

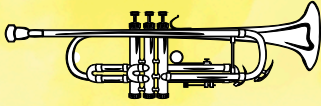
# cirk<sup>o</sup>scopik

## Artistic portfolio

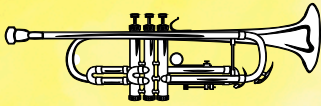


MUSICAL ACROBATIC CLOWN SHOW FOR  
CONTEMPLATORS AND DREAMERS

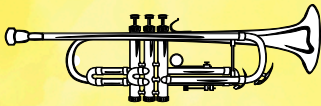
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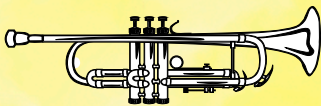
**Cirkoscopik**



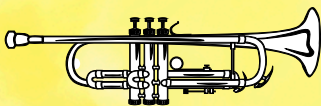
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Like microscopic, that's where the name comes from. Imagine being able to watch a circus show through a microscope, that's what drives our duo: making the circus spectacular at an almost cellular level of intimacy. Circus for the living.

We are Joaquim Verrier and Emma Verhaeghe, a French-Belgian duo who met at the studios of the Centre des Arts du Cirque Balthazar (France), and then at the National circus school in Montreal (Canada). That's where we learned the arts of handbalancing, juggling and hand-to-hand.

Then there is the clown who naturally and delicately settled into us. Thanks to many mentors, we had the opportunity to develop our characters and our relationship on stage. As a result, our duo was able to touch the hearts of many people, first on stages in Québec with Les Foutoukours and their show *Nova*, but also internationally with Circus Monti (Switzerland). We even had the opportunity to present the show *Nova* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2024, where it received heartwarming press reviews.

Inspired by these encounters and on-stage adventures, we naturally wanted to create our own universe. We began writing and thinking about our first show, thanks to the support of the Conseil des Arts et des Lettres du Québec, Tohu, Maisons de la culture of Montreal, La Compagnie des Autres, En piste, La Caisse de la Culture, La Roseraie (BE) and Maison Culturelle d'Ath (BE). Bit by bit, we put together our first show, which we want to be the signature of our duo. It features two sensitive and amused clowns, who acrobatically explore their circus ring with their musical instruments.



**Emma:** Born in Belgium in a small village in East Flanders, she quickly started running around and performing sketches during family dinners. Bursting with energy, she found herself doing somersaults and flexibility exercises on the square floor of a local gymnastics club. Her dedication took her all the way to the European Championships in 2015. At the same time, she roamed the cobbled streets of villages with her French horn in the local marching band. After starting university to study translation, she immediately started missing the acrobatics and left to attend circus school. Since then, she has performed her act *Jaunologie* many times, combining handbalancing with the art of clowning. Through Cirkoscopik, she has rediscovered her two passions: music and acrobatics. She brings to Cirkoscopik her rigor and gentle madness.

**Joaquim:** Interested in the arts from a young age, he attended an amateur circus school where he learned the basics of what would become his professional life. From diabolos to trampolines and aerial silks, he loved trying everything. At a festival in the village, he was fascinated by an accordionist. Without hesitation, he bought one and happily discovered this unusual instrument for his age. After an uninspiring start at university, he jumped at the chance of a lifetime when the Centre des Arts du Cirque Balthazar offered him a place on its training program. He tried hand-to-hand for a year and then turned to cigar box juggling, completing his training at the National circus school in Montreal (Canada). After working with Cirque Alfonse, Cirque Eloize and Les Productions Haut-Vol, he decided to focus on his desire to be a clown, working with Les Foutoukours, then on his own projects. Always full of ideas, Cirkoscopik offers him the ideal environment to let his creativity flourish.

# Synopsis

When a conductor comes to present her greatest symphony to the world, she quickly realizes that this will not be possible because only one clown is present that day. They develop ingenious strategies to offer the audience an unforgettable experience. The clowns perform juggling, handbalancing and hand-to-hand. An adventure where the unexpected and creativity compose a symphony like no other. Cirkoscopik features two sensitive and attentive clowns. Clumsy musicians and acrobats without false notes. This short piece questions virtuosity in relation to the clown figure. These two silent clowns already know each other and know where they are going, but they don't get there so easily. Moving within their circle drawn on the ground, they have only one goal: to offer the audience their most beautiful symphony.



# Artistic approach

## PREMICES – REINVENTING THE CLOWN

In his 1971 film “Clowns,” Federico Fellini declares that “the clown is dead forever.” With this simple sentence, he highlights the disappearance of classic clowns, as well as that of a simple and joyful world. Fifty years later, our duo Cirkoscopik is committed to drawing inspiration from these vanished clowns to bring these iconic characters up to date.

Our artistic approach consists of reappropriating the image of the clown and adapting it to our times: more refined, more sensitive, rooted in today’s realities without losing the poetic power of its origins. The clown we explore is not the one with the easy gag or the fixed red nose: he is a human being in search of balance, vulnerable and deeply authentic, who reveals himself in listening to others, in accepting mistakes, in the search for a common language.



# THEME – UNISON AND SIMPLICITY

Through this show, we want to address the themes of unison and simplicity by exploring how two individuals can appreciate each other, agree with each other and create something together from almost nothing. Here, unison is not synonymous with uniformity, but rather a search for harmony that arises from relationship, listening and play. On stage, two clowns with distinct personalities attempt to build a shared universe, despite their differences, adjusting their rhythms, gestures, and intentions to find a common language. This quest becomes the driving force behind situations that are both poetic and absurd, where each attempt of agreement reveals the fragility and beauty of cooperation.

Simplicity is also present in the staging: few props, live music and refined actions that highlight the essential. It is also found in the attitude of the characters, who seek direct, sometimes naive solutions to complex situations. By placing these two notions at the heart of our creation, we wish to invite the audience to rediscover the richness contained in simple things and the power of unison as a way to connect, create and share emotions.



# ARTISTIC QUALITY – A DISTINCTIVE SIGNATURE



This show stands out for its hybrid approach, combining contemporary clowning, high-level circus and live music. Whereas traditional clowning often relied solely on comedy, Cirkoscopik adds a technical and poetic dimension that greatly enriches the performance. The unconventional use of instruments, the dramaturgy based on the unexpected, and the physical dialogue between the two performers create an original proposition, firmly rooted in our times.

Our work is also deeply rooted in our artistic approach: it extends our research on the reinvention of the clown and the encounter between virtuosity and vulnerability. It questions our relationship with excellence, the collective, and error, while exploring the place of circus in today's public space.

# Creative team

Nathan Giroux

*Composer*



Marie-Josée Gauthier

*Assistance with dramaturgy and interpretation*



Jérémy Vitupier

*Clowning advisor*



Benoit Devos

*Outside-eye clowning*



Nicolas Germaine

*Acrobatic advisor*



Philibert Hébert-Filion

*Scenographer*



# cirkoscopik

Outdoor show



With a predilection for refined performances, Cirkoscopik explores the richness of human expression through simplicity. Our artistic vision is an invitation to a journey where music and acrobatics merge in an explosion of joy, offering the audience a new musical and circus experience.

**Disciplines:** Clown, circus, physical theatre, live music



**All audiences:** Adults, children, schools



**Duration:**  
**35 minutes**

**Gauge:**  
**10 to 300**

# Partners



Conseil  
des arts  
et des lettres  
du Québec



LA COMPAGNIE  
DES AUTRES



Maisons  
de la  
culture



caisse de  
la culture



La  
Rosaie

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