

L'absolu

Metaphysical circus

Premiered Autumn 2017

A performance in the round, under a unique big top

Maker and Performer: Boris Gibé



© Jérôme Vila – Boris Gibé

Les Choses de Rien

BP 18, 75921 PARIS CEDEX 19

Production / bookings: Si Par Hasard

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L'ABSOLU IN A FEW WORDS

L'absolu by Les Choses de Rien is a poetic jump into our psyche. It's a show that puts emotions back in the centre stage of our lives. A journey from immanence to transcendence, from the inside to the outside, from reality to imagination. *L'absolu* is an invitation to see light and grace through the looking glass.



© Boris Gibé - répétition avec Samuel Lefevre à La Gare, septembre 2015.

LES CHOSES DE RIEN COMPANY

Since it was created in 2004 in Paris, Les Choses de Rien has produced and supported Boris Gibé's work. For nearly 15 years, the company has experimented with choreographic devising and artistic creations in contemporary circus. The company has produced works such as: the installation performance *Tripode* in 2005, *Le Phare* under a big top in 2006, *Bull* in 2008, *Les Fuyantes* in 2011, the exhibition *Mouvinsitu* together with the piece *Bienheureux sont ceux qui rêvent debout sans marcher sur leurs vies* in 2014.

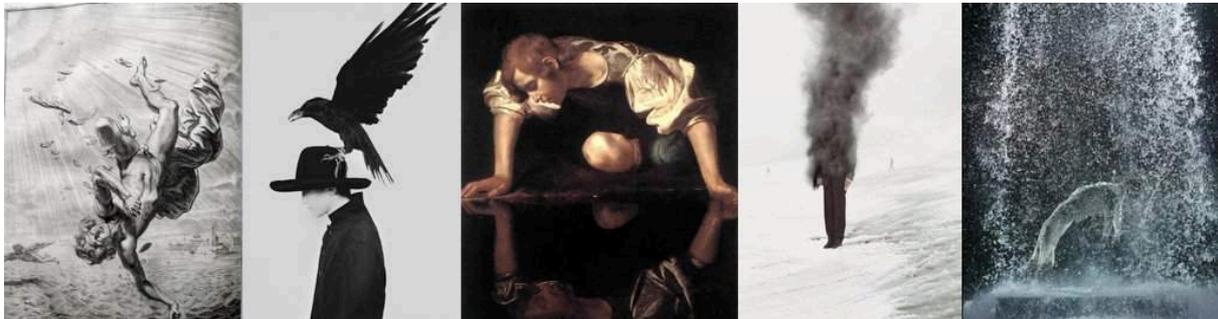
Boris Gibé's practice focuses on our perception of the world we live by drawing parallels with absurd and closed universes or cinematographic experiences. He analyses existentialist topics to question our human condition. His creations play with the audiences' visual, sensory and emotional impressions. Gibé gives the spectators a new outlook on life by deconstructing their points of reference.

L'ABSOLU

At the beginning, humans are just empty shells: their existence is 'absurd', void of any meaning. The choices we make, make us 'beings', make us reasonable beings, give meaning to our lives, hence the necessary and free engagement we are doomed to. We are split between the anxiety of our nothingness and the uncertainty of the choices we make.

Andrei Tarkovski

It all started with the book *Sculpting in Time* by Andrei Tarkovski. What came after is only a ripple effect. I have always been heavily influenced by the existentialist philosophy and its intimate connection with the idea of sheer creativity, I am now very aware of the existentialist deviations of our society, its images and our ways of being. The aspirations of representations and the subduction of social connections into virtual networks seem to only exist through our collective omnipresence in all forms of media.



© A. Duporbout, Sveta idelson, Caravaggio, Andrea Galvani, Bill Viola - Images d'inspiration.

L'absolu is about all these questions; its three component – the mirror, the trial and the sacrifice – look at different aspect of the questions and bring back into balance what the darkness brings to the light, to life itself and bring: what's invisible create what's visible. *L'absolu* is a primal and raw creativity rather than a show that will speak into our unconsciousness.

THE BIG TOP: THE SILO

Ten years ago, we created a 'lighthouse big top' and when planning *L'absolu*, we felt the need to create a new format of big top. We wanted to create something new while staying true to our roots: give context to the devising of the show and create a space that would somehow remind audiences of a venue but also give spectators a physical and sensory experience.

We have been working on this new kind of big top since 2008 and how build a structure that would allow us to re-contextualise the audiences' perception. We wanted

to build a vertiginous home for *L'absolu*, a big top that would give audiences a physical experience reminiscent of anatomical theatres.



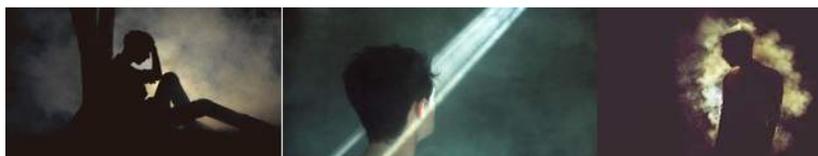
© Jérôme Vila – the Silo in La Gare, may 2014

The show is now touring with a structure we have called the Silo: a big top made of corrugated metal sheet; it is 9 metres in diameter and 12 metres high. A hundred people fit in the Silo: along the inner wall, two staircases intertwine across four floors, on each step: a seat for an audience member.

The Silo follows the ERP-CET regulation.

SOUND DESIGN

The music in *L'absolu* is reminiscent of an opera and is full of nostalgia. It's tracing back the memories of our imagination, getting its inspiration in the poetry of myths and tragedies.



© Kyle Thompson

LIGHTING DESIGN

We wanted to create a universe that is both cinematographic and intellectual. There is a low level of lights that plays with the audiences' persistence of vision, with the limit between the visible and the invisible. The light is synchronised with the sound and the machines thanks to an interactive software.

WHAT THE PRESS SAID ABOUT L'ABSOLU

Le Monde (Extracts)

The name on everyone's lips [at the Marseille Biennale Internationale des Arts du Cirque, BIAC] is less famous – for now. His name is Boris Gibé. His company is Les Choses de Rien. At BIAC, he is performing a show called L'Absolu and the performances were preceded by an unusually encouraging word of mouth. In just a few days, it became the hit show of the festival and all the promoters were trying to book it.

It is not just a fade though. L'absolus strikingly original, radical, intense and beautiful; it is unlike anything you've seen before. It is a strange journey behind closed doors. It's not under a big top but a structure that Boris Gibé calls the Silo. Gibé built the Silo specifically for the show with a team of architects and engineers.

In L'asbolu, Boris Gibé - acrobat and metaphysician - is asking vertiginous questions about life and challenges the answers through circus.

When you arrive, you enter a 9 metres in diameter and 12 metres high cylinder. Inside, two staircases interlace along the wall. On each step, there are small seats, slightly off-balance.

We don't want to reveal everything that audiences will experience in the show - it is such a poetic, spatial, visual and sensory big bang - but one thing is certain: in L'asbolu, you will see the work of a true artist, for whom circus, in its core essence, is a unique tool for existential exploration and filled with secret and deep heartbeats.

La Provence

A unique and impressive performance. You'll come out a different person.

Le Figaro

A unique moment that you'll leave like a dream. 55 minutes of melancholic poetry and physical prowess.

La Gazette des festivals

There are few moments in life when you feel at the same time amazed, grateful and poetically and exhilaratingly human. L'absolu is one of these moments. Don't miss it!

THE TEAM

Boris Gibé - Maker / performer
Elsa Dourdet - dramaturg
Samuel Lefeuvre - Choreography
Floencia Demestri - Choreography
Sandrine Rozier – Costumes and props
Quentin Alart – Stage management
Florian Wenger – Technical manager
Clara Gay-Bellile & Charles Bédin – Set design
Romain de Lagarde – Lighting design
Olivier Pfeiffer – Sound design - technician



© Clara Gay-Bellile – residency in Fribourg, July 2015.

CREDITS

The Silo, an adventure built collectively with : Clara Gay-Bellile & Charles Bédin - architectes associés, Quentin Alart - Ingénieur structure, Clément Delage, Florian Wenger, Jörn Roesing, Richard Rivers - constructeurs • Avec l'aide précieuse de : Alain Frérot, Alexis Auffray, Armande Jammes, Bertrand Duval, Clara Charlie, Gaël Richard, Gérard Naque, Ikram, John Carroll, Marinette Julien, Sarah Pécout, Suzanne Péchenart, Samuel Bodin, Tiziano Lavoratornovi, Ulysse Lacoste.

Production : Les Choses de Rien with support from Si par Hasard • **Coproductions :** Boris Gibé is associated artist at 2 scènes - scène nationale de Besançon ;

Coopérative De Rue et De Cirque - 2r2c - Paris ; Théâtre Firmin Gémier - La Piscine - Pôle National des Arts du Cirque d'Antony et de Chatenay-Malabry ; Cirque Jules Verne - Pole National Cirque et Arts de la Rue - Amiens ; Châteauvallon - scène nationale ; Espace Jean Legendre – Scène nationale de l'Oise – Compiègne • **With the support of** : Ministère de la Culture - DRAC Ile de France (conventionnement 2015-2017) ; Conseil Régional Ile de France ; Fondation de la tour vagabonde ; Lycée Eugène Guillaume de Montbard ; SACD - Processus Cirque ; L'atelier Arts- Sciences, partenariat entre L'Hexagone scène nationale de Meylan & le CEA de Grenoble ; Ass. Beaumarchais - Bourse Auteur de Cirque, La Fondation de la Tour Vagabonde • **Residencies:** La Gare - Marigny-le-Cahouet, CEA - Grenoble, 2r2c - Paris, Le Château de Monthelon, Les 2 scènes - Besançon.