



La Promesse du vide

The Promise of void ~ Company Avis de Tempête ~ Circus

Compagnie Avis de Tempête
CIRQUE



La Promesse du vide

Circus and live music
Created by Louise Faure



Artistic director contact
06 08 80 52 27 - louisefaure@hotmail.fr

Administration and production manager contact
Cathy Maillet
05 46 41 65 15 - avis-de-tempete@orange.fr

Distribution manager
Fabienne Meurice
06 87 44 08 04 - fabienne.meurice91@gmail.com

Stage manager and lighting technician contact
Sylvain Colas
06 82 45 89 81 - sylvaroses@yahoo.fr

Sound engineer contact
Jeannick Launay
06 84 79 80 15 - dblja@orange.fr

Compagnie
Avis de Tempête
21 rue Sardinerie
17000 La Rochelle
05 46 41 65 15
avis-de-tempete@orange.fr
www.cieavisdetempete.com

[www.facebook.com/
compagnieavisetempete](http://www.facebook.com/compagnieavisetempete)

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Stand up straight, take a deep breath, look up at the sky, and go for it!

Departing, leaping into the void, taking the plunge — we are going to tell you about this moment in life, that transforms us forever.

They are about to leave. They are ready. They are leaving. They will meet by chance at a street crossing, under a bridge, in a garden, full of stories, gathered on their journey. They will recognise each other through their fragility, their vulnerability, their strength of life to go even further and push their own limits.

On this majestic structure, made of rust and wood, three circus performers and two musicians will keep their promise, inhabited by the same movement and imbued with the same language - circus, bodies in suspension, music and words.

‘The desire and strength to leap have great power to reach new heights and discover the horizon.’



This street performance draws on the theatrical presence of the circus performer's body, the vertical body, suspended in mid-air, but also on the horizon, great heights, and therefore the void. These concepts revolve around a subject, a narrative objective, a dramaturgical challenge.

I explore the moment of suspension that a “departure” provides — the leap into the void when you close a door. I took inspiration from authors and philosophers such as Anne Dufourmantelle in her essay *L'éloge du risque (In Praise of Risk)*, in which she states: «In praise of risk-taking at a time when security is presented to us as the most important value. Around this central question: what does it mean to risk one's life, that is, to take the risk of truly living?» As she writes: «Risk is the ultimate test of courage and freedom»... «It is a projection of oneself into an unprecedented, new situation that splits time in two: the time before and the new time. There is always an element of chance, of gambling, and the loss of a former state to which one cannot return.»

I work on the characters' journeys and write their lives so that their encounters converge at a single point, in the manner of Claude Lelouch in *La Belle Histoire* or *Les Uns et les Autres*.

The challenge is to combine the dramatic power of this portico, a majestic structure made of rusted metal and wood, with the strength of the characters who use inhabit it, in harmony with the music and sound.

I delve into the void where choice and leaping become a poetic act. I then question the relationship between the characters, the space that surrounds them and their dramatic dimension.

My research also covers on the unconscious meaning created by the combination of music with performative and aesthetic imagery, in order to observe its impact and virtues on the audience and to create emotion. I cannot resist quoting an excerpt from Kundera's *Slowness, A Novel* that accompanies me in all my creations: «There is a secret connection between slowness and memory, between speed and forgetting (...). The degree of slowness is directly proportional to the intensity of memory; the degree of speed is directly proportional to the intensity of forgetting (...), «All gestures, in addition to their practical function, have a meaning that goes beyond the intention of those who perform them.»

The projects revolve around musical composition, the use of space in height, circulation, and consideration of the environment beyond the designated performance space: the public space.



Established in 2023

Duration : 45 minutes

Display area: primarily outdoors, but can be adapted for use in very high spaces (minimum height 11 metres)

All audiences

Large and small venues: 100 to 3,000 spectators

Audience seating: 180°

The play area is suspended several metres above the ground, offering ideal visibility

Touring team:

3 circus performers, 2 musicians, 1 lighting technician, 1 sound technician

Circus disciplines: swinging trapeze, flying rope, balancing, Chinese poles, acrobatic lifts

Post-progressive music and songs: guitar, keyboards, drums, percussion, bass, vocals (original lyrics written by Loïc LANTOINE)

Creative Team

Louise FAURE, author/director/circus artist

Paula PARADISO, circus artist/performer

Bruno LUSSIER, circus artist/performer

Jean-Benoît NISON, musician and composer

Jocelyn LÉCUYER, musician and composer

Loïc LANTOINE, assistance with writing lyrics

Éloïse RIGNON, external perspective

Sylvain COLAS, stage manager - lighting design

Jeannick LAUNAY, sound engineer

Loïc BERNARDEAU, Bruno GASTAO, Sebastien GIRAUD-VIDAULT, Alain KOLPAK, William PIED, design and construction of the gantry structure

Natalis MARTIN, costume designer

Cathy MAILLET, administration and production manager

Fabienne MEURICE, distribution and production manager

Virginie PARMENTIER, distribution support

Co-producers and Partners



DRAC Nouvelle Aquitaine
OARA Nouvelle Aquitaine
Sur le Pont - Cnarep La Rochelle (17),
Town of Puilboreau (17)
Les 3Aires (16)
La Palène-Rouillac (16)
La Canopée - Ruffec (16)
Les Carmes - La Rochefoucault (16)
École Nationale de Cirque de Chatellerault (86)
Abbaye Royale de Celles-sur-Belle (79)
La Boite - Rochefort (17)
Centre socio-culturel Le Colibri La Couronne (16)
La Grainerie - Fabrique des Arts du Cirque et de l'Itinérance (31)

The Compagnie Avis de Tempête is accredited by the Nouvelle Aquitaine Region and the Charente-Maritime Departmental Council (17).

It is subsidised by the city of La Rochelle and supported by the DRAC Nouvelle Aquitaine and the OARA.



The Company 'Avis de Tempête and' Louise FAURE

Louise Faure, author, choreographer and circus artist, has been directing the company's artistic projects since 2012, with eight productions to her credit that have toured throughout France and Europe:

Estrellita	Created in 2013	Circus and music under the Compagnie's big top
Au Crépuscule	Created in 2014	Adaptation of Estrellita for the street
Marguerite	Created in 2016	Choreographed circus and live music
Comme Un Vertige	Created in 2017	Circus and live music on an aerial structure for the street
Rituel	Created in 2020	Aerial choreographic performance
MATER !	Created in 2021	Circus under the big top
The Promise of Emptiness	Created in 2023	Circus and live music on an aerial structure for the street
When the leaves fall	Created in 2025	Circus and dance for young audiences for the theatre



Louise Faure, aerial acrobat, trapeze artist and 'child of the circus', continues to write her family's history and asserts her place in the creative circus, a way of thinking and inventing new artistic adventures.

Louise Faure expresses herself through the creation of circus, choreographic and musical scores in unique artistic projects. Her work, recognised and appreciated by both the public and professionals alike, drives her to constantly imagine new forms of expression and new projects that are both ambitious and accessible human in scale.

The complexity and beauty of human beings in our contemporary world are the main themes she explores, with great tenderness and rigour. It is through the dramaturgical writing of the circus body and musical research that Louise Faure transports us into her own unique worlds. Whether under the big top, in the street, in theatres or in unusual venues, for her, «her» circus must be a work of art made and created for everyone.

Her approach as a circus author is to create shows where circus, physical expression and musical creation intertwine and come together. All her work revolves around circus movement, where the precision of the gesture resonates with the demands of musicality to create a shared score imbued with emotion.

In each of her creations, she seeks to strike a delicate balance between the work and those who receive it. She focuses on what can be seen and felt, but also on what remains invisible yet has a profound effect, disrupting and transforming the way we see things. It is in this fragile and powerful space that live performance finds its strength, its necessity and its essential character for human beings.

It is with passion and conviction that Louise Faure goes out to meet people and explore new territories.

Louise Faure, Circus artist (aerial disciplines), actress, musician, author, ringmaster



Born into the circus world, Louise FAURE began performing on stage and with rings at a very young age.

She graduated from the Académie Fratellini circus school in 2007 after completing preparatory studies at the National Circus Schools in Châtellerault and Lomme in Lille.

She quickly began working with several directors and companies such as the Compagnie Styx Théâtre (Marseille — dir. S. Noyelle), the Opéra Bastille - Carmen (Paris — dir. Y. Beaunesne), Cie Deus ex machina (Nantes — collective), Cie Petites Perfections (Nîmes — dir. V Dubourg), with whom she took part in various circus, theatre, visual arts and performance projects as a circus artist and actress. She then worked for various directors as a performer and assistant director. She then collaborated with Jean-Jacques Faure, founder of the Compagnie Avis de Tempête, and at the end of this partnership, she decided to take over the artistic direction to pursue her own projects.



Bruno Lussier, tightrope walker, acrobat, porter

Originally from Montreal, Quebec, Bruno Lussier trained at the National Circus School in Montreal before deciding to move to France, where he worked with various circus and dance companies (Cirque Baroque, Achille Tonic, Famille Morallès, Compagnie Montalvo-Hervieux, Cirque Monti, Compagnie Rasposo — Parfum d'Est, Le Chant du dindon, etc.). He joined the Compagnie Avis de Tempête in 2012 for the creation of Estrellita and has participated in numerous creations, including MATER! in 2021.



Paula Paradiso, trapeze artist, acrobat

A complete artist, Paula Paradiso studied circus arts at the Circo Criollo School in Buenos Aires (Argentina), then at the École Nationale des Arts du Cirque in Rosny and the Centre National des Arts du Cirque. Her specialities are swinging trapeze (solo and duo), fixed trapeze duo, hand-to-hand and balancing acts. At the same time, she studied music at the University of Buenos Aires, then the flute, piano and soprano saxophone at conservatories in Argentina and France. She is interested in dance and practises classical, contemporary, tango and salsa. She has toured Brazil with 'Le Cirque' and Argentina with "Minga", 'Circo Arlequin' and 'Circo Atlas'. She then went on to tour France and Europe...



Jean-Benoît Nison, composer, musician, guitar, bass, keyboard, vocals

Jean-Benoît Nison has been working in the entertainment industry for around thirty years. He has acquired numerous skills in various artistic fields. He plays the drums, the piano, guitar, bass and he sings in various rock, improvised music, jazz, and French chanson bands. He composes for theatre, dance, circus, and cinema. He has worked with several theatre and street theatre companies and collectives as an actor and musician. Trained by the Harmoniques organisation in Paris, he has been coaching professional and amateur artists since 2013. He also directs for theatre, cinema and opera.



Jocelyn Lécuyer, composer, musician, drums, backing vocals

Jocelyn Lécuyer divides his musical passion between live performance music, which he plays, and the singers he enjoys accompanying with drums, samples, vocals, or sometimes all three. He likes adding his own touch to a project that challenges him...

Since 2012, he has been collaborating on the creation of music for the Compagnie Avis de Tempête's shows, most of which is performed live.

Since 2018, he has been sharing the stage with the songwriter 'L'Anglais', with whom he is developing a project based around singing.

In addition, in 2010, he founded the group 'La Galoupe' with three friends, which now performs a repertoire of anarchist and protest songs.