

UK premiere
The Peacock
Wed 29 Jan – Sat 1 Feb
After-show discussion led by Donald Hutera
following the performance on Fri 31 Jan



2020 LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL in association with Sadler's Wells presents

GALACTIK ENSEMBLE (France)

OPTRAKEN

Conceived, choreographed and performed by Mathieu Bleton, Mosi Espinoza, Jonas Julliard, Karim Messaoudi, Cyril Pernot
Outside eyes Matthieu Gary, Marie Fonte
Set and technical construction Franck Breuil
Lighting design Adèle Grépinet
Lighting technician Romain Caramalli
Sound and music score Denis Mariotte
Sound technician Eric Sterenfeld
Technical director Victor Fernandes
Stage manager Charles Rousseau
Photography Nicolas Martinez
Producer Léa Couqueberg
Administration Emilie Leloup
PR/Communications Maeva Longvert

This visit to London is supported by Institut français

Galactick Ensemble's co-founders - Mathieu Bleton, Mosi Espinoza, Jonas Julliard, Karim Messaoudi and Cyril Pernot met at France's national circus school at Rosny sous Bois before going their separate ways to establish new or join existing theatre-circus companies. Between them they have worked with several of France's leading contemporary circus creators including Aurélien Bory, Mathurin Bolze and Yoann Bourgeois whose productions have regularly featured at the Mime Festival at the Barbican, Southbank Centre and Sadler's Wells. Optraken premiered in 2017 and has since toured extensively in France, Belgium and Holland.

Artists' note

"More than the circus itself, our starting point is a current reflection on man and his relationship to a hostile environment. Our approach to making the show comes from a shared desire to stage simple human actions. 'Problems' like standing, speaking, gesturing, resisting or adapting to an external physical force are for us the vectors of forces which underlie many existential questions. This is how we developed situational acrobatics – this direct and concrete relationship between a rugged environment and the ability of humans to adjust to it. Our approach consists of bringing the individual and the group into play when faced with a real, unpredictable, risky situation. We aim to create pieces through which movement doesn't appear as acquired know-how, but as necessary to deal with different situations. The quality of the movement we look for is measured by its ability to create a breakthrough in the real world and to question the viewer."

Galactik Ensemble

Production: Galactik Ensemble. Co-production: Plateforme 2 Pôles Cirques en Normandie; La Brèche, Cherbourg; Cirque Théâtre d'Elbeuf; Scène Nationale de Châteaувallon; Le Tandem - Scène Nationale; Les 3T Scène Convenue de Châtellerauld; La Nouvelle Digue, Toulouse, Houdrement Scène Convenue, La Corneuve; Les Subsistances, Lyon; CircusNext – coordinated by Jeunes Talents Cirque, Europe and supported by the European Commission.

Galactik Ensemble is supported by Le Monfort Théâtre, Paris; Théâtre de l'Agora, Evry; Théâtre de la Digue, Toulouse; CIRCca, Auch; La Grainerie, Balma; La Cascade – Pôle National des Arts du Cirque Bourg-Saint-Andéol; Le Carré Magique - Pôle National des Arts du Cirque en Bretagne, Lannion; DRAC, Île de France; DBCA/Ministère de la Culture; SACD; ADAMI; Mairie de Paris.

London International Mime Festival

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London International Mime Festival (LIMF) promotes contemporary visual theatre. Its productions have been nominated for and won 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.

Festival Directors Helen Lannaghan & Joseph Seelig

Production Manager Bill Deverson

Artists Manager Stephanie Brotchie

Press Representatives Anna Arthur PR

Graphics & Website Iain Lanyon

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