



NICE WORK



A street performance

Nice Work

CREATED 2011

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

We propose a different 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...

The team prepares the performance on site the day before, 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, artistic direction and on site referee,, Alexandre Thery, dancer and performance artist, Erwan Quintin, sound artist, Nadir Bouassria, visual artist



Nice Work



photos Paris 30 avril parc de Bercy with
2R2C :
you tube.com beau travail 1watt

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.

The five spaces are: the attachment area, uprising area, launching site, animate area, and the path precipitate.

The areas are linked by a path which leads from one site to another, fluctuating according to 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 necessary, 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 the show.



Residencies 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 KompleXKapharnauM 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, Réseau en scène Languedoc-Roussillon

Nice Work team

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

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 the path. You can stay for a moment or longer, come and go, or use the meeting times that we propose.

Example

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



1Watt in the street

«**Nice Work** » is 1Watt's third street production. Our previous productions are :

« **Perfect working order** » : a street solo with Pierre Pilatte ; is a walking performance, 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, and is finally knocked down.

EPISODE 1: THE BUILDING SITE.

EPISODE 2: NEIGHBOURS.

EPISODE 3: THE FRONTIER.

EPISODE 4: THE LEAK.



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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, a highly charged 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 the following performances:

- **"Like 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 2011
- **« Be Claude »**, street project 2012-13
- **« Oyster »**, indoor project 2013-14

« 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, square or park, 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,
- Nice Work lasts three hours. The public can join us at any moment, or consult the four meeting times that are announced in the program.
- Spectator capacity depends on the site ; more or less 250 people is comfortable.
- The performance takes place during the day, with the possibility of playing the last 35 minutes at dusk. In this case we need lighting for the final scene (path precipitate). 12 projectors, rigging or attachments to hang them, electrical cable and a different electric source from the sound. A technician to rig and strike the lights.
- 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. We also travel with a trailer, which is not included in the show, and needs a different parking space on the day of the show. The vehicles characteristics are : Renault Trafic : 4m by 2m, 2m high. Trailer : length 3,05m with tow bar, width 1,60m. Matriculation of van and trailer : 3049ZQ30.
- A source of electricity near the van (16 A, 220)
- An easily accessed water source
- An extending ladder
- 14 wooden planks : length=200cm, width= 2,7cm
- A secure parking place for the van and trailer during three nights (arrival, night before and night of performance)
- 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 on site 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