



# Tendre & Cruel

**An out of tune  
show for a  
cradle duo and  
a musician**

*Herve Photograph*





# AZEÏN

**Director and scenograph :** Audrey Louwet

**Acrobats :** Matias Cienfuegos de la Cerda and Micaela Leitner

**Musician :** Etienne Barboux

**Director assistant :** Valérie Bral

**Tour manager :** Céline Sin

**Sound technician :** Cyril Innocente

**Production** Cie Azeïn

**Coproduction** Archaos Pôle National Cirque

**Funding** Région Sud, Ville d'Aix-en-Provence, Territoire du Pays d'Aix

**Residency** Les Ateliers Sud Side et La Cité des Arts de la Rue – Marseille (13) avec le soutien de Lieux Publics – CNAREP (Centre National des Arts de la Rue et de l'Espace Public & Pôle Européen de Production), Zim-Zam La Tour d'Aigues for l'été culturel Drac-Paca

BIAC Biennale Internationale des Arts du Cirque Marseille Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur





**A catcher, a flyer, a musician and an original structure:  
an aerial cradle with four directions.**

**Behind closed doors,  
the trio explores human relationship  
with humour, rage and tenderness.**

**A poetic and ironic show where acrobatics and rhythm merge...  
or not.**





## PROJECT NOTE – AUDREY LOUWET



“Tendre & cruel is an adaptation of my first show *La vie tendre et cruelle des animaux sauvages* that toured from 2011 to 2013 in France and Europe. The idea came into my mind after Archaos Pôle National Cirque asked me to contribute to the meeting about repertoire in contemporary circus at the BIAC in Marseille (2021). I’m particularly interested by creating a repertoire for contemporary circus as I’m deeply convinced that it’s important to develop a circus cultural heritage for the next generations.

This observation drove me to adapt my first show with a team of young acrobats. It’s the occasion to re-write the show with my experience of stage director. I kept the same succession of scenes and I reinforced the craziness of the characters.

*Tendre & Cruel* is an adaptation with a new perspective a decade later that tells the story of a conflict between three very stupid humans.”



### AN INFERNAL TRIO

**In a rock and crazy atmosphere, the characters reveal the shadow of their soul, turning a tender and amused look towards their humanity and driving their electric relationship from an extreme to another one.**

**Where is the limit between attraction and repulsion ?  
Love and hate ?  
Tenderness and cruelty ?**

## TENDRE & CRUEL AND THE THREE CHARACTERS



**She's Serena, mischievous in any occasion.**



**He's Mati, he catches, bears, supports... for how long ?**



**He's Pidoo, musician, juggler, clown, acrobat and... definitely rock'n'roll !**

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The two acrobats start the show on a fight and nothing happens like it's supposed to. In a foolish and funny escalating cycle of revenge, with high flying acrobatics and delicate aerial choreography of interlacing bodies, they settle their scores in front of the audience, on the ground and in the air !

Completely out of tune with what's going on between the two acrobats, the musician interprets an original live music and creates a funny and out of touch atmosphere enriched by the power of the electric guitar and the drums.

Unwillingly involved in the dispute of the duo, he wants to pick up the pieces with his crazy humour and his miscellaneous collection of weird instruments. He tries to save the show... as he can !

**Will the acrobat finally perform the flying act they came for ?**

## 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 of the show**

40 mn – all audiences

5 people on tour

Minimum space : 10m x 10m

Minimum height if indoors : 7m

Self-standing flying structure : 4m50 high, grounds space 5mx5m

Ground needs: flat space, maximum inclination 2%, mown grass possible, concrete possible only with carpet and dance mat

Two musical spaces with sound mixing

### **Contacts**

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# AZEIN

Photo Gallery : <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjzX935>

Teaser vidéo : <https://youtu.be/nLQJFNYJGG8>

Website : <https://compagnie-azein.com/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/azein.compagnie>

Instagram : <https://www.instagram.com/azeincompagnie/?hl=fr>