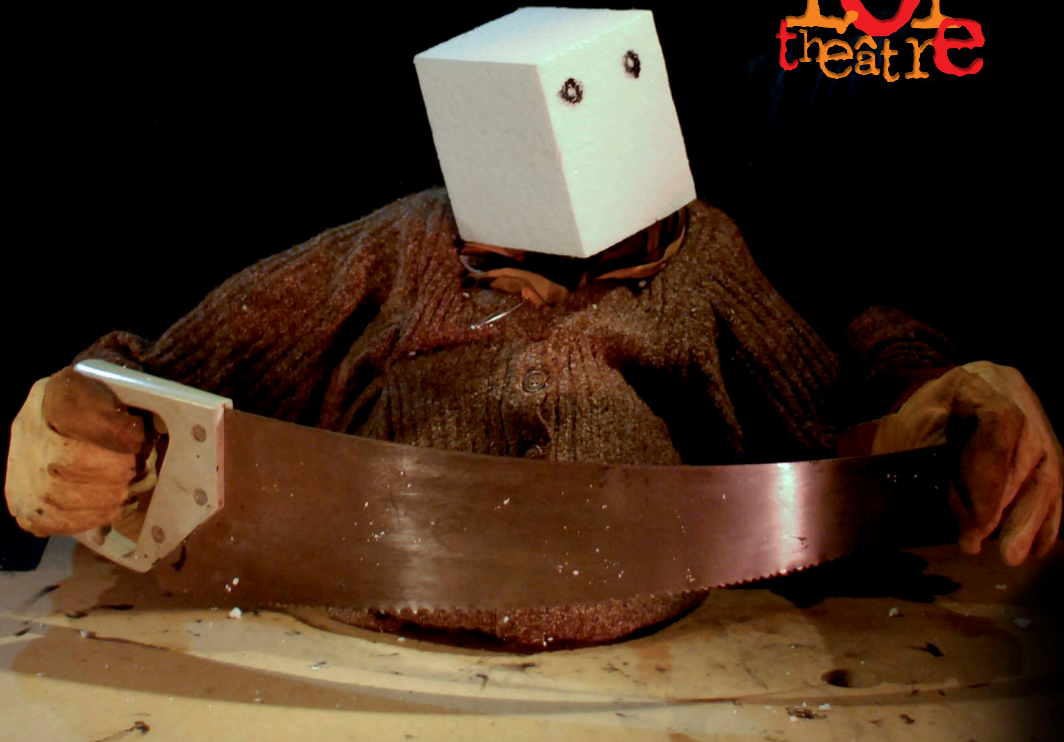


# Dans l'Atelier

[In the Workshop]

TOF  
théâtre





## Tour Contact

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# Dans l'Atelier

[In the Workshop]

A short wacky performance as a sort of preamble to inviting the audience, both children and adults, to try their hand at making their own puppets.

Eighteen crazy minutes to describe the mishaps of a puppet under construction who decides to make a stab at finishing up the job itself ...

Eighteen minutes during which the character struggles with the elements, with the material, the objects, and sometimes even the manipulators themselves, never hesitating to tyrannize them ...

A show for all ages up from 8 years and up.



# Distribution...

Conception, writing, staging, scenography and puppets: **Alain Moreau**

Actin : **Angela Malvasi, Sandrine Hooge and Yannick Duret, Alain Moreau** (alternating)

Musical creation: **Max Vandervorst**

Lighting design: **Dimitri Joukovsky**

Creation and collaboration on the scenario:  
**Sarah Demarthe and Emilie Plazolles**

Participation in the project's creation and scenario: **Gilbert Epron and Dimitri Joukovsky**

Assistance with the scenography: **Sarah Demarthe**

Photos: **Melisa Stein**

Construction of the structure for the set:  
**Margaud Carpentiers**

Production Manager: **Françoise Fiocchi**

Tour Manager: **My-Linh Bui**







## The press...

"For 18 minutes Alain Moreau excites us with his delicious thriller, reaching a height of comic trashiness that rivals Tarantino. But parents should rest assured: it is safe to bring your children (eight and up nevertheless) [...] Two hands poke out of a cardboard box, then a headless trunk. A rectangle of polystyrene on a rod is all you need for the task (with the help of two brilliant and very discreet puppeteers). For this is how it all gets started, sawing out a shape, drawing in the eyes with a marker, losing a few fingers along the way. Existential questions follow and a terrible battle of egos as tyranny sets in. Or so it is that a few marks of a crayon and the hairs of a paintbrush can produce the most irascible dictator. It's sheer madness, clever, brilliant!"

[Catherine Makereel, *Le Soir*]

"It's courageous. It's painful. The puppet enters into a bitter struggle with the material, a schizophrenic struggle with itself and against its makers... [...] The writing of this show is dense, rich in discoveries, with never a dull moment. The madness, while contained in the beginning, builds to a crescendo and reaches a literally explosive finale. A must."

[A. Deb. *L'Avenir*]







## On a practical note...

A show for adults **from 8 years and up**

**Length of the show:** 18 minutes

**Number of spectators per show:** maximum 130  
(depending on the venue, and whether there are fixed bleachers or improvised seating...)



## Technical Data Sheet...

### In the Workshop

**Scenic space:** 4m (width) x 2,70m x 2,20m (height)

**1<sup>st</sup> row of spectators at a distance of 2m**

darkness or semidarkness

**Electrical power:** 2 x 16 amps single-phase  
(2 standard plugs)

**For the audience:** fixed bleachers or improvised seating (cushions on the floor, low benches, chairs, tables, with adults standing behind the tables)

The show can easily travel by plane, it can be performed in unusual venues (eg.: workshops, warehouse, garage...)



## The story of the company...

**The Tof Theatre** was born in 1986 on Alain Moreau's initiative and following the creation of the show "Le Tour du Bloc".

Originally created for an adult audience, the show was re-worked and presented in it's young peoples version. It was selected to play at the Rencontres/Sélections d'Arlon. The show was an immense success and went on to play 500 times around the world: in Flanders and in numerous other European countries, the ex-USSR, Canada, the USA...

An adept of "miniature realism" the Tof perverts traditional puppet manipulation techniques and allows the spectator to see the manipulator. The puppet, often the centre of the show and measuring from 5 centimetres to 5 metres, is not destined exclusively for young peoples theatre. Often without words, the shows are conceived for a wider public, enjoyed by parents, children and grand parents alike.

Moving out of the darkness of the theatre, the Tof Theatre is also present on the streets with "Les Bénévoles", "Bistouri" and the show "Eugène, Roi de la frite", a sort of a poem to the glory of roadside gastronomy where a tiny puppet cooks real mini French fries in front of your very eyes and with no safety net !... Since 2001 the company has been regulated by the decree relating to children and young peoples theatre and benefits thus from the support of the Minister for the French-speaking Community of Belgium, the General Direction for Culture and General Services for the Performing Arts. The Tof Theatre is a member of the Chamber of Children and Young Peoples Theatre (C.T.E.J) and UNIMA.

## Countries that have organised Tof Theatre tours:

France, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Great Britain, Slovakia, Canada, USA, Germany, Switzerland, Grand duchy of Luxembourg, Denmark, Byelorussia, Austria, Finland, Israel, Brazil, Tchequia, Ukraine.

## Madness...

In 1996, the Tof decided to organise an international puppet festival at Genappe... And it worked !... The event was named "DES PIEDS ET DES MAINS". We did the whole thing again in 1998 and the event was attended by more than 5000 people during the four day festival. A lack of time and above all financial support has put the festival 'out to grass' for an undetermined length of time...

In 2001, the Tof initiated "**Le Petit Bazar Erotik**" with the complicity of ten European companies. Created at the Halles de Schaerbeek this grand ambulatory evening was presented some 25 times in Europe despite the considerable weight of the project, the 20 or so participants, all working with small forms associated with puppets, objects and eroticism.

**From 2002 to 2006 our madness was less obvious... and yet!** The Tof set up in an old run-down cinema in Genappe (close to Brussels), the 'MONTY'. Some time later and after much sweat, it now houses a welcoming bar and a small theatre with seating for 100 spectators opened to the public from time to time for evenings where shows or parts of shows in creation are presented.

## Shows created...

**1987 "le Tour du Bloc"**, (Co-produced with La Filipendule) conception: Alain Moreau, script, scenography and puppets: Agnès Lebrun and Alain Moreau, "Outside eye": Ioanna Gkizas. 550 performances in Belgium, France, Holland, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Canada, Slovakia, Ex-USSR, England, the USA.

**1988 "Radio Tom"**, conception and scenography: Alain Moreau, puppets: Antoinette Brouyaux, direction: Francy Begasse. 200 performances in Belgium, France, Holland.

**1992 "Camping Sauvage"**, conception, direction, sceonography and puppets: Alain Moreau, Script: Alain Moreau and Caroline Bergeron 530 performances in Belgium, France, Holland, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Denmark, Canada. **Coup de Cœur de la Presse, 'Pierre Thonon' award and special mention by the jury for exceptional work on emotions at the Rencontres/Selection at Huy, 1992.**

1995 **"Cabane"**, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau, script: Alain Moreau and Caroline Bergeron. 550 performances in Belgium, France, Holland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Denmark, Austria, Portugal, Switzerland, Canada, Israel.

**Rencontres/Selection at HUY, 1995, awarded: Minister of Culture Prize, City of Huy prize, Coup de Foudre from the press, special mention by the jury. Grand Prix from the jury at the International Puppet Festival and Animated Forms at Cannes in 1998.**



1996 **"Eugène, Roi de la frite"**, conception, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. Street theatre, 800 performances in Belgium, Holland, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Finland, Denmark, England, Austria, Portugal, Switzerland, Canada.

1998 **"Patraque"**, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau, Script: Alain Moreau and Caroline Bergeron, Assistant director: Caroline Bergeron. 530 performances in Belgium, France, Holland, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Canada.

**Rencontres/Selection at Huy '99, awarded: Special mention by the jury for "the exceptional work on emotions and the re-transcription of daily life", "Coup de Coeur" from the press.**

2001 **"Le Petit Bazar Erotik"**, co-conception and co-direction: Alain Moreau and Caroline Bergeron, 25 performances in Belgium, France, Spain and Portugal. Participating companies: Vélo-Théâtre (F), Théâtre Manarf (F), Théâtre de Cuisine (F), Green Ginger/Pickled Image (GB), Turak (F), La Balestra (F), Les Petits Miracles (F), Compagnie Gare Centrale (B) and Laïka (B). Co-produced with the Halles de Schaerbeek, EQUINOXE, National theatre of Chateauroux and La Laiterie in Strasbourg.

**Within the framework of Premis Fad Sebatia Gasch, awarded the "Aplaudiment Internacional Joan German Schreöder" in Barcelona in 2002. Prize for the best foreign show of the season in Catalonia.**



2002 **"Les Zakouskis Erotiks"**, conception, script, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. 60 performances in Belgium, Switzerland, France, Germany, Holland, Austria.

2002 **"Duel"**, conception, direction and scenography: Caroline Bergeron, assisted by Alain Moreau for the direction. 50 performances in Belgium, France, Portugal, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Co-produced with the Centro Cultural de Belém (Portugal), and Très Tôt Théâtre, Quimper.

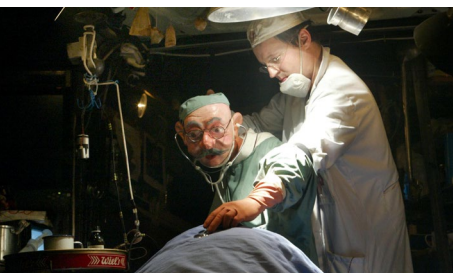
2003 **"A Tout Jamais ! / Lebwohl, bis morgen !"**, conception, script (in collaboration with the actors ), direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. Co-produced with the Theater Marabu, Bonn. 150 performances to date in Belgium, France, Switzerland, Germany, Byelorussia, Portugal, Brazil, Italia, Holland, Tchequia.

**"Coup de Coeur" from the press and the Minister for Young Children and Fundamental Education prize at the Rencontres Théâtre Jeune Public at Huy 2003.**

2004 **"Bistouri"** (street version) conception, script (in collaboration with the actors), direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. Co-produced with the Festival des Arts Forains "Namur en mai", with the complicity of "Percusos", european project lead by the Centro Cultural de Belém. Performances in Belgium, France, Switzerland, Spain, Italy, Canada, Portugal, Israel.



2005 **"Les Bénévoles"** (events and shows) conception, script, direction, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. Co-produced with PASS- Scientific adventure park Mons-Frameries, the Théâtre de Namur/Dramatic Centre. With the participation of the Centre des Arts Scéniques (Performing Arts Centre), and with the complicity of the festival "Théâtre à Tout Age", Quimper. Performances in Belgium and France.



2006 **"Bistouri"** (theatre version) conception, script (in collaboration with the actors), direction, scenography and puppets : Alain Moreau. 250 showings to this day in Belgium, France, Israel, Brazil, Morocco and Ireland.

2007 **"Fritkot"**, a rerun and adaptation of the show "Le Roi de la frite" in a caravan. 50 showings in Belgium and in France.

2007 **"Le grand retour"**, conception, writing, staging, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. 30 showings to this day in France and in Vietnam. In February 2008, the show was awarded at the International Festival of Puppetry of Hanoi (Vietnam) with a gold medal and the Press and Audience Prize.

2009 **"Premiers pas sur la Dune"**, a show without words for ages 3 and up... Conception, writing, staging, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. 300 showings to this day in Belgium, France, Portugal, Italy and Denmark. Winner of the Ministry of Culture Prize and the "Coup de cœur de la presse" (Rencontres de Huy - August 2009).

2009 **"Sur la dune"**, a show for adults. Conception, writing, staging, scenography and puppets: Alain Moreau. 50 showings to this day in Belgium, France, Italy and Denmark. Show nominated with the Prix de la Critique 2010 award in the category of Artistic Creation and Technique.

2011 **"Piccoli Sentimenti"**, a show for young people ages 3 and up, co-produced with the Teatro delle Briciole, drawing from the world of Antonio Catalano.

Piccoli Sentimenti was attributed the "Prix Résonnances" prize at the 21st "Festival International Jeune Public Momix" in Kingersheim (France). It has been nominated in Belgium as the best show in the category 'Young Audience' at the 2012 "Prix de la Critique". Winner of "Coup de coeur de la presse" (Rencontres de Huy - August 2012). (Rencontres de Huy - August 2009).

2013 **"In the Workshop"**, a short performance followed by a workshop in how to make a puppet. Creation in February 2013 at National Theater- Brussels.

2014 **« Soleil Couchant »** : a show for adults - 100 showings in en France, Guyana, Portugal, Italy, Martinique, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada...Coproductio : ONZE, Biennale de la Marionnette et des Formes manipulées - Mayenne, Sarthe, Maine-et-Loire.

2016 **« J'y pense et puis... »** : A fairground show for everyone aged 8 and up ! 200 showings in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Switzerland & Liechtenstein.

2018 **« Pourquoi pas ! »** : 180 showings in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg & Italy. Coproduction : Centres Scéniques de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles (Mars - Mons arts de la scène, Théâtre de Liège, Théâtre de Namur, Atelier Théâtre Jean Vilar, Louvain La Neuve), Rotondes - Luxembourg, Pierre de Lune, Centre dramatique jeunes publics de Bruxelles, Scène nationale du Sud-Aquitain, Centre Culturel du Brabant wallon. Partners: Teatro delle Briciole - Parme, Le Grand Bleu, Lille, Le Théâtre - Scène Conventionnée de Laval, Théâtre Jean Arp, Clamart, Spectacle fabriqué au MONTY - Espace rural de création - Genappe, Maison des Arts Thonon Evian, Le Trident, Scène Nationale de Cherbourg, Festival Ad Hoc, Le Volcan, Scène Nationale du Havre, CDN de Haute-Normandie, Festival Théâtre à Tout Age, Quimper, L'Hectare - Scène conventionnée de Vendôme, Le Mouffetard-Théâtre des Arts de la Marionnette, Paris, Festival Export Import, Bruxelles (La Montagne Magique, Bronks), Scène Nationale 61, Alençon, Festival Puy de Mômes, Cournon d'Auvergne, Kulturhaus Niederrhein, Luxembourg.



## The other shows on tour...

In addition to *In the Workshop* our other shows continue to tour...

**Bistouri** (street version in a tent or theatre)

A very important patient in bed and, at his bedside, the retired "do-it-yourself" surgeon, delighted to be back at work. What famous patient has the old tinkerer managed to get hold of and what is at stake in the open-heart surgery about to take place?

One way or the other, the operation is going to be tricky!...

Preying on the weak and oppressed, this mercenary will spare no expense to get what he wants!...

Equipped with all the latest equipment such as the endoscopic video camera, a state-of-the-art anaesthetising mallet, a scalpel, a tin-opener, a woodsaw, he's ready to take a pleasurable trip into the turbulent entrails of his patient, to discover new, unexplored regions and perhaps come out of there with the desire to add an extra page or two to the dossier on an immortal myth. Whatever the outcome, his mission will be accomplished with a certain degree of gravity, a good dose of humour as well as his renowned professionalism !

**A show for all ages, 8 and up**

**Length:** street version 40 min/theatre version: 1 hour

**Number of spectators:** street version about 70/theatre version: 180

## Les Zakouskis Erotiks

Three short shows and an exhibition around a make-shift bar are what make up these devilish treats in which the audience gets to taste its little erotic desserts. After being welcomed by a puppet and the actors, depending on the number of people, the audience is divided into several groups. In this way, the whole audience sees the three shows simultaneously as they are

performed several times during the evening...

After each show everyone is reunited around our bar and is invited to peek through the hole of a lock where a few other saucy surprises await them...

For the connoisseurs of these simple but oh so important things... which have nothing to do with pornography, this evening is the occasion for letting loose in the spirit of tenderness and finesse...

**Length of the evening:** about 1 1/2 hours

**Number of spectators :** Maximum 150

## Piccoli Sentimenti

**A show without words for audiences ages 3 and up, drawing from the world of Antonio Catalano.**

In an exquisite blending of the Tof Theatre's unhinged and sensitive world of puppetry, the 'art brut' of Antonio Catalano and the 'untamed lutherie' of patamusician Max Vandervorst, Piccoli Sentimenti concocts a hymn to the marvel of the marvellous awakening to artistic sensibility!

"This precious moment brings us together, big and small, around a miniature landscape, which will progressively reveal its secrets. Nestled right up to the stage play, all tightly squeezed together, we join in contemplating these tiny little things, looking on with amazement as they connect with the great mystery of the world, a world yet to be explored (...)"

[Dominique Duthuit, France-Inter]

**Audience:** from 3 years old

**Maximum house:** 100 or 130 for schools

**Duration:** about 45 min





## Soleil Couchant

In the soft afternoon light of a sunny day, a man goes through a careful ritual as he sets up his last great oeuvre... Without uttering a word, he tells us about time passing, about what gets broken, what gets lost... A simple gesture evokes a memory, a memory leads to a sigh.

An ultimate toast to life and a dying day.

**Audience:** adults

**Maximum house:** 130

**Duration:** 50 min



## Pourquoi Pas!

"Pourquoi Pas!" is a gentle but crazy puppet show intended for boys and girls aged 3 and upwards.

This new play will have fun by gently shaking up young spectator's preconceptions of the division of roles between boys and girls and mums and dads. But not only that. It also yearns to uncover the alchemy that links a Daddy and his son and allow the audience to experience their infinite tenderness and boisterous affinity, as well as and clownish confrontations that punctuate their everyday life.

**Audience:** 3 years old

**Maximum house:** 130

**Duration:** 45 min

