



« YONGOYELY »
Excisewoman

COLLECTIVE CREATION

Circus, Dance / Duration: 1h

Show (all ages), indoor or outdoor

Show will be ready for the the end of the second semester 2024 / premiere in March 2024 in Guinea

COMPANY **CIRCUS BAOBAB**

PRODUCER **R'EN CIRQUE**

CO-PRODUCER **CENTRE CULTUREL FRANCO-GUINEEN**

WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE **FODAC** (Fonds de Développement des Arts et de la Culture en Guinée)

OTHER CO-PRODUCER IN PROGRESS

With 6 female cirucs artists, 1 carrier and 1 outfielder all from Guinea

Artistical Director: **Kerfalla Camara**

Staging: **Yann Ecauvre**

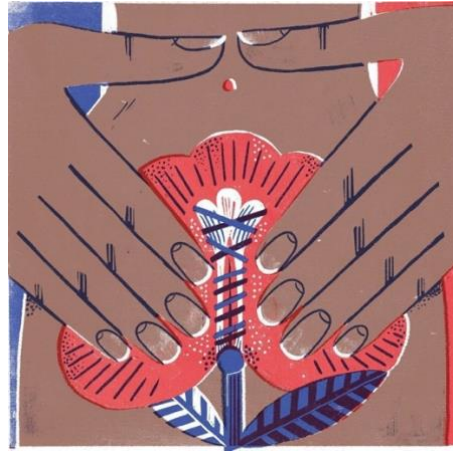
Circus Intervenants: **Julie Delaire & Mehdi Azéma**

Musical Creation: **Yann Ecauvre et Mehdi Azéma**

Collective Choreography: **Yann Ecauvre, Mehdi Azéma et Julie Delaire & les artistes**

Costumes : **Solenne Capmas**

Disciplines: Russian Bar, Whip, Banquine, Chinese Pole, Hand-to-Hand Acrobatic Lifts, Floor Acrobatics, Traditional and Contemporary Dances – Krump etc.



FIRST INTENTIONS OF STAGING

Yann Ecauvre, stage director, and Kerfalla Camara, director of Circus Baobab, wished to continue their artistic partnership with a new creation titled '**Yongonyély**,' which translates to 'The Excisewoman,' focusing on the theme of the independence of Guinean and African women.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

"In wanting to put women at the forefront of this new adventure, Kefalla proposed that I draw inspiration from the story of M'Balia Camara, still a symbol of strength and courage for women in Guinea, a martyr whose murder at the age of 26 (in 1955) was one of the catalysts for the rebellion leading to Guinea's independence! After some thought, rather than speaking about M'Balia Camara and a past of which I had very little knowledge, why not talk about the present and, most importantly, explore what independence Guinean and African women would need in today's world...? It's by delving into this avenue that many other subjects related to the condition and place of African women became evident.

This performance will be inspired by all these life perspectives portrayed on stage by 6 women and 2 men. The show will feature a minimalist set with rudimentary props. As the main props, several Guinean "small tree trunks" (logs) will be used. This wood is used to craft traditional hunters' bows, thin enough to appear very fragile yet flexible and resilient enough to never break.

These small trunks will serve as both a Chinese pole with no guywires, a Russian bar, and at times, a tightrope for a funambulist. The whip, a traditional circus prop but also found in Guinean villages to deter birds from fields. Head carries, a specialty of African women. Hula-hoop, embodying play and childhood perfectly. Aerial work, similar to the aerial silks but without a frame or ropes... a surprise!

Concrete blocks will be used to create balance structures, echoing the rampant concrete construction affecting Guinea and all of Africa... And, of course, acrobatics and dance, at the heart of Guinean artistic expression! So, I find myself faced with a

highly engaged brief, full of promises and challenges, in short, an adventure that promises to be incredibly exciting. In a time when the arts tend to be reduced to mere 'entertainment,' here is a new project that seeks to combine powerful African visuals and dramaturgy. And of course, I love this kind of challenge."

- Yann Ecauvre



ABOUT THE SHOW

In light of this observation, Yann Ecauvre and his creative team have embarked on an investigation. Together, they aim to write, work, and create this show with 6 young Guinean circus artists, dancers, and singers, some of whom have experienced various forms of violence. The cast will be complemented by 1 lifter and 1 acrobat.

Yann Ecauvre's circus radicalism, both fierce and uncompromising, much like the lived experiences and creativity of these 8 artists, will not shy away from addressing any taboos. They will set in motion:

- The independence of Guinean women
- Social pressures, the weight of traditions, and the inescapable burden of fate
- The refusal of the unacceptable, the unbearable razor's edge that permanently alters the lives and bodies of girls and young women, putting their lives at risk (75% of Guinean women were still being subjected to female genital mutilation in 2020)
- The social, physical, psychological, and sexual suffering endured by women
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The creation of the "Yongoyé" show (The Excisewoman in the Soussou dialect) pays tribute to the strength of women, their fundamental role in a country's economic development, their abilities, and their power for intergenerational mediation, education in social and human values for the younger generation. It especially pays tribute to women's capacity for resilience in the face of life's numerous trials, such as female genital mutilation, violence endured, end-of-life support, and grief, among others.

Beyond this recognition, the goal is to empower Guinean women regarding their learning capabilities and their ability to question in order to evolve modes of transmission, training, know-how, and entrepreneurship associated with a better

understanding of the world. This forms the foundation of our children's education, helping them better prepare for their future, primarily in their own country.

This will be the first circus creation on the continent addressing this theme. By giving it a significant place in the upcoming show, Circus Baobab and R'en Cirque highlight their commitment to working on gender equity and addressing a mixed audience, with a primary focus on young people and adolescents facing academic challenges or abandonment, often distant from cultural offerings, whose abilities are frequently diverse and complementary.



AFRICAN CIRCUS, CIRCUS LANGUAGE

African circus stands at the intersection of a dual movement: between modern entertainment and spectacular ritual dances. By this, we mean acrobatic work that generally perpetuates itself through the reproduction of festive gestures or during initiatory rites: hand-to-hand, acrobatic lifts and figures, symbolic pyramids, mask dances or sacred drum dances, the transposed expression of animals in contortionists.

Circus artists today engage in a fruitful dialogue with their history, their own cultural heritage while being aware of the inevitable transformation of this traditional world. They are dedicated to inventing and reinventing the poetry of movement, drawing from the codes of today's youth.

For women, the human body becomes the intersection of will, resistance, collapse, and resilience, where the relationship with others is often the only solace against the call of emptiness.

R'EN CIRQUE

R'en Cirque is a social and cultural association based in Marseille. It is dedicated to the circus arts, urban cultures, and urban sports. It is part of the social, solidarity, and citizen circus network whose goal is to educate or reintegrate, through the circus arts, in collaboration with local structures in Marseille and Conakry, young people who are not well seen or often overlooked.

R'en Cirque supports the development of the acrobatic circus collective Circus Baobab and co-produces its shows. Our association collaborates in the creation project of the Center for Acrobatic Arts and related trades of Circus Baobab in Conakry, supported by the Guinean Ministries of Culture, Technical and Vocational Training, the Franco-Guinean Cultural Center (CCFG), the French Institute, and the French Development Agency.

PROVISIONAL AND DESIRED RESIDENCY SCHEDULE

- From January 23 to February 3, 2023, in Conakry – Odepak Hall (Confirmed)
- From February 13 to 25, 2023, in Conakry – CCFG (Confirmed)
- From June 20 to July 30, 2023: In France (To be confirmed)
- August 2023 at Scala Provence, Avignon (Confirmed)
- From October 9 to 13, 2023: In France (To be confirmed)
- From November 13 to 30, 2023: In France (To be confirmed)
- December 2023 in France (To be confirmed)
- From January 15 to 21, 2024 in France (To be confirmed)
- From February 19 to 25, 2024 in France (To be confirmed)
- From March 11 to 17, 2024 in France (To be confirmed)