

PHYSICAL THEATER

MAGIE NOUVELLE

# THE BARNARD LOOP

DISPENSABARZOTTI



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CREATION 2021

**Production** DispensaBarzotti

**Coproduction** Teatro delle Briciole Solares Fondazione delle Arti, Parma

**Supported by** Municipality of Marseille - “action spectacle vivant” program // Theater Laboratory Sfumato, Sofia // Officine CAOS – Turin // Centro di Residenza della Toscana (Armunia Castiglioncello – CapoTrave/Kilowatt), Sansepolcro

**Artistic residencies** Carrozzerie | n.o.t, Rome // Municipality of Billom - Billom // FAP – Fondazione Aurelio Petroni, San Cipriano Picentino // Théâtre de Cuisine – Friche la Belle de Mai, Marseille // Le CIAM – Centre International des Arts en Mouvement, Aix-en-Provence // Ax-Animation, Ax Les Thermes // Pôle Jeune Public, Le Revest Les Eaux // Archaos, Pôle National Cirque, Marseille

**Production's awards**

project winner of “Odiolestato 2018” contest, Carrozzerie | n.o.t, Rome  
Special award at festival “Tendenza Clown 2019”, Milan

The show is part of **UNTERNEHMEN dans la culture 2021**, an accompanying program for young cultural enterprises promoted by Ministère de la culture français, Relais Culture Europe and Institut français d'Allemagne.





by Alessandra Ventrella **and** Rocco Manfredi  
**director** Alessandra Ventrella

with Francesco Napoli

**régie plateau** Rocco Manfredi  
**set design** Paolo Romanini **and** Rocco Manfredi  
**sound design** Dario Andreoli  
**costume design** Dorothée Henon

**logistical support** Cie Les Karnavires

**a special thanks to**

Émilie Rault, AragoRn Boulanger, Luis Carr, Julien Lemmonier,  
Amandine Buixeda, Mathilde Letteron **and** Emiliano Curà

*The Barnard Loop – or Barnard’s Ring, a nebula in the constellation of Orion of which we know nothing certain – gently faces the fear of being a nobody who knows nothing for sure and the feeling of being just a small dot in the immensity of the universe.*

Through scenes made up of wordless, moving tableaux, the play tells us all about these fears, following a young man going through a **sleepless night**.

**The intimate portrayal** of the fears and obsessions of Barnard, a perpetually indecisive, confused and clumsy character who is not afraid to reveal his fragility.

The play is a tribute to the mysterious, the unpredictable, the unsettling and the surreal. An oneiric traversal of physical and mental states in which repetition, ubiquity and memories take the spectators through an **endless illusion**.



*A moka pot pours never-ending coffee,  
A houseplant comes to life and tries to comfort us,  
The most varied items keep popping out of the bed...*

Barnard finds himself going through a night sprinkled with surreal events to which we cannot find an answer. We cannot prove that it is all just a dream, but neither the opposite.

Whether he is sleeping or awake, Barnard must deal with his inner reality and look for some balance in his seemingly incoherent emotions, desires and thoughts.

*Some magic to recount a dream,  
a few everyday objects coming to life to liven up our imagination,  
a little bit of humor to navigate our inner self.*

**The laws of physics that rule the world neatly separate reality from illusion, but what would happen if things were to change? What if our room and our stuff were to disappear, move or levitate against our will?**

## TRAILER



### **The Barnard Loop is a silent “magie nouvelle” performance.**

Nevertheless, it is easy to forget that we are watching a magic show: no one on the stage looks like an illusionist, no one will pull a rabbit out of a hat or a dove from under a scarf. This play is not a sequence of tricks: magic is the very language spoken on-stage.

### **The Barnard Loop is a fairytale, nearly a cartoon, a dream that can only be related through magical language.**

Barnard, a young man who cannot sleep because his mind is filled with too many questions... a young man dreaming in the solitude of his bedroom. He dreams of being self-confident, of not fearing shame, abandonment, betrayal and of not getting ridiculed in the eyes of the others.

### **He dreams of fearlessness and marvel breaking through his daily grind.**

By using images, atmospheres, music and silences punctuated with light noises, the play comes as an alternative to a preconceived idea of magic shows as mere entertainment.

Young people are constantly bombarded with pictures, and the great amount of time spent looking at their screens makes them more and more lonely. For a young audience, being with other people in the silence and darkness of a theater is a rare and precious opportunity to sit, contemplate and, why not, question oneself.

*Alessandra Ventrella*



“With relief, with humiliation, with terror,  
he understood that he too was a mere appearance,  
dreamt by another.”

*Jorge Luis Borges, Labyrinths: Selected Stories & Other Writings*

**DISPENSABARZOTTI**’s original creations aim at examining and challenging perception. The connections between human and non-human, animate and inanimate, reality and magic are some of their main points of investigation. Ranging from site-specific projects to both public space and theater performances, DispensaBarzotti brings together puppet theater, dance, pantomime and illusion, looking for a visual and physical form of theater.

Alessandra Ventrella and Rocco Manfredi met at the dramaturgy program of Paolo Grassi School in Milan. They decided to start the company in 2014, after graduating.

From that moment on, they have been working to bring fantastic and oneiric scenarios on stage, researching and evocating intimate and universal images.

The company’s creations have received various prizes and were presented at several international festivals.

Since 2019, the company is based in Marseille.





# DISPENSA BARZOTTI

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