

LES PROMISES



UNPLUSH COMPANY
CREATION 2019-2021

PREMIERE 4 MARCH 2021

CO-PRODUCTION
DAMPFZENTRALE BERN

DURATION : 1 HOUR
LANGUAGE: FRENCH
SUBTITLES: ENG / GER

TEASER:

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/353605634](https://vimeo.com/353605634)

UNPLUSH.CH
LESPRODUCTIONSDELASEINE.COM

WITH: AMIRA NJAHI, RACHEL HOUMADI,
FATIMA KHADISSOVA, ILHEM MECHENTEL,
MINANE OULD IBBAT, DJENNA SEKARNA

ARTISITC DIRECTOR: MARION ZURBACH

FILM DIRECTOR: GIULIA ANGRISANI

FILM EDITOR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: MATTIA PETULLÀ

COMPOSER: GIORGIO GRISTINA

STAGE DESIGNER & DRAMATURGE : ARTHUR ESKENAZI

COSTUME DESIGNER: SILVIA ROMANELLI

ARTISTIC ASSISTANT: VITTORIO BERTOLLI

LIGHT DESIGNER: JULIEN FRESNOIS

EDUCATORS: MOHAMMED KASSOURI, RIDHA AATI &
CLAUDE MARAIS

STRUCTURES: ADDAP 13, SALC, CENTRE SOCIAL DEL RIO

PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: MARTINA LANGMANN

DIFFUSION: LES PRODUCTIONS DE LA SEINE,
FLORENCE FRANCISCO & GABRIELLE BAILLE

SUMMARY

Les promises is an artistic collaboration between six teenage women living in the northern districts of Marseille, artists, social workers and anthropologists invited by Unplush.

The performers look at us, we hear their voices. They express themselves on the project, their expectations and possibles futures. These audio testimonies support or bring a new reading to the physical scenes where they explore their intimate and phantasmagorical universes.

The performers are expressing themselves on subjects that are close to their hearts through their imagination and history. Themes they wish to explore are being recreated like their view on their environment and the myths they build in order to exist.

Giving a tutorial on make-up, being put in a bag before migrating, singing a love song, being drugged with an Oasis drink or playing rough guys, are just some of the many reinventions of reality they express with generosity and passion.

They help each other to overcome their fear of exposure and of „shocking“. In real life as well as on stage, best friends are always present and essential.

Aware of the clichés that surround their social context, the teenage girls use parody, memes and self-irony to create a space of complicity and empathy. Their testimonies and allegories turn out to be activators of an anthropo-poetry, transforming intimate social realities into scenic events.

The territories these performers bring us to are multiple, ritualistic or even burlesque. They allow us to approach the delicate task of definition and testimony together.

RESEARCH

The teenagers are invited to share their experiences and how they fit in. Questions of femininity, mixed gender, cultural melting pot, etc. are all parameters governing the life and development of these women. This creative work offers Unplush the opportunity to approach these themes through their eyes and explore various dimensions to their perception of circumstance.

The choreographic research uses group dynamics as a driving force for the choreographic creation and explores the identity of this group of women on stage. The performers develop their creativity, both through research in contemporary dance and by taking inspiration from viral choreographies on the internet, which they transform and appropriate as a group.

The theatrical research explores the potential of expression and imagination through speculative narrative. By creating fictional scenarios and characters, the performers are developing various narratives by themselves.

The audio-visual work produced by the anthropologist and film director Giulia Angrisani accompanies the performance. Her research investigates the process of deconstructing social labels and representations that obey the social phenomenon these teenage women are part of.

Together with the teenagers, she composed a video biography made of analogies, affections and objects, but also of concrete testimonies, relics and findings. The video work is made from videos made by the teenagers with their smartphones and a collection of the young women's favourite places, people and objects, made unique by the emotions and memories attached to them. The audio work is been created from interviews with each performer, presenting an intimate portrait of the feelings that inhabit them.

BIOGRAPHIES

MARION ZURBACH

Artistic director

Marion was born in Martigues, France. She started her training at the École Nationale Supérieure de Danse in Marseille, before moving on to the École-Atelier Rudra Béjart Lausanne, where she began her professional career with Maurice Béjart's "Compagnie M". Between 2003 and 2015, she was a member of the Teatro comunale di Firenze, the Ballet National de Marseille, and was a soloist at the Bern Ballet and the Tanzcompagnie Konzert Theater Bern. In 2015, Marion founded with Vittorio Bertolli the Bern-based artistic association UNPLUSH and starts creating works for the company. Since its creation, UNPLUSH has collaborated regularly with the Dampfzentrale Bern, toured in Switzerland and abroad and has won several awards. In 2018, Marion completed her Master of Theatre and Performance degree at Bern University of the Arts (HKB). In 2020-21, she created "Les promises", a piece made with teenage woman living in the northern districts of Marseille. In 2021 she will work on UNPLUSH' artistic development and the new creation „Biche“.

GIULIA ANGRISANI

Film director

Giulia Angrisani graduated in sociology from the Federico II University of Naples, with a specialization in anthropology. In 2013, she successfully completed her thesis project in collaboration with the Research Centre in Anthropology CRIA (Lisbon, PT). In 2014, with a team of architects and designers, she participated in the visual documentation of the art art project „Le Jardin“, winner of the

third edition of the „Castel Sant'Elmo in Naples, Italy". In 2015, she directed a documentary in collaboration with two other anthropologists, thanks to this work, she was selected in 2016 to enter the Master in Graphic and Pedagogical Research (ERG), choosing the thesis „Speculative Narrative". Her research work focuses on the creation of a common field between art and social sciences, with „visual anthropology" as the basic study.

GIORGIO GRISTINA

Composer

Giorgio Gristina was born in Palermo, Italy. He holds a Master of Anthropology degree from the University of Turin and a diploma in sound recording and editing from the Scuola APM in Saluzzo. In 2010, he completed an internship at the Tempo Reale electronic music research centre in Florence. Since then, he has taken part in numerous performances and installations (Fabbrica Europa, Oficinas do Convento, Museu da Água, Espaço Alcantara, Negócio ZDB, Atalaia Artes Performativas, etc.) and worked on dozens of films and animated features (with Zelig, Stefilm, Evolution, Longshot, Terratrema, Elenfant and Vidéolotion). From 2012 to 2014, he worked as a sound engineer at Sankeys (Ibiza). Since 2015, he has been based in Lisbon, where he has collaborated on various artistic projects (with Zelig School, Ar.Co, Filmin, Il Sorpasso, Ebano Collective and others) and has recently begun a doctorate at the Institute of Social Sciences. As a DJ/producer, he appears under various pseudonyms and releases music with the "Brusio" label under the name "Jitter". He also works with various independent radio collectives and composes soundtracks for the label CusCus Discus.

VITTORIO BERTOLLI

Artistic assistant

Born in Napoli, Vittorio graduated from the Ecole Atelier Rudra Béjart Lausanne in 2002. During the following years he danced for several ballet and contemporary dance companies, such as the Béjart Ballet Lausanne, the Teatro alla Scala di Milano, the Compagnia Aterballetto and Bern Ballet. After the encounter with David Zambrano in 2008, Vittorio's interest shifted to different ways of expressing his passion for dance. Since then he works with artists coming from very different artistic backgrounds. Alongside his work as a performer, assistant choreographer, and dramaturge Vittorio teaches Flying Low regularly at Tanzcompagnie Konzert Theater Bern and in several companies and education programs in Europe. In 2015 he co-founded with Marion Zurbach the company UNPLUSH. In 2018, he achieved the MAS program in Dance Science at the University of Bern.

ARTHUR ESKENAZI

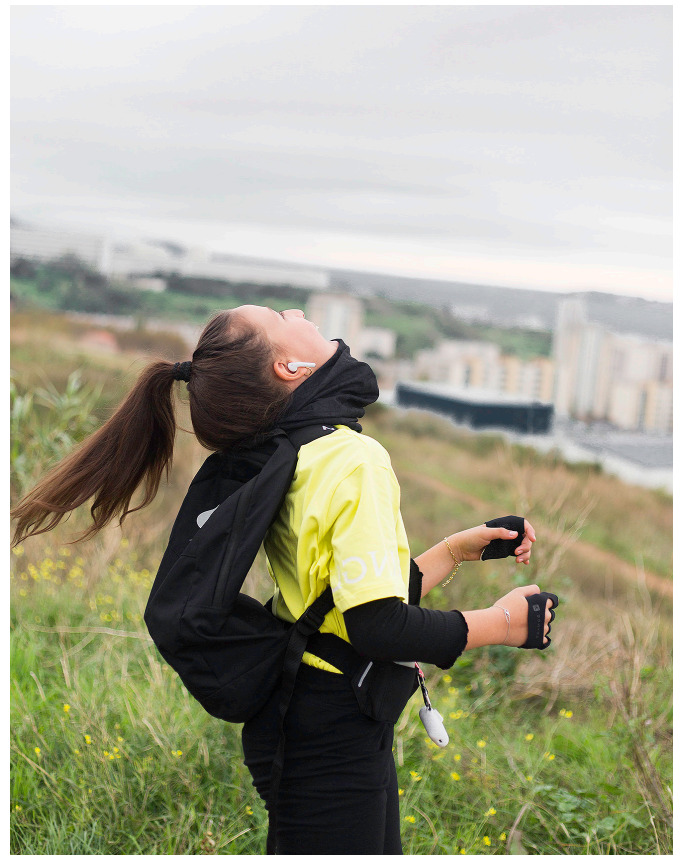
Dramaturge and stage designer

Arthur Eskenazi graduated from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris in 2012 and obtained an "exerce" Master of Dance and Performance Research degree at the Centre Chorégraphique National de Montpellier in 2015. A visual artist but also a performer, his work casts a broad net over various media in both the visual and performing arts. He regularly provides guidance on dramaturgy and scenography for theatre and contemporary dance creations, putting together alternative research programmes. His work has been presented at a number of group exhibitions in France, Germany and Japan, as well as in various performance and dance festivals.

SILVIA ROMANELLI

Costume designer

Silvia obtained a degree in Design and Fashion from the Università Iuav di Venezia in 2013, and in the same year, was one of ten candidates selected by ITS, an international competition for young talent in the world of art and fashion. After working as an assistant for various artists at the Venice Biennale (including Ai Wei Wei, Lola Shnabel and Rirkrit Tiravanija), she moved to Paris, where she worked as an assistant designer at the haute couture label Aganovich. She worked in events production from 2015 to 2017, assisted various companies and worked as a performer herself. In 2018, she began a collaboration with the choreography duo Paola Stella Minni and Konstantinos Rizos, which opened the door to collaborations with other international artists as an external advisor, textile artist, costume designer and scenographer.



UNPLUSH

Unplush is a transdisciplinary art association connecting artists from various fields such as dance, performance, music, visual arts and graphic design.

Since 2017, the collective UNPLUSH has been presenting performances, organising clubbing events and workshops in dance and choreographic writing.

With its vast collaborations, formats and venues, Unplush is actively involved in the swiss cultural scene and produces for a broad audience.

UNPLUSH COMPANY

The company proposes works that result from the dialogue between people participating in the productions. Whether they are artists or working in other fields, the meeting between people with different life experiences or of different ages is seen as a stimulus for reflection and solidarity.

Under the artistic direction of Marion Zurbach, the performers work from their connection to a theme, with their imagination and history.



Between myth and realism, tragedy and humour, UNPLUSH observes constructions, existential strategies or non human life forms. A reflection on our conditionings, our struggles and what a space of speculation like the stage can produce.

PRIZES AND CREATIVE SUPPORT

2019 – UNPLUSH receives the “June Johnson Dance Prize”

2018 – UNPLUSH receives three years of support from PRAIRIE, the Migros Culture Percentage’s co-production model for innovative Swiss theatre and dance companies.

2017 – “ACT-BAD Bilbao” prize for the piece LABOR at the ACT Festival Bilbao

– “Best Production of the 17/18 Season” prize for FLIPPER by the „Voyeur Bern“

DIFFUSION

LES PRODUCTIONS DE LA SEINE

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