PHYSICAL THEATER

LE GRAND C

Memminger Auditorium

Choreographer
Loïc Touzé

Composer/Accordion-Player
Marc Perrone

Lighting Designer
Vincent Millet, Jérémie Cuseniers

Costume Designer
Marie-Cécile Viault, Geraldine Guilbaud

Acrobatic Tutor
Mahmoud Louertani

Production Manager
Peggy Donck, Antoine Billaud

Acrobats
Abdeliazide Senhadji
Adrià Cordoncillo-Mitjavila
Airelle Caen
Ann Katrin Jornot
Anne De Buck
Antoine Thirion
Aurore Liotard
Birta Benonysdottir
Chloé Tribollet
Denis Dulon
Guillaume Sendron
Mikis Minier-Matsakis
Michaël Pallandre
Romain Guimard
Thibaut Berthias
Tomàs Cardus
Xavier Lavabre

PERFORMED WITHOUT AN INTERMISSION.

Le Grand C is supported by le Ministère de la Culture (DGCA–Drac Nord Pas-de-Calais) and le Conseil Régional Nord-Pas-de-Calais et l’Adami.

Support provided by the French-American Fund for Contemporary Theater, a program of FACE; and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

These performances are made possible in part through funds from the Spoleto Festival USA Endowment, generously supported by BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina.

ABOUT LE GRAND C

Le Grand C consists of 17 acrobats possessing 68 arms and legs. Their continually moving bodies create an extraordinary and unique new circus-theater show. Mimicking an epic ant-like colony of acrobatics, the artists take their audience on a breathtaking journey through the air and on the ground. With a mass of finely honed bodies, agile to the core, they surge, merge, and whip up a physical frenzy to form a micro-society with all its quirky characteristics of everyday life interpreted through the body ensemble. With sharp observation and original interpretation, they lay bare the rituals of any given day anywhere in the world—from a city skyline, to a rugby game, to an elegant pirouette in flight—this new company has created a single universe full of emotions, poetry, and humor. For an audience of all ages who like a spectacle with risk and daring.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Compagnie XY came into existence in 2005 through Abdel Senhadji and Mahmoud Louertani’s work with a series of their students’ duos. 15 countries and 200 shows later, Le Grand C, from its base in Lomme near Lille, France, hits the road with the story of a group of 17 performers crossing paths with a wide range of audiences.
ACROBATS

ABDELIAZIDE SENHADJI was born in France and graduated from the National Center of Circus Arts. He has worked as a performer with Pierre Doussaint Cie at Vox Populi, Cirque Baroque Cie, Cie François Verret, Cie Hendrick Van des Zee, and Cie MPTA. He has also created several shows: Cabane, jeu de cirque, Rushs, Laissez-Porter, and Le Grand C. Since 1998, he has taught “Hand to Hand” and acrobatic arts at Lomme Circus Art Center.

ADRIÀ CORDONCILLO-MITJAVILA was born in Spain, lives in France, and graduated from the National Center of Circus Arts. Mitjavila is the co-creator of La Tribu lota with the 12th promotion of CNAC, which has been presented in France and Europe for the past two years. He also co-created Porque No?! from Baro d’Evel Cirk cie. In 2002, his new show, Béchotout, played mainly in France and Spain. After two projects in Toulouse and Barcelona—El Circ de Sara and Tierra de Nadie with Argentinian circus artists—Mitjavila joined Compagnie XY in March 2010.

AIRELLE CAEN was born in France and graduated from the National Circus School of Châtellerault in 2001 and from the Lomme Circus Arts Center in 2004. After acting in the show Contrécarré, Caen founded Compagnie XY in 2005 and created Laissez Portez, presented more than 200 times around the world. In 2009, Le Grand C was performed in France, England, Germany, Belgium, Spain, England, Holland, Portugal, South Korea, and Japan.

ANN KATRIN JORNOT was born in Germany, lives in France, and is a 2009 graduate of the Belgium National Circus School in Brussels. She performed in the show Tôle led by Roberto Magro with Les SlovaKs in Belgium before joining Le Grand C in 2010.

ANNE DE BUCK was born in France. After five years of practicing tight wire in French circus schools, including Le Lido in Toulouse, the French National Circus Schools of Rosny-sous-bois, and Chalons-en-champagne, she had to change her specialty because of a knee injury. In 2001 she replaced an acrobat in the show UK from Compagnie 111 and then toured with the company for the following three years. During this time, she also took classes in Lomme’s Circus school where she started hand balancing with Mikis, coached by Abdel Sennadj and Mahmoud Louertani, two famous French acrobatic partners.

ANTOINE THIRION was born in France and graduated from the National Center of Circus Arts in 2004. He first worked as a performer in France and Germany. Thirion and his partner, Aurore Liotard, won a gold medal in Moscow 2009, at Circus Nikulin’s 8th International Circus Festival and a silver medal in the 30th Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in Paris, 2009. Thirion started working on Le Grand C in 2008 as well as on Le Théâtre d’un jour.

AURELLE CAEN was born in France and began circus arts as a teenager. He practiced juggling and participated in Tournai’s International Circus Festival in 2001 (Belgium) where he won, as an amateur, the gold medal. He then decided to become a hand balancer (catcher) and entered Lomme’s Circus Art Center in October 2001.

BIRTH BENONYSDOTTIR was born in Iceland and graduated from the National Center of Circus Arts in 2011. She has performed in the show Raisonnance in Burkina Faso and on the Ivory Coast. She has joined Le Grand C in 2012.

CHLOÉ TRIBOLLET was born in France and graduated from the National Center of Circus Arts in 1996. She has worked as a performer with Cirque Romanes (1997) and Convoy Exceptionnel (1997-2001). In 2003, she founded the Zanzibar Circus with Jeff Odet and created the shows Mano a mano (2003), Sang et Or (2006), Cabaret S (2008), and Hechicero (Peru 2009). Since 2011, she has worked in a duet with Xavier Lavabre; they have performed in Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain—Paris, Moscow’s circus festival, and Roncalli’s Apollo Variété. In 2012, Tribollet joined Compagnie 111 with Le Grand C.

DENIS DULON was born in France and discovered circus arts in the Pop Circus at the age of 9. Dulon graduated from the National Circus School of Châtellerault in 2001 and Lomme’s Circus Arts Center in 2004. After acting in the show Contrécarré, he founded Compagnie XY in 2005 and created Laissez Portez, presented more than 200 times in Spain, Italy, Finland, Latvia, Denmark, Austria, the Philippines, Cambodia, and Indonesia. Le Grand C has been seen in France, England, Germany, Belgium, Spain, England, Holland, Portugal, South Korea, and Japan.

GUILLAUME SENDRON was born in France. He studied circus formation in Lomme Circus Art Center from 2003-04. In 2006, he met an acrobatic team and worked on the creation of Avis de Tempete cie. In 2008, he joined Cirque Zanzibar for the show Sang et Or; performing 100 shows in Europe. In 2009, he joined Compagnie XY and Le Grand C.

MIKIS MINIER-MATSAXIS was born in France and began circus arts as a teenager. He practiced juggling and participated in Tournai’s International Circus Festival in 2001 (Belgium) where he won, as an amateur, the gold medal. He then decided to become a hand balancer (catcher) and entered Lomme’s Circus Art Center in October 2001.

MICHAËL PALLANDRE was born in France and began circus and dance classes in 1998. He practiced in different schools in Toulouse and Lille. Pallandre is a co-founding member of the Cie Prêt à Porter (2003). He also created Histoire Amère d’une Douce Frénésie, which played 178 times between 2004 and 2009 in numerous countries including France, Italy, Belgium, Hungary, Bosnia, and China. In 2007, Pallandre created Le Diable au Corps, performed 200 times in France, Spain, Belgium, Germany, England, and Hungary. He earned a bronze medal at SolyCIRCO Festival (Germany), first prize at the Ruffec Festival, and performed at the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain in 2009. Pallandre participated in the collective creation of Le Grand C with Compagnie XY in 2009.
ROMAIN GUIMARD was born in France and graduated from the National Circus School of Châtellerault in 2001 and Lomme Circus Arts Center in 2004. He produced the show Yvan le T with Sisyphe and Trans(e) with Comme La Lune. Guimard took part in the opera Orfeo by Monteverdi; Don Quichotte, put on by Fahrenheit 451; Cocons with les Tréteaux du Coeur Volant; and played a regular part in Marc Perrone’s concerts. At the same time, he learned to be a technician and participated in the light design of Laissez-Porter from Compagnie XY whom he has followed on tour all over the world before joining them as an acrobat catcher in the show Le Grand C.

THIBAUT BERTHIAS was born in France and graduated from the Lomme Circus Art Center in 2008. He joined Compagnie XY after school to participate in the creation of Le Grand C.

TOMÀS CARDUS was born in Spain and participated in the Catalan tradition of “Castells” from the age of 6. He attended the Rogelio Rivel Circus School in Barcelona in 2001. In 2003, Cardus graduated from the Lomme Circus Art Center. In 2006, he joined the show Après la pluie with Le Cirque Désaccordé. In 2009, he co-created Le Grand C with Compagnie XY.

XAVIER LAVABRE was born in France and trained from 1999 to 2005 by the Nicolodis, an Italian circus family. From 2006–08, Lavabre performed with Cirque Zanzibar in the shows Sang et Or, Cabaret Z, and Hechicero. From 2010–11, he was an acrobat for Company Les 7 Doigts de la Main with the show Traces and La Vie. Since 2011, he has worked in a duet with Chloé Tribollet which has been presented in Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain, in Paris and Moscow circus festivals, and Roncalli’s Apollo Variété. In 2012, he joined Compagnie XY with their Le Grand C tour.