



# LADEN CLASSE

1 9 3 P R O B L E M I

Contemporary Circus Company  
Creation 2016 / 2018



[www.ladenclasse.com](http://www.ladenclasse.com)





## THE COLLECTIVE:

The Laden Classe Collective took shape in 2015 bringing together different skills and experiences, mixing the arts and expertise of its members: juggling, aerial trapeze, Chinese poles, object and body manipulation, Cyr wheel, music, hand-to-hand and dance.

Coming from different artistic backgrounds, three of the group's members met while training at the FLIC circus school where they developed a collective synergy spending time together. At the end of their circus training, the three joined forces to embark on a shared creative project.

After a year or so of research the group came across its fourth member whose contribution further enhanced its work and completed the Collective.

## THE LADEN CLASSE NAME:

Laden Classe takes its name from an old washing machine one of the members banged his head against. The washing machine is a metaphor for the group's mix of art forms: the laundry does not always come out of the washing machine just as you expect it to... sometimes there are surprises, and the garments are always mixed up in a unique random order.



A photograph of two men with beards looking upwards. The man in the foreground is on the left, and the man in the background is on the right. Their hands are placed on their heads, suggesting a state of awe or concentration. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

## THE MEMBERS:

**Leonardo Cristiani:** Born in 1987, Leonardo is a juggler, clown, performer and Cyr wheel acrobat. At 14 he started to perform as a street artist. His special multifaceted training is focused on the body and its boundless capacity for expression. In the last decade he has taken part in a number of contemporary circus training projects including: "FAAAC" in France and Poland and the "FLIC" Circus School in Turin, Italy. From 2008 to 2009, Leonardo was part of the "Jonglorsion" project (Butoh dance and juggling) run by Jean Daniel Fricker. In addition to the "Laden Classe" collective, he currently works with Emilia Taurisano's "Tau" company (antipodism), and "La Sbrindola" street theatre.

**Enrico Formaggi:** Born in 1985, Enrico is an hand to hand base, juggler, tightrope walker and performer. His interest in the circus arts dates back to 2009 when he started his training studying physical theatre, juggling and clowning. In 2010 he enrolled in the Galante Garrone School in Bologna, Italy where he attended the preparatory course studying acting and diction, mime, dance, acrobatics and yoga. In 2012, Enrico took part in the Circo-Art project in Rome, trying out different circus arts and studying masks. From 2012 to 2014, he attended the FLIC circus school specialising in hand-to-hand. Since 2013 he has worked with the Tandem Flop duo adopting the pseudonym Henri Camembert in 2010 for his performances and shows.



**Javier Varela Cárretera:** Born in 1987, Javier is a martial arts specialist, acrobat/dancer, juggler, trapeze artist and Cyr wheel acrobat. He started studying martial arts (mainly Taekwondo) in 1998 gaining more than 15 years' experience and taking part in world championships. Javier's circus experience dates back to 2009 when he started working with the "Compagnia del Paso" as a trapeze artist in the "Horizonte cuadrado" circus that took him on a three-year world tour. Javier subsequently continued his training at the FLIC circus school in Turin, Italy (2014/2015). He works performing a solo trapeze act, with the "Laden Classe" collective and the Virevolt French circus company.

**Elena Bosco:** Born in 1986. Dancer, flyer handstander and contortionist. She began doing circus in "Vertigo Circus School", increasing her professional formation in "Le Centre des Art du Cirque Lido" in Toulouse. The final result of her artistic path is an original acro dance balancing on handstand. In 2013 she became part of MagdaClan collectif performing in their circus tent all over Europe the shows "Extra-Vagante" and "E' un attimo". In 2014 she founded the circus company Zenhir with Giulio Lanfranco. Together they create the show "Ah, com'è bello l'Uomo". In 2018 she became part of the circus company Laden Classe, and she began to work with Roberto Olivan for the show "Miraki" .



# PROJECT STAGES:

The project was conceived in October 2015 with three artist-in-residence programmes in Spain at "La Central del Circ" in Barcelona and the "Cronopis" circus space in Matarò.

An initial preview of the work in progress was staged as part of the "En construcció" at the Central del Circ on 3rd December 2015..

The key priority at the outset was to create and search for collective material to enhance the synergy and mutual creativity shared by the Collective's members.

Ample space was allotted to improvisation and experimentation, starting from physical research and individual skills. Members of the Collective worked on their respective disciplines to develop a common language while the same time creating a means of self-training and exchange (Cyr wheel, hand-to-hand, music, juggling and dance).

Parallel importance was given to individual skills outside the circus (martial arts, live music, theatrical experiences) to boost the communication potential of the material proposed.





The second stage of the project was developed in Italy with three more artist-in-residence programmes: at the Julio Cortazar theatre in Ferrara, the Palafolli theatre in Ascoli Piceno and the Flic circus school in Turin, each of which ended with public performances of the work in progress.

In October 2016 during a three-weeks residence at the Estruch Fabrica de Creatiò in Sabadell, Spain the outside input of Salvo Frasca (SideKunst Circus / Mylaika) helped the company to stage a 50-minute performance.

The Collective's latest creative period (January / June 2017) served to refine and redevelop the material into an hour-long performance, with the helps of other outside inputs like Francesco Sgrò (Fabbrica C) and Alessandro Maida (Magda Clan circus).

With the precious help of the light designer Raffaele Biasco, lighting and sound was also designed during this period.

From September 2017 to September 2018, the company presented the work 25 times in Italy and in some other countries, experimenting with both circus and theatre versions.

In December 2018 the company goes at the Chateau de Monthelon, in France, for another artistic residence with the valuable help of Sky de Sela.

The show is presented in its definitive form on the 28th December 2018 at the contemporary circus festival "Circumnavigando", in Genova.



# CALENDAR OF CREATION:

## 2015:

June, Turin: project conception

15-31 October: La Central del Circ, Barcelone: artistic residence and presentation

16-27 November, Cronopis, Matarò, Spain: residence

30 November- 4 December, La Central del Circ, Barcelone: residence and presentation of the work during the happening "En construcció"

## 2016:

21 March- 3 April, Theatre Julio Cortázar, Ferrara: residence and work in progress presentation

11-29 April, Palafolli, Ascoli Piceno: residence and presentation

01-13 May, Chapitau FLIC: residence and presentation

05-21 September, residence at BUCO, Bologna; presentation at festival Cirk Fantastik, Florence on 21th /9

02-19 November, Estruch Fabrica de Creatio, Sabadell, Spain: residence and presentation

1-04 December, theatre Julio Cortázar, residence and presentation

## 2017:

17-31 January, residence at Cascine Bellerio, Turin

13-20 March and 1/10 June: residence Mirabilia, Fossano

6-16 April: residence Vertigo Circus School, Turin

28 June: presentation of the project at festival Mirabilia, Fossano

7/10 September: Festival Dinamico, Reggio Emilia

16/17 September: festival Cirk Fantastik, Florence

30 October/ 11 November and 1/10 december residence at La corte ospitale (RE)



7-10 September, Festival Dinamico, Reggio Emilia

2-6 October, Circollaborative Tools, Busca (Cn)

8-16 October, artistic residence at Corte Ospitale, Reggio Emilia

9-10 November, Città di circo / Side Kunst-Cirque, Bologna

11 November, San Matteo theatre, Piacenza

1-10 December, artistic residence at Corte Ospitale, Reggio Emilia

9 December, festival ArtNove, Arterego circus, Sala Bolognese, (Bo)

16 December, OFFICIAL PREVIEW, Spazio FLIC, Turin

22-23 December, Cirko Vertigo, Grugliasco (To)

## 2018:

4-5 January, Side Kunst-Cirque, Montagnola, Bologna

6-7 January, festival Fuori Asse, Buratto Macianchini theatre, Milan

19-20 January, Contemporary circus festival Mon Circo, Montiglio Monferrato (At)

2/6 May, Cirque Electrique, Paris

9/12 May, Circobalkana Festival, Zagreb, Croatia

24 June, Frida Festival, Pieve di Sacco (Pd)

16 July, Kilowatt Festival, San Sepolcro (Ar)

21 September, Cirkobalkana festival, Novisad, Serbia

23/24 October, Bologna città di circo, Bologna

27 November / 9 December, residence at Château di Monthelon, France

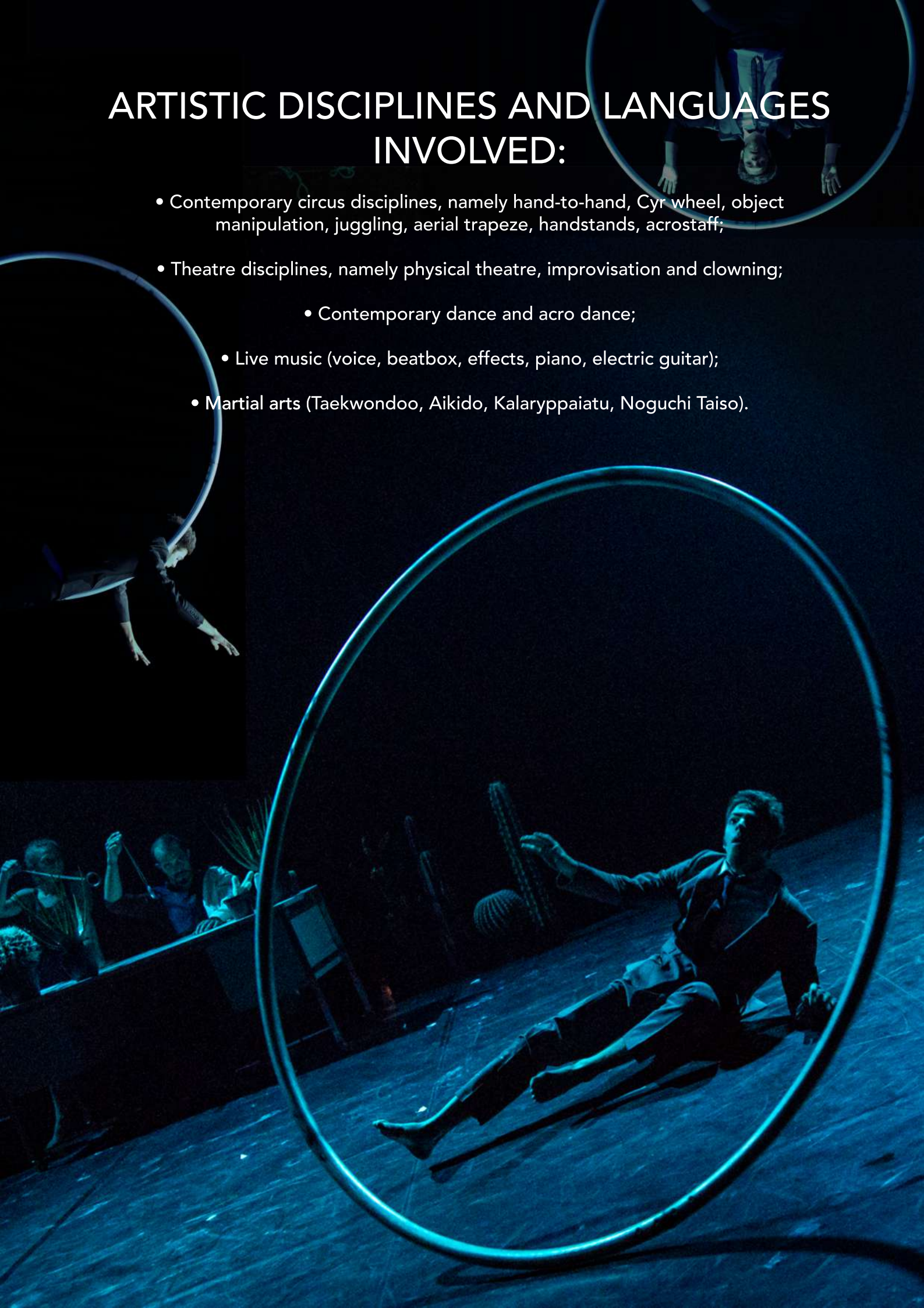
14/15 December, Le Music Hall Theatre, Turin

28 December: Circumnavigando Festival, Genova WORLD PREMIERE



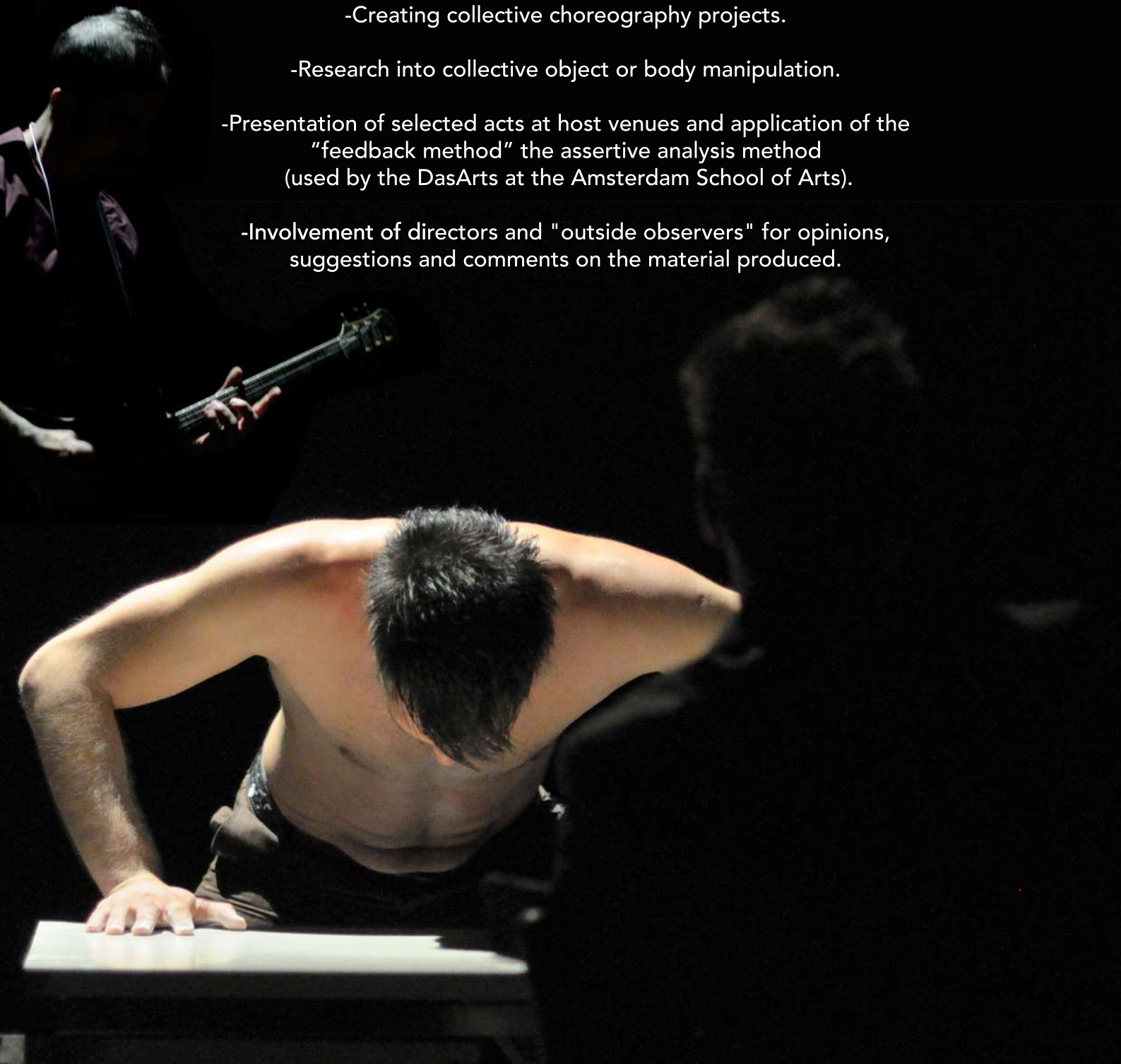
# ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES AND LANGUAGES INVOLVED:

- Contemporary circus disciplines, namely hand-to-hand, Cyr wheel, object manipulation, juggling, aerial trapeze, handstands, acrostaff;
- Theatre disciplines, namely physical theatre, improvisation and clowning;
  - Contemporary dance and acro dance;
  - Live music (voice, beatbox, effects, piano, electric guitar);
- Martial arts (Taekwondoo, Aikido, Kalaryppaiatu, Noguchi Taiso).



# ARTISTIC RESEARCH METHODS:

- Analysis and reworking of the artistic material produced by each member of the Collective (single acts, technical sequences, ongoing research, ideas and proposals).
- Studies on voice, music and silence, pursuing the relations between these three elements and circus techniques.
- Composing a "sound track" using original music played on stage or recorded.
- Exchanging and mutual sharing of technical know-how to create new material.
- Creating collective choreography projects.
- Research into collective object or body manipulation.
- Presentation of selected acts at host venues and application of the "feedback method" the assertive analysis method (used by the DasArts at the Amsterdam School of Arts).
- Involvement of directors and "outside observers" for opinions, suggestions and comments on the material produced.



# TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

## SPACE:

Stage measuring at least 8x7m with a minimum height of 6m.  
Smooth uniform floor surface with no slope, with a dance floor covering or linoleum.

## AUDIO:

Stereo sound system, with subwoofers and minimum 500 watts RMS,  
with a minimum 5-channel mixer.  
One radio handheld microphone, one lavallier microphone (both provided by the company)  
Audio link (jack) for electric guitar with DI at the end of the stage (left side)  
One Macbook and one Kaosspad to link to the mixer (provided by the company)

## HOOKS:

Trapeze: 2 anchor points min. high 6m, distance between the  
two points 1.20m, 250kg discharge for each one  
Roue Cyr: 2 anchor points -with pulleys- min high 6m, 150kg discharge each one,  
minimum distance between the two points 3m

## LIGHTS:

Lights schedule to be sent separately.

## OTHER:

Possibility to get near the the performing space with a van for discharge.





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CONTACTS:

[info@ladenclasse.com](mailto:info@ladenclasse.com)  
[facebook.com/ladenclasse](https://facebook.com/ladenclasse)

**Leo** (distribution, management) +39.333.3064846  
**Livia** (distribution Cordata FOR) +39.351.5488100  
**Enri** (administration, accounting) +39.340.9316359



*"There are two ways of disliking art.  
One is to dislike it.  
The other is to like it rationally".*

*Oscar Wilde*

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