



Fair-Play

A show by Patrice Thibaud
With Patrice Thibaud and Philippe Leygnac



© Rebecca Josset

Théâtre de Nîmes - scène conventionnée pour la danse contemporaine
Licences n° 1015436-37-38 et 1045517 / www.theatredenimes.com
Booking : Fatiha Schlicht - f.schlicht@theatredenimes.com - +33 (0)7 81 15 99 77

*All the details on this page are obligatory.
The organiser must submit all communication documents concerning the show
to the producer for approval before printing.*

Author Patrice Thibaud

Directed by Jean-Marc Bihour, Jean-Michel Guérin and Patrice Thibaud

Original music Philippe Leygnac

Lighting Charlotte Dubail

Costumes Isabelle Beaudouin

External eyes Marie Duret-Pujol

Stage management Charlotte Dubail / Aurélien Amsellem (alternating)

Production Claudia Trevino Minutti

Booking Fatiha Schlicht

With Patrice Thibaud and Philippe Leygnac

Duration 1h20

First staged in September 2012 at La Comète - Scène nationale de Châlons-en-Champagne.

Production Théâtre de Nîmes - scène conventionnée pour la danse contemporaine -(theatre approved for contemporary dance). Coproduction Grégoire Furrer and Silent Productions / La Comète - Scène Nationale de Châlons-en-Champagne / Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg / Espace Jean Legendre - Théâtre de Compiègne

Nîmes Théâtre is subsidised by the City of Nîmes, the Ministry of Culture and Communication – Languedoc-Roussillon regional management of cultural affairs, Languedoc-Roussillon Regional Council and the Gard Departmental Council. Patrice Thibaud is an artiste associated with Théâtre de Nîmes.

Fair-Play in a few words ...

The only issue is not a medal but the laughter of both children and adults.

On the stage : the human form, the body. And everything that it can do. Performances, poignant movements to attain the sublime. A body to be strengthened, to be unfolded. Warming up, stomach muscles, buttocks, and running races. Gym, weightlifting and combat sports. The stage becomes a boxing ring, an athletics track or a football pitch. The body goes here and there, in sport mode, febrile. With a grotesque desire for superiority it aims at the highest level of the podiums where the status of strongest man in the world is still being disputed. He plays in a team to be the first. He seeks rising adrenalin levels. The actor in Fair Play focuses on the steel of the sport mentality, its horse-like perseverance or the gracefulness of the movement of a body that goes beyond its natural capacities. Going beyond oneself.

He is a mime artist, a dancer and an author. A magnificent actor for Jérôme Deschamps and Macha Makeïeff, he has rendered whole theatres helpless with laughter by crossing the stage on horseback or impersonating a model office worker. A serious actor for Christian Schiaretti and a sparkling clown with Les Deschiens, Patrice Thibaud now makes his own shows that travel all round the world. After Cocorico and Jungles, the artiste associated with the Théâtre de Nîmes / theatre designated for contemporary dance, has devised a hilarious choreography of the world of die-hard exploits. He possesses something of Jacques Tati and Charlie Chaplin; he has the grandeur of the supple clowns who both love and mock their fellows. Music by Philippe Leygnac accompanies the athlete's prowess during his various matches, world records and team sports. A caustic homage with tender tableaux of human ridiculousness, Fair Play plays on sports iconography like a virtuoso lover.

A healthy mind in a healthy body ...

« Sport is universal, bears emotions and brings peoples together. Like music or pantomime. I have chosen to combine all three. Accompanied by Philippe Leygnac once again, this show for all ages examines sport and its mentality in a humorous, off-beat manner. Pantomime requires rigour in the movement and awareness of the body, the tools of my trade, and sensations are the same on a playing field and on a stage: an adrenaline burst before the start of the game and then anything can happen before the final whistle. Put the body, movements, feelings and frustrations of a sportsman to music. Have a tender, poetic and critical approach to the dreams of glory, steel-mindedness, physical capacity and strength of sportsmen and also to their weaknesses and sometimes their ridiculousness. Why feel a need to do better, to push back the limits and to be the best? Why defend a challenge, a match, a time or a record as if one's life depended on it? Perhaps, as in these children's games, it is to be the strongest in the world, if only for a day.

And then?

Georges Orwell wrote that 'Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play', considering it to be '...bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules ...'. Curiously, these features are found in the world of the burlesque. As the title suggests, following the quotation from Orwell, Fair Play focuses on the sporting spirit and fair play. It shows a host of examples of bad behaviour and pretensions and mocks ruined careers and failures. This might bring to mind Jacques Tati's Impressions sportives or Charlie Chaplin's The Champion. Fair Play is two figures on a stage, facing the audience—like two athletes facing the grandstand—but where the only prize is not a medal but the laughter of everyone, big and small. »

Patrice Thibaud

Experienced artistes ...

Patrice Thibaud

In 1994, after ten years with theatrical and music companies, Patrick Thibaud met Michèle Guigon and the pair performed in *Duo, histoire d'amourire*. In 1995 Christian Schiarette offered to take him on in the permanent troupe of the Centre Dramatique National in Reims. He stayed there for five years and was involved in different theatrical styles. Among other productions, he was noted in *Hamed Philosophe* by Alain Badiou, *Polyeucte Martyr* by Corneille and *Les Visionnaires* by Desmarest de Saint Sorlin.

He met Jérôme Deschamps and Macha Makeïeff in 2001 and performed with them in the theatre in *La Cour des grands*, *Les Etourdis*, the *Soirée Tati* and at the opera in Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio* and Emmanuel Chabrier's *L'Etoile*.

At the insistence of the Salzburg International Festival, in July 2006 he wrote and staged with Philippe Leygnac a 20-minute pantomime for the opening ceremony. This was broadcast live on Austrian television.

He wrote and performed *Cocorico* in 2008 and then *Jungles* (2011) at the Théâtre National de Chaillot. He was then associate artiste at the Comète/ Scène nationale in Châlons-en-Champagne, where he put on *Bobine de Singe* and then *Fair Play* (2012). He has also staged shows and performances for the Musée du Louvre and the Musée du Quai Branly (*La Véritable histoire de Tarzan*, *Le Mystère de la poupée Kachina*) since 2009. In May-June 2009, Patrice also led three 'unexpected visits' to the French Film Library; these were related to the exhibition on Jacques Tati.

In parallel with the theatre, he also works in television and film. From 2004 to 2006 he appeared daily in original mime pieces on Canal + in Stéphane Bern's programme *20h10 Pétantes*. In 2007 he worked for the TV channel M6, writing and presenting a zany teleshopping programme called *Michelle et Michel*. In 2012 he created *Jeux de M. Tibo*, a short sports mime sequence, for TV5MONDE.

He also performed in the films *Asterix at the Olympic Games* by Thomas Langmann and Frédéric Forestier, *Agathe Clery* by Etienne Chatiliez, *Mes Amis, Mes Amours* by Lorraine Levy, *La Cerise sur le gâteau* by Laura Morante, *Yves Saint Laurent* by Jalil Lespert. He acted in Jamel Debbouze's forthcoming first film *Pourquoi j'ai (pas) mangé mon père*.

Philippe Leygnac

Initially an artist, he studied drawing for animated films at the Gobelins but left before the end of the course to devote himself entirely to music as this had fascinated him since his earliest youth. He studied the trumpet and continued a course on analysis and harmony at the Ecole normale de musique de Paris until 1992.

A self-taught pianist and multi-instrumentalist, he played in theatrical productions (*J'aime Brecht*, with Pierre Santini). Fascinated by the world of poets and songwriters, he became a musician, accompanist, arranger and composer with Alain Aurenche (1995), Allain Leprest (1998), Serge Utgé Royo (2001) and Jean-Luc Debattiste, recording several records and radio programmes. He was the joint writer of the music for Armand Gatti's *L'enfant rat* at the 'Francophonies' in Limoges (1996). He was pianist and improviser at André Velter and Claude Guerre's *Meeting Poétique* with Michel Piccoli, Laurent Terzieff, Jacques Bonnaffé and Elise Caron. Musician and actor, he performed in various shows and from 2003 worked with Jérôme Deschamps and Macha Makeïeff in *Les Étourdis*, *L'affaire de la rue de Lourcine*, *La Méchante vie* and *L'Etoile* and then with the composer Frédérique Verrière in *Jazz Animé* (staged at the Opéra Comique in 2008).

He met Patrick Thibaud in Jérôme Deschamps *Les Étourdis*, marking the start of a long period of working together. Since 2008, he has contributed to *Cocorico*, *Jungles*, *Bobine de singe* and *Fair Play* (2012).



© Rebecca Josset

Jean-marc Bihour

He started his acting career in 1985 in *La Veillée* with Jérôme Deschamps and Macha Makeïeff. He then worked for the same directors for a long time (*C'est dimanche* in 1986, *Les Petits Pas* in 1987, *Lapin-chasseur* in 1989, *Les Frères Zénith* in 1990, *Les Pieds dans l'eau* in 1992, *Les Brigands* in 1992, *C'est magnifique* in 1994, *Le Défilé* in 1995, *Les Précieuses ridicules* in 1997, *Les Pensionnaires* in 1999, *L'Enlèvement au sérail* in 2003 and *L'Etoile* by Emmanuel Chabrier in 2007).

He met Patrice Thibaud on the occasion of the production of Mozart's opera *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, directed by Jérôme Deschamps and Macha Makeïeff. They have been close ever since and in 2012 co-directed *Fair Play* in collaboration with Patrice Thibaud and Jean-Michel Guérin.

Since 2002 he has been an actor at the Théâtre Régional des Pays de la Loire in productions directed by Patrick Pelloquet.

He is to work with Patrice Thibaud again as co-director of *Franito*, his work for the 2015 Flamenco Festival at the Théâtre de Nîmes.

Jean-michel Guérin

He founded the company 'C'est La Nuit' in 1990 and then from 1992 spent ten years as a permanent actor at the Centre Dramatique National in Reims, under the direction of Christian Schiaretti. The first play he directed was *Théophile en Prison* (1999) after prose and poems by Théophile de Viau. This was produced by the Comédie de Reims.

In 2002 he founded the company 'D'un moment l'autre', and is its artistic director today. He directed *Mythologies* by Pierre Michon in 2003, *Le Nom sur le bout de la langue* by Pascal Quignard in 2004 and *Agamemnon* by Rodrigo Garcia in 2008.

In 2012 he codirected *Fair Play*, with Jean-Marc Bihour and Patrice Thibaud, a longstanding friend since their meeting at the Comédie de Reims.

As well as directing, he has continued acting and has been a member of the actors' collective O'Brother Company since 2013.

Presse

- Excerpts -

'[He and] his faithful friend Philippe Leygnac dissect the strengths and weaknesses, failed careers and pretentious targets of athletes with tenderness and causticity.' Le Parisien

'Patrice Thibaud [...] puts sport through his both hilarious and offbeat mill. After 'Jungles' and 'Cocorico', the follower of Tati and Keaton still strikes excellence without words with his friend the musician Philippe Leygnac.'
Le Mag Sud Ouest

'Thibaud and Leygnac do not use words but they show things—in a fraction of a second. [...] We are generally seated spectators of sports rather than moving participants and they make them as visible/tangible as if we were in a stadium or watching television. And laughter and smiles are of course amplified by the catalogue, encyclopaedic effect of all this: in just over an hour they 'run through' them all, from the mountain of muscle to the self-satisfied champion, from the clumsy apprentice to pimp-like training. [...] Pleasure is also increased by the duo effect: Thibaud and Leygnac, the plump one (Thibaud uses the many layers of his 'abdominal muscles') and the skinny one, the master and the person he bullies. And there is also the feature that while Thibaud uses his body as an orchestra, Leygnac, with his trumpet, piano and percussion instruments of all kinds, is a one-man band. He also proves that a grand piano can also be a climbing wall.' Luxemburger Wort

Tour programme

Season 2014 / 2015

26 September 2014 La Mégisserie de Saint-Junien
11 December 2014 Théâtre de Villefranche
12 December 2014 Théâtre de Vénissieux
20 and 21 January 2015 Théâtre Municipal de Béziers
23 January 2015 La croisée des Arts de Saint-Maximin
3 and 4 February 2015 Théâtre du Vellein de Villefontaine
7 February 2015 La Scène Watteau – scène conventionnée de Nogent-sur-Marne
24 March 2015 Théâtre de Verre de Châteaubriant
31 March, 1 and 2 April 2015 Théâtre de Nîmes
4 April 2015 Le Carré Ste Maxime
16 April 2015 Théâtre Jean Vilar de Eysines
24 April 2015 Maison des Arts et Loisirs de Laon
29 and 30 April 2015 Château Rouge d'Annemasse
5 May 2015 Auditorium Michel Petrucciani de Montélimar
9 May 2015 Théâtre d'Esch (Luxemburg)
29 May 2015 Le Salmanazar d'Épernay

Also in tour ...

Cocorico, a show by Patrice Thibaud and Philippe Leygnac

16 May 2015 Macau
30 June and 1 July 2015 Séoul
9, 10, 11, 12 July Tapéï

Booking

Fatiha Schlicht
f.schlicht@theatredenimes.com
+33 (0)7 81 15 99 77

Production manager

Marine Amelin
m.amelin@theatredenimes.com
+33 (0)4 66 36 65 20

Production

Claudia Trevino Minutti
c.trevino@theatredenimes.com
+33 (0)7 50 49 98 75

Technical contact

Charlotte Dubail
charlotte.dubail@gmail.com
+33 (0)6 64 29 95 02