

Jamais en retraite



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A play by **Gioia Zanaboni** and **Anja Eberhart**

Length	50 minutes
Short version	30 minutes
Audience	Any kind of audience
Circus disciplines	Slack Rope, Acrobatic Bike
Genre	Circus, Drama, Music
Place	Adaptable to both Theater Hall and outside

Artistic advisors	Daniel Gulko / Gilles Jolly
Lights creator	Clément Fodella



Synopsis

Jamais en retraite addresses the topic of old age in our society through humour and tenderness. It is the story of a never ending friendship between two elderly ladies, told through an acrobatic bike and a slack rope. Carla and Maria, two Don Quixote of our times, face the inevitable battle against time and they take us in a dance of their everyday lives that is both funny and poetic.



Mandatory mentions Production: Zania // Co-production: La Cascade Pôle national Cirque Ardèche, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes // Subsidies: Région Sud / Ville de Marseille // With the support of: Piste D'Azur – Centre Régional des Arts du Cirque Région Sud / Archaos – Pôle National Cirque / La Central del Circ de Barcelona / Départemental des Bouches-du-Rhône avec le dispositif **Proven-**
ce en Scène

Intention



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„Il giro di una danza e poi un altro ancora e tu del tempo non sei più Signora“

“I dance and I dance once more, and you are not the mistress of time anymore”

These are the words sung by Branduardi in his “Ballo in fa diesis minore”, referring to Death. Are Carla and Maria inspired by them? What’s certain is that these two ladies are ready to show us their strategy.

*Jamais en Retraite is originally written in French, but we also perform it in Italian, Spanish and English.

The theme

This project is first of all a love letter to our grandmothers and a reclamation of their place in our society.

The title “Jamais en retraite” comes from a little pun we made in French. In fact “retraite” means “retirement” and “maison de retraite” means “retirement home”, but at the same time, in military jargon, “retraite” means “retreat”. We have chosen this title to underline the combative and grotesque personality of our characters, who are also dramatically fragile and incredibly stubborn.

In this play, we want to address the issue of old age and the end of life. We do this by putting in scene the everyday actions and struggles of two elderly people with the use of circus. The friendship between these two characters is symbiotic and everlasting. That’s why they get along so well, even when they don’t speak the same language, even if sometimes they only communicate with music.

As you might have guessed, our story is about a war that’s lost from the beginning: the war against time.

Nobody can escape it, nobody can win it. So, how can we deal with this inevitable battle?



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Research in the field of contemporary circus

At the beginning of this project, we decided to use our circus disciplines to search for movement of our characters. Disciplines of balance can transport us into a peculiar psycho-physical state: the micro-movements to find balance either on a slack rope or on an acrobatic bike, made us immediately think about the physical daily routine of an elderly person.

In the play, these movements help us embody the physical fragility of our characters. This research was the foundation for the writing of various scenes. For example: the character Carla gets dressed while balancing on a slack rope to make feel the struggles of an elderly lady in getting dressed.

Vidéo Teaser (<https://youtu.be/EK-SSGDqZ9w>)



ZANIA

Zania resulted from the meeting of Gioia Zanaboni and Anja Eberhart. The two artists first met back in 2017 in Marseille, at the Biennale Internationale des Arts du Cirque, during the creation of the play “Cinq jours à l’épreuve du hasard” (directed by Daniel Gulko). This play was a collaboration between the two schools “Piste D’Azur” and “CNAC”.

The name “Zania” comes from the Comedy of Art character Zanni. The company, in fact, looks for theater in circus, and for circus in theater. The idea is to experiment the possibility of contemporary circus, while maintaining intact the bond with the “classical” tradition of performing arts.

Our goal is the research of a new circus dramaturgy, which allows various layers of interpretation and that could reach out to a vast and diverse audience. The company is also interested in artistic performance in atypical places, to encourage access to culture to anyone.



The Artists

Gioia Zanaboni / Author-actress

Once finished high school at the Social-Psychological and Pedagogical Studies (2010) and fascinated by the world of Art, particularly by physical theater, Gioia decides to leave her hometown, Grosseto, to move to Rome and find her own path. Arriving at the Capital, she starts attending professional courses of Physical Theater at the Teatro Vascello di Roma with Dynamis (2010-2012) and she attends in parallel some amatorial circus courses at Torre (Palestra Popolare Corpi Pazzi). It is right at Torre that she first meets Roberta Castelluzzo from the company Materiaviva, who transmits her the passion for circus and who encourages her to follow this path, proposing Gioia some gigs with her company. By doing so, Gioia realizes that she wants to improve her technical level, and she starts training professionally in the world of circus at the Roman School of Circus with the project "Sipario" (2013). In 2014 she keeps on going on her path at "CAU", a circus-theater school in Granada and finishes her studies in Cannes with two years of professional formation at circus school "Piste d'azur" (2015-2017), getting the "diplôme d'artiste de cirque et mouvement". She currently lives in Marseille, where she co-funded the company Zania and where she works as an external collaborator for ARCHAOS (pôle national cirque). The most relevant artistic projects that see her as author and actress are: Capuche, Jamais en Retraite, Racines de X (2020-2023).



Anja Eberhart / Author-actress

Anja is born in Switzerland, where she begins her acrobatic bike formation in a sports club. After graduating at a Music High School, she attends courses at the Sports University Bern and at the Pedagogical Faculty Zurich. In the same period, she joins drama courses at the Dimitri Theatre School. She approaches the world of circus, collaborating in an action of social circus with "Zip Zap Circus" in Cape Town, South Africa. It's there, on the other side of the world, that Anja understands that her path is being a circus artist. She then decides to train professionally and in 2015 she enters the "Centre national des arts du Cique" (CNAC) in Chalons-en-Champagne.

Anja loves playing, sharing and moving. In 2016 she replaces Serge Huercio in the show "Roue libre" from the company "Les nouveaux nez". In 2018-2019 she replaces Mathieu Despoisse in the show "Maintenant ou Jamais" from the company "Cheptel Aleïkoum". At the moment she works with the company Zania, of which she is cofounder and with the company Cheptel Aleïkoum in the show "V'ivre".





Contact

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