

A photograph of a circus performance inside a large tent. Two acrobats are silhouetted against a large, circular, glowing light source that creates a pattern of light and shadow resembling leaves or a floral design. The acrobats are in a dynamic pose, with one standing and the other leaning against them. The tent's metal framework is visible in the foreground and background. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and artistic.

# LILY WATER

Circus play from the book « L'Écume des jours » of Boris Vian




# AZEIN

**Production** Cie Azeïn

**Co-productions** Archaos, Pôle National Cirque - Marseille, Le Pôle Arts de la scène, Friche de la Belle de Mai – Marseille, Cirque Jules Verne Pôle National Cirque et Arts de la Rue - Amiens, Le Théâtre du Bois de l'Aune - Aix-en-Provence, La Coopérative De Rue et De Cirque - Paris

**Funding** Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur (aide à la création), Région SUD Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Conseil Départemental Bouches-du-Rhône, SACD / Lauréat Processus Cirque 2019, Espace Périphérique (Mairie de Paris – La Villette), ADAMI

**Residencies** Cité du Cirque pour le Pôle régional Cirque - Le Mans, La Cascade Pôle National Cirque Ardèche-Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Le Centre International des Arts en Mouvement- Aix-en-Provence, Le Pôle – Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national, Centre des Arts du Cirque Balthazar

The show is in the official program of the Centenary of Boris Vian's birth organised by the Cohérie Vian in 2020  
Compagnie Azeïn is supported by the City Council of Aix-en-Provence

**Director** : Audrey Louwet

**Acrobats** : Gabi Chitescu and Antoine Deheppe

**Musicians (composition/interpretation)** : Agathe Di Piro and Matthieu Tomi

**Actor** : Pierre Simon-Chautemps

**Light creator** : Simon Louwet

**Costume creator** : Sarah Veillon

**Sound manager** : Cyril Innocente

**Director Assistant** : Valérie Bral

With the authorization of Cohérie Vian



**«Lily Water» is an adaptation of the book through the challenges of circus  
without using the original text  
to extract the very subtle essence of this tragical love story.**

**On an original live music,  
the piece delves into a poetic world  
where bodies writh and merge in a sensual rythm  
until the fatal outcome.**

**Death  
is  
a  
fall  
...  
to  
the  
sky  
!**





## PROJECT NOTE - AUDREY LOUWET

“This creation is a challenge : using literature as a tool to write circus in an innovative way. I chose “L’écume des jours” of Boris Vian as I wanted to talk about the loss of a loved one.

« Lily Water » isn’t « L’Écume des jours » but a show to pay tribute to Boris Vian and how his work inspires me as a circus author.

And what more beautiful homage to pay to this love story than to hang it in the air from the threads of risk, moving bodies and emotions?

The title of the show comes from the “Waterlily” that grows in Chloé’s lung. Unlike the novel which tells Colin’s story, I decided to propose a version from Chloe’s point of view. She could be called Lily, Lily Water, she could be a young woman of 21st century and go through this tragic love story.







## LILY WATER - FIVE CHARACTERS

My starting point is transversality as I'm always looking for new combinations to write circus differently. Colin and Chloé are interpreted by an aerial duo, Chick and Alise by two musicians and Nicolas by an actor.

Aerial acrobatics is a discipline that tells, in essence, the total fusion between the catcher and the flyer. It is a discipline that speaks of love.

In addition, I am developing an original discipline: aerial portés on climbing harness. It is an adaptation of aerial aerobatics in a small space to create an image where bodies evolve in zero gravity.

These aerial disciplines make it possible to imagine the Chloe / Colin relationship as well as the shrinking space... until the fatal outcome.

The choice of musicians is related to the novel: Alise is a pianist and Chick plays the double bass, guitar and sings. The staging gives a glimpse of their love affair which gets torn apart by Chloe's illness. Their melodies are affected by the progression of the disease and they progressively disappear, engulfed by the darkening space, in an unequal battle: how can music and poetry fight disease and death?

The actor plays Nicolas, Colin's friend. He manipulates the scenography to transform Colin and Chloe's space of life. He also plays characters to help understand the story (the priest at the wedding, the doctor...). With his clownish register, he brings a touch of humor to the whole piece.





## IN THE MEDIAS

*« «In the air, the bodies brush against each other, embrace, and separate, making each moment an emotional one.*

*With this delicate aerial duet,  
the Azeïn company offers us a moment of pure poetry.  
An inspired and inspiring rewriting of Boris Vian's  
L'Écume des jours, carried by the grace and obvious complicity  
of the acrobats.»*

*Daphné Bétard – Beaux-Arts Magazine*

*«In this aerial show, gesture replaces speech,  
leaving only the language of bodies to express themselves  
as they embrace each other,  
lose themselves in the void and catch each other in extremis,  
ending up disunited and dragging each other down  
in an inexorable fall (...)*

*Lily Water constantly balances between  
moments of emotion and humor.*

*We fly there!»*

*Var Matin*

*“Sensual and tragical aerial duo,  
where circus and literature interlace in the air (...)  
A brand-new and vertiginous rewriting of the book.”*

*Alicia Dorey*

*«Choosing to dramatize Vian's prose from  
«L'écume des jours» is already risky,  
but to do it not with actors but with acrobats  
is even more daring. The bet is won (...)  
The show perfectly tells the love of Colin and Chloe,  
from their meeting to the tragic end of their story.»*

*Jean-François Principiano – TV83 Web-TV du Var*

*« Lily Water is a piece that dares to move the audience  
by subtly combining comedy and tragedy (...)  
Audrey Louwet's sensitivity and love for L'Écume des jours  
have made it possible to create a show that reveals  
a circus dimension already present in the novel.  
An homage to Boris Vian by taking a new look at his work,  
especially acrobatical ! »*

*Caroline Barbier de Reulle, musicologist. Colloque « Boris Vian en son  
deuxième siècle » – Victoria University (Canada)*



## A TECHNICAL AND AESTHETIC INNOVATION FOR A REMARKABLE SCENOGRAPHY

“Le Carré” original apparatus created by Cie Azeïn

Acrobatics on aerial cradle are traditionally viewed from the side because that is what allows to show the whole amplitude of the acrobatic movement : the base is lying horizontally holding the flyer and they seem to be floating weightless.

Le Carré is an aerial cradle with four directions allowing the artist to move and change axis on the apparatus. The aerobatics is shown from several angles and the artists offer the spectator different readings of the movement. The company is part of a democratic approach with this invention which is also conceived for a circular stage.

2009 : first prototype created at Centre National des Arts du Cirque de Châlons-en-Champagne: a square metal structure suspended by 4 steel cables. The frame is bare, with refined design and vanishes to highlight acrobatics.

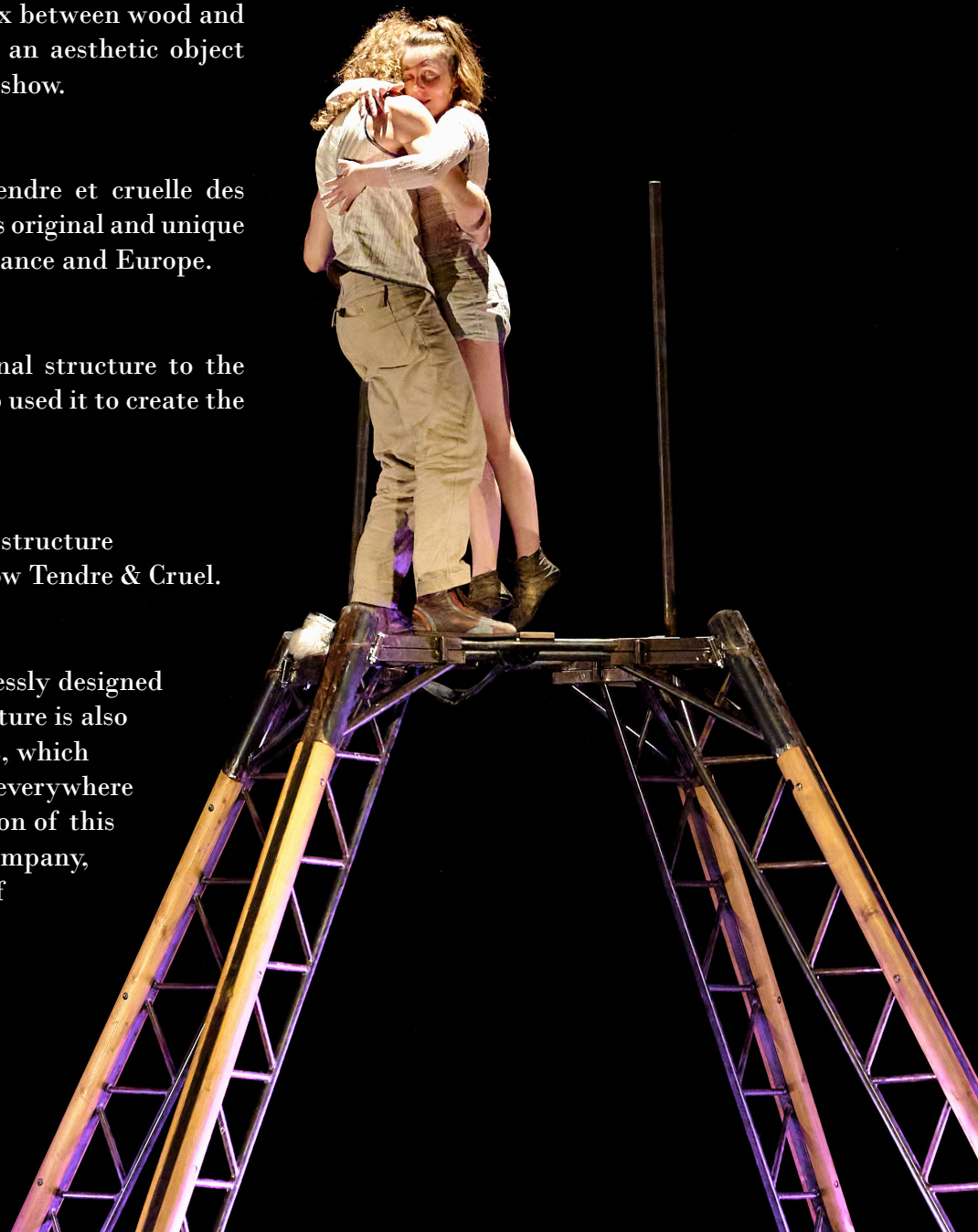
2010 : the company works with the circus constructor Manu Cealis to design a free-standing pyramid-shaped structure for public spaces. The mix between wood and metal transform the apparatus in an aesthetic object and contributes to the style of the show.

2012-2013 : the show « La vie tendre et cruelle des animaux sauvages », created on this original and unique structure, toured successfully in France and Europe.

2014 : the company sold its original structure to the company Les Quat'fers en l'air who used it to create the show Gravir.

2022 : the Cie Azeïn ordered a new structure at Les Ateliers Sud Side for the show Tendre & Cruel.

Completely self-standing and expressly designed without an anchor point, the structure is also particularly suited to public spaces, which allows an aerial show to be played everywhere and for everyone. Since the invention of this original apparatus by the Azeïn Company, we are now seeing the emergence of different structures inspired by this technical and aesthetic innovation.



## AZEÏN COMPANY IN A FEW WORDS

Graduated from Centre National des Arts du Cirque, Audrey Louwet co-founds Company Azeïn in 2010 with her partner Sam Hannes. Since 2014, she assumes the artistic direction of the company and develops an acrobatic vocabulary mixing circus, theatre and music to explore all the potentials of aerial flying.

She holds the National Diploma of Circus Teacher and the Certificate of Circus Dramaturgy.  
She is leading various educative circus programs with very different audiences.

The company is supported by Archaos Pôle National Cirque and the regional institutions.

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### **Technical information**

50mn  
Staff: 8 people on tour  
Stage dimension: 10m x 10m  
Minimum height: 6m80  
Self-standing flying structure: 4m50 height, wheelbase 5mx5m, no ground point.  
A white drop (10m length x 10m high) is hanged at the forestage at the beginning of the show. It's released by a kabuki system at the end of the first scene.  
Black box with German masking  
Double Backdrop with two clips or a command

### **Contacts**

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Sound Director : Cyril Innocente ; [cyril.sondier@gmail.com](mailto:cyril.sondier@gmail.com) ; 0033 6 31 02 42 91  
Crédits photos : J. Paulin, S. Nicolas-Bénazet

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Photos gallery: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmL3uqfM>  
Teaser vidéo : <https://youtu.be/mRuEYNRV3QU>  
Website : <https://compagnie-azein.com/>  
Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/azein.compagnie>  
Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/azeincompagnie/?hl=fr>







# AZEIN

ARCHAOS  
PÔLE NATIONAL CIRQUE MÉDITERRANÉE

2r2c  
coopérative  
de rue et de cirque

FRICHE  
LA BELLE  
DE MAI

Adami

CIAM  
CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES ARTS DU MOUVEMENT  
« Mouvement • Interdisciplinaire • Création • Diffusion »

DÉPARTEMENT  
BOUCHES  
DU RHÔNE

SACD  
SOCIÉTÉ DES AUTEURS ET  
COMPOSITEURS DRAMATIQUES

RÉGION  
SUD  
PROVENCE  
ALPES  
CÔTE D'AZUR

BOIS  
DEL'AUNE

BOIS DEL'AUNE  
Pôle artistique et culturel du Pays d'Aix  
BOIS DEL'AUNE

espace  
cénaphénique

PRÉFET DE LA RÉGION  
PROVENCE-ALPES  
CÔTE D'AZUR

CIRQUE  
JULES VERNE

AIX  
EN PROVENCE  
LA VILLE

LA  
CAS~  
CADÉ  
PÔLE NATIONAL  
CIRQUE - ARDÈCHE  
AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES

BORIS  
VIAN  
100 ANS  
1920 - 2020

pal  
première Artistique  
Ligérienne Circassienne  
(plus légal que le mari)

LEPOLE  
ARTS  
EN  
CIRCULATION