

Minimally Invasive Procedure



UNPLUSH COMPANY

PREMIERE 25 NOVEMBER 2016

FESTIVAL LES CRÉATIVES,
THÉÂTRE DE L'ABRI, GENEVA

Trailer : vimeo.com/256291822

Full lenght : vimeo.com/432505523/e3aed49358

CONCEPT AND CHOREOGRAPHY : MARION ZURBACH

CHOREOGRAPHY : VITTORIO BERTOLLI

LIGHTS : JONAS BUHLER

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR : OLIVIER FAMIN

PRODUCTION: MARTINA LANGMANN

DIFFUSION : LES PRODUCTIONS DE LA SEINE

DURATION : 1 HOUR

LANGUAGES : ENGLISH / FRENCH

SUBTTILES : GERMAN

PRESENTATION OF THE PIECE

Minimally Invasive Procedure is a duet retracing the professional experiences of two dancers. One of them spent most of her childhood in a studio in Marseille, under the uncompromising discipline of a school, training top-level classical dancers. The other, was rather on the football fields or on the street with his friends in Naples, his hometown. When they finally met at the Ecole Atelier Rudra Béjart in the year 2000, they continued to work as professional dancers ever since.

After 18 years of friendship and many shared adventures, they created this duet juxtaposing the origins of their dissimilar paths. They question what urged them into this profession and how their childhood experience might have influenced their view of it. But above all, they seek to rediscover the innocence of their first shows and transmit the irrepressible pleasure of being on stage, through movement and humour.

Minimally Invasive Procedure presents a rigorously satirical examination of the numerous shows' genres accompanying the protagonists' careers. Celebrating and exploring the show, they use grand emotions, humour, characters and confessions as intriguing tools.

"It is rare to laugh heartily, out loud, during a dance show... The spectators were taken by Vittorio, look-alike of Nanni Moretti and Marion, mischievous playmaker, swore to come back at the next (happy) occasion." – François Passard, Director of Théâtre de l'Abri

BACKGROUND

Minimally Invasive Procedure takes Marion's experience at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Danse de Marseille (1992-1999) as a starting point, questioning the institution's pedagogical function through her own story.

What about the child and the transitioning body, the panic when it changes with puberty? What about the horror of wounds, doctors, fragility and loneliness? But what about those intense moments of joy, solidarity, pride and determination?

Out of her need to put this experience into perspective, she invited Vittorio to join her. In the research for a solo, which became a duo, as well as during the course of the show, she invites him to dance the mythical „The Nutcracker“ duett with her. This moment, the audience doesn't know that Vittorio is her accomplice yet; creates a thrilling scene. From there, they enter adulthood, desiring to observe how they perceive this shared present and the remains of their childhood dream. Can they relive it on stage and share it with an audience?

Between the ideal, fantasized about by a child and the grown-up reality, there is little in common. There is just one thing that always endured; it's the great pleasure, sometimes a bit masochistic, but always authentic. Without it, there would be no show.

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 with UNPLUSH Company, HEPTEKA and AMAClub.

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, anthropologists or amateur dancers, 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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BIOGRAPHIES

MARION ZURBACH

Concept and choreography

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, 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 „Do it Mayra“.

VITTORIO BERTOLLI

Choreography

Born and raised 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 collaborated with choreographers such as Maurice Béjart, Mauro Bigonzetti, William Forsythe, Ohad Naharin, Andonis Foniadakis, Alexander Ekman and Johan Inger. After the encounter with David Zambrano in 2008, Vittorio's interest shifted to different ways of expressing his passion for dance. Since then he collaborates 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.

