



42, rue Adam de Craponne
34000 Montpellier

Contact

Thomas FISSEAU & Elodie SAOS
06 60 16 75 58 / 04 67 86 29 60

Diffusion.lestetesdebois@gmail.com
www.lestetesdebois.com

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A STORM IN AVIGNON

The Tempest from William Shakespeare, directed by the Montpellier's company "*Les Têtes de Bois*" (the wood heads) will be performed at the Théâtre DE LA SALLE, from July 7th to 30th, as part of the 2017 AVIGNON Festival OFF.

Founded in 2004, *Les Têtes de Bois* company has developed a contemporary theatrical art that could be defined as "Poesia dell'arte" (poetry in Catalan + commedia dell'arte)

Based on the search for new forms related to masks and whole body commitment, *Les Têtes de Bois* offer oneiric, multidisciplinary and multicultural staging. The generosity of the scenography takes the form of painting, where aestheticism meet the core of the text. Using body language, the company performances are full of energy, humor and emotions.

Spectators' feelings are the main focus of the company's, who wishes to create a moment of exchange and sharing in each of its creations. In line with this, the company foreseen the diffusion of its performance both nationally and internationally. Avignon's Off, the Busan International Performing Arts Festival in South Korea, the Live Arts Festival from Casablanca Morocco, and other in Switzerland, Italy, Portugal and Croatia, are among the audiences already met by *Les Têtes de Bois*.

The company adaptations aim to make the texts accessible to all public, and result from a deep reflection on the transmitted messages. Each of the performance participates in an affirmation of identity of the company, deeply rooted in cultural diversity and fighting against all forms of exclusion. Economy of means, recycling materials, accuracy of words, sincerity, are the vectors of this colorful artisanal art.

After Ben Jonson's *Volpone* (2008), and Shakespeare's *Shrewd Shrew* (2012), *Les Têtes de Bois* complete in 2016 his trilogy "Divine Elizabethan tragedy" with Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Set on a fairy tale romance, *The Tempest*, is a bitter comedy that explores the mechanics of power. The plot is based on a subtle set of contradictions between truth and betrayal, bestiality and innocence, cruelty and naivety, irony and magic. Faithful to himself, Shakespeare offers us a text in which men's truth is read through a deforming prism. The time of a storm, each one will have to face its own inside storm. In *The Tempest*, his last play and in a way his theatrical testament, Shakespeare reuses

themes that are dear to him and already often developed, such as brother's rivalry in "Hamlet", crime obsession in "Richard III", politics assassination in "Macbeth", death in "Richard II" and life and dream in "The Dream of a Summer Night". We find in *The Tempest* the whole world of Shakespeare's time: great voyages, dreams and conquests. The island where the action takes place is the image of the world where the story repeat itself, where despair gives birth to a better life. The world is a theater, human are actors. *The Tempest* is also, a sumptuous and jubilant entertainment, with powerful characters, celebrating the art and magic of the theater ...

Mehdi Benabdelouhab's adaptation turn this play into a poetic spectacle, accessible to the all; the show is reduced to 1 hour 40 without denaturing the author's intention. The scenography married masks inspired by Japanese theater, martial art fights and image projection effects, all played by 7 comedians and 1 live musician, and staged with modernity.

A disruptive text of truth and always current, in a global agitated climate...

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