



present

# LA PLAGE (THE BEACH)



In collaboration with



**Columban**

## Presentation

Once upon a time, there was a beach, beautiful and wild. This corner of nature was inhabited by a family who lived in perfect harmony with their environment. One day a man from elsewhere, a man with great ambitions arrives. What will become of this little corner of paradise? ...

This is the story told by two kind volunteers, a little naive and clumsy, to celebrate the anniversary of the creation of their association named « Les Copains de la Nature » (Nature Buddies), following a holiday that turned their vision of the world upside down.

A visual show for young audiences and families from 6 years upwards.

Duration: 35 minutes + 10 minutes on stage after the show

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## Note of intent

Everything began with our desire to create by using natural objects and materials. We set to work, beginning with research on the basic elements of sand, water, air and fire. Then came the seasons... These first laboratories gave birth to *La plage*.

A beach still in its natural, wild state, like a thousand-year-old tree. Here lives a family in harmony with its environment. They know the simple things that have been done since the dawn of time. There are beautiful trees that bear fruit, and the sea where you can fish. There's plenty of time to play. Children swim with the fish, play with kites and swings. Animals come to say hello. They live to the rhythm of the seasons. They have the wisdom of the trees.

One day, a man from out of town arrived and liked the place. He saw great potential in it. He evicted the family and made the place his own. He then proceeded to build a huge hotel park and made the beach *the place to be*, the holiday destination where anything was possible.

The protagonists of our show are two volunteers, that tells the story of how they came to create « Les Copains de La Nature » after an all-in holiday in a faraway land. After meeting the first inhabitants of the beach and hearing their story, they become aware of the injustice that has taken place to make way for this huge hotel park. On their return home, they are shaken and question their way of seeing the world and of consuming. They didn't want to sit back and do nothing, so they try to support the struggle of the « First People » to reclaim their land.

Our aim is to offer children aged 6 and over a show that questions our lifestyles, our consumption patterns and our relationship with the environment. In a visual, playful and entertaining way.

All around us, we hear a lot of doom and gloom about the future of the planet. This can

give rise to a certain amount of anxiety, which is why we want to approach this with humour, poetry and tenderness. Object theater will allow us to have an interesting distance to talk about it.

*The beach* becomes a metaphor for our planet, battered by our way of life in a society of over-consumption. How far can we go?

We want to talk about the state of our planet, but above all we want to talk about resilience, about the possibilities of overcoming ecological 'catastrophes'.

We drew inspiration for the show from books and articles by Ailton Krenak, such as *Idées pour retarder la fin du monde* (*Ideas for delaying the end of the world*) and *A vida não é útil: Ideias para salvar a Humanidade* (*Life is not useful: ideas for saving humanity*): *La vie n'est pas utile, idées pour sauver l'humanité*, but also by Pablo Servigne, Gauthier Chappelle and Raphaël Stevens, *Une autre fin du monde est possible*, *L'effondrement (et après) expliqué à nos enfants... et à nos parents* or *L'entraide, l'autre loi de la jungle* or Felwine Sarr, *Habiter le monde, Essai de politique relationnelle*. All these essays invite us to rethink our presence in the world and our relationship with living things by nourishing, renewing and stimulating our imaginations. Faced with the steamroller that is the dominant way of life, which sees living things as a resource to be exploited and consumed, and which is more concerned with the profit that these exploitations generates instead of the impact and non-viability that these entail, these authors, thinkers and scientists offer us some food for thought about how to envisage a sustainable and resilient future.

We approach this theme in a naïve, simple and fun way, so that children can question their relationship with the environment, the way we live on earth, the different ways of life that co-exist, but also so that they can imagine alternatives.

Through the show, we hope to awaken young spectators to the importance of preserving the environment. We want to tackle questions such as: what is biodiversity? why is it so important? how can we reconcile urban life with wild life? how can we restore space for wild flora and fauna in an urban environment?

We hope to raise open-ended questions, inviting you to think about your own relationship with the world. They could open up reflections and develop a greater awareness of the living world, of what surrounds us. The ecological footprint, environmental issues and the ecological transition are at the heart of many discussions today. We're tackling all these issues without being alarmists, but with the hope of optimists. We want to encourage children to imagine happy, sustainable ways of life in which everyone has their place: plants, insects, animals, humans, technology... As Ailton Krenak suggests, "*This immense sick organism that is the planet receives daily homeopathy that postpones the end of the world until later. And if we stop doing that, the sky will fall for good. It's not about 'preservation', it's about the power to 'create worlds'*".

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## **Distribution**

Design, direction and acting: Juan Cersosimo and Lisou De Henau

« External Eye » / Direction Consultant : Isabelle Darras

Sound design consultant: Guillaume Istace

Lighting design: Dimitri Joukovsky

Set design: Lisou De Henau, Juan Cersosimo, Céline Robaszynski

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## **The Ziva Company**

Cie ZIVA is a brand new object and puppet theater company.

It was born of the meeting of two artists whose paths crossed through clowning, Chi-Kung and puppetry.

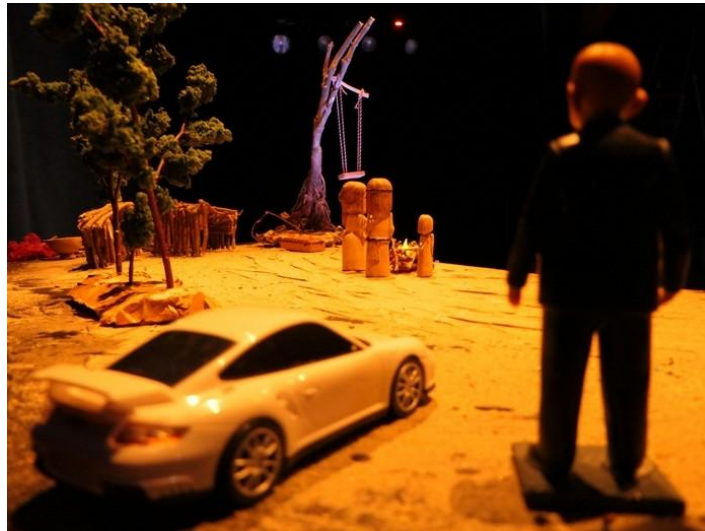
It is developing a theater of images that combines objects, puppets, shadows, sound and music to tell a story.

The stage becomes a playground that invites young and old to travel, dream and question the world around them.

***La Plage is the company's first creation.***

## In collaboration and partnership with

- ♣ La Vénerie, Centre Culturel et Centre d'Expression et de Créativité Watermael Boisfort (Collaborator - residency and test benches)
- ♣ Théâtre La Guimbarde (Collaborator - residency)
- ♣ Pierre de Lune, Centre Scénique Jeunes Publics de Bruxelles (4 pre-purchases)
- ♣ ékla, arts for all (residencies, support and test beds)
- ♣ La Montagne Magique (residencies and test benches)
- ♣ Espace Columban, Wavre (residency)
- ♣ Maison de la Création de Bockstael (residency)
- ♣ La Bissectine - Wolubilis, Woluwé St Lambert cultural centre (residencies and test runs)
- ♣ Maison des Cultures et de la Cohésion Sociale de Molenbeek (residency and trial runs)
- ♣ School Podium Noord (C.C.de Kriekelaar Schaerbeek and CC Everna) (residency)
- ♣ L'Armillaire, Centre Culturel Jette (residency)
- ♣ L'Entrela, CC Evere (residency and test beds)
- ♣ Le Tof Theatre and Le Monty (technical support)



## APPENDIX

### **A short educational note for teachers, supervisors and activity leaders to accompany the show "LA PLAGÉ".**

*"If we cut down all the trees, how will we be able to breathe?"* is the reaction of Pavel, aged 6, from Parc Malou school in Woluwé-St-Lambert.

It's hard not to be concerned about the extreme weather phenomena we've been experiencing in recent years: floods, storms, forest fires, droughts, melting glaciers and other natural disturbances.

How do we talk to children about ecology?

How do we tackle the climate change we've been hearing so much about recently?

Like many parents, we wonder what kind of world our children and their children will live in.

"What impact will climate change have on people?"

When they grow up, will there be any green spaces or forests left?

How can we raise children's awareness of environmental protection?

With this show, we want to talk about resilience, about the possibilities of overcoming ecological "catastrophe".

That's why we're approaching it in a naïve, simple and playful way, so that children can ask themselves questions about these issues, but above all so that they can imagine alternatives within their reach. We want this to be a positive thing for them. They don't have to carry the burden of saving the planet on their shoulders.

The show tackles a whole series of themes based on the disappearance of nature in the face of the development of tourism: deforestation, loss of biodiversity, extinction of animal species, extinction of different lifestyles, pollution, energy consumption, increasing scarcity of resources, etc.

Based on these themes, we would like to develop a whole thread of questions with the children.

Questions that would start from their own experience and then develop into more general notions.

How do I inhabit the earth?

How do we live on our planet?

What are the different ways of living in the world?

Where do I live?

Is there much or little nature near me?

Are there wild animals near me? Which ones do I see?

How much space is left for wild animals? For plants?

How can we restore space for wild flora and fauna in an urban environment?

Why is this important?

How can the city coexist with its natural environment?

What's the difference between town and country?

Is there a difference between living in the city and living in the countryside?

What do I like about the city and what do I like about the countryside?

What do I eat?

How do I dress?

Does this have an impact on the environment?

Do I go on holiday? How and where do I go on holiday? What do I like about holidays?

What is the environment?

What is climate? Why does it change?

What is the carbon footprint?

What is biodiversity? Why is it so important?

How can it be preserved? Why is it important to preserve it?

All these questions (and many more besides) would be an invitation to think about our relationship with the world. They could open up new ways of thinking and develop our awareness of the living

world that surrounds us.

Taking care of nature also means taking care of yourself. And conversely, taking care of ourselves also means taking care of others and our environment. Ecology isn't just about being careful not to throw paper on the floor or pollute, it's also about realising that we are part of an ecosystem, a whole. We need nature to be well so that we can be well too. Each of us can take action at our own level and make small gestures that will do us , and those around us, good.

We had the opportunity to present stages of our work to primary school children during our residencies at Wolubilis and La Vénérie. During these test sessions, the children's reactions were very rich. We were able to see that, without naming them as such, the question of the ecological footprint, environmental issues and the ecological transition were of great interest to them.

We hope for a constructive exchange that will give them confidence in the possibility of taking action and making choices.

After each performance, we organise a time for discussion with the children. It's important to us that they can react and talk about what they've felt. It's a time when children can get away from their emotions, offering a space where they can express themselves freely and sow the seeds of reflection.

As Ailton Krenak says in his little essay "Ideas for postponing the end of the world": tell one more story to stay alive, as a way of postponing the end, through poetic experience, but also as a way of surviving, of being alive, of spending one more day. We think that's great.

"Our age has specialised in the creation of meaninglessness; meaninglessness for life in society, meaninglessness for the experience of life itself. This creates a huge intolerance of anyone who is still capable of experiencing the pleasure of being alive, of dancing, of singing. And there are lots of little constellations of people scattered around the world dancing, singing, making rain. The kind of zombie humanity that we are called upon to integrate does not tolerate so much pleasure, so much enjoyment of life. So the only way they can get us to abandon our own dreams is to preach the end of the world. My provocation about ideas for delaying the end of the world suggests exactly this: let's develop the strength to tell another story, another narrative. If we can do that, then we will delay the end of the world." - *Ailton Krenak* (*Ailton Alves Lacerda Krenak is a writer, journalist, philosopher and leader of the Brazilian indigenous Krenak movement*).

## **To whet your curiosity, if you want to go further**

### **Books, articles and podcasts that have inspired us**

*Agir pour le vivant #1*, ed. Actes Sud, 2021

Bruno David, *A l'aube de la sixième extinction*, comment habiter la Terre, ed Le Livre de Poche, 2021

Ailton Krenak, *Idées pour retarder la fin du monde*, ed. du Dehors, 2020

Ailton Krenak, *A vida não é útil: Ideias para salvar a Humanidade (Life is not useful: ideas to save humanity)*

Alessandro Pignocchi, *Petit traité d'écologie sauvage*, ed. Steinkis, 2017

Felwine Sarr, *Habiter le monde, Essai de politique relationnelle*, ed. Mémoire d'encrier, 2019

Pablo Servigne, Gauthier Chappelle and Raphaël Stevens, *Une autre fin du monde est possible* , ed. Seuil (Points) , 2018

Pablo Servigne, Gauthier Chappelle *L'effondrement (et après) expliqué à nos enfants... et à nos parents*, ed. Seuil, 2022

Pablo Servigne, Gauthier Chappelle, *L'entraide, l'autre loi de la jungle*, ed. Les liens qui libèrent, 2017

Peter Wohlleben, *The secret life of trees*, ed. Les Arènes, 2017

Point Culture Magazine - Daniel Schepmans 11/01/22 :  
<https://www.pointculture.be/magazine/articles/focus/ailton-krenak-idees-pour-retarder-la-fin-du-monde/>

Pagina 12 - Silvina Frieria 06/02/23 : <https://www.pagina12.com.ar/521371-para-ailton-krenak-lo-que-se-llama-capitalismo-hizo-metastas>

Diacritik - Oiara Bonilla 19/12/20 (translated from Portuguese (Brazil)):  
<https://diacritik.com/2021/01/27/ailton-krenak-les-blancs-veulent-manger-le-monde-et-nous-nous-sommes-le-monde-idees-pour-retarder-la-fin-du-monde/>

La Releve et la peste - Laurie Debove 20/05/21 - OSE: a school for taking care of yourself, your relationships and nature: <https://lareleveetlapeste.fr/ose-une-ecole-pour-prendre-soin-de-soi-de-ses-relations-et-de-la-nature/>

France Culture, LSD, La série documentaire, Bienvenue dans l'anthropocène episodes 1- 4, A series by Tao Favre, directed by Gaël Gillon - <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceculture/podcasts/serie-bienvenue-dans-l-anthropocene>

Le Grain des choses n° 2, Lettre à la terre, interview with Genevieve Azam by Claire Gatineau, 2019  
<https://legraindeschoses.org/fr/les-numeros/n°2%C2%A0-bruits-de-fond.html#>

Le Grain des choses n° 2, testimony by Gerard Boinon, 2019 <https://legraindeschoses.org/fr/les-numeros/n°2%C2%A0-bruits-de-fond.html#>

**Games, activities, experiments and discoveries  
(paragraph under construction)**

**Active associations  
(paragraph under construction)**

**We'd like to create links with local associations in the places where we're presenting the show. Our idea would be to be able to mention their actions and initiatives during the discussion with the audience after the show, so that people who want to take action, join a movement or simply change some habits can turn to them.**

About Brussels :

Brussels environment: <https://environnement.brussels/citoyen/lenvironnement-bruxelles/preserver-la-nature-en-ville>

Greenpeace Belgium: <https://www.greenpeace.org/belgium/fr/>