We Should Be Dancing

Choregraphic score stolen from very young children



Pitch

We Should Be Dancing

A tragicomic docu-fiction

Kindly directed by Emilienne Flagothier

With

Nicole Stankiewicz, Pénélope Guimas, Aurélien Leforestier, Lucas Meister and Valentin Dayan

Running time: 1 hour

Audience: 11+

After filming young children in squares, five performers identically reproduce the children's natural movements that are generated by the pure, intense and devouring curiosity and inexhaustible thirst for learning and playing. Seeing the gulf that separates the inventive bodies of toddlers from our serious, useful and too-precise adult gestures, the quintet wonders: "Where has our taste for adventure and experimentation gone?" A genuinely heart-warming docu-drama about creative power, joy and freedom, that makes you want to run around like the crazy child you never stopped being.

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Intentions

A Zen master gave to his student, who was learning archery, the example of children: "The art of Zen is the everyday spirit, and this everyday spirit is nothing else than sleeping when we're tired, eating when we're hungry. As soon as we think, deliberate, conceptualize, the original unconsciousness gets lost, and a thought gets in the way. We don't eat anymore when we eat, we don't sleep anymore when we sleep."

What we want is simple... we want to be alive again!

Because we know that this pure presence of the Zen, this organicity is something we had, but lost. By growing up, we gained a better control of our body, a better sense of balance, more precise gesture (if you remember, it was very hard to tie your laces, and you where really happy the first time you succeeded). But you also lost some amazing possibilities: grace, connexion with the world, freedom.

How could we have let ourselves drift so far from this active presence in the world? Did we finally manage to dry up this vital curiosity that stimulated us so much and kept us awake, lively, so attentive to the world and ourselves? What kind of education have we been subjected to forget that the desire for knowledge was initially linked to the instinctive search for happiness? Have we forgotten that our bodies are not only means of locomotion for our huge and heavy heads?

Did becoming an adult mean 'becoming serious'?

We want to share with the audience the experience of a show they may have the opportunity to watch every day, but that once on a stage becomes suddenly burlesque or tragic. Isolate elements of reality to sharp our vision. Take a step back to learn to see again the extraordinary dimension of our lives...

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Themes that fascinate us

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Freedom, as it expresses itself in bodies, its power or the lack of it. And its opposite: social constraint, or more simply 'order', the 'norm', the 'normal', in terms of physicality and behaviour.

Openness to things, to situations, the candid look that can for a moment, even a long moment, contemplate what surrounds it, what it encounters, without immediately grasping it, assigning it a meaning, reducing it to a label, putting it in a box, judging it and finally getting rid of it.

Curiosity, a driving and powerful force, that we are all able to exercise and stimulate. Reality is an inexhaustible creative material. You don't have to look very far to awaken in yourself the deities of Curiosity, Adventure and Liveliness.

The gaze is an action and makes us active. If we take an interest in something with strength and attention, besides destroying Fear and Cliché, it becomes interesting. In a time when everyone, including artists, is short of time, it is essential to look at things around us in their own rythm. It's an easy way to reconnect with the living, when we feel separated from the world.

The Body

We Should Be Dancing proposes a revenge for the body, which had lost its first battle against the mind. What is missing in our happiness, in our education, in our politics, in our common struggle, is first and foremost a relationship with the body. An outside the norm body. A free and spontaneous body.

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Distribution

Creation: 19 march 2019

Director: Emilienne Flagothier.

Actors: Lucas Meister, Nicole Stankiewicz, Aurélien Leforestier, Pénélope Guimas,

Valentin Dayan.

Dramaturgy: Nicole Stankiewicz,

Joséphine Privat.

Costumes: Lily Flagothier. Sound: Noam Rzewski

Lighting and technical direction:

Ines Isimbi

Accompaniment in distribution at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival:

Ad Lib - Artists support

Produced by Mars – Mons arts de la scène, and the Théâtre de Liège/Festival Emulation.

With the help of the Ministery of culture Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles – Service du Théâtre.

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Emilienne Flagothier

Emilienne Flagothier is 29 but has already reincarnated 8 times, under different forms.

In INSAS (BE), she directed non-theatrical texts like Cioran, Racine, Marie-Madeleine or Queen, and also created completely silent shows. In 2015, she wrote a Mémoire on a certain contemporary european type of theater, shat she called "Le Nul" ("Zero Theater"). Since 2016 she plays in *The Thinker's Corner*, a street performance of philosophy by Dominique Roodthoof, and continues her theatrical activity with an experimental collectiv from Brussels: I'AS-BL ASBL. In 2019 she went to Goma (RDC) to create a play with Frédérique Lecomte and a group of kind-soldiers: *Vita Siyo Ya Watoto (war is not a game for children)*.

Emilienne is currently dramaturge on FORUM, by Nicole Stankiewicz, writing a autobiographic solo about sex (Let's talk about sex, 2023-2025), and will soon be performing in Fantômes, by Daniel Schmitz (collective La Station/Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles). Her next show, RAGE, is a feminist utopic fiction, where dozens of cis-men are successively killed by a bunch of fed-up women (Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles/MARS Monsarts-de-la-scène, March 2022)



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Le théâtre spontané des jeux d'enfants Focus

de bouger. Ils ne se demandent pas ce que renvoie leur corps comme image.»

La représentation du corps Ce n'est pas uniquement la force poétique



Sound

Broadcasting: front (and far ideally) + stage returns

Projection

A VP and a screen on a reel (if necessary we have a portable screen)

Light

A uniform, gelatinous 202 light. (two rows of PCs and cut-outs in front, one row of PCs against, 8 PARs laterally)

Stage

Ideal wall-to-wall opening: 12m Italian-style layout: 5 regular planes Ideal playing surface: 8m opening and 10m depth Black dance floor

We Should Be Dancing is supported by

(5 actor·ress-dancers, 1 technician,

with a pre-assembly the day before.

Mars - Mons arts de la scène.

Set-up possible on D-Day,

Conditions

on tour

7 people on tour

1 director)



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We Should Be Dancing

Emilienne Flagothier

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