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ADELAIDE
FESTIVAL

1 - 17 MARCH 2019

FAMILY / FRANCE

Foehn

Compagnie Non Nova

Image: Jean-Luc Beaujault

13, 15 – 17 March / AC Arts Main Theatre

Duration 40mins, no interval

Performed by Silvano Nogueira
Artistic Direction, Choreography & Scenography Phia Ménard
Soundtrack Composition Ivan Roussel
based on music by Claude Debussy
Lighting Design Alice Rüest
Wind Design Pierre Blanchet
Set Construction Philippe Ragot assisted by Rodolphe Thibaud and Samuel Danilo
Sound Master Olivier Gicquiaud
Lighting Technician Aurore Baudouin
Stage & Wind Manager Manuel Menes
Costumes and Accessories Fabrice Ilia LeRoy
Photographs Jean-Luc Beaujault
Co-director, Administration & Production Claire Massonnet
Technical Direction Olivier Gicquiaud
Production Assistant Clarisse Mérot
Public Relations Adrien Poulard
Assistant Touring Coordinator Lara Cortesi

A CHOREOGRAPHY...

...for puppets and puppeteer, a ventilation system and a few props – plastic bags, a coat, a pair of scissors, a roll of sticky tape, a walking stick and an umbrella. Accompanied by the notes of Claude Debussy's *Afternoon of a Faun*, *Nocturnes* and *Dialogue of the Wind and the Sea*, a ballet mistress creates a choreography performed by plastic dancers propelled by currents of air. With no need to touch or barely even brush against them, the freedom of their movement makes the puppets seem more and more human by the second, the air streaming through them like bloodflow.

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Air, impalpable air...

...present at each and every instant of our lives, spreading itself everywhere, penetrating our pores, working its way through our bodies, transporting vital oxygen to our cells – *air*, an element stretching from the earth's surface right out to the limits of cosmic space.

Always in movement, we live in it without ever really paying it much attention, aside from checking its variation in temperature and its atmospheric movements – *the wind*. We notice the absence of air when we swim underwater or enter a hot, stuffy unventilated room. Like many other elements, air requires a special focus in order to accept its existence.

As invisible as our imagination, when air moves, it is felt: when it draws patterns in the sand, rearranges the geography around us and transforms our world into a sphere in perpetual transformation.

Phia Ménard

About the Director and Company

French performance artist Phia Ménard became a juggler, performance artist and director in the early 1990s inspired by the work of movement wizards Jérôme Thomas and Hervé Diasnas, whom she credits with teaching her "how to walk".

During her globetrotting tours with the Jérôme Thomas Company her desire to write for the stage grew as she defined her personal vision of contemporary art forms. As artist and improviser, she created numerous shows for the company until leaving to concentrate on her own company Compagnie Non Nova, which she started in 1998 to approach juggling from a different angle, through the scenic and dramaturgical structure of each piece.

Non nova, sed nove – 'Not new things, but in a new way' – is the company's founding precept.

The many multidisciplinary projects of the company have brought together artists, technicians, thinkers from various backgrounds and diverse experiences. It is not a collective but a professional team, with Phia Ménard in charge of the artistic direction.

Co-productions and residencies with La Comédie de Caen, centre dramatique national de normandie (National Dramatic Centre of Normandy), and with La Brèche – (Circus Arts Center for Basse-Normandie) in Cherbourg. Coproduction with Le Quai in Angers (EPCC-Le Quai, Angers et le réseau européen IMAGINE 2020 – Art et Changement Climatique), with the multi-sited structure Scènes du Jura (Jura Scenes), with La Halle aux Grains – the national theatre of Blois, with the Jules Verne Circus – Regional Centre for Circus Arts in Amiens, with le Grand T the Loire-Atlantique subsidised performance space in Nantes, with the Théâtre Universitaire of Nantes, with l'Arc the subsidised performance space of Rezé, with Parc de la Villette in Paris, and with La Verrerie in Alès in the Cévennes/Pôle National des Arts du Cirque (National Center for Circus Arts) in Languedoc-Roussillon. Residency with Les Subsistances 2010/2011, in Lyon, France.

With the support of the Théâtre de Thouars, a subsidised performance space in collaboration with the Cultural Services of Montreuil-Bellay, with le Grand R national theatre of La Roche-sur-Yon and with Le Fanal, national theatre of Saint-Nazaire. Non Nova is subsidised by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication – DRAC des Pays de la Loire, Nantes City Council, the Conseil Régional des Pays de la Loire, the Conseil Départemental de Loire-Atlantique, the Institut Français (France's international cultural relations body) and the BNP Paribas Foundation.