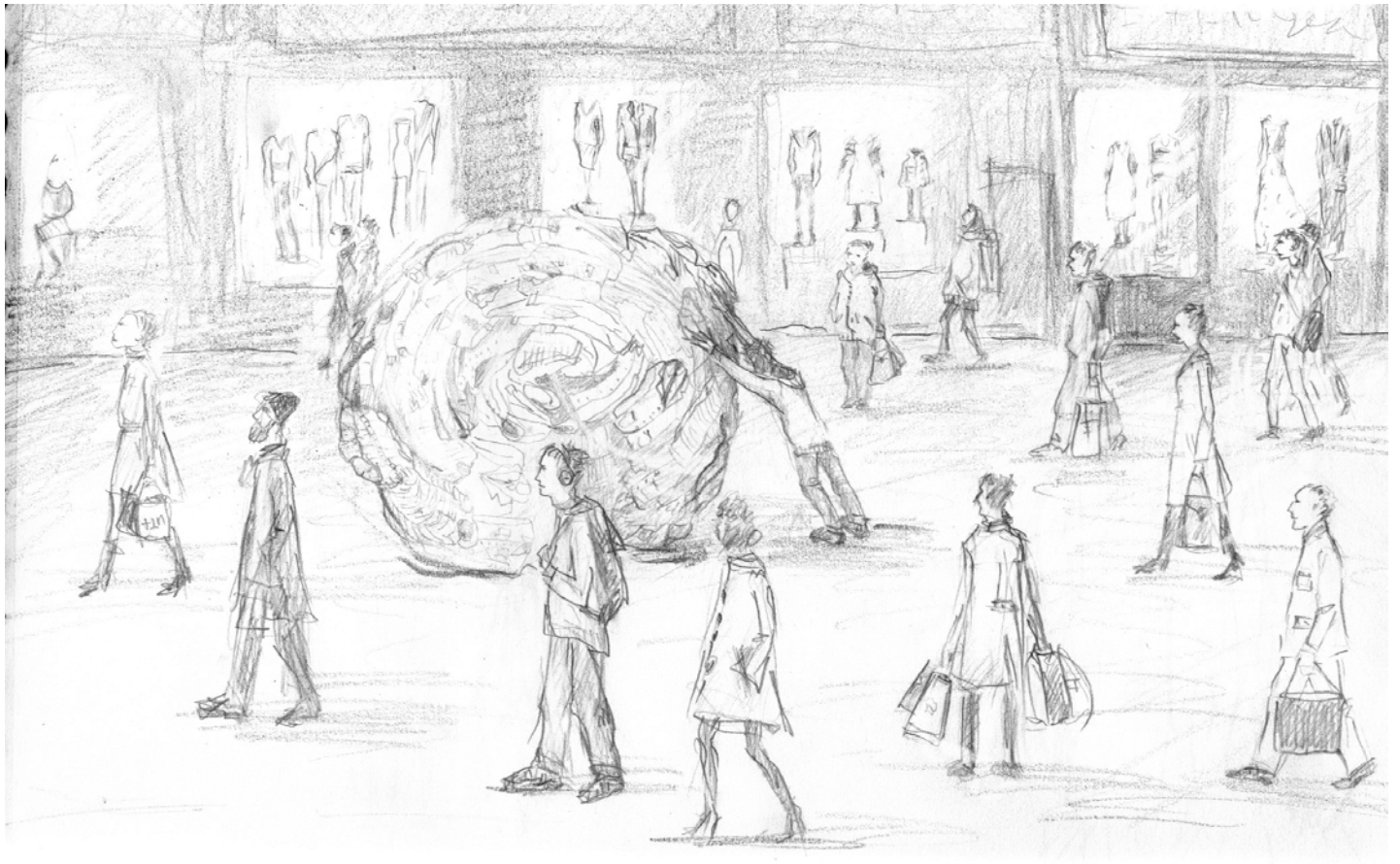
There are no useless efforts, Sisyphus was making the muscles... Roger Caillois

NOTE D'INTENTION

We wanted to talk about our daily desires of consumption. We looked for an access that would allow us to approach this theme without placing ourselves in a moralistic position or a role of lesson giver.

The shopping streets are always bustling with people. Potential buyers are moving towards different goals, but with a common rhythm.

As aware as we may be of the futile nature of this frenetic desire, we will inevitably end up one day or another on the path of the "potential buyer". A desire that balances between pleasure and guilt. Who can avoid it completely? Everyone is part of this crowd.



Croquis © Natacha Belova

Sisyphus, fully aware of the absurdity of his effort, will do the same task again and again. Without hope or intention of transcendence, with discipline and vitality, Sisyphus pays the price of his consumerist passion. And just like Camus' Sisyphus, he is happy to accept this reality, in a perfectly absurd way.

Throughout the performance, which unfolds like a stroll, there are two particular moments.

First, a dance appears in the middle of the journey, as a surprise, where Sisyphus, shirtless, performs gestures and a dance of a few minutes on the "Stabat Mater" of Pergolese. Very quickly the dance stops and Sisyphus returns to his punishment, to find himself at the end of the journey in what we call "the alcove". In this place, sheltered from the outside world, Sisyphus enters with the public that follows him, and he reveals himself. He speaks to people directly, and it is a vulnerable character that the public discovers. Emotionally charged with everything that has taken place in the journey that has just been made, the interpreter gives a glimpse of what he has lived, like a piece of eternity revealed.

But Sisyphus can't stay for too long sheltered from the gaze of the gods, so he leaves again, this time to get lost in the crowd, and thus finish the performance.

One of the important elements of Sisypholia, is what we call "flashmob".

We realized that the visual effect of crushing someone with the ball is very impactful and that it is harmless to the person being crushed. So we are looking for a group of people who are willing to be placed in the path of the ball and be crushed one after the other. The number of participants can go from 5 to 10 people, depending on the size of the street, and this "flashmob" will need a rehearsal.







*There is no more terrible
punishment
than useless and hopeless
work.*

Albert Camus

BIOGRAPHIES

NATACHA BELOVA



Natacha Belova: was born in Russia, graduated in history, and has lived in Belgium since 1995. After initial work as a costume and set designer on the Belgian and international performing arts circuits, she went on to specialise in contemporary puppetry. Working on numerous projects in theatre, as well as in dance, circus, cinema and opera, she acquired a great depth of experience that drove her to instigate her own projects. Her first creations came in the form of exhibitions and installations.

In November 2017, she realised her first work as a stage director with Cie La Barca dei Matti's *Passeggeri* at IF – Festival internazionale di Teatro di Immagine e Figura in Milan, Italy.

In recent years, she has given numerous puppet workshops in 15 countries across three continents, and in 2016 founded her own centre for research and training, the IFO, a non-profit based in Brussels.

DORIAN CHAVEZ



Dorian Chavez is a dancer and actor born in Quito, Ecuador. He creates his language in performance, theater and choreography in several companies in Buenos Aires, before moving to Brussels in 2014 to develop his own creations around writing and performing arts. His approach to the creative act is mainly around improvisation, through which he elucidates the physical mechanisms and emotional phenomena of the stage, to grasp more closely the complexity of the modern world. In addition to his creations *Passages* in 2017, *L'Épopée du péroné* in 2019, *L'Élégie de l'iliade* in 2020, he is currently working with the company Mossoux-Bonté and is at the origin of numerous improvised creations and collaborations with visual artists, musicians and philosophers. In 2022 his new creation process is a solo entitled *Il danse comme il pleut*.



Photo de répétitions© Damien Bienal

Video realized by Erik Damiano during Biennale de Toulouse 2022

<https://vimeo.com/782863029>

CALENDAR

from 5 *to* 8 October 2022 / public space
for the La Biennale – Festival International des Arts Vivants
Toulouse Occitanie, France

The 27, 29 April 2023
for the Festival À la scène comme à la ville
Théâtre National Walonie-Bruxelles, Belgique

16 and 17 May 2023
for the Festival Dance XXV of Veszprém's independent theatre
Pannon Várszínház, Veszprém, Hongrie

The 19 *and* 20 mai 2023
for the Festival Namur en Mai
Bruxelles, Belgique

Dates to come
for the Festival Maintenant

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgique

CONTACT

Production et Diffusion

Javier Chávez

+32 491 955 366

jchavez@ifoperator.be

Gestion de tournée

Marta Pereira

contact@belova-iacobelli.com

Contact Technique

Dorian Chavez

dorianichavez@gmail.com

+33782772268

www.belova-iacobelli.com

