



photo © Yves Kerstus

NOTE FROM FOCUS & CHALIWATÉ

"For a long time we have been admirers and followers of each other's work. It became clear that we had a similar approach to our art and it was obvious that we shared a taste for unusual theatrical forms; as if we spoke the same visual craft and poetic language.

We want to share our skills and tools to shape something special combining movement art, object theatre, the marionette, stage acting and video. This project is a logical next step in the creative process and artistic exploration of both companies. We work meticulously, concentrating on the smallest details to create a singular visual, metaphoric and poetic language. We work from the personal and the intimate, the infra-ordinary aiming to touch the universal." **Julie, Sicaire, Sandrine**

Backup was first seen in the UK at Summerhall during the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe Festival where it won a Scotsman Fringe First award and a Total Theatre award.

FOCUS COMPANY

Julie Tenret trained at l'INSAS (Brussels Drama Institute). She took part in *Squattages poétiques* by *Company Gare centrale*, and created *Fragile* with Isabelle Darras in 2009, a show with actors, objects and puppets, directed for by Agnès Limbos. *Fragile* was an award winner at the *Rencontres de Théâtre Jeune Public of Huy* in 2009. The show has been performed more than 250 times.

In 2011 together with Isabelle Darras she founded Night Shop Théâtre Company, whose creation, *Silence*, was awarded the *Prix de la Ministre de la jeunesse* and the *Coup de foudre de la presse* at the *Rencontres de Théâtre Jeune Public of Huy* in 2013. It played at the Avignon Festival in 2014 and went on to win the *Prix de la Critique Jeune Public* in 2015.

CHALIWATÉ COMPANY

Established in 2005 by Sicaire Durieux and Sandrine Heyraud, Chaliwaté Company has given more than 600 performances in some twenty countries across the world.

In 2011 its show for young audiences, *Îlo*, was presented at the *Rencontres Jeune Public de Huy* in Belgium where it won the *Province de Liège Award* and the *Prix Kiwanis* and was chosen to be part of *Belgium's* programme of work at Théâtre des Doms at the 2012 Avignon Festival. Other award-winning productions include *Joséphina* which received the *Belgian Critics' Prize* for Best Discovery and *Jetlag*, which was nominated for the *Critics' Prize for best circus performance*.

2019 London International Mime Festival presents

FOCUS & CHALIWATÉ (Belgium)

BACKUP

London premiere

Southbank Centre's Purcell Room Mon 21 - Wed 23 January

After-show discussion: Tue 22 Jan
led by Guillaume Pigé

Runs approx 30 mins, no interval

Created and performed by Julie Tenret, Sicaire Durieux, Sandrine Heyraud
Lighting: Guillaume Toussaint Fromentin
Sound: Loïc le Foll
Stage set construction: Zoé Tenret
Video: Tristan Galand
First AC: Alexandre Cabanne
Key grip: Hatuey Suarez
Underwater filming: Alexandra Brix
Video set construction: Zoé Tenret and Sébastien Munk
Puppets created by Waw! Studios / Joachim Jannin, assisted by Jean-Raymond Brassinne, Emmanuel Chessa, Aurélie Deloche and Gaëlle Marras
Dramatic criticism: Alana Osbourne
Production: Cie Focus, Cie Chaliwaté, Théâtre les Tanneurs
Co-production: Théâtre des Tanneurs; Théâtre de Namur; Maison de la Culture de Tournai; Le Sablier - lfs (France)

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Wallonie-Bruxelles International (WBI)

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London International Mime Festival

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London International Mime Festival (LIMF) promotes contemporary visual theatre. Its productions have won nominations for Olivier Awards and in 2017 the festival was honoured with the Empty Space - Peter Brook Special Achievement Award for its work over four decades. Founded in 1977, LIMF is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

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Bill Deverson

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