

THÉÂTRE
DES BOUFFES
DU NORD

MARCEL



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By and with
Jos Houben and Marcello Magni

Premiered at Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord on January 29, 2015

Availabilities on demand

Production C.I.C.T. - Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord
Coproductio TANDEM - Scène nationale

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MARCEL

By and with
Jos Houben and Marcello Magni

Set and costumes design Oria Puppo
Lights Philippe Vialatte

Stage management Arthur Franc

Duration : 1 hour

Premiered at Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord on January 29, 2015

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STATEMENT OF INTENT

Gag is a poem. It makes us laugh by the effect of surprise, the virtuosity of the performance and the humanity it reveals. It frees us from day-to-day predictability, celebrates the art of the actor in close complicity with his audience and reveals the universality of our physical condition.

Marcel is this human gag that we all are. In the real world with its multitude of obstacles he keeps his balance as well as he can. And despite the fact that the age of his body no longer allows the agility of his youth, he still has a trump-card up his sleeve: his child spirit.

He invents short-cuts, catches us off-guard, pushes us off-limits... For Marcel the battle is never gained, but it's not lost either...

This new piece is born of our desire to recall the silence and the body movements of our beginnings with Théâtre de Complicité: a celebration of the universe of the burlesque.

JOS HOUBEN
MARCELLO MAGNI



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PERFORMANCES ON TOUR

2017/2018 SEASON

October 27 to November 19, 2017 : THEATRE FOR A NEW AUDIENE/
POLONSKY SHAKESPEARE CENTER/ NEW-YORK /U.S.A.

2016/2017 SEASON

January 5 and 6, 2017: THEATRE DU BEAUVAISIS / BEAUVAIS / FRANCE

January 10, 2017: LE RIVE GAUCHE / SAINT-ETIENNE-DU-ROUVRAY /
FRANCE

January 12, 2017: LE RAYON VERT / SAINT-VALERY-EN-CAUX / FRANCE

January 15, 2017: LE MOULIN DU ROC / NIORT / FRANCE

January 21, 2017: THEATRE DE LA LICORNE / CANNES / FRANCE

January 28, 2017: LA SCENE WATTEAU / NOGENT-SUR-MARNE /
FRANCE

2015/2016 SEASON

December 15 to 18, 2015: THEATRE DE NAMUR / BELGIUM

January 5, 2016: ESPACE CULTUREL PHILIPPE DE FEIGNIES, LE
MANEGE / MAUBEUGE / FRANCE

January 7, 2016: GRAND THEATRE / CALAIS / FRANCE

January 9 to 12, 2016: LONDON MIME FESTIVAL / UNITED-KINGDOM

February 12, 2016: LE PARVIS, SCENE NATIONALE DE TARBES /
FRANCE

February 17, 2016: ESPACE CULTUREL ROBERT DOISNEAU / MEUDON-
LA-FORET / FRANCE

February 19, 2016: **THEATRE DE CHELLES / FRANCE**

February 23 to 24, 2016: **LES SABLES D'OLONNE / FRANCE**

March 1 to 4, 2016: **LA COURSIVE / LA ROCHELLE / FRANCE**

March 15, 2016: **LES SEPT COLLINES / TULLE / FRANCE**

March 20, 2016: **RADIANT-BELLEVUE / CALUIRE-ET-CUIRE / FRANCE**

March 29 to April 2, 2016: **THEATRE NATIONAL DE NICE / FRANCE**

April 6 to 10, 2016: **COMEDIE DE CLERMONT-FERRAND / FRANCE**

April 23, 2016: **L'OCTOGONE / THEATRE DE PULLY / SWITZERLAND**

April 26, 2016: **ESPACE JEAN LEGENDRE / THEATRE DE COMPIEGNE / FRANCE**

May 28, 2016: **THEATRE DE BRESSUIRE / FRANCE**

May 31 to June 2, 2016: **MAISON DE LA DANSE / LYON / FRANCE**

2014/2015 SEASON

January 29 to February 14, 2015: **THEATRE DES BOUFFES DU NORD**

March 31 and April 1, 2015: **TANDEM DOUAI-ARRAS / THEATRE D'ARRAS / FRANCE**

April 2, 2015: **TANDEM DOUAI-ARRAS / L'HIPPODROME, SCENE NATIONALE DE DOUAI / FRANCE**

April 14 and 15, 2015: **LA COMETE / SCENE NATIONALE DE CHALONS EN CHAMPAGNE / FRANCE**

PRESS REVIEWS

« Playing with poignancy, this hour of fun [...] takes every opportunity for slapstick while tickling notions of death. »

« It's a brief hour that gives the kiss of life to the ancient art of the gag, and it echoes not just to the laughter of this particular audience but of all audiences who, down through the ages, have laughed and recognised their own absurdity in the comic antics of the clown. »

The Guardian

« In a show loaded with references to classic physical gags, at one point [Magni] and Houben indulge in a two-man horse tourine. Clever yet elementally funny and marked by a knowing innocence about life and death, Marcel is resonant entertainment. »

The Times

« Many of the gags are rather corny – deliberately so – and the show relishes the delight of raising a laugh with tried-and-tester routines. But while gently daft, it is also immensely poignant. »

The Financial Times

« Two magnificent metaphysical bums [...] send the audience into a completely irrepressible and liberating trance of laughter.

Irresistibly funny [...], the show slips towards the absurd and the strange [...] »

Le Monde

« An infinite poetry just to watch them. »

Télérama

« Everything in this show is staggeringly precise [...]. Marcello and Jos offer us a lesson in comedy that carries in it a magnificent lesson in humanity. »

La Terrasse

"Comic genius is a wondrous thing to behold. This is another way of saying Marcello Magni and Jos Houben will make you laugh like a hyena and maybe shed a furtive tear. »

Brooklyn daily Eagle

" The phenomenal Lecoq-trained clowns Marcello Magni and Jos Houben bring a sweet virtuosic, and family friendly double act to TFANA. *Marcel* is all Buster Keaton-esque heart, while *The Art of Laughter* is a particularly delightful bit of brain candy. »

New York Magazine

BIOGRAPHIES

JOS HOUBEN

Jos Houben (b.1959) is a Belgian native. He studied at Jacques Lecoq School and with Philippe Gaulier, Monika Pagneux and Pierre Byland. An original member of Complicité, he co-created and performed in *A Minute Too Late* and collaborated on many other projects with Annabel Arden, Simon McBurney and Lilo Baur.



Jos was a director and co-writer of the cult comedy troupe *The Right Size* (which won Laurence Olivier Awards for Best Entertainment 1999 and Best New Comedy 2002) playing in the West End and Off-Broadway. For Thames TV he created and performed *Mr Fixit*, a silent slapstick TV comedy for children. He was also creative director and associate producer for Ragdoll TV's *Brum - The Magical Little Car*. He created and performed *Quatre Mains*, a theatre piece for four hands with Andrew Dawson. He has collaborated with Greek contemporary music composer Georges Aperghis on several shows in Paris, including *Commentaires*, *Zwielicht*, and *Paysage sous Surveillance*.

He has directed for Theater YBY in Salzburg, BPZoom in Paris, *Les Flamiches Noires* in Belgium, In 2006 he performed with Marcello Magni in *Fragments*, directed by Peter Brook at Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord and on a world tour. In 2013 he co-created *Répertoire* by Mauricio Kagel for the Théâtre d'Arras and the Bouffes du Nord with Françoise Rivalland and Emily Wilson. Jos is also working with Jean François Peyret on *RE: Walden* that was presented in 2013 at the Avignon festival and in 2014 at Théâtre de la Colline in Paris.

Jos' conference/one-man show, *The Art of Laughter*, has toured the world many times over. He is a teacher, director, deviser and consultant with comedy troupes, opera companies, circus schools, workshop festivals, dance schools, universities and magicians worldwide. Since 2000 he is a teacher at Jacques Lecoq School.

MARCELLO MAGNI

Born in Bergamo, Italy, Marcello studies at DAMS of Bologna University but runs away to Paris where he starts his theatrical formation. A graduate of Jacques Lecoq he continues his studies with Pierre Byland, Philippe Gaulier and Monica Pagneux. He is an actor, a director, and a movement director.



As a co-Founder of Complicite in London he has worked with the company for twenty four years and created his first shows there. He performed in *A Minute Too Late*, *Help I'm Alive*, *Anything for a quite life*, *Please, Please, Please*, *The Visit*, *Out of a House Walked a Man*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Street of Crocodiles*, *Foe* and the opera *A Dog's Heart*. Marcello's collaborations outside of Complicite include a curiosity for the world of Masks and Commedia dell'Arte and he performs in Marivaux, Moliere and Ruzzante. He also created a solo show *Arlecchino* with Jos Houben and Kathryn Hunter. Furthermore, Marcello worked in *the Merchant of Venice*, *Comedy of Errors* and *Pericles* at Shakespeare's Globe.

Theatre has brought Marcello into collaborations with Mark Rylance, Hideki Noda (Japan), George Kimoulis (Greece), Annie Castledine, Neil Bartlett, Helena Kaut Howsen (Poland and UK), Mike Alfred, David Glass, Jack Sheppard, Nancy Meckler and most of all with Kathryn Hunter.

In 2006 he performed with Jos Houben in *Fragments*, directed by Peter Brook at Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord and on a world tour. He was also the movement director of *A Magic Flute* by Peter Brook in 2010. Recently he directed and performed in *Tell Them That I am Young and Beautiful* at the Arcola Theatre. He performed his solo show *Arlecchino*, originally created at BAC London. Among other films he played in *Nine*, *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *Doctor Who* and more recently *Mr Turner* by Mike Leigh. He has also performed in Beckett's *Act Without Words* for Beckett on Film (Channel 4) directed by Enda Hughs and the documentary *The Tightrope* about Peter Brook's work.

Marcello is one of the five performers of *The Valley of astonishment* by Peter Brook and Marie-Hélène Estienne, created at Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord in April 2014, and he is performing *Playing Cards: Hearts* directed by Robert Lepage.

ORIA PUPPO sets and costumes design

Oria Puppo is a scenographer and costume designer who divides her time between Buenos Aires and Paris. In Argentina she has created stage sets and costumes for directors such as Diego Kogan, Rafael Spregelburd, Roberto Villanueva, Ciro Zorzoli and A. Tantanian. She was also the technical director of the Buenos Aires International Festival from 1999 to 2007 and her creations include several stage sets and costumes for opera as well as performative installations in contemporary art spaces.

She has collaborated with the latter in Lucerne as well as in Germany, in both Stuttgart and Mannheim, where they staged Kafka's *Amerika* and Brecht's *The Threepenny Opera*. She has worked recently with the Bouffes du Nord on three Peter Brook productions: *Tierno Bokar*, *The Suit* and *A Magic Flute*. She also made the set of Haendel's *La Resurrezione*, directed by Lilo Baur for the Paris National Opera's Atelier Lyrique. She is also at work on the sets and costumes for Jean Genet's *The Maids*, in a Ciro Zorzoli production featuring Marilú Marini, to be staged in Buenos Aires.

She is currently designing set and costumes for *Almas ardientes*, of Santiago Loza, directed by Alejandro Tantanian, to be presented in Teatro San Martin, Buenos Aires, in July 2014.

PHILIPPE VIALATTE lights

Philippe Vialatte started up at the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord in 1985 as a light operator on *Le Mahabharata*, directed by Peter Brook. He assisted Jean Kalman for the light design of *Woza Albert* and *La Tempête*, directed by Peter Brook.

Since the creation of *The Man Who* in Paris in 1993, he has designed the lights for all the plays directed by Peter Brook at Theatre des Bouffes du Nord: *Qui est là*, *Je suis un phénomène*, *Le Costume*, *The Tragedy of Hamlet*, *Far Away*, *La mort de Krishna*, *La Tragédie d'Hamlet*, *Ta main dans la mienne*, *Tierno Bokar*, *Le Grand Inquisiteur*, *Sizwe Banzi est mort*, *Fragments*, *11 and 12*, and more recently *The Suit*, *A Magic Flute* and *The Valley of Astonishment*.

He follows all these plays on tour and in each space redesigns and adapts the light of each show.