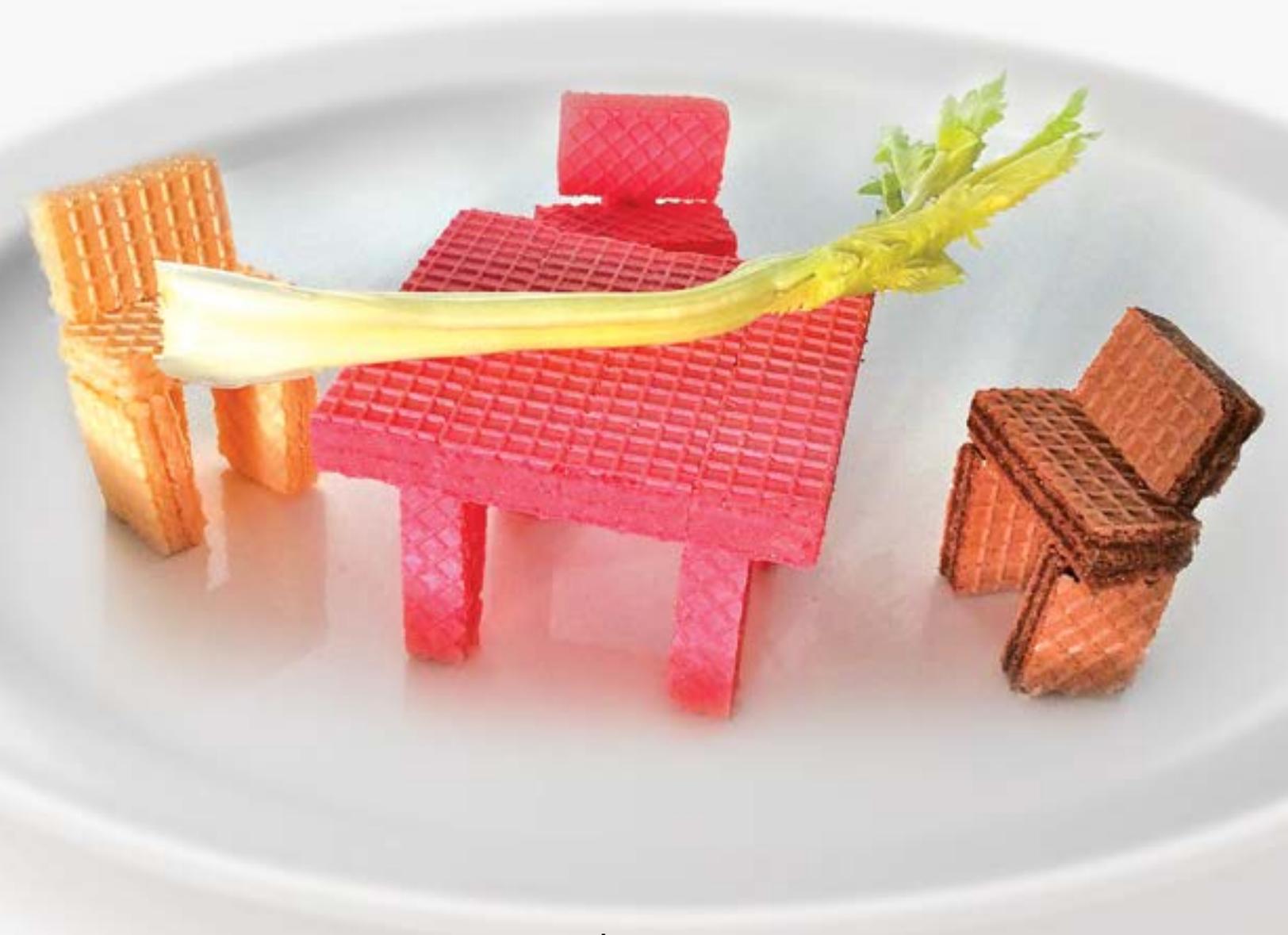


À TABLE !

Production : L'Arrière Scène



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Production : L'Arrière Scène

WORDLESS SHOW

For kids aged 4 to 8

Capacity for school groups and public performances: 100 to 150

Length: 45 minutes

THE STORY

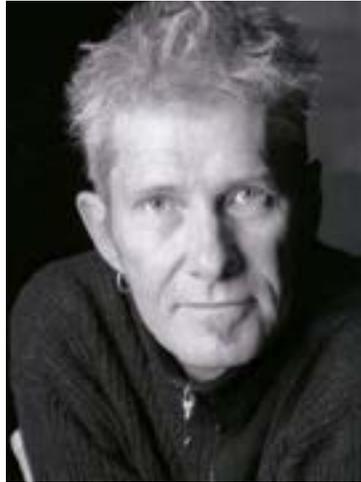
Three diplomats from three different countries, each speaking a different language, are seated at a table in a restaurant. Their goal is to come to an agreement on a joint infrastructure project. Unable to communicate with words, they use anything at hand (cutlery, plates, food...) to illustrate their plans. Over the course of the meal, the seriousness of the three national representatives gradually disappears and they allow their inner children to take over. The table turns into their playground, but not only that: it slowly, progressively morphs into a work of art.

This show without words makes clever reference to the world of Jacques Tati. It is the product of the collaboration of three artists from different generations and disciplines: Simon Boulerice (novelist and playwright for adults and young people), Sylvie Laliberté (visual and performance artist) and Serge Marois (writer and director).





SIMON BOULERICE



SERGE MAROIS



SYLVIE LALIBERTÉ

THE CREATION PROCESS

In spring of 2016, we dreamed up an unprecedented concept for a show aimed at children aged 4 and up. We wanted to take a risk: to create a play that would rely on sensorial experience rather than text. And we really wanted to collaborate with Sylvie Laliberté, a multidisciplinary artist whose refreshing and deeply personal work has been inspiring us for years now.

From the very start, Sylvie was completely committed to creating a piece of theatre with us that shunned all reliance on textual elements. Serge sparked our interest with a playful idea: he gave us disposable cameras and made us promise to spend the summer capturing our most stunning, absurd and poetic observations. At the end of August, when the time came for show and tell, it came as no surprise that Sylvie's photos were the most interesting. They featured fanciful scenes built out of candies, fruit and cookies... and toy soldiers. These photos gave us a flash of inspiration: a table set in the quirky and elegant world of Sylvie Laliberté. An outrageous meal that allowed us to talk about the challenges of communication in our society: how to get one's point across; how to listen.

As they have no common language, our characters are given a golden opportunity to build relationships without words—a focus that is extremely relevant to young children. Over the course of the play's development, we came across an eloquent quote by Paul Buissonneau: "The job of a child is to play."

In our collaboration process, each of us brought our individual strengths to bear. We combined Sylvie's madcap yet poetic visual universe and Simon's sensitive and playful theatrics with an overall orchestration steeped in Serge's emotional discipline and precise timing. The result is an appetizing morsel that will have you running to the table!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

For *À table!*, I used a method that has been an essential element in many of my creations. The process involves me writing an outline to be used as a basis for improvisation, with the understanding that the direction notes are just as important as the text itself. Past creations in which this method was used—*Les Boîtes*, *Train de nuit*, *Les Âmes Sœurs*—use different artistic forms; today, we'd call them multidisciplinary works. In this process, the work of a director is to set a scene, to establish an atmosphere. The actors are the ink; the stage is the blank page.

In the absence of words, we had to find an approach and a form that fit our vision. We did not want to engage with our audience through dance or mime. The music was our guide. It is a constant in the play and it sets the pace, effectively replacing the actors' words. With the music as a framework, the actors are able to concentrate on movement and on the position of their bodies in the space. They use the objects before them as their language, expressing emotions that swell and fade. And the actors are given licence to unleash their inner visual artist: as the play ends, we discover that the table has transformed into a piece of abstract art made from everyday objects.

This was both the starting point and the final iteration of the fabulously playful creative process of Sylvie Laliberté. The entire team was a great source of inspiration to me, and I am extremely grateful for their commitment and generosity.

Childhood is everywhere—if you know how to look for it.

Serge Marois



THE CAST



SARAH DESJEUNES

Sarah graduated from Collège Lionel-Groulx in 2008. She made her first incursion into the world of children's theatre in 2013. The voice is an artistic medium that she is discovering with fascination: she participated in a voiceover internship at the Conservatoire d'art dramatique de Montréal in autumn 2010, followed by another in dubbing in 2011.



SHARON JAMES

Sharon James has been incarnating roles both in live theatre and on screen since her graduation from Collège Lionel-Groulx with a degree in Theatre Performance. As a multidisciplinary artist, she is involved in various projects both as an actor and a singer.



SASHA SAMAR

Sasha Samar studied at the Kyiv State Institute of Theatre Arts and Cinema (Ukraine) in 1993. After his first year of professional work, Sasha was awarded the prestigious "Ukrainian Stage's Promising Youth" prize, issued by the National Academy of Arts of Ukraine. In his country, this honour allowed him to start a prolific career in both theatre and in television.

CREATIVE TEAM

Creators: Sylvie Laliberté, Simon Boulerice and Serge Marois

Director: Serge Marois

Cast: Sarah Desjeunes, Sharon James and Sasha Samar

Scenography: Clélia Brissaud

Original Music: Pierre Labbé

Lighting: Thomas Godefroid

Costumes: Marilyne Roy

Production Manager: Jean-François Landry

Technical Director : Julie-Anne Parenteau-Comfort

Illustration: Sylvie Laliberté

Graphic design: David Gouin

Booking

Nadine Asswad

nadasswad@videotron.ca

514 663-4884

THE COMPANY

Founded in 1976 under the direction of Serge Marois, L'Arrière Scène has always placed emphasis on metaphor and dared to be poetic. The company respects the audience's own creativity, delivering theatrical experiences that bring together the artistic vocabularies of image, movement and the spoken word. The audience is invited to approach the world with an open mind: our daring programming solicits each individual's emotional engagement and cultivates their taste for the arts.

À TABLE !

Production : L'Arrière Scène

Season 2018-2019

CENTRE CULTUREL DE BELOEIL - *Beloeil*

Sunday, October 28, 2019 - 11 am / 3 pm
Monday, October 29, 2019 - 9:30 am / 1:30 pm
Tuesday, October 30, 2019 - 9:30 am
Wednesday, October 31, 2019 - 9:30 am
Thursday, November 1st, 2019 - 9:30 am

FESTIVAL LES COUPS DE THÉÂTRE - *Montréal*

Saturday, November 17, 2019 - 10 am
Sunday, November 18, 2019 - 11 am

FESTIVAL PETITS BONHEURS - *Montréal*

Monday, May 6, 2019 - 10:15 am / 1:30 pm
Tuesday, May 7, 2019 - 10 am / 1:15 pm

Season 2019-2020

THÉÂTRE LÉONARD-ST-LAURENT - *Sherbrooke*

Sunday, January 12, 2020

LA MAISON THÉÂTRE - *Montréal*

March 4 to 22, 2020



Booking agent :
Agence Nadine Asswad
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514 663-4884