

Amarante Theatre Company presents

RAG DOLL IN THE RAIN



The adventures of a Rag Doll forgotten on a public bench

A show for children (6 months to 6 years of age) and the entertainment of the whole family.
Mime, music, animated illustrations and Chinese shadow play.

Amarante Theatre Company

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The Amarante
Theatre Company is
sponsored by Le Vigan
town council and Le
Gard regional council.



★ RAG DOLL IN THE RAIN ★

The adventures of a Rag Doll forgotten on a public bench

After the 2013 young audience production "On the Road, The cycle of "Teddies on the road" is continued with this step into the universal theme of the lost teddy, alone in the big wide world.



STORYLINE:

Lucien, a little boy drawn to the music played by a group of troubadours, slips away from his parents. He carefully seats his doll so that they can enjoy the performance together. During the loud applause, Lucien's worried parents finally locate him and take him home... But Lucien has forgotten his beloved doll on a public bench.



THE ADVENTURES OF A RAG DOLL:

It's the beginning of a series of incredible adventures for the Rag doll, which lead her to overcome her fears, discover the wide world and make new friends.

With the help of an umbrella, she flies off to the forest and discovers the joys of Nature at the end of Summer... but soon the cold Autumn wind captures her and Winter covers her with his white cloak.... until the wakeup call of Spring.

She awakens next to a playful newly hatched bird chick and when she saves one from falling out of the nest, she makes a new friend... During one of their flights into the sky, while sitting on his back, the doll sees Lucien's window and Lucien waiting for her.

With the adventures of this doll, Colinda Ferraud, director and mime performer, revisits our childhood stories. Covering "The little lead soldier" by Anderson to "Otto, autobiography of a teddy bear" by Tomi Ungerer, a whole wealth of stories is drawn on to evoke the feelings of abandon, loneliness and friendship to the younger members of the audience, while engaging the older members too.

THE CYCLES OF LIFE:

The doll travels through the cycle of the seasons, and fills her senses with many discoveries: giving the children the opportunity to project themselves into another familiar cycle, that of their everyday life.





A CINEMA CONCERT FOR VERY YOUNG AUDIENCES



COLINDA FERRAUD,

Actress and director, has chosen to tell the incredible and touching adventures of this rag doll in a performance for very young audiences, mixing the varied techniques of **silent cinema, musical comedies, audio books and graphic design**. A subtle artistic recipe for presenting the public with a cinema concert...in theatrical form.

To this end, she has surrounded herself with artists from very different artistic cultures.



ILYA GREEN,

Illustrator for children, encountered in 2012 and already familiar with the company's previous work, is responsible for the cinematographic atmosphere, together with Cédric Bouillot (animation). For this production, she has created a graphic environment linking the "cardboard box scenery" style of the old Hollywood studios with a modern and childlike background. The rolling backdrops and the animated Chinese shadow scenes projected onto a castelet (screen structure) the size of a cinema screen are central to the flow of the story.

The rag doll character evolves and dances in front of the different backdrops. And that's not all: Ilya has also concocted several illustrations which will be projected at the beginning of the performance as an introduction to the Story, like a giant Kamishibai !



THE TRIO "BILLY IN THE BOX",

is behind all the composing and writing of the music of the show. They accompany the brave rag doll on stage during the entire performance, with voices, ukulele, accordion, and musical saw.

They create and transform the atmosphere throughout the different seasons and feelings: **moving from the good old swinging tunes of musical comedies to the rousing waltzes of country ballades, passing through the poignant lament of solitude.**



THE AMARANTE THEATRE COMPANY AND MIME: A LOVE STORY.

The mime of silent cinema remains a mainstay of Amarante's productions. It is the possibility of a universal language, beyond words.

It is an emotional and corporal form of expression that touches each and everyone.

Very young children speak this language fluently, without any need for translation. Older children slip into it with delight and it reminds adults of their own childhood.



A SHOW FOR ALL PLACES.



In the spirit of popular theatre "Rag doll in the Rain" can be performed anywhere, or almost ! In the tradition of travelling theatre, the Company can turn up and set up their giant castelet (screen structure) on a village square, in a public garden, on a street corner, in a theatre, at the back of a classroom or in the town hall !

In order to be able to offer this show to all types of organizing structures, this production can take two performance forms: The "cinema concert" with live music and the "passe-partout" version with recorded music.

ARTISTIC TEAM:

Directing and writing: Colinda Ferraud

Acting: Colinda Ferraud

Illustration: Ilya Green

Composing, performance and musical arrangements:

Clément Pasanau, Petra Håkansson et Lovisa Elwerdotter

Costumes and scenery design: Fanny Boix Sabata

Animation: Cédric Bouillot

Scenery construction: Bruno Vignon





Activities around the production

Colinda Ferraud, actress and director, is also passionate about animation. She thinks the production takes all its importance when followed or preceded by educational workshops or related activities.

"Mime and Chinese Shadow" workshops:

The children have just been immersed in a language they already know very well, body language! What an opportunity to explore this talent they possess.

Mime: Using short games of corporeal expression, of physical cooperation, of touch. Colinda leads them towards the expression of their emotions and the re-elaboration of their daily acts.

Chinese Shadow play: Using various object or their own bodies, the children rediscover the magic of shadow games and the illusions they can create.

These playful workshops can be followed by a short representation of an improvised play or scene based on a main theme: a magical story, an imaginary picture, a daily scene...with the actress.

If the show has been performed in the form of a "cinema concert", the musicians are also present to accompany the games and drama workshops.

A introduction to Ilya Green's artistic world:

At the end of the show, the audience can view a selection of Ilya Green's books and a small exhibition of her work.

Finally, during the workshops, the children can play in front of the background created by Ilya Green and thereby be immersed, as if by magic, into a life size book-like world.



Technical Information



Audience

6 months to 6 years and for the entertainment of the whole family.

We offer two performance forms:

The **"cinema concert"**: a solo performance of mime played in front of a video projection and accompanied by a trio of musicians playing live. A magical moment, enchanting all the senses.

The **"passe partout"** form : the solo performance of mime played in front of the video projection and accompanied by recorded music. This form is more economical in price.

Show duration : 30 minutes

The show can be followed by mime/Chinese shadow workshops of 25 minutes.

Minimum stage space requirement:

5 m length by 5m width. Inside or outside. (if the performance is played outside, please ensure that light does not come from behind the stage or provoke overexposure). Please ensure that inside rooms can be darkened for lighting purposes.

Sound and Lighting requirements:

Technically we are autonomous, our only requirement being one or two 16A electrical outlets for performances (inside or outside). The children should be seated partly on the floor, partly on chairs and ideally with an intermediate row (of little benches, for example). The company can provide small tiers of seats if necessary (tariff to be added to the bill).

Capacity:

School performances: 80 children.

Public performances: 150 people, adults and children included.

Set Up time:

1h30/ 2h30 (inside/outside)

Strike time:

1 h

Dressing rooms:

We need an area for dressing rooms including a sink with running water, a mirror and toilets.





The **Amarante Theatre Company** is based in Le Vigan (Gard). It was founded in 2007, following the meeting of several actresses during a theatre course at **the International Lassaad Theatre School in Brussels**. These actresses all share a common interest in Jacques Lecoq's teachings, which essentially derive from the dramatic form known as "**movement theatre**".

The Company has developed in the true spirit of **popular theatre, promoting the right to bring artistic quality and excellence to everyone**. It caters to a variety of audiences, with productions for adults and young audiences, even for very young children. The distinctive signature of the "body in movement" is present throughout the widely contrasting productions, combining a variety of acting techniques: **silent cinema, mime, dance, singing, and puppet manipulation with powerful, poetic texts** to question or provoke the spectators.

All our productions can be **staged inside or outside** because the company feels it adheres to the values and culture of **travelling theatre**, putting on shows that can be performed everywhere, in the street, in the town hall, in theatres or **circus tent**, in town or in the countryside... where ever audiences can be met, caught, captivated and engaged! To this end, the company also holds **workshops and training courses** before and after the performances, as well as holding debates or setting up **village cabarets** wherever one might be enjoyed...



Colinda Ferraud
Actress, director

Colinda Ferraud is a **director and an actress**. She was drawn to **theatre by movement** : after having practiced diverse **forms of dance** (Thierry Raymond, Solène Fiumani, Carla Forris) **and vocal work** (Pascale Ben Ganymède, Roy Art théâtre) she discovers Jacques Lecoq's work through Christine Darrigade. She then attends the Lassaad School in Brussels and finds her own special artistic language: **Mime and silent cinema**. The daily experience of role creation leads her to the world of directing.

Within the **Amarante Company**, she created and performed in the collective productions, "**Caterpillar my love**" (2010), a puppet and mime show for young audiences, "**On the use of little boots**" (2011), a cross-country cabaret.

She directed "**Croisades/ Crusades**" (2008) a contemporary tragedy by Michel Azama and "**On the road**" (2013), a musical and itinerant production for young audiences.

In addition to these activities, she also accompanies other artists in the directing of their projects (« **Stabat Mater Furiosa** », « **Jean aux sabots de vents** », Company Sept Vents).

Her artistic work is also often solicited during the workshops with the children, the adults and handicapped persons. Today she is the artistic director of the Amarante Company and is fully occupied by the multi-discipline young audience production "**Rag doll in the Rain**".



Ilya Green
Illustrator

Ilya Green was born in Provence in 1976 and today lives in the Cevennes. Captivated by art since childhood and after studying at the Beaux Arts (fine art school) she begins working for the press and publishers for young public. As an Illustrator and author, she develops child like worlds, often bathed in a dreamy atmosphere. She also engages in all sorts of graphic experiments as her meetings and wishes dictate.

Selective Bibliography:

Nos beaux doudous, Didier Jeunesse, 2013
Mon arbre, Didier Jeunesse, 2013
Le pestacle, Didier Jeunesse, 2011
Strongboy, le tee-shirt de pouvoir, Didier Jeunesse, 2007
Les plus belles berceuses jazz, Didier Jeunesse, octobre 2012
Le Masque, text Stéphane Servant, Didier Jeunesse, 2011
Achille et la rivière, text Olivier Adam, Actes Sud, 2011
Peter Pan et Wendy, text JP Ker'loch (adaptation de Barrie), Didier Jeunesse, 2011
Marre du rose, text Nathalie Hense, Albin Michel Jeunesse, 2009
Bou et les 3 zours, text Elsa Valentin, L'Atelier du Poisson Soluble, 2008
Ti Poucet, text Stéphane Servant, Rue du Monde, 2009
Bulle et Bob préparent Noël, text Nathalie Tual, Didier Jeunesse, octobre 2012

Press editions:

Regular collaborations with: Pomme d'api, Les Belles Histoires (Bayard), Mille et une histoire (Fleurus).



Billy in the box
Musicians

Clément Pasanau, Petra Håkansson and Lovisa Elwerdotter

are all self-taught musicians, who have played together since 2009 in various formations, acoustic trio, musical theatre performances, the Golden Parapluie group (jazz, funk, rock) in partnership with Radio Grille Ouverte.

In 2011 they win the support of the FEMAG and put on their first musical theatre show. They also meet David Rullier (Steppe theatre company) and Patrick Ruel (Cabosse Theatre), with whom they have held several residencies to pursue their scenic work.

Petra (vocals) started her musical career playing Jazz and now explores many influences in several different formations; she is also passionate about theatre and marie chant and drama with enthusiasm.

Lovisa (vocals, guitar, accordion) comes from cinema (short films, documentaries) and since arriving in France in 2009, has immersed herself in music. In 2013, in parallel with her other musical work, she has started playing with a music-therapy formation in Montpellier.

Clement is a multi instrumentalist; he started playing the guitar but also plays accordion, ukulele, and the musical saw. In 2014, they set up the trio **"Billy in the box"** to accompany the Amarante Theatre company's new show for young audiences (composition and performance of the musical and sound environment).



Cédric Bouillot
Composer, musician and actor.

Cédric Bouillot is a **composer, musician and actor.**

Arranger and performer in several groups of contemporary music (Booyaka, ZTB, Lounge therapy) He has won several projet tenders and festival prizes (MK2 music project, Flash Festival du Centre Pompidou). Since 2001, he has made **sound tracks and musical arrangements** for various Theatre companies (**"Pièces détachées"** by Gaspard Herblot, **"Patty Diphusa"** by the Theatre du Gimnase) and for radio programs or news stories. In 2008 his meeting with **he Amarante and Du Slip theatre companies** draws him into the theatre world.

At that point, he and Julien Pinaud create **"Maison Rose" - A crazy clown show** and then **"Sur la Route / On the Road"**, a musical show for young audiences directed by Colinda Ferraud.

He also regularly makes **clips and animation on Flash** and works closely with Ilya Green (illustrator for children) on the **animation** of her drawings for Amarante Theatre company's new young public production **"Rag doll in the Rain"**. Mad about **Human beat box**, he uses this to rhythm his work and holds regular initiation workshops.



Fanny Boix Sabata
Costume and scenery designer

After studying **Applied Arts** where she discovered diverse techniques of drawing and its various related fields (architecture, fashion, design, art) ...in 2005 she decided on a **craftsman's diploma in theatre costume**, to satisfy a long standing desire to learn how to create clothing to fit a universe, an atmosphere or a story. Having designed costumes for several artists from different forms of live performance (lyrical vocalist Elena Wassilieva, puppeteers Zouak company, circus, theatre), in 2009 she co-launches a clothing brand **"Oizzo by brigandynes"** with Manoë Wacquez and they produce several prêt-à-porter collections as well as a jewellery range made from lacquer and fibre textiles..

Then, in 2013, she reconnects with show business and the **Amarante Company**, as a costume and scenery designer, working on **"Caterpillar, my love"** and **"On the road"** as well as on other Amarante projects (children's theatre workshops and the setting up of a caravan café).

In 2014, working in close collaboration with Ilya Green, she creates the costume for **"Rag doll in the Rain"**.

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