



#### **Contacts**

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## **SUMMARY**

Audrey Louwet's project note

For the professionnals:

Writing sessions for artists
Show directing
Conference about circus dramaturgy

For general public:

Circus at school Around the show « Lily Water » Train the trainers course Circus Flashmob parents/children Un cirque dans ma tête

Azeïn company in a few words



## **AUDREY LOUWET'S PROJECT NOTE**

"I am a circus artist, graduated from Cnac in 2010 and I co-founded the Azeïn Company in Aix-en-Provence. Holding the State Diploma in Circus Teacher and the Certificate in Circus Dramaturgy, I was also trained in the ANCAR writing technique by Raquel Rache de Andrade and Guy Carrara.

I am engaged in a process of transmission, from the general public to professional training. Generally speaking, I consider pedagogy as a revealer of knowledge in a horizontal relationship with students.

I have developed a specific approach which mixes yoga techniques with circus in order to give the acrobatic movement an intuitive and sensitive dimension.

I also conceived a writing and composing method for circus inspired by my different professional education and personal experiences.

My goal is to transmit a complete art, respectful of the body and anchored in the realities of the professional sector."

#### WRITING SESSIONS FOR ARTISTS



The starting point is a sensory warm-up which awakens inner movement and stimulates creativity, without forgetting the necessary physical preparation for circus practice. The objective is twofold: on the one hand preparing body and mind for acrobatics, on the other hand raising awareness about respectful management of the working tool - the body - to ensure a long career.

Then the artists are coached in different specific exercises, on the apparatus but also at the table with writing sessions. The goal is to stimulate creativity to invent new paths, explore different qualities of movement, and develop a personal vocabulary.

Back and forth discussions also take place to encourage reflection on the artist's profession and the author's approach. What do you want to tell? Where do you get your inspiration from? Why did you choose this discipline?







Notions of production and administrative management are also considered to help their project to be structured.

The approach is comprehensive and covers a very broad panorama of the challenges of the circus artist profession. The objective is to transmit creative tools anchored in the contemporaneity of artists.

I regularly work with the National Circus School of Châtellerault on this topic.



## **SHOW DIRECTING: MÉTACLIMAX**

I was asked by the Circus School of Cirque Jules Verne in Amiens to direct the final school show of the second year students.

My main challenge was to create a show where each student is highlighted in the discipline and artistic specificities. The creative process involved numerous writing exercises, on stage and at the table, to allow me to discover all their talents. This enabled me to compose individual numbers according to everyone's desires and skills.



At the same time, I invited them at a think tank on the climate situation based on "Green Urbex", a photo book by Romain Veillon. Urbex is an abbreviation of "Urban exploration" and consists of photo reports of abandoned and disused places. The photos by Romain Veillon are striking and accompanied by a foreword by Sylvain Tesson who tells what would happen if humans were to suddenly disappear.

The show was built like this, with back and forth between writing on stage and at the table, discussions on climate issues and great moments of joy and laughter.. because these 9 young people have incredible energy and devastating humor! And I was impressed by their artistic qualities and their maturity.

This show is about them, it is the words of today's youth about the world around us and the future that awaits us.

The creative process was dense and the students participated in the writing of this show. A website has been made to trace the evolution of the project during these four weeks of work: <a href="https://metaclimax.wordpress.com/">https://metaclimax.wordpress.com/</a>

Premiere June 4, 2022 at Cirque Jules Verne - Amiens Adapted for public spaces for La Rue est à Amiens, June 18 and 19, 2022







#### A word from the artists:

«The planet. Uh... about the planet. I'm just high, I'm just high» (Perline)

«I don't know if it's a form of denial or silence in the face of something that is beyond me» (Marie)

«Today, apples are so processed that to eat one, you have to peel 8 centimeters of them: is it really worth it to eat a core?» (Lise)

«A labyrinth on fire. 8 billion humans in a labyrinth on fire. I'm beginning to wonder if there's a way out» (Shana)

«When the Sex Pistols were singing about the fact that we no longer had a future, they were actually 50 years ahead of time» (Mafé)

«20 years in 2022. Yes but no, not angry, not revolted, not even in the mood to scream. Except maybe that I'm happy» (Louna)

«There's no such thing as black and white. But the complexity of the world is so hard to capture. And plunging into the dark is so comfortable» (Lili)

«Stop, look, listen, accept, put yourself in your place. Reconnect with each other, wait for each other, love each other. But no one cares anyway» (Agathe)

«I'd love to dance on your graves, but I'll dance my last twerk on mine » (Boris)

Stage direction: Audrey Louwet

With Shana Abidts, Lise Beaumard, Marie Belingheri, Perline Cayrel, Louna Contival, Marc-Félix Fournier, Boris Vandevelde, Agathe Vauléon De Giovanni et Liliana Wieneke

**Costumes :** Odile Lafforgue **Crédit photo :** Noémie Laval



#### **CONFERENCE ABOUT CIRCUS DRAMATURGY**





After I took part in the round table "The repertoire in contemporary circus" for the professional meetings of the International Circus Arts Biennal in 2021, Archaos Pôle National Cirque commissioned a conference from me for the professional meetings of the BIAC 2023.





Inspired by theoretical input that I mixed with my personal experience, I tried to explore the particularities of circus writing, with humor and seriousness.

The conference was a success and resulted in an article by Adolfo Rossomando in "Juggling Magazine":

https://issuu.com/jugmag/docs/
jug\_98\_web



## **CIRCUS AT SCHOOL**

I have been working since 2014 as part of the educational action program supported by the Bouches-du-Rhône Department. Circus workshops, writing exercises, conference on contemporary circus and introductions to sound and light management professions. The action ends on a show by the company in the courtyard of the establishment.



I also give writing workshops with students in the circus option at the Joliot Curie high school in Aubagne. In 2023, I gave them a composition workshop about the "4 ways to say no".

The project with the Festival des 7 Collines was designed over around fifty hours to support students from Collège Marc Seguin in Saint-Etienne in the creative process. The students had acrobatics and trapeze lessons, writing workshops, an introduction to sound and light management, a costume making workshop and the creation of the show flyer. They performed their show "VertigO" having gone through the entire creative process of a circus show.

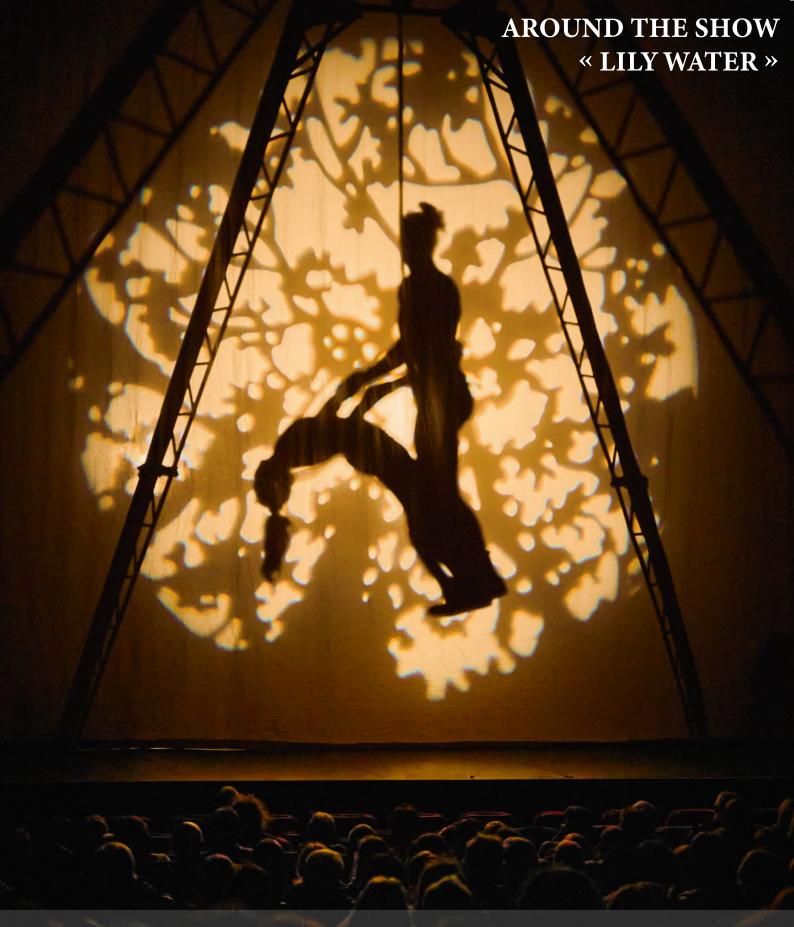


I also conceived a project around the show "Lily Water":

After seeing the show and meeting the artists, the students take part in writing exercises, show analysing and circus activities.

Then I help them with a class project.

For example, I supported the students of Lycée Adapté de Vedène (France) in the realisation of a video about the freedom to love.



Created in January 2020, the "Lily Water" show has been particularly appreciated by school audiences. For this reason, I have created a program of educational actions around contemporary circus and the work of Boris Vian in collaboration with a teacher of French, plastic arts or sports.

Reading the novel as well as the educational file produced by Renaud Aimard, teacher in charge of the educational service at Cirque Jules Verne are necessary prerequisites.

#### TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS COURSE

I also work with National Education teachers to give them tools to support their students in creativity exercises:

- I co-created the training "Creation process around a repertoire work" for National Education teachers during the professional meetings of the International Circus Arts Biennal 2021
- I gave circus dramaturgy conference and writing exercises for the cultural referents of the Garlaban Network National Education





# CIRCUS FLASHMOB PARENTS/CHILDREN

Do you know what a flashmob is?

You receive the video of a choreography, you practice at home and then, let's meet on a certain day at a certain time to do it together in a public space!

Well the "Azeïn Circus Flashmob" is the same concept. With the exception that you need a minimum training to avoid getting hurt with acrobatics.

Instead of watching a video, we offer you a free session before the event to get ready.

The result will be the same: sudden and spontaneous occupation of public space for the creation of ephemeral acrobatics and human pyramids!

As a parent-child duo it's even funnier because you can even do it at home:

Flashmob in the kitchen before snack! In the bathroom before brushing your teeth! And may the circus be part of your daily life!

Anecdote: an 80-year-old acrobat asked to participate. We made a pyramid together for a total age of 120 years!

# UN CIRQUE DANS MA TÊTE

How can I not talk about this project? Archaos Pôle National Cirque and SACD Auteurs-solidaires asked me to participate in this adventure. The project was to support young people with disabilities for more than a year in the writing of a circus scene which was then performed by professional artists.

It was magical, powerful, deeply moving. <a href="https://youtu.be/MDEGcrXmp-k">https://youtu.be/MDEGcrXmp-k</a>



## AZEÏN COMPANY IN A FEW WORDS

Graduated from Centre National des Arts du Cirque, Audrey Louwet co-founded 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 explores all the potentials of aerial flying.

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