



## **Cie O Ultimo Momento**

**By and with  
João Pereira dos Santos and Elsa Caillat**

**CREATION 2015  
all ages show from 6 years-old  
55min**



## Intention by João Pereira dos Santos

*All starts with the meeting with one person and one place. In 2006 I created « Contigo » with the choreographer Rui Horta and I discovered his residency place in Montemor-O-Novo (Portugal). « O Espaço do Tempo » which means « Place of Time ». Thus, a long friendship story with Rui and his place has began. I have become associate artist and each year, I have a residency when I like to. Several consecutive years, I came in April, very intensive period, full of constrats in the nature. And I feel the same in my body at this time of the year, it awakes from the winter sleep and I can move again to create.*

*Two years ago, I discovered an abandoned village near Montemor-O-Novo : « Safira ». I made there a circus video and I fell in love with this abandoned and yet so living landscape. And I get the final inspiration : making a show was necessary to transcribe this strength into movement. But how to find the physical state able to bring such an emotion ? It's what Elsa and me tried to do in the show « Abril ».*



## Creation process

« Abril » takes place in a stage area inspired by the atmosphere of paintings by the american naturalist painter **Edward Hopper** and by a **residency place in the middle of the nature in Portugal, O Espaço do Tempo**.

**Hopper painted daily life and « suspended time »**. He is known for the slowness of his pictural process and the very long maturation of each of his paintings. This alchemy makes the artist's influences mix together and move away in the same time, in order to produce a deep master-piece. The maker's gesture, whatever he is an artist, a painter or an acrobat, mushrooms with time.

Hopper's creation process has immersed itself in the circus language. Joao Pereira dos Santos and Ela Caillat also want to share with the audience an atmosphere simultaneously daily and extraordinary, as Hopper does in his paintings where he transcends the instant while fixing it. They distinguish the before and the after of each instant to set it in time, until to break down the instant. Circus is the structuration and break down tool : the acrobatic language gives sometimes a still and suspended expression, then an explosion, a blowout of energy.

Circus expression allows very different possibilities than painting does. Thus, the two acrobats decide to impose new constraints to their usual approach of their circus technics : limited space, lower high... As the pictural expression does, they work in a naturalist way : more realist, with a more sensitive and rawer approach of bodies, environment and matter. Their aim is to embody Hopper through the physical exploit, and the vigour of contemporary circus enables that.

**O Espaço Do Tempo is a place that strongly resonates in us**, and boosts our creativity. Its architecture, its indoor spaces evoke Hoppers' universe : empty spaces, one window... nature. It's enough to put a chair, to set down and to look.

**April**, the awakening of nature and love, the first rays of sunshine that warm up bodies, birds noise...

This creation is the first one with a feminine presence on stage and with a new technic : Joao Pereira dos Santos is joined by his companion, Elsa Caillat, acrobat on aerial rope (Cie Toron Blues). They tried to invent a common artistic expression. The show deals with human and artistic meeting and finally gives birth to an intimate, sensitive and powerful creation.





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## Visual proposition

Video is present all along the show « Abril » and has a simple and peculiar place. A screen type cinema, a short movie, two spectators/actors. It's a step in the middle of the show opening an other perspective, a window on an other reality, more natural and free. Like the possibility of a common path to follow together.

The second main scenographic element is a cube made of geotextil which takes action into an other dimension. It is like a closed space in 3 dimensions in which the artists move, in a round movement from and to the cube. Movement arises and invades the whole stage.

The cube is the place of what is shown and what is hidden, like a framework whose limits are questioned. Place of lights and shadows game, it also evokes opening and confinement, it leaves the impression that something exists behind it, over the image. It arouses curiosity about what could be beside...

## Circus technics and new expression

Chinese pole and aerial rope are the respective technics of Joao Pereira dos Santos and Elsa Caillat. But a third one is also present, the **suspended stick-pole, midway between Chinese pole and rope**, and shared by the two artists.

The stick-pole is light, suspended and mobile in an endless movement. It turns, it has its own tempo and imposes its rythm. The two artists accept to play its game, like on the turnstiles of our childhood.

Jumps, turns, flights and chases give form to a ritual and hypnotic dance which hides the apparatus (pole or rope) to put into the light the forthright and authentic meeting between the two physicalities.



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### Team :

João Pereira dos Santos and Elsa Caillat      conception, staging and interpretation

Enzo Giordana      light design

Clémentine Lamouret      artistic advisor

Chloé Caillat      dance view

Tiago Cerqueira      sound design

## Supports and Partners

### Coproductions

Centro Cultural Vila Flor – Guimaraes (Pt)  
Le Théâtre, Scène nationale de Mâcon (Fr)  
Dommelhof / Theater op de Markt – Neerpelt (Be)

### Partners

Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication avec l'aide à la création pour le cirque de la Direction Générale de la Création Artistique, et avec l'aide à la production dramatique de la Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles en Ile de France.

### Residencies

O Espaço do Tempo – Montemor-O-Novo (Pt)  
Le Sirque – Pôle National Cirque Nexon en Nouvelle Aquitaine (Fr)  
Dommelhof / Theater op de Markt – Neerpelt (Be)  
Les Transversales, scène conventionnée cirque Verdun (Fr)  
Centro cultural Vila Flor – Guimaraes (Pt)  
CIRCa – Pôle National Cirque Auch Gers Occitanie (Fr)  
Le Théâtre, Scène nationale de Mâcon (Fr)

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