



les mouvements minuscules (tiny movements)

choreographic commissioning project for young children

Le petit B - Marion Muzac

A Le Gymnase CDCN associate production for the LOOP network Premiere November 2022 Show for all ages from 1 year upwards

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Le Gymnase (p.11) and the LOOP network (p.10) have devised a new commissioning project focused on very young children : *Les mouvements minuscules* (tiny movements).

This programme invites a choreographer to create a short form intended for very young children, to be performed in-situ (e.g. crèches and nursery schools) or on stage. *Les mouvements minuscules* project is entrusted to an artist whose writing is powerful and singular, who is uncompromising when it comes to aesthetics and who already has experience of addressing young audiences.

The aim of this new project is to encourage choreographic artists to create for very young

children, an age group where dance offers are particularly limited.

Seasoned choreographers will be invited who can devise demanding and inventive formats that are nevertheless adapted to the performance settings, such as venues and spaces designed for very young children.

Around this new project, a programme of teaching offers is being designed specifically for people who work with small children and their families.

The first composition in *Les mouvements minuscules* series, a piece called *Le petit B* created by the choreographer Marion Muzac, premiered in late 2022.



Le petit B a creation by Marion Muzac

"The mirror stage marks the start of gravitational autonomy. As soon as children can stand, they are able to control of their distance from others. This ability to approach and move away from others is going to constitute verticality for them. This acquired verticality will always be tinged, coloured, bent by horizontal events of the encounter, of otherness." **Hubert Godard**



After going through a rather dry and arid time in terms of the experience of using our senses, I feel the need to make up for what has been missing and what generally sets children on their path through life. What world did young children enter in 2021? How did we welcome them when our hidden faces were hidden and our expressions were masked? Despite being aware of the value of our expressions as a vital means of communication, we were prevented from interacting with them and were unable to experience emotional empathy.

To this end, *Le petit B* is an adventure involving young children's perceptions. They are spectators with their whole body. So, just as everything is movement in the world, they see, sense and touch... It seemed crucial to us to bring bodies into play. With the visual artist Émilie Faïf, we have devised a performance area consisting of bodies, materials and sounds in which the children are immersed.

The question of transformation lies at the heart of the process. Through dance, the bodies implied in Émilie Faïf's materials become the vehicle of physical puzzles. Through their movements and the whole range of possible nuances offered by the skill of a dancer's body, the children experience a rich sensorial adventure.

While the spectators are positioned on the edge of the installation, the dancers move gently between them with intelligence, the skilfulness of their gestures and the softness of the sculptures on which bodies are invited to stretch out and lie down to observe the dance in front of them in a different way. This brief immersive adventure invites them to relax and contemplate. The spellbinding and hypnotic musical universe provided by the voices of Johanna Luz and Vincent Barrau accentuates their immersion as they bathe in sounds, materials and poetry.

Marion Muzac, choregrapher

For all ages from 1 year upwards (accessible for crèches and schools) 30 minutes in-situ or on stage

Conception, choreography: Marion Muzac - **Performance, creative participation:** Aimée Rose Rich, Valentin Mériot, Mostafa Ahbourrou, Maxime Guillon-Roi-Sans-Sac (two performers alternating) - **Choreographic collaboration:** Mathilde Olivares - **Stage design:** Émilie Faïf - **Music:** Johanna Luz, Vincent Barrau - Jell-oO

Production : Le Gymnase CDCN Roubaix – Hauts-de-France for the LOOP network – young dance network, as part of the choreographic commissioning project Les mouvements minuscules (Tiny Movements) **Coproduction** : Le Grand Bleu Scène Conventionneée d'Intérêt National Art Enfance et Jeunesse, L'échangeur - CDCN Hauts-de-France, La Comédie de Clermont-Ferrand, scène nationale, La Manufacture CDCN Nouvelle-Aquitaine Bordeaux . La Rochelle, Rencontres chorégraphiques internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis, Chaillot – Théâtre National de la Danse, CND Centre national de la danse, La Coursive Scène Nationale I La Rochelle, Agence culturelle départementale Dordogne- Périgord, Le Rive Gauche – scène conventionnée d'intérêt national art et création – danse Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray, La Place de la Danse - CDCN Toulouse - Occitanie as part of the professional integration scheme "En Dehors", MZ Productions

The show premiered on 15 November 2022 at Le Gymnase CDCN during Forever Young - le festival de danse qui grandit



calendar

tour dates 23-24

6 and 7 October 2023 : Culture Commune, Loos-en-Gohelle (62)

13 to 18 October 2023 : Le Bateau Feu, Dunkerque (59) 13 octobre : nursery in Leffrinckoucke (59) 14 to 18 octobre : Bateau Feu, Dunkerque (59)

24 and 25 October 2023 : Théâtre du Périscope, Nîmes (30)

26 and 27 October 2023 : La Maison danse · Uzès Gard Occitanie (30) 8 to 11 November 2023 :

Odyssud, Blagnac (31)

16 November 2023 : Le Gymnase, Roubaix (59)

4 to 8 December 2023 : Maison de la Culture et des Loisirs, Gauchy (02)

12 and 13 December 2023 : Le Phénix, Valenciennes (59)

11 to 13 January 2024 : La rose des vents, Villeneuve d'Ascq (59)

18 to 20 January 2024 : MA scène nationale - Pays de Montbéliard (25)

23 to 27 January 2024 : Le Manège, Reims (51)

3 to 4 February 2024 : La Villette, at Little Villette, Paris (75)

6 to 9 February 2024 : CN D co-produced by Chaillot, Paris (75)

14 to 16 February 2024 : L'Empreinte, Brive-la-Gaillarde (19)

20 to 24 February 2024 : Le Volcan, Le Havre (76)

6 to 9 March 2024 : Théâtre Massalia, Marseille (13)

12 to 14 March 2024 : Ville de Nanterre(92)

25 and 26 March 2024 : L'étincelle, Rouen (76)

9 to 19 April 2024 : Festival Kidanse, organised by L'Echangeur CDCN 9 to 16 April: in the festival's partner municipalities (02, 59 and 80) 18 and 19 April: Maison des Arts et Loisirs, Laon (02)

21 May 2024 : La Place de la Danse, Toulouse (31)

22 and 23 May 2024 : L'Estive, Foix (09)

24 and 25 May 2024 : Tournefeuille (31)

28 to 30 May 2024 : La Passerelle, Saint-Brieuc (22)

5 and 6 June 2024 : Centre Jean Moulin, Limoges (87)

premiere

15 Novembre 2022 : Le Gymnase CDCN at the Forever Young festival, Roubaix (59)

Immersion in the piece

Each performance begins with a dancer welcoming the audience in a dedicated, specially arranged space.

This person takes time explaining to the children and adults why they are here and what they are going to see without giving anything away. The idea is to get the young spectators into a state of being able to pay attention so that they benefit fully from the piece. At the end of the show, the audience is invited to come on stage and approach the sculptures before returning to the welcome area. While the children are getting dressed, there is an opportunity to talk about it.



A stage design devised to interact with bodies created by Émilie Faïf

The whole of the set design is practically in one colour so that the installation stands out in places where the show will be performed (e.g. theatres, schools and crèches). An area of around 6 metres by 6 metres is laid out on the floor. The dancers are immersed in the stage design, their bodies merge with it. Through their movements, they turn this installation into something that is moving slowly, as if by magic. It is a daydream that unfolds, a kind of hypnosis, a digression, a gentle moment of calm. A journey into an abstract jungle that will let the imagination develop.

This stage design can be manipulated : these modules can be pushed, pulled, rolled, caressed... Bodies can be joined with them... It can also be lifted up, transported, moved by the dancers. A reactive undulation: propelled by the various gestures, the textures of this installation will be transformed: soft, light, heavy, flexible... states of constantly evolving bodies.

The volumes have a variable geometry: small, medium, large, flatter, thicker...

The stage design offers a range of nuances, an adapted and stimulating landscape for children.



A sound universe created by Johanna Luz and Vincent Barrau – Jell-oO

The music composed by Johanna Luz and Vincent Barrau is inspired by Ravel's *Boléro* : 17 minutes and 10 seconds adapted for the attention span of little children. In addition to its slow crescendo, one of the characteristics of Maurice Ravel's work is a dough of sound that builds with successive stratifications. It allows a sound to be heard that starts out small, then grows as it goes along, insisting, unfolding, until a final explosion like a liberation, a surge towards emancipation. It is possible to see in this progression that of a young child who is learning to stand and who, through the experience of his or her body, embarks on discovering the world around them.

Through its repetitive modules and gentle and harmonious sounds, it encourages the feeling of immersion and takes the spectator to a meditative state. Children and adults let themselves drift in daydreams. It lulls and invites bodies on the floor to relax or occasionally be immersed in the middle of the cushions that make up the set design.

The choreographer



Marion Muzac

Marion Muzac trained at a conservatoire and then studied business and communication at university. In New York, she was taught Merce Cunningham's technique and in Toulouse trained at the National Centre of Choreographic Development. She teaches contemporary dance at the Conservatoire in Toulouse and at the Toulouse Higher Institute of Art and Design (isdaT), where she was appointed head of dance in January 2022.

Since 2001, she has been doing her teaching work alongside undertaking her own choreographic projects. She met Jérôme Brabant when she performed in a piece by Marco Berrettini, and together they founded the UND und ballet, creating *Roomy Dancing* in 2002, GALA in 2003 and *Pavillon* in 2004. In 2008, with the saxophonist David Haudrechy, she created the dance and music duet *hero hero*, which is regularly performed in schools and colleges. In 2010, she co-created *Le Sucre du printemps*, a choreographic project for 27 young dancers, with the visual artist Rachel Garcia. After premiering in Toulouse, *Le Sucre du printemps* was performed in Düsseldorf, in Paris at the Théâtre National de Chaillot in collaboration with the National Dance Centre in Pantin, and in Ramallah, Palestine. She then made a documentary film, *17 printemps*, with the director Sophie Laloy about the initiatory journey of a young 17-year-old dancer entering the adult world through his experience of dance.

In 2016, she created *Ladies First*, a work for 20 teenage girls that pays homage to the pioneers of contemporary dance, and has collaborated with the visual artist Émilie Faïf ever since. This project was performed at CDCN partners and at the Théâtre de Chaillot.

With *Let's Folk!* created in 2018, she questions audience access to cultural codes and proposes working on so-called folk dances, combining choreographic performance and audience participation. Since September 2018, she has been associate artist at the Scène Nationale de la Rochelle, where she created the piece *Etreinte(s)* for 14 amateur and professional dancers in November 2020. Her intention with this project is to highlight fundamental gestures such as hugging in the digital age. Also in that year, she created the small form *MU* which explores popular culture through dance. Somewhere between a dance show, a concert and a visual performance, *MU* is a changing and enigmatic hybrid form, a bridge between ancient and modern mythologies.

Since September 2019, she has been associate artist at L'Estive Scène nationale in Foix and at the Théâtre Le Rive Gauche in Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray. Marion Muzac was made Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in September 2017.

The dancers

Were involved in the creation :



Aimée-Rose Rich

Aimée-Rose studied contemporary dance at isdaT in 2012 after spending time at the Merce Cunningham Dance School and the Trisha Brown Dance Company in New York. On the Extensions course that she took from 2014 to 2016 at La Place de la Danse CDCN in Toulouse, she worked with Daniel Linehan, Dominique Brun, Agathe Pfauwadel, Brigitte Asselineau and Stéphane Imbert. With a degree in modern literature, Aimée-Rose asked questions about words, the voice and the body in her first solos entitled Trois en un. Winner of the Création en cours residence at the Ateliers Médicis in 2018, she co-produced a video-dance in collaboration with the landscape artist Flora Rich and director Sofian Achabe on the question of outlying territory and the peripheral body.



Mostafa Ahbourrou

Mostafa discovered dance in 2000 involving traditional Moroccan dance steps with the group Banane. He then continued in contemporary dance alongside Khalid Benghrib, Meriem Assari Jasouli and Imad Manssour, before studying modern jazz in 2007 with Patricia Spigarelli and Franck Mass. He took the Extensions course at La Place de la Danse CDCN in Toulouse in 2011 with Robyn Orlin. Christian Rizzo, Alain Buffard and Mladen Materic, before entering isdaT in Toulouse in 2013, obtaining a state diploma as a contemporary dance teacher. In 2016, he created the solo CHAMBRE Zéro in collaboration with Marion Muzac. In Morocco, he choreographed his creations Bou'Jalabba, Halka and Au nom de dieu.



Maxime Guillon-Roi-sans-Sac

Maxime joined the choreographic research group at the University of Tours in 2007 before taking the Extensions course at La Place de la danse CDCN in Toulouse. He then concentrated on his choreographic research by taking the Choreographic Research and Composition programme at the Abbaye de Royaumont. In 2014, he participated in Dominique Brun's recreation of The Rite of Spring by Vaslav Nijinsky and Igor Stravinsky entitled Sacre #2. In 2020, after graduating from the dance department of Paris 8, he embarked on two new projects: *Etreinte(s)* by Marion Muzac and Les Noces by Dominique Brun.



Valentin Mériot

Valentin started dancing at the age of 16 with the project TryEma, an amateur exchange with the choreographer Lia Rodrigues and her group Nucleo 2. He then trained at the Rencontres Internationales de Danse Contemporaine (RIDC) as a dancer, before joining isdaT for his technical aptitude examination (EAT) in 2017. He then returned to RIDC, graduating as a contemporary dance teacher in 2019. In 2018, he was a choreographic artist on the opera La Traviata. He joined the 2019-2021 Extensions training programme at La Place de la danse CDCN in Toulouse. Valentin created the solo Calligraphie de l'espace.

Join the 23-24 tour :

Florent Brun

After practising as an amateur, he began his training at the Conservatoire de Montpellier before joining the Coline professional training programme in Istres, then Extensions at La Place de la Danse CDCN in Toulouse. Encounters with artists such as Shlomi Tuizer, Thomas Lebrun, Alban Richard, Sylvain Huc and Mark Lorimer have enabled him to place the nuances of interpretative quality and physical commitment at the heart of his concerns as a dancer. Today, he uses these tools to work with choreographers Dominique Brun, Clara Villalba and Marion Muzac.

The artistic team



Émilie Faïf, stage design

Émilie Faïf is a set designer and visual artist. Always keen to work on living forms, her productions alternate between installations, stage designs and participatory projects. The body is one of her favourite themes, exploring it in her sculptures as well as in her many collaborations with the world of fashion, performing arts and art. Textiles, a familiar material close to the skin, are among her favourite materials. Émilie Faïf works with them for their ability to respond to movement and their many possibilities for transformation. Swollen, structured, closely knit or padded, fabric is used as an organic material that is able to respond to research on perpetually moving forms. Émilie Faïf has worked alongside Marion Muzac since 2016, creating the stage designs for *Ladies First* and *Let's Folk!* This artistic collaboration has continued with *MU* and *Etreinte(s*).

Johanna Luz et Vincent Barrau - Jell-oO, musicians

Their pop folk compositions and polished harmonies reveal the striking personalities of the duo of Johanna Luz and Vincent Barrau, two hugely talented and extremely generous musicians and singers. Their texts offer a poetic narration of everyday life, carried by warm acoustic music whose universe evolves at the intersection of their respective careers, accompanied by jazz colours and the richness of the blends of styles they love (pop, folk and soul). Running through their creations is the voice, their two voices, as leads or together. Their repertoire is the fruit of their collaboration, composing, arranging and writing the lyrics together, with a desire to convey emotion through what is authentic, sincere and profoundly sensitive. During four years of touring across France in theatres, festivals, clubs and theatres or supporting the likes of Ben l'Oncle Soul, Maurane, Goran Bregovic, Barbara Carlotti, Mariana Ramos, Claudia Tagbo and Axel Bauer, the duo has charmed audiences. After the success of their album *Sail* in 2014, they gave concerts in 2015 and 2016 as a duo or with the musicians who participated on the album, with a performance at the Olympia as a highlight. The duo released their *EP MOON* in May 2019.





Mathilde Olivares, choreographic collaborator

Mathilde trained alongside various choreographers and directors from 2003, notably Mark Tompkins, Meg Stuart, Benoit Lachambre, Sophie Perez & Xavier Boussiron, Germana Civera, Carmelo Salazar, Odile Duboc, Raimund Hogue and Maguy Marin. During her year training at La Place de la Danse CDCN in Toulouse in 2007, she met the choreographer Patricia Ferrara, collaborating closely with her as a performer for almost ten years. In 2008, she met the director Christophe Bergon with whom she has worked as both a dancer and actor. With him she encountered Antoine Volodine and Camille de Toledo, each the creator of two pieces that she would go on to perform. She also worked with the choreographer Didier Théron, joined the Trisha Brown dance company for Early Works, and encountered the work of young choreographers such as Nans Martin, Lise Romagny and Benjamin Forgues & Charlie Merlet. Alongside Marion Muzac, she began a cycle of choreographic pieces centred on the practice of amateur audiences (Ladies first and Let's Folk!), in turn as choreographic assistant and performer. Sylvain Huc, associate artist at Le Gymnase CDCN, asked her to assist with his solo LEX. This encounter led to another piece Sujet(s) (performed at the Montpellier dance festival in 2018) in which she both performed and worked as choreographic assistant. Very keen on the notion of collective writing, while working in the La Collective and Rapprochées dance companies she experimented on the implications of this in her early projects as a choreographer between 2009 and 2016. Mathilde continues with her own projects today within the company zzz.

Teaching offers

Teaching offers can be devised to take place before or after the show in order to help the young children interpret the work. They can be run by the artistic team, subject to their availability, and are devised directly with the organisation disseminating them and the establishment concerned, in order to develop a tailor-made project adapted to local needs. Some workshops can take place within the show's stage design.



Workshops of physical and sensory awakening – from age 2 or adapted to centres for very young children

The physical awakening workshops are run by the artistic team. They are familiar with establishing trust with very young children, and capable of guaranteeing their safety and offering an approach that is respectful of their bodies. The dynamic and gentle artistic experimentation offered is centred on movement, sensory discovery, motor skills and relaxation.

Parent-child workshops – practice as a pair

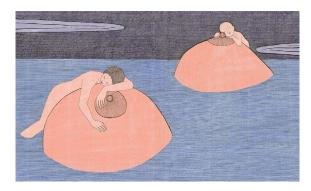
The parent-child workshops invite new exchanges to be created between the children and their parents. Through the experience of movement, the child is on an equal footing with the parent when it comes to taking the initiative. Spaces, materials and the group are explored through a moment of pleasure constructed around a shared journey, inviting them to discover their bodies and their senses.

Artistic practice workshops in a school setting - from nursery school age upwards

In connection with the show's themes, the artists can offer teaching workshops in schools. Different support materials can be used to discover music, spaces or stage materials, for example.

Training module for professionals working with young children

This module aims to support professional teams working with children on their perception of their bodies and the bodies of young children. It also prepares them for welcoming or hosting the show so that they can construct meanings and views more easily. By exploring the practice and/ or having discussions, they can experience movement and its benefits so that they can support the children during this experience more effectively.



Teaching resources

Les Petits by Marion Fayolle (published by Magnani in 2020) provided inspiration for the world of the show *Le petit B*. The book is a collection of drawn poems that explore the complexity of the process of becoming a parent, the construction of relationships with their child, and their arrival into the world. It can be a tool to raise their awareness in relation to this show for very young children.

A set of teaching tools and resources are also dedicated to the discovery, deepening and practical use of cross-disciplinary approaches to dance. These resources can all be found on the LOOP network website : reseau-loop.fr/en/educational-tools-in-dance/

The LOOP network

Les mouvements minuscules (tiny movements) project leader

origins

In 2014, at the invitation of the dance section of the Ministry of Culture and as part of La Belle Saison, Le Gymnase CDCN, in association with La Manufacture CDCN Bordeaux – Nouvelle Aquitaine, implemented an artistic and choreographic production intended for young audiences for the first time. It was called *Au pied de la lettre*. The project commissioned choreographers who had little experience of young audiences, and who were from different generations and aesthetics, to produce two short 20-minute pieces to be performed in one and the same programme. These two pieces, created for the same performers, could take their inspiration from writing of any kind.

There were two parts to it:

- Au pied de la lettre #1 (February 2015): Anne Nguyen and Michel Schweizer

- Au pied de la lettre #2 (January 2016): Ambra Senatore and Loïc Touzé

An initial network was formed, centred on this project and made up of partners, coproducers and distributors involved and interested in developing together a project of creation and mediation around the question of dance for young audiences.

After this project, Le Gymnase CDCN followed through with this idea and in 2016 set up the first professional network for dance and young audiences called LOOP.

aims

The network is open to anyone who has responsibility for venues and programming and is interested in this specific issue. It is intended to be a place for exchanging and sharing ideas about dance for young audiences, where they can talk very freely about creation for dance and young people and about all the initiatives being undertaken in this area.

The missions of the network are also:

> support for projects (coproduction or dissemination), implementation by commissioning choreographers (2019 and 2020, TWICE, commissions to Emmanuel Eggermont and Robyn Orlin, then Alexander Vantournhout and the duo Aïcha M'Barek and Hafiz Dhaou)

> mediation and training on the subject of dance for young audiences
> identification of contacts abroad and international networking

To find out more about the LOOP network, visit : reseau-loop.fr/en/home/



members

Le Gymnase CDCN Roubaix - Hauts-de-France (59) (network lead)

Le Grand Bleu Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national Art, Enfance et Jeunesse, Lille (59)

Le Rive Gauche Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national Art et Création Danse, Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray (76)

Chorège CDCN Falaise Normandie (14)

L' échangeur CDCN Hauts-de-France (02)

Escales Danse

Réseau conventionné danse et territoire (95) **Centre national de la danse** Pantin (93)

Chaillot Théâtre national de la Danse Paris (75)

L' étoile du Nord Scène conventionnée danse, Paris (75)

Opéra national de Paris (75)

Rencontres chorégraphiques internationales de Seine-Saint-Denis (93)

Ville de Nanterre (92)

Théâtre de Vanves Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national Art et Création pour la danse et les écritures contemporaines à travers les arts (92)

Danse à tous les étages

Scène de territoire danse, Brest (29) et Rennes (35)

Onyx Scène conventionnée danse et arts du cirque, Saint-Herblain (44)

Danse! Association jurassienne pour la danse contemporaine, Suisse (CH)

Maison de la Danse Pôle européen de création, Lyon (69)

Agence culturelle départementale Dordogne-Périgord (24)

La Manufacture

CDCN Nouvelle-Aquitaine Bordeaux La Rochelle (33, 17)

Carré-Colonnes Scène nationale, Saint-Médard-en-Jalles / Blanquefort (33)

Théâtre Le Sémaphore Port-de-Bouc (13)

Théâtre Massalia Scène conventionnée d'intérêt national Art, Enfance et Jeunesse, Marseille (13)

TJP CDN, Strasbourg – Grand Est (67)

Le Ciel

Scène Européenne pour l'Enfance et le Jeunesse, Lyon (69)

La Maison CDCN, Uzès (30)

L'Opéra de Limoges (87)

Atelier de Paris CDCN (75)



Le Gymnase CDCN producer of Les mouvements minuscules project



Le Gymnase CDCN is producing *Les mouvements minuscules* (tiny movements) project as leader of the LOOP network.

For forty years, Le Gymnase CDCN has been supporting and creating a network within the choreographic sector in the Lille area, as well as in regionally, nationally and internationally. At the heart of its activity is support for artists (during periods of creation, research, dissemination, structuring and training) and audiences (through the prism of mediation, outreach, teaching and encounters with artists, works and artistic practice).

For Le Gymnase CDCN – in 2006 the creator of the Forever Young festival, the first dance festival targeted at young people in France – the issue of young audiences is crucial. The organisation has already produced the two parts of the *Au pied de la lettre* project in 2015 to 2017 and two opuses in the *TWICE* programme in 2019 and 2020.

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