

2023 London International Mime Festival  
in association with Jacksons Lane presents

## ANDREA SALUSTRI

(ITALY/GERMANY)

# MATERIA

## JACKSONS LANE

Thu 19 - Sun 22 Jan

Fri 20 Jan: After-show discussion Led by  
Verena Cornwall, Director, Circus Futures  
(BSL Laura Goulden)

Running time approx. 55 mins,  
no interval

Age Guidance: 6+  
(Contains flashing lights and smoke)

Creation & performance:  
Andrea Salustri

Lighting design & technical direction:  
Michele Piazzi

Technical team:  
Andrea Parolin, Andreas Harder

Sound design:  
Federico Coderoni

Original Music:  
Ah! Kosmos, Federico Coderoni

Creative advisors:  
Kalle Nio, Roman Müller, Darragh  
McLoughlin, Alex Lempert, Benjamin  
Richter, Matthias Buhrow, Mariagiulia  
Serantoni

### About Andrea Salustri

Italian born Andrea Salustri graduated with a degree in philosophy from La Sapienza University in Rome, also training as a juggler and working as a street performer in the Italian capital. He then moved to Berlin, where he now lives, to study dance and choreography. He first completed the Dance Intensive program at Tanzfabrik Berlin, subsequently a degree at HZT Berlin University. A Laureate of the circusnext European Circus Label, *Materia* was a hit at the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has been seen in theatres and at festivals across Europe.

### About *Materia*

My journey with *Materia* began in April 2017 under the working title 'Polystyrene Research', which I presented in different contexts - dance, circus and theatre. In 2018, I applied for [circusnext](#), a European platform involving 30 institutions in 17 countries, which aims to identify and promote emerging contemporary circus creators. Being selected as a laureate artist for circusnext 2018-19 represented an incredible step forward in my process.

I received resources to collaborate with professional artists, residencies to develop my ideas and was exposed to a deeply inspiring network. In April 2018 the project

was selected for the residency program of Chamäleon Productions, funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe. Here I had the chance to collaborate with Roman Müller (Tr'espace, Cirqu'Aarau), Kalle Nio (WHS), and sound engineer Federico Coderoni, whilst receiving further support from the Telpart programme of the Finnish Institute in Germany. In the framework of this residency the research grew into a performance piece which was given the title *Materia*. In 2019 we tested the dramaturgical cohesion of the work-in-progress by touring it throughout Europe. In the meantime, new and interesting developments have followed such as the creation of a series of polystyrene artworks entitled *Toxic Landscapes* that are sometimes displayed as an exhibition alongside the show.

During 2020, despite all touring being cancelled, *Materia* nevertheless reached the conclusion of its creation process. This was made possible thanks to the valuable co-production of PERPLX, and the further support of circusnext, Cirqu'Aarau, circus:researched and La Briqueterie CDCN du Val-de-Marne. The full version of the show premiered in 2021. The new developments of the work push it a step further towards the border between contemporary circus and visual art by bringing onstage the physical manipulation of the material through sculpture and animation.

In 2020 I started researching strategies in order to make the show environmentally sustainable, and found a species of worm (*Zophobas morio*) able to process plastic. All the polystyrene used during the performances of *Materia* is collected and transported back to Berlin, where the company is based, to be composted by *Zophobas morio* worms whose bacterial enzymes biodegrade polystyrene enabling it to be digested. *Materia* officially premiered in October 2021 at T\*Danse Festival – Danse et Technologie. In 2022 it was selected as first winning performance in the megavote of The Sphere, the first Blockchain platform for contemporary circus.

**Andrea Salustri** andreasalustri.com

Co-production PERPLX

Tour management: Carolina Ortega - AURORA NOVA (Worldwide), Valentina Barone (Italy), Niamh Moroney (Belgium, Ireland), Domante Tirylyte - ARTED NET (Baltic region)

Residencies: Chamäleon Theatre; Espace Périphérique - La Villette; La Maison des Jonglages; Cirqu'Aarau; Katapult, Zirkusquartier Zürich; La Briqueterie CDCN du Val-de-Marne; kunstencentrum BUDA; PERPLX

Additional support: circusnext European Platform co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union; Chamäleon Productions; Cirqu'Aarau; circus:researched; Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe; TelePART programme of the Finnish Institute in Germany.



## London International Mime Festival

[mimelondon.com](http://mimelondon.com)

Directors:

**Helen Lannaghan & Joseph Seelig**

Founded in 1977, 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.

Technical Manager:

**Bill Deverson**

Artists' Manager:

**Silvia Maroino**

Press:

**Anna Arthur**

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[mobiustindustries.com](http://mobiustindustries.com)

LIMF Advisory Board:

**Jeni Draper, Kane Husbands, Alison King** (Chair), **Andy Lavender**

London International Mime Festival is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

### THANK YOU

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