



Country

Herbeys, FRANCE

Company & Show Title

Compagnie La Pendue, *Poli Dégaine (Punchy Draw)*

Show Description

Compagnie La Pendue's *Poli Dégaine* is an interactive two-person puppetry production. As the production begins, the puppeteers proclaim their show will be exceptional. To support their proclamation, they attempt to introduce the most famous puppet in the world: Polichinelle, the traditional trickster character derived from Italian Commedia Dell'Arte also known as: Pulcinella (Italy), Punch (England), Kaspar (Germany), and Karagoz (Greece). Unfortunately, "Punchy" does not want to cooperate. He refuses to interrupt his nap and play his part, and he wards off a variety of characters from the typical Polichinelle show – the dog, the hen, the policeman, the devil, the hangman – even his wife Dame Gigogne and their 22 children. He vanquishes all the puppets from the puppeteers' traveling case. In the end, refusing the show becomes the reason for the show and the puppeteers have delivered on their promise of excellence.

Poli Dégaine is performed with glove puppets and a stage reminiscent of traditional street puppet theater. The production utilizes minimal dialogue; the plot is action-driven rather than text-driven and is highly visual. The minor amount of dialogue spoken is primarily in French, with some English mixed in when performed in English-speaking countries. La Pendue begins the production by stating in English that they have good news and bad news. They go on to say that the bad news is that the show is in French. The good news is that it doesn't matter because there is no story anyway. With this introduction, Cie La Pendue establishes both the production's humor and its action-driven nature.

Workshop:

Discussion about the character of Polichinelle: his history, his technique, and La Pendue's work. Translator preferred.

Company Bio (WEBSITE: www.lapendue.com)

The French puppet company La Pendue was created in 2003 in Grenoble by Estelle Charlier and Romuald Collinet, two former pupils from the National School for Puppetry of Charleville-Mézières. Before meeting in Charleville-Mézières, Charlier studied at the Conservatory for Dramatic Art in Grenoble and was a performing arts student at her University. Collinet began performing street puppetry at the age of 17 and studied for a time with the Neapolitan master Bruno Leone, who taught him performance techniques from the 400 year-old Pulcinella (Punch) tradition.

La Pendue is managed by Le Théâtre de l'Homme Ridicule, and it has built its workshops, its yurts, and its rehearsal room on the top of Herbey's hill. The artists from La Pendue orient their work in two directions: traditional glove puppet productions inspired by Pulcinella as well as contemporary work which experiments with different puppetry techniques. Through the most varied and paradoxical forms, La Pendue desires to defend puppetry as a universal human symbol able to reveal dark zones, to alter social masks, and to guide the spectator toward his inner self.

La Pendue has performed at festivals and cultural programs throughout France and has also performed abroad in Canada, Egypt, Germany, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Switzerland, and the U.S. (New York).

Technical Information:

Duration: 50 minutes

Audience age range: 6 and up; Audience size: 150-200, 120 for children groups

Stage Dimensions: 17'w x 17d x 12'h (Indoor or Outdoor performances available)

Language: Minimal French dialogue, some English

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Tour Availability

7/17/09-7/22/09

Company Contact Info

Estelle Charlier

Chemin de la vie

La Côte

F-38320 Herbeys, France

phone: +33 (0)6 19 60 93 63

email: contact@lapendue.fr

www.lapendue.fr