

UNE PARTIE DE SOI



by João Paulo Santos
company O Último Momento

creation 2021

March 2021

último
mOmentO compagnie

TEAM

Writing and performing	João Paulo Pereira dos Santos
External eye	Nathan Israël et Elsa Caillat
Support in movement	Marie-Anne Michel
Musical composition	Tiago Cerqueira
Light design	Enzo Giordana
Production	Anaïs Longiéras / Eric le Pottier

PRODUCTION

Production : Cie O Ultimo Momento

Partners and support :

Teatro Aveirense, Aveiro / Portugal	coproduction + presale
Le Théâtre de Rungis	coproduction + residency
La Cascade, PNC Bourg-St-Andéol	residency + coproduction
CIRCa PNC Auch	residency + coproduction asked
Le Sirque PNC Nexon	residency + presale
Académie Fratellini, St-Denis	residency
Espaço do Tempo, Montemor/PT	residency (postponed due to COVID crisis)
La Grainerie	residency
Région Occitanie	aide à la création

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

25th Mar / 5th Apr 2019	research / la Grainerie - Balma
26th Apr / 4th May 2019	research / Espaço do Tempo - Montemor-O-Novo
2nd - 6th Mar 2020	residency Académie Fratellini
13th - 19th Apr 2020	residency Le Sirque PNC Nexon (annulée suite COVID)
2nd - 13th May 2020	residency O Espaço do Tempo / Pt (reportée suite COVID)
4th - 12th Feb 2021	residency CIRCa, PNC Auch
15th - 19th Feb 2021	residency Arc-en-ciel, Théâtre de Rungis
16th - 26th Mar 2021	residency La Cascade, PNC Bourg-St-Andéol
12th - 18th Apr 2021	residency O Espaço do Tempo / Pt
26th-30th Apr 2021	residency Théâtre la Piscine, PNC Châtenay-Malabry
May 2021	residency Le Sirque PNC Nexon
27-29 August 2021	Premières Festival Multi-Pistes du Sirque, PNC Nexon (87)

creation team

João Paulo Pereira dos Santos - writing and performing

Graduated from the National Center of Circus Arts (Fr) in 2003, he has created in 2004, with the musician Guillaume Dutrieux, the company O Ultimo Momento within he has created 8 shows to now (cf the historic of the company at the end of the dossier). João is one of the renowned performers on the Chinese pole that he has truly launched into a contemporary aesthetic. In 2004, he has been laureate of the European program «Jeunes Talents Cirque» with his first show (*Peut-être*). In 2006, he has created *Contigo* with the choreographer Rui Horta on the invitation of the SACD for the Sujets à Vif at the Festival d'Avignon. In 2007, he has been selected for the Festival Mondial du Cirque de Demain.

He often works in Portugal, his country of origin, as a performer and a director, and he was in charge of the artistic direction of the International Circus Festival of Porto in 2018.

He is also videographer, and regularly asked to teach or to stage shows.

He is associated artist to the Espaço do Tempo (Montemor-O-Novo, Portugal).

Nathan Israël - artistic complicity

He is a juggler and dancer, graduate of the CNAC. In 2004 he co-founded the companies Le Cheptel Aleïkoum and La Scabreuse. Within La Scabreuse, he is the author and performer of 3 shows: TAÏTEUL (2006), La moure (2009) and Lard (2011). He has also been a performer in several creations that combine dance, circus and relation to the object. In 2014, he founded with Luna Rousseau the company Le Jardin des Délices: L'homme de boue (2014), Héros Fracas (2016), Gadoue (2018) and La Chose (2019) (winner of the Aide à l'écriture award from the Beaumarchais association). In 2016, he received the SACD prize for juggling creation. Since 2003, he has regularly led workshops in

dance, juggling and relationship to the object. He has been a member of the jury of the ENACR and the Académie Fratellini circus schools on several occasions.

Marie-Anne Michel - support in movement

Graduated from the National Center of Circus Arts in 1998, she built the company Carpe Diem in 2000. She has developed a work on vertical pipes, looking for abandon and fluidity in the body, and gesture purity. She created 3 soli shows (*Sieste Verticale* in 2004, *L'Offrande* in 2012 and *Métanoïa* in 2013), and the duet *Rivages* in 2010. Due to a hard injury, she must stop working until 2019.

Elsa Caillat - artistic complicity

She is a smooth rope acrobat and graduated from the CNAC in 2007. She created the company Toron Blues in 2008 with Clémentine Lamouret: *Tendre Soie* (2009), *Rouge* (2011), *Sorcières* (2016). In 2014 and 2017, she directed with João Paulo Santos the ENACR students' show. Since 2008, she has been a regular trainer at the Fratellini Academy.

Tiago Cerqueira - sound design

Sound engineer and composer, he works mainly on Portuguese and international projects of live performance, cinema and contemporary art. He has been collaborating for many years with João Paulo Santos, whose musical alter ego he is.

the man and his pole

A Chinese pole as a partner seems unlikely, and yet it has been with me for almost 20 years. I am the man I am also thanks to him, a 6-meter mast, hoisted to the sky. However, he and I do not go through time in the same way. Time has allowed me to learn how to tame the mast, and it is also he who will erase everything I have learned. For now, there is still time to enjoy the osmosis with the apparatus, and to dance on this so familiar verticality, once again.

I know that I will have to adapt my gesture, my body tells me so, and I like this idea. I'm going to talk to it differently, let myself be shaped by this constraint - the time passing - and thus divert my path.

It's a duo, it always has been. And its history is forever linked to mine.

I want to take advantage of this moment of lucidity, to let go out what I have inside me, to let my body speak and to write on this line a singular vertical story. This singular story is everyone's story, it is the story of life, except that here it will be told with the body and the sweat. The emotion will be perceptible even if we don't grasp everything; and no matter, the essential thing is to feel and let yourself be transported.

Why does the Chinese mast acrobat go up and down all the time? It's so hard and tiring. But behind the effort and the fatigue, other deeper things about our history emerge. It is in this interstice that I want to bring my reflection: to gradually divert the attention of the one who is watching - and who thinks he is just seeing a feat: someone who goes up and down - to reveal to him the immensity that exists behind it. A human being who crosses his life, clinging to a pole, and who rises, differently than physically, to be able to exist, to escape his destiny.

I had the chance to live my dream, to do what I love, and to find my gift, the mast, my mast.

João Paulo Pereira dos Santos

intention

*With my eyes closed, I observe myself, as if I were out of my body.
From up there, I feel the bubbling inside.*



Each time I compose, the path is never the same. It tests me, transforms me, giving me sometimes the appearance of a superman, sometimes of a man ravaged by fatigue.

Nevertheless, it is there that I feel alive: in this continual starting over, in this risk-taking, not only physical but also and above all artistic. To feel right and in tune, with what I undertake to say, with my guts, my hands and my sweat.

Each new creation is like a birth. A part of oneself detaches itself to become an intention, an idea, a movement, a performance. Sometimes clumsy or misunderstood, certainly fragile, but sincere.

In this vibrant creative state that characterises his work, João Paulo Santos wishes to tell the story of a life dedicated to an art that has shaped the flesh and the place in the world of the person who practised it. Telling the story from the inside, taking time for details, with a deep sincerity.

His passion for the circus and his personal path as a circus artist will be the crucible, but the show will be written and transmitted like a parable, to lead the spectator to probe the idea of crossing that every individual experiences and which leads us to where we never thought we would end up.

The point of view of the one who does, who is on stage in a dense and urgent present will be central. His sensations. His experience. His vision of the way he has travelled and of the present that is his, built by his choices and by the uncertain movements of life.

The show will lead the audience to perceive this point of view, will propose an immersion in this unique state of presence of a body that puts itself at stake. The objective is there: to make this state emotionally palpable, by making the stage space a sounding board for what the performer is.

It is also the singular point of view of the circus artist's body, tamed, bent, a friendly as well as a rebellious body. Much more than a «working tool», he is a voice, an associate, a partner in the game who gradually takes over and forces the artist to pursue the road in a different way, to adapt to himself in a way.

This introspective dive is not intended to be an autobiographical narrative. The story will be the one that everyone writes from birth to death, made up of chapters, incidents and accidents, deep joys and tiny marvels. Of simplicity and heroism.

This new solo proposes a vertical crossing whose point of departure is the center, the energy center. It is a journey from the inside to the outside, a crossing of the intimate that will assume its oxymorons and hollows and will underline the quality and singularity of a gesture that is recognizable, among others.

approach

STAGE COMPOSITION

With the creation in 2017 of *Mundo Interior* João Paulo Santos experimented with writing a show through improvisations on the set nourished by dialogue with the director. The back and forth movement of the body on the stage and the language on the edge of the stage allowed the two of them to construct the writing. For *Une partie de soi* he wishes to renew this process with the collaboration with Nathan Isarël who has been a friend for many years. This confidence will enable him to push improvisations to the point of letting go where states and images appear which thought alone cannot suggest.

João Paulo Santos indeed conceives a show with strong images as emotional states. To make an image count, it must last. So, we must succeed in finding the image sufficiently powerful for us to accept that time will pass through it.

PHYSICAL COMMITMENT

The singular expression of João Paulo Santos is that of the intense dialogue between a body and an apparatus, he stages the physicality, the powerful and honest commitment of the body. While keeping this level of presence high, this time he wishes to work the movement in a form of relaxation, to evacuate the physical tension without losing intensity, in the idea of experiencing the gesture.

REFINED AESTHETIC

João Paulo Santos is looking for finesse and minimalism in this creation, both in the scenographic proposal as well as in the sound and light creation. The challenge is not to accumulate filters to make the spectator perceive the central thought or emotion as an evidence.

In an aesthetics of the «less that counts», the writing of the show seeks an elegant simplicity. The idea is that a significant impact is stronger if it is produced by a refined image.

language elements

THE CHINESE POLE

The Chinese pole will again be at the heart of the choreographic proposal, João Paulo Santos wishes to develop this time an acrobatic language in temporality, especially composed of repetitive movements, with the idea of **looking for a form of trans**.

The objective is to create a choreographic writing made of **ritornello**, haunting phrases. The almost aquatic movement that will be proposed will lead to create a crack in the audience's attention.

The pole is not here an object, an apparatus with which to compose. **The pole is a space, on which the acrobat will evolve during the whole show**, between ground and summit, without touching the ground. It is a stage, a page of writing, a bandwidth where to continue again and again the unfolding of the sentence.

The choreographic score will have the same relief as that of the movement of a thoracic cage which inflates and reduces, under the push of the cycle of breathing. The intention is to make appear **the density of an organic movement**, that of the plant, of mineral matters, which only aim to be, with accuracy, and authenticity.

MUSIC

Tiago Cerqueira, a long-time musical accomplice (*Contigo* in 2006 and *Abril* in 2015), will sign the musical composition.

Rather conceived as a soundtrack, which will spare the effects, the music will play a crucial and fruitful role in allowing the spectator to be «in» the same bubble as the artist.

SPACE

For the first time, **the circular space will be invested**. João Paulo Santos imagines a form that will be written from the outset to be welcomed in a circle.

The circular dimension here guarantees closeness of sight, intimacy of course, highlights the centre and circulation from the inside to the outside. It also shows the overall movement on the mast, an intrinsically circular apparatus, and therefore allows the audience to see the volume of the choreography.

João Paulo Santos' creative desire has often been based on a rather precise scenographic desire, but this time he wants to approach it from the body, the writing driving force starts from the body, and the open space of the circle, refined and simple, will be the reflector of the movement.

technical informations

40min solo (estimated)

indoor and outdoor show (day version and in a quite place)

circular space of 6m (to be confirmed) without the space for the audience

6,5m high needed

3 to 4 anchorage points for the Chinese pole

3 personnes on tour

Company O Último Momento

The company O Último Momento was created in 2004 by João Paulo Santos and Guillaume Dutrieux (French musician). In 2005 they created their first show (*Peut-être*) for which João has been laureate Jeune sTalents Cirque and which has been performed more than 50 times across Europe and South-East Asia until 2009.

In 2006 the company created *Contigo* on the order of the Festival IN d'Avignon. This solo project co-written with the Portuguese choreographer Rui Horta, has been presented over 200 times over the world, and keeps on touring today.

In 2009, the short form *Vertigem* is created as a foreshadow of the next performance premiered in 2010, *A deux pas de là-haut*, a duet with Guillaume Amaro. This performance presented an innovative duo work on the Chinese pole and a new apparatus that João Paulo Santos has developed : the stick-pole. The show toured until 2016.

2015 marked a turning point with the creation of *Abril*, a duet with Elsa Caillat, and the apparition of a new apparatus, the aerial rope. Very imbued with Portuguese landscapes and energy, *Abril* is a contemplative piece full of a sweet and sensual energy.

In 2017, the company emphasizes its inscription on the Portuguese territory with the co-creation of *Mundo Interior* with the director João Garcia Miguel. The sensitive and powerful performance, destined to the Portugal, has been presented 21 times in 17 different venues.

In 2019, João Paulo Santos has started working on his next solo *Une partie de soi*, which will premiere in 2021. He has also directed with Pompeu José from the company ACERT the show *Desafios*, a social tale mixing theater and circus.

In 2020, the short outdoor duet *L'Autre*, with the hip-hop dancer Iliass Mjouti, premieres in Portugal.

• [More informations about the creations of the company on the website HERE](#)

contacts

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