

**Les Commandos Percu**

**International street arts company  
Musical and pyrotechnic shows**



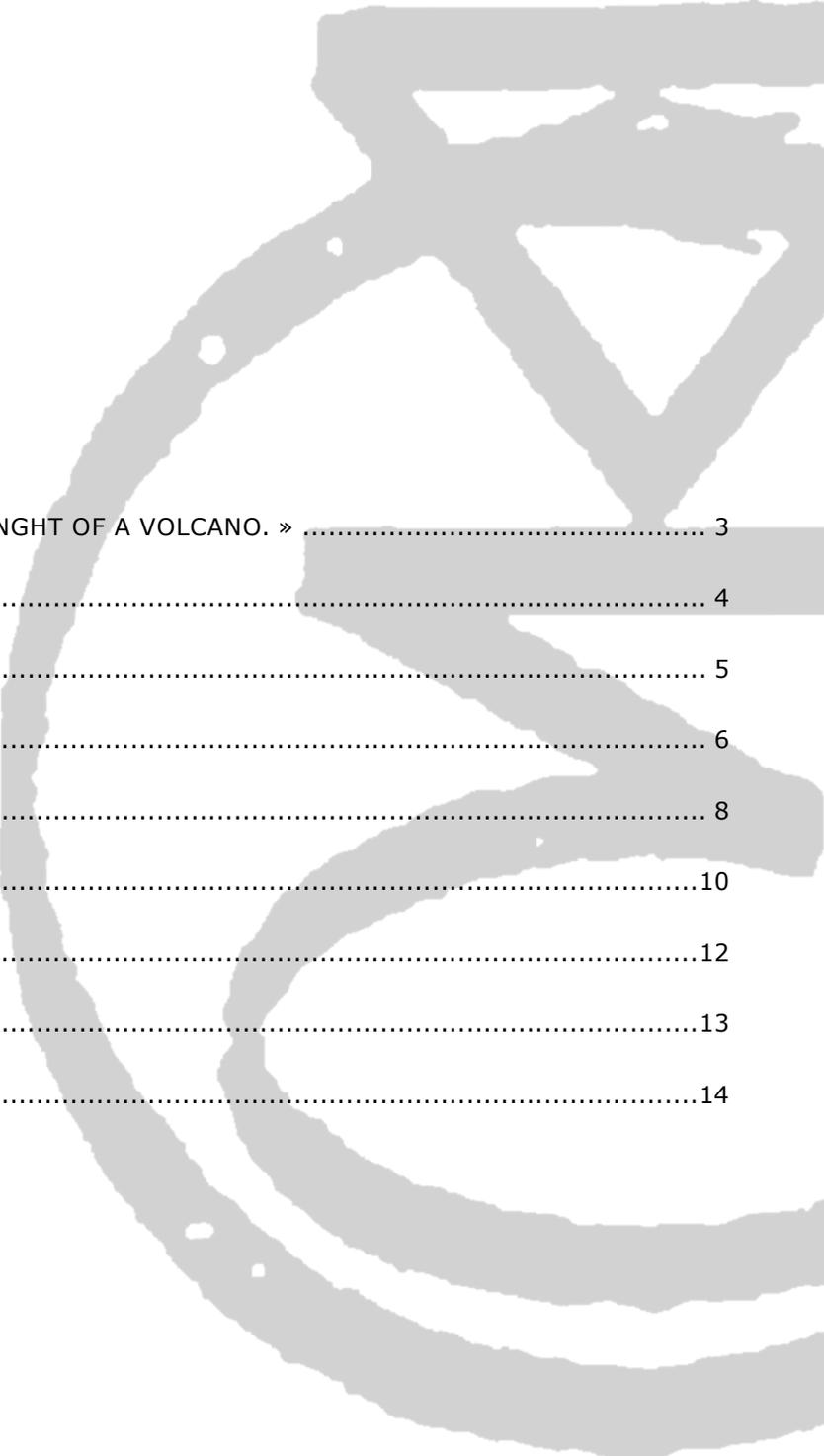
# **SPECIAL CREATIONS & WORKSHOPS**



Une production Big Drum  
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# « THEY HAVE THE COLOR OF THE EARTH AND THE STRENGTH OF A VOLCANO. »

Sylvain Augier

## **Energy in motion.**

**For more than 20 years the team has traveled the world with its innovative percussion work and specialized knowledge about fireworks.**

The fusion between music and fireworks stands as its main mechanism. A language that is new and ancestral at the same time goes through several cultures and genres.

A third element is then added in: mobility, or the art of surprise, that leads musicians/pyrotechnicians to greater challenges – justifying the company's name.

As well as performing large scale shows, Les Commandos Percu have improved their skills in sharing their expertise through many different and challenging projects.



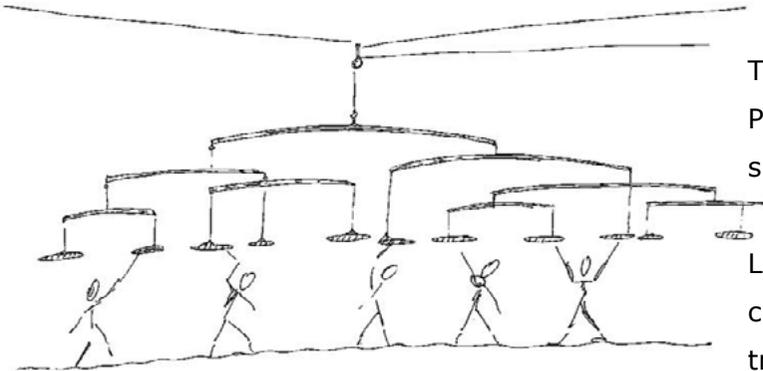
# WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL CREATIONS

**Special creations consist in creating a large scale performance alongside with non-professional artists or/and local communities. Participants are trained by Les Commandos Percu to develop a project from its composition to its concrete fulfilment.**

The reason why our show Le Concert de Feu was acclaimed by several hundreds of thousands people is that stage direction is never fixed. On the contrary, special creations, original scenography and specific circumstances are as many parameters that become creative challenges.

The most beautiful challenge is to meet the participants involved in this adventure. Les Commandos Percu are passionate trainers. They are able to share their expertise and their art of creating dreams. This sharing adds strength and emotion to our shows. Fire totally fulfilled its rallying-catalyst role.

Les Commando Percu's training and introduction workshops are closely related to the local network of cultural and community associations. The meeting of artists and amateurs is a special time dedicated to transmission and artistic exploration. This process goes beyond usual social and generation gaps.



*Torchbearer - Noisy Le Grand FR (2015)*



*Dancer - On the Night Shift project UK (2012)*

## OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this project is to train and support participants through the different stages of creating musical and pyrotechnic show. Various workshops can be organised all along the development of the project: musical training, stage-direction writing, production, rehearsals, set and instruments fabrication, pyrotechnics.

An initial meeting is set up to introduce Les Commandos Percu's work and present the whole project. It is important for us to offer the possibility to adults as well as kids to meet around a collaborative project.

**This project finds its conclusion in a public performance. The impact of this creation has to be strong enough to leave a deep impression on one's memories. The idea is that each participant takes over a part of the creation and gives it a new energy. It is necessary for the final show to be advertised and lived as an important cultural event in the area.**



*Musical workshops - Ajaccio FR (2006)*

# TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

## *Participants*

Anyone, male or female, over 14 years old can take part in the workshops and the show (parental permission is required for people under 18).

People involved in the project have to make themselves available for workshops, rehearsals and the show. During a week before the show anyone interested by the project can take part in the workshops.

Meetings are precisely scheduled. It is essential each participant attends at least one meeting.

People who would decide to take part in the show at the last minute can always be included to “easy” scenes that do not require any preparation. Everything is done to get a high level of involvement.

Most volunteers will handle small hand-held pyro. Many of the people that have never handled fireworks before find themselves able to do it. The most important thing is to have a sense of organization and teamwork.



*Musical & pyrotechnic workshops*



**« Coming from the beginning of time and from the future, Les Commandos Percu remind us that we live on a ball of fire and that there is no greater sorcery than this fusion of the circle of fire, which removes the shadows and brings men closer. Giddiness, fireworks of emotions, immediate feelings of touching the essence of humanity, the spectacles of Les Commandos Percu are a kind of initiation into our human condition in its terrible and elementary beauty.»**

**Gil Pressnitzer**

## ***What are participants doing for the show?***

### **Before the show :**

- Getting special effects ready.
- Pyro handling training.
- Musical workshops.
- Rehearsals, global coordination.

### **During the show :**

- Handling small special effects during specific scenes of the show.
- Logistic, teams coordination.
- Playing music (percussion).

Les Commandos Percu musicians usually lead 3 workshops sessions beforehand to the show. The idea of the first meeting is to create a group dynamic, to write down the project and to program the workshops. This work session can last 5 days.

On the evening before the show all participants meet for a technical rehearsal. It is time for the show's final adjustments.

Day of the show is dedicated to set up. Each volunteer participates according to his abilities. They get into several groups according to their role in the performance. All accessories and instruments are getting prepared.

# PERFORMANCE

## 1 - Big parade.

Participants come along with Les Commandos Percu artists to perform a mind- blowing parade through the streets with their percussion and special effects.

## 2 - Stage finale.

After the parade all the people involved in the project come on stage with the artists. Staging is precise and rhythmic up to the pyrotechnical finale and an ultimate bow towards the audience.

>> [video online](#) : extract from Clash of Drums performed in Milton Keynes with Festive Road performers.



*Clash of Drums - Hull UK (2016)*

## *Les Commandos Percu in the field*

Our team of musicians, pyrotechnicians and technicians are professionals into training others and to passing on their knowledge.

We supply all the equipment required for the special-creation such as materials (except in specific cases), percussion instruments, tools and fireworks (for both workshops and show).

## *Technical rider*

Technical requirements are specific to each project (ask us).

Workshops venue has to be big enough to accommodate all trainees and our material. We also need to have an easy access to the outside for trials that can sometimes be noisy (percussions, fireworks...).



*Fireworks workshops, Fort de Bessoncourt in Belfort FR (2004) / Musical workshops, La Louvière BE (2006)*

## *Testimonies*

*« The experience was incredible : working with groups that have such a different approach to performance, fusing music and pyrotechnics in such a theatrical way was incredibly inspiring. »*

Juliana Landim co-director at Katumba - River of Light 2016 Liverpool UK

*« The project surpassed everyone's expectations. All participants describe it as a life changing experience ! »*

Chloe Birr-Pixon project manager at Hull Samba - Freedom Festival 2016 Hull UK

# REFERENCES

## >> *Current projects*

**20th anniversary of Les Années Joué festival, Joué les Tours FR, 2017**

## >> *Latest adventures*

### ★ **ENGLAND :**

Creation of a large parade opening to Les Commandos Percu's show Clash of Drums :

#### **River of Light 2016, Liverpool**

12 local drummers involved including Katumba leaders

#### **Freedom Festival 2016, Hull**

15 drummers from local band Samba Hull involved

#### **Rugby World Cup 2015, Milton Keynes**

collaboration with 8 street performers from local artistic company Festive Road

ON THE NIGHT SHIFT : Les Commandos Percu collaborate with 7 dancers and 5 musicians based in Yorkshire area to create a brand new piece for the Olympics and Paralympics Games cultural program.

Creation process lasted for a whole year ending up with 2 prestigious performances :

#### **London 2012 Festival, Windermere / Preston Guild Festival 2012, Preston**

### ★ **FRANCE :**

#### **Gueules Noires : Les Enfants du Charbon éditions 2013 to 2016, Forbach FR**

this performance was an exceptional journey through the life of coal miners and their families in the French area of Moselle. Former miners participate to this unique show.

#### **Fête de la Saint Paul 2014, Sarreguemines FR**

75 teenagers participating to music and fireworks workshops run by Les Commandos Percu to create a large parade introducing their show Le Concert de Feu.

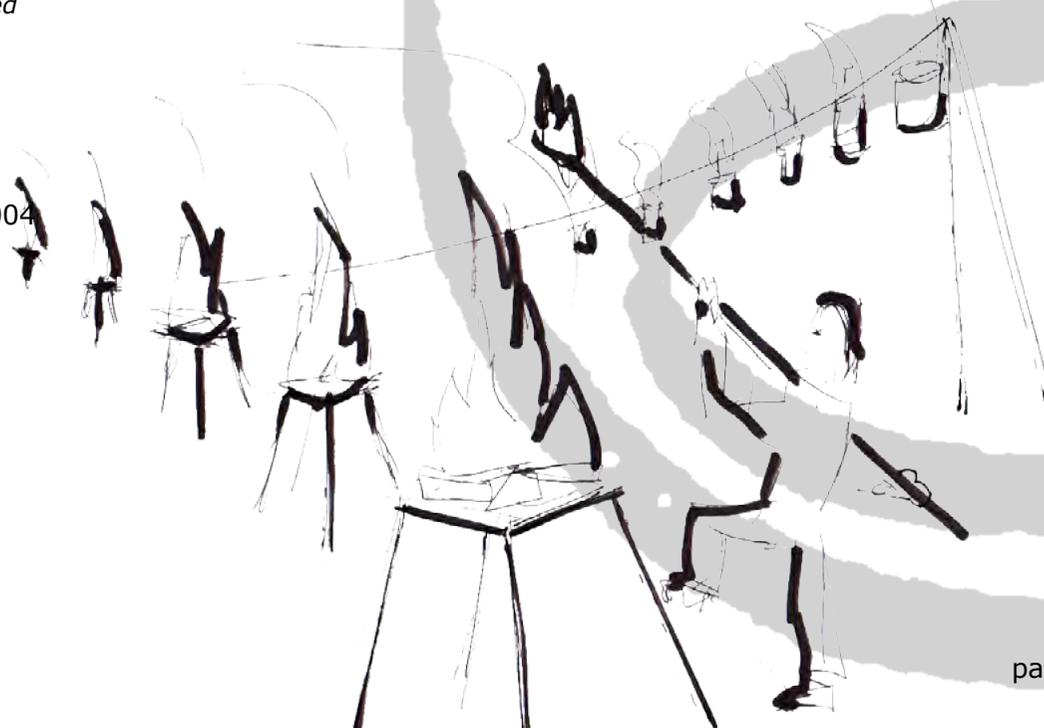
## >> Additional references



*Fête de la Saint Paul - Sarreguemines FR (2014) - 70 teenagers volunteered*

- ★ Création à Ajaccio, Cirkostard – Ville d’Ajaccio 2006
- ★ La Vallée des Délices d’Europe, Saint Astier, juin 2006
- ★ Belfort – Stage et concours de pyrotechnie amateur, avril 2004
- ★ St Leu (La Réunion), mai 2002
- ★ Arles, mars 2002
- ★ Saint-Denis, octobre 2002
- ★ Le Village de Feu, Changé (53), janvier 2000

- ★ Perth International Arts Festival - 2013
- ★ Le Zodiaque fait Ripaille - Annonay 2013
- ★ Les Allumoirs / Lille Fantastic - Mons en Baroeul 2012
- ★ Argenteuil fait son festival – 2011
- ★ Olot et Huesca (Es) 2011
- ★ Fête de la lumière – Lyon 2011
- ★ Festival Les Accroche-Coeurs – Angers 2010
- ★ 60 ans des Foyers Ruraux de Meurthe et Moselle – Flin 2009
- ★ Les Odyssées Ambésiennes, création Ville d’Ambès, 2005-2009
- ★ De l’Ombre à la Lumière - Angoulême 2008  
création avec le soutien de la région Poitou-Charentes
- ★ Création à La Roche-Sur-Yon 2007



## DRAW ME SOME MUSIC : STICKS METHOD

**« Complicated things are made of simple things. »**

*Alain Joule, composer*



The sticks method is a teaching method used to formalize rhythm, write it down, read it and finally play it. This is a method turned towards non-professionals who do not know music theory.

However, sticks method was born from a very complex rhythm that professional musicians have had problems playing despite the score. When those little geometric signs appeared, the music finally came out.

**Little sticks method is a simple and powerful tool for writing and memorising rhythm but also for analysing and creating new rhythm figures.**

When we use this method during workshops for special creation, it is addressed to non-professionals as well as professionals and is very useful to work with dancers.



*UK dancers and musicians of the On The Night Shift project were taught with the sticks method.*

## ABOUT FIRE

« Fireworks art have a new face. Writing with amateurs is an adventurous creation. Through the sharing of expertise and ideas, fire workshops become an imaginative laboratory. The meeting between artists and the professionals supervising the project creates an emulation in which the sharing of experiences is a priority.

All these links contribute to give this new face to pyrotechnics, far from « traditional » fireworks displays. Though, it is actually about a return to the « tradition ». An old tradition, almost an ancient one, passing through Louis XIV gardens: the dramatization of fire.

This return of dramatization in fire shows emphasizes the importance of human presence. Many bombastic fireworks are nothing compared to the vision of a figure brandishing a little flame. The magic of movement takes a new meaning. A story is told. Technology also changes. A generation of pyrotechnicians uses this technology as a tool. Bursts, sequences, the sky is a 3D screen and fireworks are bright colored pixels. Light becomes the music of the sky.

What's more fleeting than fireworks? Is there a more beautiful picture to remind us of eternity? »

***Many bombastic fireworks displays are nothing compared to the vision of a figure brandishing a little flame.***



*Fire installation - 200 participants - Changé FR (2000)*

## TEAM

**Mise en scène** : Raymond Gabriel / **Music - pyrotechnics** : Stéphane Augier, Metty Bénistant, Raymond Gabriel, Bernard Graell, William Perez, Ruddy Thery / **Tour manager** : Vincent Gonzalez / **Lights** : Michel Pradillon / **Sound** : François Hourtané / **Production** : Lisa Trouilhet

## MEDIAS

- Press pack
- Cards and brochures
- Posters 60x40cm
- CD audio **B.P.M. Bombs Per Minute**, 2010
- DVD « **Le Concert de Feu** », un film de Maryse Bergonzat  
Live au Festival Ça bouge encore - Toulouse 2002
- DVD « **Très Méchant(s)** », Un film de Fred Gobin - 2007  
Live IN Chalon dans la rue & Festival de Rue de Ramonville
- DVD **Jouer avec le Feu**, documentaire de Maryse Bergonzat.  
Production Marmitas Films

## PARTNERS

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



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