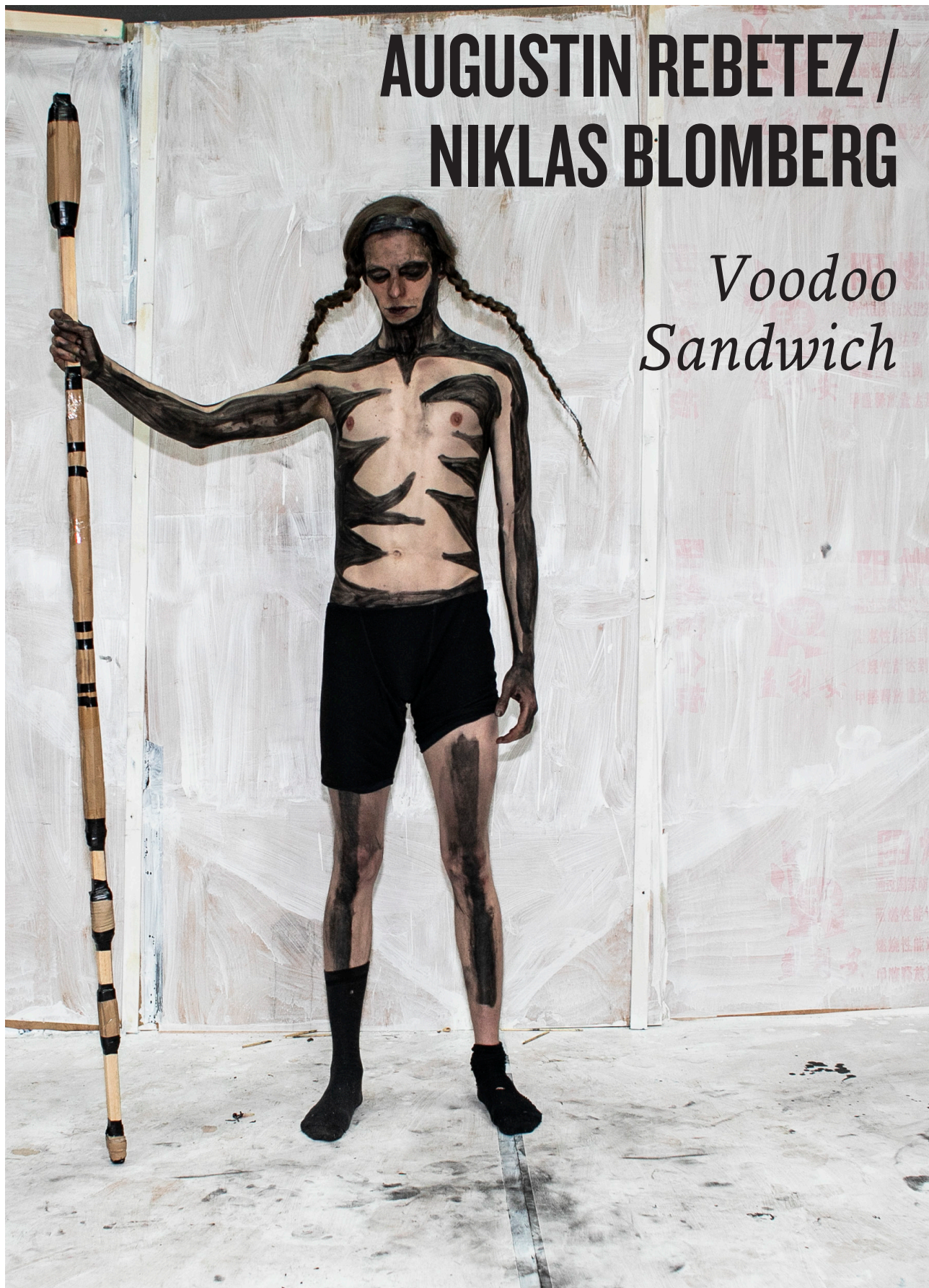


**AUGUSTIN REBETEZ /  
NIKLAS BLOMBERG**

*Voodoo  
Sandwich*



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# VOODOO SANDWICH

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Creation  
at Vidy

**Concept :**

Augustin Rebetez and Niklas Blomberg

**Direction, video and stage design :**

Augustin Rebetez

**Music and performance :**

Niklas Blomberg

**Lighting creation :**

Matthias Schnyder ▼

**Sound arrangement :**

Charlie Bernath

**External eye:**

Jules Beckman

**Production :**

Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne ▼

**Creation January 2020****Young audience, 12 years +****Approximate length :**

1 hour

FR : « Une coproduction dans le cadre du Fonds des programmeurs de Reso - Réseau Danse Suisse. Soutenue par Pro Helvetia, Fondation suisse pour la culture. »

DE : „Eine Koproduktion im Rahmen des Veranstalterfonds von Reso - Tanznetzwerk Schweiz. Unterstützt durch Pro Helvetia, Schweizer Kulturstiftung.“

EN : „A coproduction in the frame of the Programmers' Fund of Reso - Dance Network Switzerland. Supported by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council.“

**With the production, technical, communication and administrative teams at Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne**

# INTRODUCTION

by Éric Vautrin, dramaturg of the Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne

**Augustin Rebetez and Niklas Blomberg bring a teenage audience on an intense and playful theatrical experience**, unpredictable and stimulating, inviting them to play around with masks, identities and role models.

A cabaret for the imagination, a circus for a solo transformist, a do-it-yourself voodoo ceremony... *Voodoo Sandwich* is the promise of an insatiable life that takes on multiple and fluid identities in time to a frenzied rhythm.

Onstage, the acrobat, musician and contortionist Niklas Blomberg travels through the nocturnal and vitalist world of visual artist Augustin Rebetez. **He becomes in turn a skeleton-musician, female-vampire, contortionist-puppet and a bonimenteur DJ interacting with the audience** with his invented languages. Objects become prosthetics, costumes are made out of found objects, and ginger roots peppered with electrodes move around the spectators to create the music for a clip. In *Voodoo Sandwich*, nothing is inherently stable, but rather than being worrying, this fact stimulates the imagination. Direct and funny, but readily touching on darker and less immediately obvious elements, *Voodoo Sandwich* tackles adolescence head-on, by inviting spectators to break out of their pre-constructed identities and imagine new ones; spontaneous and intuitive, crafted and creative.

An astonishing, spontaneous figure suddenly appears in a dark and sombre space. His supple body slips from character to character and speaks a curious language that owes as much to Dada as it does to an emerging form of Esperanto. Video, sound and objects dub the character, support it and revitalise it: post-synchronised voiceover, movements accompanied by unexpected sound effects, a video half-body that upsets that other living half... Everything that this whimsical character comes across becomes a tool for reinventing one's self.

**Somewhere between short sketches and magic, between sound effects and rap, this one-man-show for teenagers is a theatrical and wild call for free creativity** and an aesthetic experience that taps into young people's points of reference (music, fantastical worlds, cross-dressing monsters and uncertain gender), encouraging the audience to make them their own, play around with them, and freely explore the wandering paths of one's imagination.



© Augustin Rebetez





# INSATIABLE DISCOVERY

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by Éric Vautrin, dramaturg of the Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne

**Augustin Rebetez** is a director and visual artist. His art does not focus on discipline or on one form of media - he employs photography, video, stop-motion, painting or silkscreen printing on cardboard or wood, graphic design, and art installation, or even all of these mixed together. However, this multiplicity is his driving force. He is guided by two virtues: he is insatiable - driven by an all-consuming and multifaceted energy that absorbs everything it comes across, instinctively following one form, which in turn brings about another; and he is the explorer of a territory he calls "the night", which encompasses all that haunts human beings - ghosts, nocturnal birds, swaying skeletons, scrapheap beings with an instinct for survival, both inventive and poor, pragmatic and unexpected. In just a few years, his creations (which include books, exhibitions, concerts and immersive installations) have brought him international recognition, and he has exhibited across the world; in Switzerland, Lebanon, China or Brazil for instance.

In 2014 he met **Niklas Blomberg**, a Finnish pianist, experimental musician, performer and contortionist living in Berlin. Niklas Blomberg's body speaks for him even more than his own multi-disciplinary projects do. Onstage, he doesn't just seem flexible, but double-jointed, and most importantly, completely unpredictable. Filled with a pulsating energy, he seems animated by contradictory rhythms, capable of reacting to the slightest of perceptions, just like an animal or insect adapts instantaneously to the environment's invisible evolution. Onstage, Niklas Blomberg inhabits that precise spot where dance and music, body and rhythm can no longer be distinguished. His body becomes a free creature continually discovering new possibilities.

Although they have often teamed up in theatre projects as well as for videos and installations, *Voodoo Sandwich* marks another phase in their work together. Here, Blomberg has become both the origin and the prop for Rebetez's self-created forms. The visual artist's nocturnal energy takes over the volatile and graceful body of the contortionist. It is not surprising that their joint project is aimed at teenagers: their imaginations are both capable of running wild. But there is nothing naive in all of this: both of them, in their own way, invite us to invent our life, to seize opportunities, to choose our masks and to make our fears the key to our dreams.

They change rigid frameworks into opportunities, physical constraint into movement and identities into instinctive games that help discover who we are and what surrounds us. ***Voodoo Sandwich* means that the world and our lives contain more potential than what we are currently making of them.**





© Augustin Rebetez

# PRESS REVIEWS

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“By working within a ritualistic dimension, Augustin Rebetez distances himself from the academic and ultra-formal aspects of contemporary creation, adhering instead to the archaic practices of a guru or sorcerer. `Personalities whose spark can be sensed deep within, with a powerful interior force. An element that also belongs to childhood. We don't learn how to dream in art schools, just as we don't learn how to become a wizard by watching Harry Potter! I feel closer to the sorcerer than to the contemporary artistic scene, which is so intellectual that it ends up cooking by simply following recipe books.”

*24 HEURES, 5.12.2017, BORIS SENFF À PROPOS DE L'ÂGE DES RONCES*

“Augustin Rebetez is known for being prolific and multifaceted – he does everything: he writes, he draws, he decorates, he sculpts, he invents, he tells, he photographs, he paints, he speaks. His work encircles us, through an entire world he has created.”

*LAUSANNEBONDYBLOG.CH, 10.12.2015, POLLUX LESIAK À PROPOS DE RENTRER AU VOLCAN*

“Augustin Rebetez has instinctively created a multifaceted and proliferating work that builds a real world, creating the foundations for a new popular artform. (...) His requirement for accuracy and sincerity is inseparable from his desire to act upon the spectator. Although he does not actually slip into the skin of a shaman, Rebetez is certainly an intermediary. He creates myths and symbols, but he undoubtedly wants his production to be active, to bring worlds together, so that the beauty of his own transforms ours.”

**ETIENNE HATT, ARTPRESS, N°416, 2014**

“Augustin Rebetez's creative approach in terms of designing images gives rise – among other things – to an alternative universe that pushes the boundaries of photography.”

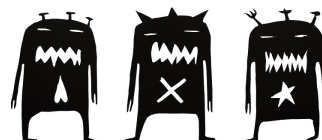
**COLIN PANTALL, BRITISH JOURNAL OF PHOTOGRAPHY, 20.05.15**

“In a short period of time Rebetez has developed a rich and strong oeuvre, expressing his vivid inner poetry through dynamic forms and media. His work represents a personal, surreal universe that offers a stage to mysterious, tragicomical characters and bizarre situations. Masked figures and animal-like creatures are the theatrical performers in a continuous narrative that is energetic, dark, humorous and loaded with symbolism and subconscious references. Most of all, Rebetez' work bursts with creative and visual power.”

**CLAUDIA KUSSEL, FOAM AMSTERDAM, 20.05.15**

“(...) a strange and singular creative imagination that is one of the highlights of the richest and most surprising Unseens so far.”

**SEAN O'HAGAN, THE GUARDIAN, 2014**



# AUGUSTIN REBETEZ : INTERVIEW

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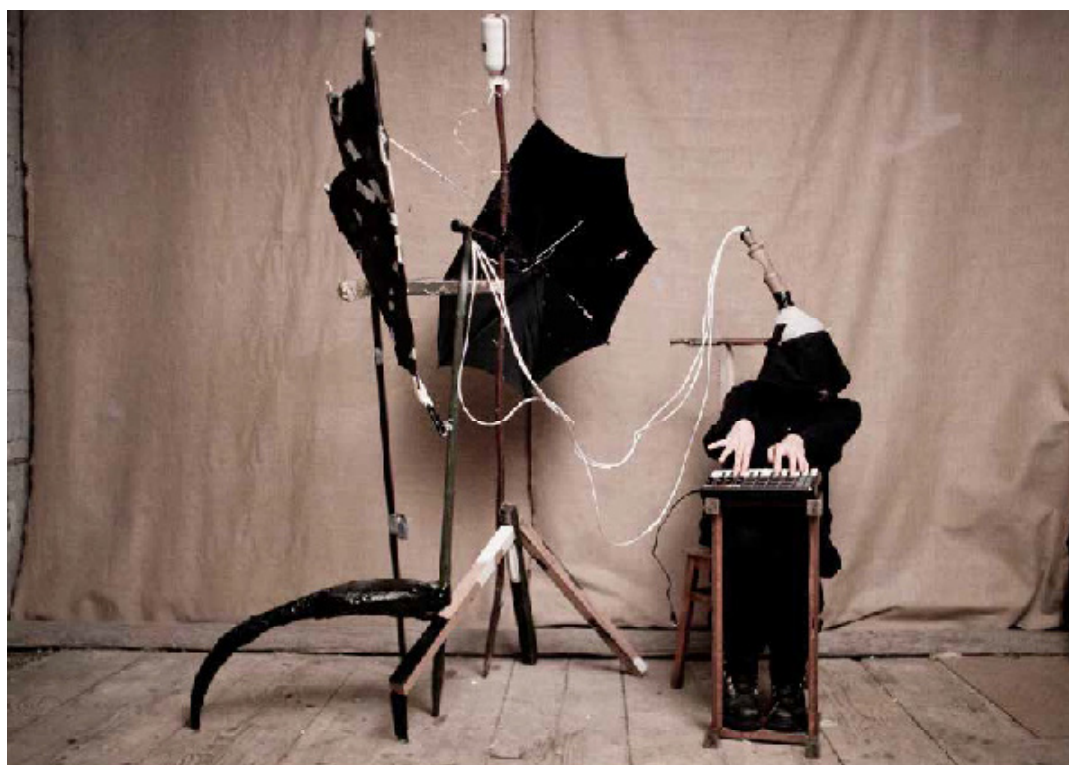
by Éric Vautrin at Vidy, Lausanne, in December 2016

*Your artistic world is a kind of examination of what humanity is made of..*

The night is a common denominator in the universe. The day is an exception that only exists on earth. Night connects all the elements of the universe. The cosmos is plunged into darkness. The night is also everything that we don't see, all that's in the margins, that's withdrawn, that's lost. The world of dreams, of imagination, of magic, of theatre. For Léo Ferré in the L'Opera du pauvre it is also subversion. I feel like I'm working for the night. A construction worker full of enthusiasm, a builder of dreams. I work for the night. Sub specie aeternitatis. It's not about critical posturing, on the contrary, the work is very sincere and positive exactly because it encompasses all the various aspects of existence and addresses itself to what we are and what escapes us. It addresses itself to the imagination. .

*Several of your works use the expression "I work for the night". What is this night for you?*

I'm interested in the archaic, the wild, the primitive fundamentals at the origin of who we are, what is essential in us. I'm looking for something that addresses all of us, like a kind of faith, something we can hold on to. I'm looking into what brings us together, draws us closer, the digital space that today escapes us or leads us to question certain things. Spirituality - understood here as something instinctive - is something I link to songs, voices and technology. What I do reveals the poetic, and as such, each individual should be able to interpret the work in his or her own way. I create totems that continually self-destruct. I'm searching for something human in a universe devoid of life. I'm trying to bring force, emotion and reflection into being and I would very much like for people to find it beautiful, that it makes sense, that it encourages life and breaks boundaries.



# AUGUSTIN REBETEZ

Director and stage designer

Born in 1986 in the canton of Jura, Augustin Rebetez grew up among a family of artists. In 2009 he graduated in photography from the CEPV in Vevey and soon began staging his prints, creating cross-discipline installations combining text, drawing, sculpture and video. He made an impression at the Rencontres photographiques d'Arles in 2011, with an exhibition that created its own cosmogony. At the Swiss Cultural Centre in Paris and the Nuit des Images at the Musée de l'Élysée in Lausanne in 2013, at the Sydney Biennale and the Festival Images in Vevey in 2014, as well in many presentations in Europe and around the world, he has revealed his graphic, sound and performative world where human, animal and mechanical shapes cross paths on all types of media. He has received several awards since 2010, in particular the international Grand Prix for photography in Vevey 2013/2014. His work is presented internationally. At Vidy he created his first theatre show *Rentrer au volcan* in 2015, followed by *L'Âge des ronces* in 2017.

# NIKLAS BLOMBERG

Choreographer and performer

Niklas Blomberg is a Finnish performer, classical pianist and techno musician. A graduate from the Stockholm University of Dance and Circus, he has toured Europe and Asia as part of various shows and musical projects. He founded and performs in the contemporary circus company Animal Religion and the pop duo Lester & Niki. He has been working with Augustin Rebetez since 2014. They have created many videos and projects together, such as *Rentrer au volcan* in 2015 at Vidy, and more recently, *Throw Your Shadows* at the 4<sup>th</sup> Shenzhen Independent Animation Biennale in China.



Augustin Rebetez et Niklas Blomberg

