



NICE WORK



A street performance

Nice work

CREATED 2010-11

Nice work is a three hour burlesque, sound and visual performance which takes the form of a path in a public place.

We propose an incongruous use of the space with specific tools developed by the enterprise: protean survey instruments, signposting, unexpected sounds, gas and smoke, mobile view points, planks of wood with special dimensions...

The team prepares insitu the day before the performance, in order to adapt our propositions to the space and to take into account the particularities of the chosen area - the coming and going of people, the traffic, architecture and urban planning.

The next day, they occupy the path with actions that provoke suspense, hilarity and unforeseeable consequences. They will attach, lift, balance, and propel themselves and their surroundings, gently, intensely, contemplatively... You can use the path or be a spectator, depending on your point of view.

There are five Nice work operators : Pierre Pilatte, clown, burlesque street performer, Sophie Borthwick or Isabelle Antoine, artistic direction and on site referee, Alexandre They, danser and erformance artist, Erwan Quintin, sound artist, Nadir Bouassria, visual artist



Nice work



Images from ZAT
Montpellier le 13 novembre
2010
<http://vimeo.com/16879268>

www.1watt.eu

Form :

The performance is structured on a « join the dot » principle. The « dots » are five installation, sound and performance areas ; the making and destruction of which are part of Nice work. The installations are made with a limited amount of material (wood, ropes, chairs, balloons and plastic bags), which are continuously put into play and transformed by the performers, and sometimes by the public.

The five spaces are: the attachment area, area of upheaval, launching site, animatory area, and the path precipitate.

The areas are linked by a pathway which leads from one site to another, fluctuating according the rhythm of the performers, the passers by and the public. We count on surprises, accidents, and unexpected events.

We use our own signposting, which indicates the actions in the areas and their boundaries, and shows the path, and actions which take place along it. The vocabulary of the signs varies between personal words and phrases, place names which correspond with the performance events, and meeting points, rest areas and view points along the path.

SPACE: a public street or location (between 70 – 100m long) with various spaces to be used during the performance. We use our van as a headquarters for sound material and stockage, it is parked more or less midway along the path.



On site adaptation

Part of our propositions are adapted or created on site. The day before the performance we work on the performative, sound and visual aspects of Nice work, in relationship to the site.

We choose the perimeters and the spaces for the visual installations and theatrical actions, define the paths between the areas, and explore their possibilities. We then structure events accordingly.

A previous visit to locate the performance is desirable, in order to successfully find the delicate balance between site specific and « imported » work.



Our relationship with the public

We do not develop a classic narrative. We propose that the public passes by, stay a while, come back again, or accompany us from start to finish, according to the situation and the person.

However, as a general guide to Nice work, we can announce five meeting times which correspond with the installation of the areas. The times can be announced before the performance (programmes etc) and will be broadcasted during nice work.

Créated 2010-11

Coproduced in 2010 with :

L'Atelier 231 at Sotteville les Rouen, L'Atelline at Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone, and Le Fourneau at Brest

Residencies in 2010 with :

l'Atelier 231 at Sotteville les Rouen, L'Atelline at Villeneuve-lès-Maguelone, Le Polau at Saint Pierre des Corps, En cours KompleXXKapharnauM at Villeurbanne.

Financial support in 2010 was given by :

La DMDTS, La Région Languedoc-Roussillon, Conseil Général du Gard

Coproductions and residencies during 2011 :

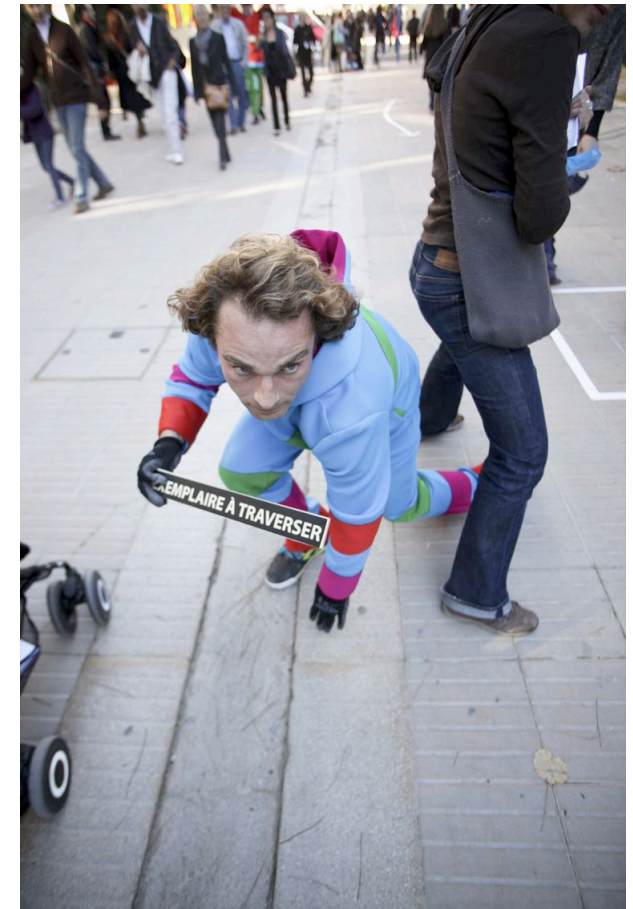
Le Citron Jaune Ilotopie, Centre National des Arts de la Rue à Port St Louis, Les Le Cratère, Scène Nationale d'Ales, 2r2c à Paris

Financial support 2011 :

CG 30, SACD Auteur d'espace public

Nice work team

- + Sophie Borthwick et Isabelle Antoine, artistic direction and on site referee.
- + Alexandre Thery, danser and erformance artist
- + Erwan Quintin, sound artist
- + Nadir Bouassria, visual artist
- + Pierre Pilatte, clown, burlesque street performer
- + Costumes are designed and made by Sharon Gilham.
- + Administration and management : Alexandrine Bianco



A text for programs and press



Nice work, a street performance.

During 3 hours the Nice work operating team will experiment possible and improbable uses of a public space

They test the terrain, for intangible yet essential elements, and then invent a path that will provoke suspense, hilarity and unforeseeable consequences.

They will attach, lift, balance, and propel themselves and their surroundings, gently, intensely, contemplatively... You can use the path or be a spectator, depending on your point of view.

The Nice work professionals use specific tools developed by the enterprise: protean survey instruments, signposting, unexpected sounds, gas and smoke, mobile view points, planks of wood with special dimensions...

You may be passing by, or you may have come to see them work : you can choose any moment during the 3 hour performance to dawdle on Nice works' path. You can stay for a moment, a while, come and go, or come to the rendez -vous that the Nice work operators propose

14 h 00 :The Nice work team starts working

14 h 30 : fabrication of a provisory shelter

15 h 15 : activation of the launching site

16 h 00 : animation of the animatory zone

16 h 30 : edification of the path precipitate

You may arrive during a short pause, the Nice work team look just as nice when they are resting

Put a bit of incongruity in your step, your eyes and your ears ; that's the job of Nice work

1Watt in the street

« **Nice work** » is 1Watt's third street production.

Dès « **Perfect working order** » : a street solo with Pierre Pilatte. He is an eccentric and very visual character who plays with the street, people and buildings. It is a deambulatory show, partly written, partly improvised, which works well in squares or streets with shops and local life.

« **The Wall** » : a burlesque street performance in four episodes lasting two days with Pierre pilatte (clown), Alexandre Thery (dancer), a builder and a technician.
They build a wall 4m long and 2m high with bricks and mortar.
It gradually grows over the four episodes.

EPISODE 1: THE BUILDING SITE. They arrive, take over the space with their materials, and start building. In this episode they use their talents as street performers to play with the public, who are surprised to find that a real wall is being built.

EPISODE 2: NEIGHBOURS. The wall has grown, they transform it into two living spaces, and play with the themes of neighbours and spaces to live in.

EPISODE 3: THE FRONTIER. The wall is bigger, and becomes a borderline, a division or a no mans land. The energy of children playing at war (except it's two adults...), smoke, explosion, the clown is menaced by a madman, and eventually finds his partner, ouf.

EPISODE 4: THE LEAK. The wall is built, has come through hard times, and the duo are back to live in it. they make repairs, visit each other's living spaces, admire the view...then realise that there is a leak, water is dripping through the bricks. The search for the source of the leak leads them to destroy the wall.

It is a combination of clown, dance and physical theatre and visual installation



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« Le mobile premier de la perturbation artistique comme genre : la volonté d'enrichir le présent, la volonté d'un « plus » existentiel ou circonstanciel, l'espérance d'agencements nouveaux que le réel livré à lui-même ne façonne pas mais que l'artiste, lui, a tout pouvoir de précipiter. Exploiter même illégalement (surtout illégalement) le potentiel infini de la vie urbaine – rencontres, accidents, possibilité de rêver de nouvelles fables et, avec un peu de volonté ou d'audace, de les mettre en forme de manière concrète -, voilà qui constitue l'occasion d'un accroissement d'existence. »

Paul Ardenne, au sujet du travail de Francis Alÿs, dans *Art, le présent, La création plasticienne au tournant du XXIème siècle*, éditions du Regard, Paris, 2009, p. 385.

Photos : Cécile Mella, Isabelle Antoine, Clément Puig, Ernst Brunner



1 WATT, an overcharged company.

1 WATT, a company that is burlesque, absurd, surrealist, and sometimes all of these together, or none of these at all.

1 WATT is made up of Sophie Borthwick and Pierre Pilatte, and plays with Françoise Sourd, Isabelle Antoine, Jean Cagnard, Léon Touret, Greg Barbedor, François Tomsu, Crek Juan, Diego Polognioli, Luc deGroeve, Alexandre Thery, Régis Roiron, David Boutry, Nadir Bouassaria...

1 WATT proposes different shows:

- **"it could be sunday"**, indoor show created 2001.
- **"Perfect working order"**, street show created 2003. Available all year round.
- **"In my philosophy"**, indoor show created 2004.
- **« The wall »**, street show 2008
- **« Nice work »**, street project 2010-2011
- **« Drop »**, street project 2012
- **« oyster »**, indoor project 2013

« Let our watchword be lente, lente, and circumspection, with deviations to the right and left, and sudden reversals of course » Mercier and Camier, Samuel Beckett



TECHNICAL NECESSITIES

- Nice work takes place in a street and/or square, using different areas within a 100m perimeter. We look for a lively place with different atmospheres through which it is possible to create a path.
- We insist on the importance of visiting the location with the organiser prior to the performance to confirm it's suitability.
- We park our vehicle (renault trafic van) in the performance area the day before and the day of the performance. We use it as a headquarters for sound material and stockage,
- A source of electricity near the van (16 A, 380)
- An easily accessed water source
- An extending ladder
- 14 wooden planks : length=200cm, width= 2,7cm
- A secure parking place for the van during three nights
- TWO DAYS BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE : The team (5 people) arrive in the evening. Sleeping arrangements are 3 single rooms and a double room during 3 nights.
- THE DAY BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE : We work insitu to adapt the performance to the place. We need vehicle access to the performance space, and to park there all day. Access to electricity and water. We work onsite with our materials during the day.
- THE DAY OF THE PERFORMANCE : We are onsite 5 hours before the performance, with access to electricity and water, and vehicle access. We need someone to keep watch over the van (stays open with equipment inside) during the 3 hour performance. We need help clearing away after the performance