

A collage artwork featuring a small model ship on a torn paper boat, a puppet face, and a pile of stones.

LATERNA

PUPPETS & ASSOCIATED ARTS
under the form of Suitcase-Shows

Ambulatory show for the public space

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All-public, starting 7 years old

-

Director

YIORGOS KARAKANTZAS

Performers

GUILLAUME GRISEL, YIORGOS KARAKANTZAS,
FRÉDÉRIC SÉCHET, PASCAL VOCHÉLET

Constructor Laterna

PANOS IOANNIDIS

Scenography

ERIC DENIAUD
STATHIS MARKOPOULOS
YIORGOS KARAKANTZA
PASCAL VOCHÉLET

Musicians

CHRISTOS KARYPIDIS, AMAL KAAWACH
LÉA DECQUE, FRANÇOIS ROSSI

Videographer

NICOLAS BURLAUD

Photography

MARA KYRIAKIDOU

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ANIMA THÉÂTRE

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The ambulatory show **LATERNA** is composed of five short acts. It's the second part of a diptych dedicated to the theme of forced displacement, and is conceived for the public space.

REBETIKO, a puppet and holographic projections show created in November of 2020, is its first chapter, inspired by Yiorgos Karakantzas' family story of exile, who went from Asia Minor to Europe in 1922.

LATERNA shifts between past and present, between History and current events, and gives a voice to those who still use the same routes to migrate from the Eastern Mediterranean to the West.

Through music and image creation, we try to underline how much the culture uniting these people since the beginning of time doesn't stop at frontiers drawn on a map. This common culture is what we aim to understand through the exploration of various short acts.

First and foremost, a Laterna is a mechanical piano that works with a cylinder where a thousand small nails action little hammers. Each of them correspond to a music note. It's a portable piano invented by an Italian musician from Istanbul in the middle of the 19th century, that mainly plays the repertoire of greek popular songs from that time.

Given its origins, this instrument is the perfect embodiment of cultural mix. The Laterna has also wandered the streets of numerous eastern mediterranean cities, creating thus a common and multicultural repertoire. It accompanied refugees from that time to the four ends of the globe.

During my childhood, in northern Greece, I had the chance to assist the strolls and wanders of a Laterna in the city streets and public places.

I keep a very vivid memory of the synergy it created. A diversified population stood together in front of the instrument's sounds, sounds which emanated themselves from different cultures.

As a result, I don't want to speak of folklore nor of past nostalgia with this show, but of how this instrument embodies traces of these migrations, linking the past to the present.

Yiorgos Karakantzas



TRACES OF THE ENCOUNTERS

CREATION PROCESS

MAPPING THE ROAMED LANDSCAPES / VIDEO TRACES

First phase of creation :

- Encounters with displaced populations through territorial residencies
- Collecting stories and exchanges through arts and crafts workshops led by artists during the residencies

It all began with the idea of sharing childhood memories with displaced individuals that we met during the residencies in Greece, Amiens, Port de Bouc/ Martigues, Lebanon and South Africa.

After that, we initiated workshops with the same individuals working on material such as clay, paint, paper or shadow theater which allowed us to elaborate mock-ups in order to represent the intimate spaces of each individual.

The final step was for us to imagine, all together, a future utopian world where each and everyone of us can find his or her place.

Work steps through 4 encounters and workshops :

- **August 2021**, Athens : collaboration with the Refugees School of Piraeus and the Ayousaya! Company
- **January/February 2022** Port de Bouc & Martigues : collaboration with the MJC (House of the Young and Culture) and the Fabien Menot Center, as well as the Théâtre le Sémaphore, contracted venue (coproducer).
- **March 2022**, Amiens : collaboration with the le Cardan association and the Tas de Sable/Ches Panse Vertes National Puppet Center, about to be coproducer),
- **April 2022**, Beyrouth : collaboration with the Hammana Artist House and intervention at the Chatila camp with One Hand Puppet

Each of these encounters was filmed and resulted in a short film, presented alongside the forms performed in the public space, shedding light on the creative process and the people involved during the workshop encounters.



PHOTOS OF THE CREATIVE PROCESS

Athens
(August 2021)



Port de Bouc
(January/February 2022)



THE FORMS

LATERNA, is a project made of several short acts that tell stories of uprooting, be they real or fictional, and bring the audience into a personal and musical odyssey. It's an ambulatory puppet theater show that allows great proximity with the public.

Traditionally, puppets are a fairground element. As a result, wandering is part of its artistic identity and its multiple forms reflect the rich ways in which crossing cultures can be achieved.

Four short, universal, poetic and wordless acts come to life thanks to the metaphorical power that emanates from puppet art. These forms constitute the fragments of an odyssey which will constantly evolve and be enhanced thanks to new elements throughout the territorial residencies.

The performances will take place in the public space and places where encounters happen. Like an illusions or utopia street peddler, we open our suitcases at the corner of a street. Each suitcase presents small scenes to about fifteen people. The actors, travelers off to meet the audience, carry their own suitcase. They are the witnesses of a story of forced displacement, while behind them stands the Laterna, symbolizing and evoking their common past.

Going off to meet the audience in spaces that weren't destined to that is something the company initiated in 2014 when they collaborated with the Mucem (Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations) and the Natural History Museum of Marseille. Short acts allowed us then to present shows in unusual places, on the city's beaches, parcs or museums, and allowed us to reach an audience that had limited access to such opportunities, such as people who were hospitalized, incarcerated, or held in foster homes. This allowed us to create something spectacular in unexpected places.

Teaser



DESCRIPTION OF THE FOUR FORMS

Suitcase # 1

A suitcase filled with machinery represents life that continues from The Democratic Republic of Congo to Morocco, the countries where Aicha, and Mo Moïse Jackson are from. That is until the day the countries are under attack by a crow, and the little worlds turn into a suitcase in order to escape.



10 min

Suitcase created in Athens by Stathis Markopoulos

Performer, director : Yiorgos Karakantzas

Video link : <https://vimeo.com/691889856>

Suitcase # 2 : Not Great !

In the animal world everything is possible, until the day a carrot is propelled to the skies by a black liquid appearing suddenly from the earth, attracting thirsty supermen !



10 min

Suitcase created in Port de Bouc / Martigues by Pascal Vochelet

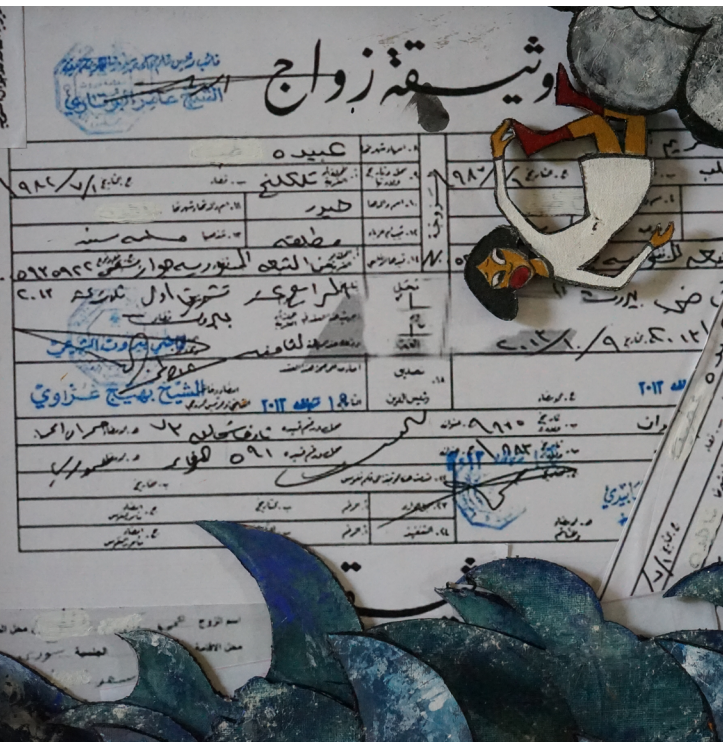
Performer : Pascal Vochelet

Director : Yiorgos Karakantzas

Video link : <https://vimeo.com/691737869>

Suitcase # 3 : The Letter

The story of a family separated by a boarder translates into a wedding, where the two young individuals don't know each other.



10 min

Suitcase created in Lebanon / Hammana
Artist House by Eric Deniaud

Performer : Frédéric Sechet
Director : Yiorgos Karakantzas

Farewell (Palestinian folk)
Composition and voice Amal Kaawash
Double bass Makram Aboul Hosn
Lyrics resource : "Women Folk Songs for Celebrations of Engagement and Marriage" a research by Naela Azzam Libbis (Nazareth, Palestine 2007)
Recorded and mixed by Nabil AbdulKhalek

Video link :: <https://vimeo.com/719769756>

Suitcase #4 : The Danse Macabre

When we flee, we don't look back, we are driven into a dance between life and death.



10 min

Suitcase created in Amiens / Tas de Sable
(in preparation at the National Puppet Center) avec l'association le Cardan

Performer : Guillaume Grisel
Director : Yiorgos Karakantzas

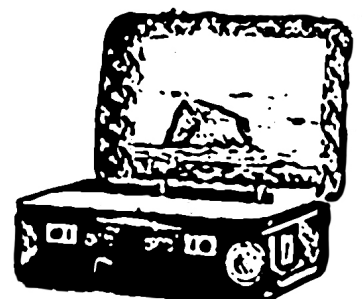
Video link : <https://vimeo.com/719769756>

EPILOGUE

The timelength of the performance requires studying in order to adapt our suggestions to each space and to each audience. Because here, more than anywhere else, the performances are thought with the audience, by interacting with them and their reactions. **LATERNA** is an adaptable show, meaning the short acts can be adapted to be hosted and performed by two, three or four acts according to space and time.

In addition to the presentation of each form, we also want to suggest the screening of the short films created during the territorial residencies.

The show allows the youngest audiences to become aware and reflect upon a timeless issue ; population migrations. We also suggest practical workshops revolving around the show, that aim to create internal landscapes inspired by the stories we've collected.



THE TEAM

YIORGOS KARAKANTZAS Director

Yiorgos Karakantzas is a puppet theater director who graduated from the Prague Theater Academy in the Czech Republic, as well as from the National Puppetry School of Charleville Mézières. He created the company La Machine à Racines in 2011 along with Claire Latarget, and the company Anima Théâtre in 2004. Anima Théâtre settled at the multi disciplinary creative venue Friche la Belle de Mai in Marseille, and has since then created the following shows : Le Cabaret des âmes perdues in 2002 ; Yéti, Yéti pas ? In 2006 ; Mr H ? In 2008 ; Zombie in 2009 ; Le rêve de la Joconde in 2011 ; Gojira in 2015 ; Mécanique in 2017 ; Rebetiko in 2020 ; Engrenage in 2021. He also collaborates with the theater venue Théâtre de Cuisine (La Caverne est un cosmos, 2002), the circus company Cahin-Caha (Moby incarcéré, 2007), the Pseudonymo company (Le Golem, 2003), french TV channel France 3 (construction and manipulation for the documentary King Theodore, 2012), the Paramana company, Athens, Greece, where he was an artistic collaborator (The Girl who wanted to touch the moon, 2013), the Alama d'Arame company, Portugal, where he directed the show KONG. He became a companion artist at La Garance, France, the National scene of the Cavaillon region, for three seasons, in septembre 2019.

GUILLAUME GRISEL Actor

Guillaume works with numerous street theater companies such as Begat Theater (La Disparition, Le jardin aveugle, Hôtel eden, Yourgui !), Opéra Pagai (Safari Intime, Les Sansbalcons, Far Ouest), Ilotopie (Les Envies Rhônements, Les gens de couleurs), Pudding Théâtre (D.O.Q, conte urbain). He has been collaborating with the Jeanne Simone company since 2010

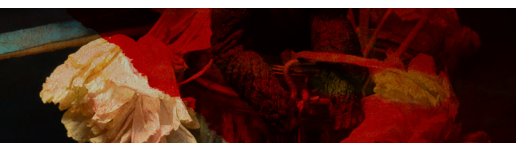
(Mademoiselle, Nous Sommes) as well as L'Agence Monik LéZart (Visites Noop-tiques, le bal de la Reine) since 2008. He also answers to various open theme projects led by Astruc Laboratoire. He operates alone or in partnerships, and has encountered various companies on his way, such as Uz & coutumes, Carabosse, Le Phun, Chiendent Théâtre, Les Trois points de suspensions, le Syndicat du Chrome... Since 2005 he regularly implicates himself in the projects of Clowns Sans Frontières, as an art director, an actor, and a logistics man.

FRÉDÉRIC SECHET Actor

Frédéric worked as a tree-trimmer for about ten years and practiced « intervention theater » as an amateur alongside the Moquette rurale association, finding his audience in fields, churches and village fairs. Both an actor and a musician, he has collaborated since 1999 with numerous companies (Carnage Productions, Maboul Distorsion, Madame Suzie), and finished the FAI-AR in march 2015, a training for arts adapted to the public space. Frédéric defends a popular culture and, confident as he is in his ability to create laughter, defines himself as an everyday life stuntman who practices and teaches unbalance with fervent conviction.

PASCAL VOCHELET Actor

After having studied architecture and plastic arts, Pascal Vochelet thought he'd be spending his life painting in his workshop. But in 1999, he discovers the belgian company les Wurre wurre and their absurd and minimalist show. It was a revelation. He then trained as a clown aside Éric Blouet, Bruno Krief, Michel Dallaire, Christine Rossignol, Emmanuel Sambelly and wrote his first clown



act 10 years later. He then met several companies (Champ Libre, Force Nez, Kartoffeln, Anima Théâtre, Théâtre de Cuisine...) and participated in the creation of several street performances. In 2013, Pascal discovered the world of hospital clowns with Bises de Clowns and worked in 2018 with le Gai Rire in Marseille. In 2015, he created a solo show, Visite Déguidée, in order to visit the collections of the Mucem that are dedicated to the circus. In 2019, he explored the language of object theater with Le Théâtre de Cuisine and integrated the research laboratory Encore 5' et après on range, dedicated to object theater. Today, Pascal continues his exhibitions as a painter, and regularly comes back to the stage.

ÉRIC DENIAUD **Scenographer**

Eric graduated from the National Puppetry School of Charleville-Mézières, and has since then participated as a director, interpreter, constructor and puppet master, as well as a scenographer in numerous projects, collaborating with Drolatic Industry, Catherine Hiegel for the Conservatoire National Supérieur d'Arts Dramatiques de Paris, Jean-Louis Heckel, Matéi Visniec, The Vietnam National Puppet Theater in Hanoi, Etcaetera Teatro in Spain, Al Mawred al Thaqafi in Cairo, Le Chemin qui marche in Quebec... In France, he interpreted three creations by Alice Laloy between 2009 and 2015. He's a regular collaborator to the Kaze Theater in Japan since 2013, where six creations were born until now. The seventh one, La femme piège et ses dix amants, was created in Tokyo in August 2021. In Lebanon, he regularly collaborates with Alexandre Paulikevitch, Randa Mirza, Dar Onboz, Abdallah al Kafri, the Masasit mati collective. Ever since 1994, Éric has been present on various cultural and artistic projects all over Lebanon, where he finally settled in 2007 and created Collectif Kahraba that he co-directs with Aurélien Zouki, giving birth to fifteen creations. He is the codirector of Nehna wel Amar wel

Jiran, an all-public multidisciplinary festival, organized by Collectif Kahraba since September 2011. In 2017, along with Aurélien Zouki, he takes over the direction of Hammana Artist House located close to Beirut. Géologie d'une fable which was created in 2015 with Aurélien Zouki was just awarded with best direction and best show in Lebanon in 2020 during the second edition of the National Lebanese Theater Festival.

TAMARA KYRIAKIDOU **Photographer**

Born in Greece, Tamara settled in Marseille in 2020 under the program Erasmus pour Jeunes Entrepreneurs organized by the Anima Théâtre Company. Within the company, she created a small puppet act, La fissure, and participated in the creation of REBETIKO as an assistant director, a set and puppets designer. She also covered the performance as a photographer, which she also did from 2005 to 2014 for Compagnie Myphotos based in Thessaloniki (Greece) before becoming a puppeteer and stage manager for the street puppets company No Name (Greece) during the creation of Phlio.

After a training at the Ioannina University of Epirus, Greece, Tamara Kyriakidou continued to train and participated in several experimental seminars : « Techniques de fiction » (« fiction techniques »), « Perdre les racines » (« Losing roots ») organized by the WOPE (World Organization for Preschool Education) and « Marionnette, création et thérapie » (Puppet, creation and therapy) organized by the Municipal Regional Theater of Ioannina.

In 2017, she pursued her exploration with the seminars « Drame et narration au Théâtre » (« Drama and narration in Theater ») and « Corps créatifs » (« creative bodies ») in 2019. From 2010 to 2020, Tamara also animates artistic and educational interventions for children aged from 2 to 12.



THE COMPANY



After meeting at the l'ESNAM in 1999, Yiorgios Karakantzas and Claire Latarget decided to cultivate their differences within the same company in their respective projects. Anima Théâtre was born in Marseille in 2004.

For more than 15 years, they directed, played and wrote fifteen shows using puppets art such as object, shadows theater, matter, etc.... Some shows punctuate the company's trajectory : Le Cabaret des Âmes Perdues, Mister H, Yeti, Yeti pas ?, Ikare, Le Rêve de la Joconde, Mijaurées, Gojira, Entrelacs, Mécanique, Rebetiko, Engrenage...

Both also regularly collaborated on their own sides with various other companies, thus absorbing other experiences and other artistic worlds. They are both members of different professional and art movement organizations (THEMAA, Scènes d'Enfance et d'Ailleurs, PoleM...). Anima Théâtre fights for a better networking of puppeteers, artists and audiences intrigued by this theatrical art. Besides creating shows, Anima Théâtre tries to reach out to wider audiences about puppets art through workshops, seminars, events and meetings. In 2013, Anima Théâtre turned towards programming with Le Marché noir des Petites Utopies, biennale des petites formes marionnettiques which invites the public to discover an art that's constantly innovating while still keeping its traditions alive.

In 2020, Claire Latarget left the company to make her own way. Yiorgos Karakantzas continues to lead the art direction of the company. REBETIKO, his first creation, part of a diptych dedicated to forced displacements, was born in November 2020.

Anima Théâtre is a resident structure of La Friche Belle de Mai in Marseille. Yiorgos Karakantzas is a companion artist at La Garance, the Cavaillon national scene since September 2019 and will be for 4 years.

Mandatory credits

Production Anima Théâtre

Co-productions Le Sémaphore Theater – contracted venue, Port-de-Bouc | Le Tas de Sable–Ches Panses Vertes, National Puppet Center [in preparation], Amiens | French Institute–City of Marseille | l'Usinotopie, Villemur sur Tarn (31)

Soutiens 3 Bis f, Contemporary Arts Center of general interest, Aix-en-Provence | the Ayusaya company, Athens – Greece | Piraeus Refugee School, Athens – Greece | Centre d'accueil, Martigues | Hammana Artist House, Chatila – Liban | One Hand Puppet, Chatila – Lebanon | the Janni Younge Production company, Cape Town – South Africa



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