

THE BRASS BAND FIGHT



« The brass band fight »

« The brass band fight », transdisciplinary work which bourned to the meeting between the actors of the company "the Goulus" (ex Obsessionnels) and the brass band "the Snob" (Service de Nettoyage des Oreilles Bouchées), opposite like in boxing fight two musical groups. Their supported and coached by the Goulus's actors.

The two groups clash on themes written and chosen by the public, in 12 rounds in 2 at 6 minutes, under the control to an impartial arbitrator and his assistant. Only judge, the public who votes by a show of hands.

Origins

The first brass band fight takes place in 2000 in Clusaz. The concept of the brass band fight was just a musical show, without theatrical production and active audience participation. This first interprofesional meeting had for only aim to lead to a concert.

Moreover, since 1994 the walking act trio "the Krishnous" and the brass band "the Snob" walk past regulary in streets festivals. The frequency of this meeting encourages us, one both other company to consider us in acting. We came to stroll together and playing for a same public. This complicity gives us desire to continue more far this adventure and to share a same playing.

The concept of the brass band fight was deal with an inaugural meeting.

It's was agreed that the first experiencies hasen't implicated the musicians beyond their profesion of performer and the theater wasen't exploited. Furthermore, the first fights have something in common with comparison repertoire than a first performance musical, because the piece who was interpreted was chosen in the brass bands's repertoires.

The idea was to get out their scores the musicians and to implicate them, physically and orally, in improvisation with management of the actors.

On the occasion of the 16 publishing of street theater festival "Chalon dans la rue" (20,21,22 July 2002 in Chalon sur Saône) the company the Goulus organized "the europ's cour" international assigned to the reception of foreign company. The Snob was one of the few French companies to appear there.

In an anarchic configuration, 3 times we tested the brass band fight with assistance of the brass band "Tètaklak" and "Sergent pepere" as successive opponents of the Snob. The public in the cour has received enthusiastically this first try.

Although this unity failed organization, writing and choregraphical mark. Even if the organization weren't perfect, the notion of "danger" appeared a being the source of better rounds. When we get out reassuring repertoires for creating live from original and full of spirit scripts.



Rather than an exchange, the brass band fight attracts transcendence of each two trade. Musicians and Actors are forced to come out of their natural shell, their reassuring score and the group's protection. They must react, perform and put a lot into a new connection between Music and Actor.

Ordinary words jotted down on paper by a public, who proposed themes. It is passing towards imaginaries, where memory and culture of each individual have a predominant part.

The game consists in doing improvisation to reuse writings or scores which were forgotten, some attitude or behaviour left, some memories connected at course each one of company. The objective of brass band fight is to create in France a meeting which presents the artistic profession's fraternity.

Musicians with musicians, actors with actors and finally musicians and actors.



SCRIPT

Under the arbitrator's control and his assistant, two musicians groups which are trained by actors-coaches to clash on themes written and chosen by public in rounds of 2 at 6 min. Imagination requires "court metrages", or original script.

Each team looks for itself, in its memory, its technic, to find the most extraordinary piece.

The public is the only judge.

The first five minutes

Mr. Maurice, arbitrator's assistant, awkward and dumd, comes to install the ring before the beginning of show. Before, he was sports complex's caretaker therefore he is in habit of working in loneliness. He assembles the structure, installs stoll, and places all props and commentator's chair (in a great act like Buster Keaton). He will finishes jammed in chair, waiting for (maybe a lot of hours) someone to free him.

Arbitrator's arrival (duration: 6 minutes)

The arbitrator comes (he looks like an executioner and he has majesty of a servant), he measures the ring, sees his assistant and comes to rescue him. He orders him to distribute silks of chalk and slates to the public, the all thing without a words.

He takes his while, positioning himself precisely, he will speaking bur before that, he checks to be sure that everything works like he wants: gong, bulletin board, mike...

Then the arbitrator explains the fight's rules, makes to repeat the gestures (the vote procedure) and the ritual of each round. Then he sends Mr. Maurice to get back the slates. Once that the arbitrator is in place, Mr. Maurice is an obsequious deference to his master.

The journalist

In the meantime, the journalist very discreet and sitting on a gap chair speaks. Public knows that he is radio-journalist and that he will to commentate on the ring for his listeners. Public and brass band are supposed to unable to hearing that he says because he comments for missing listeners.

Team's arrival (duration: 3 min)

Arbitrator speaks to announce team's arrival. Public applauded and showed his enthusiasm to arrival of each one. The first team is coached by Guy Mou, the second by Jacky Jacket. Teams come like they want and begin a warm-up under the control of their respective coach.



Putting into place (duration : 3 min)

Arbitrator draws lots for assigned ring's corner to each team, proceeds at exchange of pennant and handshake, appearance's mascot and checking's equipment. And then come time for each to playing their hymn.

12 rounds at 3 à 5 minutes

Ritual of each round is as follows: the arbitrator chooses a slate and reading it too the public. He reads it again and adds two news instructions: the time and the style in witch improvisation must to past (for example: movie or theater contexts, with words or not...). During that each teams decide to content of their intervention, the journalist makes a lot of comments. Arbitrator blows one's whistle for announce the end of reglementary time of consultation. The team who has won previous round started. Mr. Maurice rings gong for the end of the first improvisation and arbitrator urges the other team to do her performance.

Arbitrator asks to public to applause each team, then to vote by a show of hand, for one either other. Arbitrator declares a team winner, Mr. Maurice writs the point and the journalist makes a comment. Then the arbitrator repeats ritual.

The cup: End (duration: 3 minutes)

Arbitrator, at the end of 12 rounds declares the team who has more point as winner. The winner's team receives spectator's bouquet (choosing by Mr. Maurice into public), while an official (choosing too into public) gives the cup. The two brass bands agree to do a joint piece to play together in fight's conclusion.



PHOTOS



(SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION)

Minimum 15 peoples (4 actors + one accompanist for The Goulus, 10 musicians for the brass band The S.N.O.B.) and a variable number of musicians for the second brass band.

Duration : 1 h at 1h30 (one or two performance in a day or in evening).

Set : A ring in semicircle (180°) to 10 m of diameter.

Props : An umpire's chair, 4 benches without backs, a school's table, bottles of water, a paper-board, a marker, some pens and papers. Local press to send to "the Goulus" in the week who following the show.

Sound : 2 mikes-HF, 2 amps 500 watts, 1 sound control room.

Dressing rooms : with water and toilets, catering (drinks, food's specialty).

Concept and Writting : Paulo Lucazzo et Jean-Luc Prévost.

Actors - The Goulus : Jean-Luc Prévost, Olivier Rimaud, Patrick Geslin, Eric Kailey.

Musicians – brass band The S.N.O.B. : Paulo Lucazzo, Didier Rivière, Ludovic Rivière, Christine Bournazel, Franck Duhamel, Michel Fontaine, Christophe Journaud, Olivier Rivière, Alain Père, Jean-Marc Poissonnet.

Secon brass band : Opposite to the Snob, the organizing chooses either a brass band specialized in street theater (on the list below) or a brass band to his knowledge more local, but professional and regular to street arts. The actors from the company "The Goulus" coach the fight.

« The first world championship of brass band fight »

Denis Lafaurie (director's of national theater « The Cratère ») thinks every years to a new concept for his street festival « Cratère surface ». The theme in 2004 was « strange air », all his programme was centred on this theme.

The brass band fight corresponds perfectly with this framework. And for the first time, it's international.

4 foreign brass bands (a Burkinian, a Bolivian, an Indian and a Yugoslavian) and 4 French brass bands (one Picarde, one Languedocienne, Francilienne et une Poitevine) have been clashed during 3 days.

This festival was real-life by public and artists like a great moment of dividing up and emotion, of discovery and conviviality, and parties.



The Europ's cour is this particular space of festival «Chalon dans la rue » where "open-mindedness, meetings and dividing- up" are key-words. During 5 years, the Goulus manage their cour and greet exclusively europeans's compays.

Novelty: A brass band fight takes place every evening at 19 h. On the model of improvisation's (public is urges to propose themes), the fights are arbitrate by the Goulus and confront the snob and tetaclak.

To you now to vote by a show of hands for choose the winner.

***Chalon dans la Rue, vendredi 19 juillet 2002
Envoyées spéciales : Julie Bordenave et Sophie Perrin***

« Like theater, the improvisation match make too among musicians.»

The musical improvisation match is an original show within the framework of "L'humour des notes".

Public subscribes, yesterday thuesday 29 May in the afternoon during an openair show. In the style of actors, the improvisation's match takes place among musicians. A theme is given too the teams, each one must to improvise.

A public vote with claptometre and the winner takes the point.

Yesterday, the two teams was the brass band "the SNOB" from Vendée and the BRANKIGNOLS from meuse; Actors's troupe played arbitrator, coaches and commentator, " The Goulus" from Montreuil next too Paris.

Some themes proposed: "subway, work, at Monday morning very early", "tragical trip at Disneyland" or "retirement at 75 years old"... Musicians play mime, metamorphose in old man before falled...

Everything is an excuse to laught, of course and when it's in music it's better.

Match it's ending by the victory of the brankignols.

But, in reality the winner is public, who was came in very large numbers; Without any doubt, the show enjoyed, bringed an entertainment witch was liked before the festival's end.

Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace (DNA), 30/05/2003

Some brass bands had participated in « The brass band fight »:

« The BRANKIGNOLS » from Cie Azimuts

Contact : Hocine Chabira – 2, place de la Mairie – 55500 Le Bouchon s/Saux

Tel/fax : +33 (0)3 29 78 66 60

« TETACLAK »

Contact : Olivier Bour - 53 avenue du Pont Juvénal - 34000 Montpellier

Tel/fax : +33 (0)4 67 12 06 09

« SERGEANT PEPERE »

Contact : Bélinda Cateau. 11, avenue Chardonnet - 35000 Rennes

Tel/fax : +33 (0)2 99 38 01 36

« The BIN'S BARJ' BAND »

Contact : Association En Scène ! 100, Grande rue - 39570 Chilly le Vignoble

Tel/fax : +33 (0)3 84 86 23 04

« The COSTARDS »

Contact : Véronique Brusseau – 2, rue du Larry Goguet - 60800 Feigneux -

Tel/fax : +33 (0)2 47 39 39 30

« ELZEF »

Contact : Fabien Arnau – 5, rue des Couronnes – 75020 Paris

Tel/fax : +33 (0)6 62 49 25 64

« SLONOVSKI BAL »

Contact : Fabrice – 4, rue du Périgord – 91300 Massy

Tel/fax : +33 (0)1 60 13 08 21

« MACHAQA »

Contact : Eduardo Sainz – 3, rue Jules Ferry – 94290 Villeneuve-le-Roi

Tel/fax : +33 (0) 01.49.61.06.34

« JAIPUR KAWA BRASS BAND »

Contact : Florence Ayrault – 51, bd de la Digue – 86000 Poitiers

Tel/fax : +33 (0)5 49 46 31 25

« GENERATION 2000 / NAYAK »

Contact : Laetitia Lafforgue – 34, rue Gaston Lauriau – 93100 Montreuil

Tel/fax : +33 (0)6 60 13 43 65

The company defends an interactive theatre with its audience and questions the traditional role of the actor by giving him the capacity to intervene anywhere in any place through engaging contemporary writing.

«Les Goulus» have many shows in their repertoire: *The Cupids, The Tall Dwarves, The Spiders, The Krishnous, The Horsemen* and more recently *Molière In All Its Shapes & Sizes*, all as Promenade or Street Theatre work. *MDR !, The Horse Screamerer, The Battle of The Bands (co-created with the band «SNOB»), Blancass ou p'tit café ? and Pinard et philo de comptoir* as staged shows. Not forgetting *Yellow Hand in The City* a one-off phenomenon, *The Super Chicks* created in 2012, *The Last Race* created in 2013 and *Kartoons* in 2016 and *TchernOcircus* the last show.

The company also enjoys recognition abroad, allowing them to continuously evolve their shows through an interaction with varied audiences, in different languages, while always questioning, inventing and sometimes defending their relationship with public spaces.

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