



IL N'EST PAS ENCORE MIUIT
COMPAGNIE XY
FRANCE

AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

'With gregarious lindy-hop moves and minimalist but thrilling acrobatic feats, the show makes performers and audiences gurgle together in the shared pleasure of the moment.' – The Guardian

THE SHOW

'IL N'EST PAS ENCORE MIUIT...' is a fleeting, exhilarating moment in which we become aware that we are stealing time from time itself ; that together we have succeeded in detaching from it at least, if not abstracting ourselves entirely.

If you've ever wondered why an acrobat is an acrobat, it becomes apparent that they're a perfect metaphor for this feat. As soon as we become aware of this we again realise that time has already caught up with us and outstripped us...

At one time or another we will all feel the euphoria of uplift, the state of weightlessness, and then the inevitable fall. For an acrobat, this process is a part of daily life in rehearsal or performance and gives them a completely different notion of what achievement means. With success comes the promise of failure and with failure the promise of happiness. The more you look at it, the more you realise it's a natural cycle reproduced ad infinitum, like a dotted line stretching to infinity. So long as there is someone standing by who can send you soaring up to the stars and catch you again when you fall back down to earth. This is where living and working together side by side takes on a whole new dimension. From these skillful bodies in motion, what ultimately emerges is not so much about prowess but a great humility faced with the human condition and their capacity to keep pushing its boundaries.

With *'Il n'est pas encore miuit'*, a show about balance and perfection thus becomes one about imbalance and instability. With multiple perspectives and viewpoints which eschew the lowest common denominator in favour of a continuous quest for balance borne out of imbalance, XY present us with an ode to precarious and imperfect humanity. It is like a clarion call to work together, to rejoice in the moment and protect ourselves, with no incompatibility; an appeal to stay tuned to each other, be watchful and to look out for one another.

COMPANY XY

'Il n'est pas encore miuit'... is the third creation from Company XY, after *Le Grand C* (2009) et *Laissez-Porter* (2005). Three shows crafted by a collective of artist-acrobats unique in their genre.

With more than 500 performances worldwide, the success of their first two shows has enabled them to challenge acrobatic technique from a creative perspective working with large numbers of artists. Growing their ranks from six to seventeen artists in 2008, XY have paved the way for a real exploration of physical language and the world which they create for their audience. They have progressively honed and refined the codes, rhythms and styles which now shape their aesthetic and come to understand the creative act as a collection of 'acrobatic phrases' ; phrases which give rise to the development of skills and engagement of the body without making that their sole focus. Openness, sharing and solidarity are all values which are as central to this process of collective writing as they are to the functioning of the company itself – not as an assumption to be taken for granted but as the fundamental quest for balance in relation to the self and to others on an ongoing basis. If circus is art in action, for XY it is eminently a question of keeping alive this magic of collaborative working.

Alone goes faster, together we go further... We treasure this proverb. Our shows are a collective creation, but equally important, the organization of our tours, the development of the company, and decisions regarding new projects are as well. Each member, aside from their work on stage, brings their own skills to the table to carry the company forward, and all of the members of the collective receive the same salary. This collective utopia is subject to constant inquiry and reinvention.

XY's approach does not separate technical movement from artistic movement. The members are committed to the concept that the acrobatic movement vocabulary has its own expressive and poetic force. And it is in the quality of the body, in flight, in effort, that a functional movement attains artistic value. In this exploration, we also explore the concept of stripping down the acrobatic practice, of exposing its inner layers, searching for the intrinsic value and a way to express it within the constraints of the stage. Therefore, we do not seek to mask the effort, the sweat and the concentration. The exchange of a conspiratorial glance, the connection of doubt and confidence, the pleasure of being onstage are not erased. But the members are still integrally connected to and invested in the state of the collective at any given moment. It is the simultaneous consciousness of self and one's own emotions and the capacity to stay receptive to and in resonance with the group that makes each show unique for us and for the public. And so over time we have refined the signals, the rhythms, and the forms that constitute our present aesthetic along with the ability to understand the creative process as a collection of "acrobatic sentences." In this acrobatic language, strength and engagement of the body play an important part, but are not the only subject.

Il n'est pas encore miuit

Collective Choreography : Abdeliazide Senhadji, Amaia Valle, Andres Somoza, Aïrelle Caen, Alice Noel, Ann-Katrin Jornot, Antoine Thirion, Aurore Liotard, Charlie Vergnaud, David Badia Hernandez, David Coll Povedano, Denis Dulon, Evertjan Mercier, Guillaume Sendron, Gwendal Beylier, Jérôme Hugo, Mohamed Bouseta, Romain Guimard, Thomas Samacoïts, Thibaut Berthias, Xavier Lavabre, Zinzi Oegema.

Artistic Collaboration: Loïc Touzé, Valentin Mussou, David Gubitsch

Light Design: Vincent Millet

Costume Design: Nadia Léon assisted by Mélodie Barbe

Acrobatic Collaboration: Nordine Allal

Lindy-hop Training: Aude Guiffes and Philippe Mencia

Producers: Peggy Donck and Antoine Billaud

Website: <http://www.ciexy.com/>

Interviews with acrobat Romain Guimard:

<https://theblogoftheatrethings.com/2017/04/02/interview-romain-guimard-compagnie-xy/>

<http://frenchculture.org/visual-and-performing-arts/interviews/interview-romain-guimard-acrobat-compagnie-xy-tour-us>

Facebook: @Cie.XY

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Perth International Arts Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 65 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 700,000 people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.

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