

LES COMMANDOS PERCU



PRESS RELEASE 2024

NEW SHOW 2024

ORIGINE

*How do we socialise today?
How universal is our contemporary social functioning?
How did the first humans become the social beings we are today?
Language seems to be one of the obvious answers to this question, but where does language begin?
Is it just an arrangement of noises, silences and sounds, intelligible only through learning?
Is music not a more innate, universal language?
Or is it something more primal, almost primitive?*

*The drum is the most ancestral source of sound, linking worlds and transcending souls with strength and subtlety.
The ground splits, breath becomes scarce, and bodies are entranced...
Neither prehistoric, nor entirely contemporary, human forms step forward.
Their singular individualities meet, experiment, confront each other, evolve together and gradually build a human identity.
Over a choreography of almost mechanical gestures comes a shower of sound and fire, the force of which gets out of control, the rhythm becomes electrified, the voices become cries...
There they stand, striking with fury, as if the future depended on it. Cooperating. Tame the fire. Speaking the same language. Understanding each other.
To build. To create. Surrendering to the original story of rhythm and the dreams it carries...*

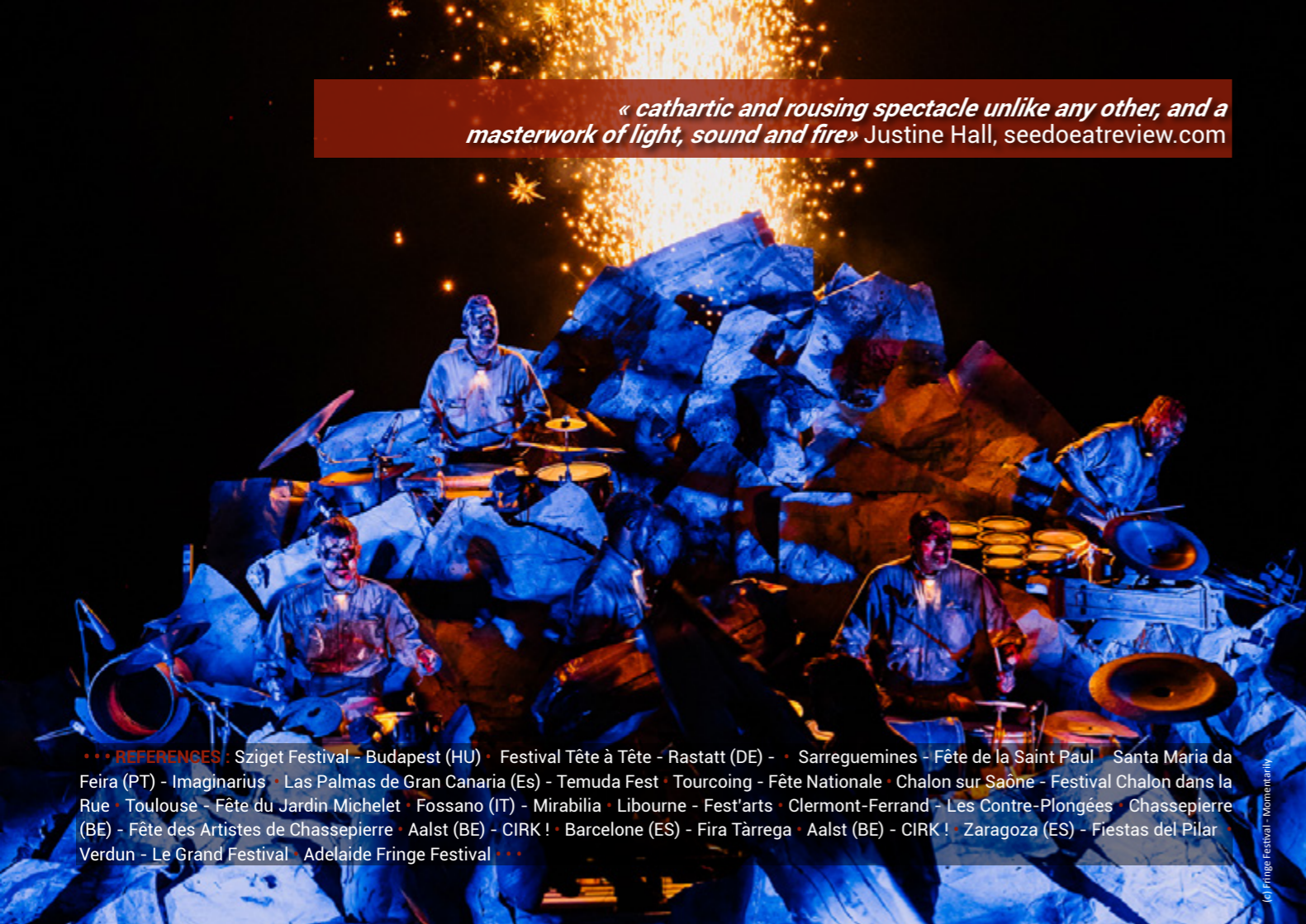
> Outdoor > audience : several thousands of people
> duration about 40-45 min > team of 6 artists and 2 technicians

ORIGINE in the universal language of rhythm and fire, tells the story of imaginary beings who meet, discover each other, and gradually build themselves into a tribe, becoming a society, just as, in the background, we perceive that of all humanity which, under its social, cultural or religious disparities, brings us back to our condition as human beings, these social animals who need each other to exist and form society.

In a bold and original production, Les Commandos Percu invite the audience to question the workings of our contemporary society. For 30 years, the company have been writing their story with rhythm, movement and fire, using a universal language. Such are their origins...

Origine is produced by Big Drum. Supported by festival de Chassepierre , la ville de Toulouse, la Region Occitanie, le CD de la Haute-Garonne

« cathartic and rousing spectacle unlike any other, and a masterwork of light, sound and fire » Justine Hall, seedoatreview.com



••• **REFERENCES** : Sziget Festival - Budapest (HU) - Festival Tête à Tête - Rastatt (DE) - Sarreguemines - Fête de la Saint Paul - Santa Maria da Feira (PT) - Imaginarius - Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Es) - Temuda Fest - Tourcoing - Fête Nationale - Chalon sur Saône - Festival Chalon dans la Rue - Toulouse - Fête du Jardin Michelet - Fossano (IT) - Mirabilia - Libourne - Fest'arts - Clermont-Ferrand - Les Contre-Plongées - Chassepierre (BE) - Fête des Artistes de Chassepierre - Aalst (BE) - CIRK ! - Barcelone (ES) - Fira Tàrraga - Aalst (BE) - CIRK ! - Zaragoza (ES) - Fiestas del Pilar Verdun - Le Grand Festival - Adelaide Fringe Festival •••

© Fringe Festival - Momentarily

SILENCE!

This is a Silence before the storm.

How to create when the world collapses around us and there is nothing left ? How can ingenuity be an answer to coercion? Our challenge is not to turn Les Commandos Percu into the first post-apocalyptic band of percussion but to go back to our basics :observing, recycling material and the sounds of the world to reinvent a lively and personified music. Then comes a reaction to the abundance of technology surrounding us and making us wonder what is the meaning of performing a live show with flesh and sweat? We always look for answers in fire because it is deeply linked to human beings history. Until now we had the feeling that our shows were asking "which side of fire are you on ?". Today we are asking "where is fire going to?".

What we are looking for is an exhilarating wildness, a genuine and essential joy.



© Shaun Armstrong



© Fringe Festival - Momentarily

• **Parade : 5 / 10 mn**
Dressed up with metal, musicians move forward amongst a blinding din. Coloured bodies and layered pieces of metal form a moving shape with sharp angles forcing itself into the audience. Nothing will stop this oscillating human machine, bodies progressing in unison with the rhythms

• **Fixed set on stage : 35 mn**
What seems to be a countdown, or maybe a clock telling hours, creates a spiral of tension and surprises. A dazzling finale releases accumulated tensions with an astounding wave of energy. The mountain became a volcano, a huge bonfire. Now characters are liberated as well, like miners, cleared out from their metal constraint, sharing the silence, coming back, as one comes back to the light.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS :

- > outdoor - night time
- > team of 7 artists and 2 technicians
- > procession followed by a final on a fixed set
- > duration about 45 min
- > audience : several thousand people
- > fireworks safety area is located near the rear area of the stage

>> **Technical rider can be download here :** <https://www.commandospercu.com/en/downloads>

Silence ! is a coproduction Big Drum et Festival International des Arts de la Rue de Chassepierre. Supported by Théâtre Le Liburnia - Ville de Libourne, Le Rjo, Grande - Scène de Musiques Actuelles de Montauban, la Communauté de Communes des Côteaux Bellevue, la Ville de Toulouse, le Département de la Haute-Garonne, la Région Midi-Pyrénées et Rythmes et Sons - Strasbourg.



BLAST

Blast will constitute the third part of a trio that began with «Silence !» and «Mineurs»

A thunderous metallic roar comes from the bowels of the earth. Inside the sweat and the smoke of the the forge, humans hammer a pile of metal and drums. This tumultuous accumulation releases his wild and brutal force from which springs a primary pulsation. A rhythmic and hypnotic machine. It runs through the veins.

The frenzy takes hold of bodies and gives way to a furious trance. Blast is the story of a world rebuilt.



(C) Joel Fildes



(C) D. Auranne



(C) D. Auranne

SHOW INDOOR

(C) D. Auranne

••• REFERENCES • Festival des Arts Décalés - Tregueux • Espace Avel Vor - Plougastel • Halloween - Accrington (UK) • Cloture de 31 Notes d'Ete - Paulhac •••

- TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS :**
- > indoor / outdoor - night time
 - > team of 5 artists and 2 technicians
 - > procession followed by a final on a fixed set
 - > duration about 50 mn
 - > audience : several thousand people
 - > fireworks safety area is located near the rear area of the stage

>> Technical rider can be download here : <https://www.commandospercu.com/en/downloads>

Blast is a coproduction Big Drum. Supported by Le Sonambule - Gignac (34), Le Rio Grande - Scène de Musiques Actuelles de Montauban, Le Florida - Agen, Lo Bolegason - Castres, la Ville de Toulouse, le Département de la Haute-Garonne, la Région Occitanie, Rythmes et Sons - Strasbourg.



«they have color from the earth and strength as a volcano»
Sylvain Augier

LE CONCERT DE FEU

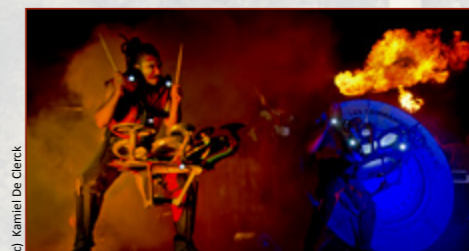
Neither a firework display nor a concert, Le Concert de Feu places the element of fire at the centre of artistic expression. Les Commandos Percu have travelled the world and discovered that there is a common rhythmical language through all cultures, a universal music felt in the gut. Driven onward by the drums and the clamour of the audience it becomes a huge fire.



(c) www.eventdigital.co.uk



(c) Didier Vanspranthe



(c) Kamel De Clerck

A wave of sparkles spreads amongst the audience.

Fire sharing is one of the great moments of the show. Les Commandos Percu distribute hundreds of magic sparklers to the audience, each one becoming a star. Depending on the project, it is also possible to involve people from the community in this set.

"Let the fire burn, let the bodies dance."

Dance has always been a core part of Les Commandos Percu's work. We often invite professional dancers to take part in special versions of Le Concert de Feu.

• **Parade** : 15 to 25 mn depending on the final project Le Concert de Feu is firstly a drum performance : fire enters the music, sometimes massive and powerful, sometimes delicate and subtle. Les Commandos Percu come out from amongst the audience with their big drums, surrounded by pyrotechnics and lights effects.

• **Fixed set** : 35 min Coming from amongst the audience, Les Commandos Percu take the stage and begin an exhilarating rhythmical dialogue with fire. Shouts from the audience accompany the Big Drum rhythm in an astonishing final volcanic set.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS : > outdoor - night time

> team of 6 artists and 2 technicians

> procession followed by a final on a fixed set

> duration about 40-45 min

> audience : several thousand people

> fireworks safety area is located near the rear area of the stage

>> **Technical rider can be download here** : <https://www.commandospercu.com/en/downloads>

••• **REFERENCES** • XTrem Fest - Albi • Singapore Arts Festival (SIN) • Toronto Winter City Festival (CAN) • Festival les Années Joué •

Festival les Accroche-Coeurs d'Anger • Festival Font'Arts à Pernes les Fontaines • Festival les Virevoltés à Vire • Chelmsford Festival (UK) • Festival Échappée Belle de Blanquefort • Festival Sol y Fiesta à Leucate • Mot Festival (MK) • Festival Les Flambaris à Dreux • Fête des Lumières à Lyon • Festival les Zaccros d'ma Rue à Nevers • Festival Internacional de Teatro Belo Horizonte (BR) • Féria de Nîmes • Salisbury International Arts Festival (UK) • Festival les Affranchis à La Flèche •••



REFERENCES Opening of Musée d'Ethnographie de Genève (CH) • Parc Préhistorique de Tarascon • Kervénanec : faites le quartier! à Lorient
 • Temps fort de l'APSOAR à Annonay • Château de Saint Priest • Olympiade des métiers de Clermont-Ferrand • Le Mans fait son Cirque
 Bodega de Saint Alban • Season opening at La Tranche sur Mer • Les Givrés de la Rue Risouls • Boules de Notes aux Ménuires • Carnaval
 de Tonneins •

© CD du Tam

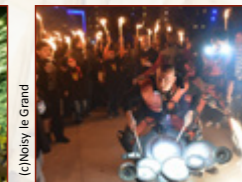
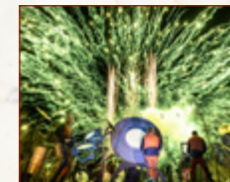
LES INTERVENTIONS MOBILES

They play everywhere.

Percussion, Fire, Light, Motion : an authentic wild energy !

The choice is clear: they will go closer to their audience, abolish the stage or, more precisely, use the whole space as a space of creation. Les Interventions Mobiles laid the foundation for the company's history: being an interventionist band, able to surround the public area no matter what its shape. The choice is clear: they will go closer to their audience, abolish the stage or, more precisely, use the whole space as a space of creation.

- **Parade** : from 25 to 45 min depending on the project
From direct contact with the public to big parades in the city, the huge sound box drives across the city. This human machine shows off its rhythm and drags the audience along a path punctuated with pyro surprises. Shouts, drums, sparkles : an exhilarating spiral !
- **Fixed set (optional)** : 25 min
Absolutely unique, rhythms and pyrotechnics arise with incredible strength blowing the audience away.



(c)Noisy le Grand

(c)MJB

EXTREME INTERVENTIONS MOBILES

- Illumination of parc de la préhistoire at Tarascon with final on water
- Official opening of Albi theater (indoor + outdoor)
- «Human rafts » at Perth Internationnal festival (AUS)
- Rappel down in Madrid (SP)
- Show on snow in the frecn Alps
- Official opening of an industrial site in Trento (IT)

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS :

- > Night-time - outdoor or indoor
- > Duration : up to 50 min
- > Duration : several thousand people



(c)Tom Vanderghinste

>>Technical rider can be download here : <https://www.commandospercu.com/en/downloads>

PARTICIPATIVE PROJECTS

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.



Participative projects find their conclusion in a public performance. The impact of these creations 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.

The most beautiful challenge is to meet the participants involved in this adventure. Les Commandos Percu are passionate trainers.



Création spéciale : Festival de Joué les Tours - (c)ville de Joué les Tours

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.

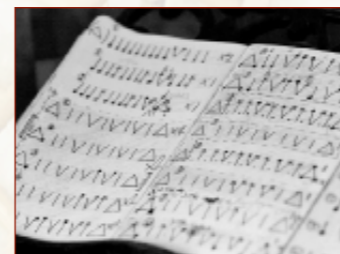
Les Commandos Percu's training and introduction workshops are closely related to the local network of cultural and community associations. The meeting of artists and amateurs is a special time dedicated to transmission and artistic exploration.

This process goes beyond usual social and generation gaps.

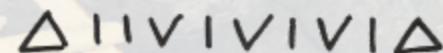
WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASS

..... An introduction to a specific way of writing rhythm : THE STICKS MÉTHOD

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.



It is a simple and logical way to write down, memorize and analyse rhythm. This method has shown itself to be very useful when teaching rhythm to beginners. It is also a formidable tool for professional musicians, no matter their instruments. Only a few hours of workshop are enough for them to appropriate this technic and develop a personal way of using it: it is clearly the Linux for rhythm! We explore many examples during the workshop. Any participant can bring a rhythm he finds particularly difficult or beyond his understanding. He will realize that there is for sure an easy way of writing it down and creating many complex rhythmical arrangements that will be easy to memorize and pass down





LES COMMANDOS PERCU

INTERNATIONAL STREET & OUTDOOR ART COMPANY

RHYTHM, FIRE, MOTION SINCE 1994

Music that speaks to the guts. For 30 years, Les Commandos Percu have been creating a new and ancestral language, that speaks through cultures and genres. They traveled the world with their innovative percussion work and specialized knowledge of fireworks.

The essential sparkle to the fusion between music and fireworks is movement: street to street, amongst the public, the pyro-musicians enlighten the sky with their rhythms.



Stille | - Fest'arts Libourne (C.V. Balège)

By creating our own instruments, we're building a proper identity.

After their first performances more than 25 years ago with no actual musical instruments, Les Commandos Percu wanted to keep their mobility and to create a musical repertory that would not borrow other cultures rhythms.

Creating their own folklore, rituals, a language, as if they came from another clime. "If African drums really talk, we will invent our own language and we will create our own drums". Titan rectangular gongs, harness with tight skins adapted to mobility, a 2 meters diameter "Big Drum" with its flat resonator and also a 2 strings hited bass guitar : Commandos percus instrumentarium embezzles materials and grows up over their creations.



• • • **references** : Sziget Festival - Budapest (HU) • Xtrem Fest - Albi • Chalon Dans La Rue - Chalon • Rastatt (DE) - Festival Tête à Tête • Sarreguemines (FR) - Fête de la Saint Paul • Santa Maria da Feira (PT) - Imaginarius • Tourcoing (FR) - Fête Nationale • Le Grand Festival - Verdun • Music O DFolies - Tantonville • Perth International Arts Festival (AUS) • Festival de Rue de Ramonville (FR) • Stockton (UK) - SIFR • Zaragoza (ES) - Exposition Internationale • Strasbourg (FR) - Festival les Arts dans la Rue • Ansan (KR) - Ansan Street Arts Festiva • Clamart (FR) - Fête des Petits Pois • Salamanca (ES) - Festival Internacional de las Artes • La Teste de Buch (FR) - La Teste dans les Etoiles • Béthune (FR) - Festival Z'ArtsUp • Clermont Ferrand (FR) - Les Contre-Plongées de l'Eté • Toulouse d'été • Fossano (IT) - Mirabilia • Libourne (FR) - Fest'arts • Clermont-Ferrand (FR) - Les Contre-Plongées • Chassepierre (BE) - Fête des Artistes de Chassepierre • Aalst (BE) - CIRK ! • Barcelone (ES) - Fira Tàrraga • Aalst (BE) - CIRK ! • Zaragoza (ES) - Fiestas del Pilar • Verdun (FR) - Le Grand Festival • Birmingham (UK) - Birmingham Weekenders • St Nazaire - Grande Marée • London (UK) - Greenwich + Docklands International Festival • Liverpool (UK) - River of Light • Libourne - Fest'Arts • Bilbao (ES) - Festival Bilboko Kalealdia • Milton Keynes et Newcastle (UK) - Coupe du Monde de Rugby • Nyon (SZ) - Paléo Festival • Sotteville les Rouen - Viva Cité • Turnhout (BE) - Centre culturel de Warande • Champigny (FR) - Festival Cour et Jardin • Sarralbe (FR) - Festival la Sarre à Contes • Derby (UK) - Derby Festé • Orly en Fête (FR) • Flobecq (BE) - Les Antoniaades • Singapore Arts Festival (SIN) • Toronto Winter City Festival (CAN) • Joué lès Tours (FR) - Festival les Années Joué • Anger (FR) - Festival les Accroche-Coeurs • Chelmsford Festival (UK) • Blanquefort (FR) - Festival Echappée Belle • Mot Festival (MK) • Dreux (FR) - Festival Les Flambrats • Fos sur Mer (FR) - Festival Les Chromatiques • Lyon (FR) - Fête des Lumières • Nevers (FR) - Festival les Zaccros d'ma Rue • Festival International de Teatro Belo Horizonte (BR) • Salisbury International Arts Festival (UK) • La Flèche (FR) - Festival les Affranchis • Blackpool (UK) - Lightpool • Genève (CH) - Inauguration du Musée d'Ethnographie • Lorient (FR) - Kervénanec : faites le quartier! • Annonay (FR) - Temps fort de l'APSOAR • Château de Saint Priest (FR) • Clermont-Ferrand (FR) - Les Contre-Plongées • Le Mans fait son Cirque (FR) • Alpes (FR) - Les Givrés de la Rue • • •

LES COMMANDOS PERCU ARE :

Artistic director : Raymond Gabriel / Les Commandos Percu

Musicians & Pyro-technicians : Stéphane Augier, Metty Bénistant, Vincent Gonzalez, Laurent Macaux, William Perez,

Production Manager : Vincent Gonzalez

Sound : Laurent Boulhabel

Light : Etienne Pinochet

Production : Audrey Itier



(c) couverture : Anastasia Comellia
Reuring Festival
Didier Vanspranghe

www.COMMANDOSPERCU.com



CONTACT FRANCE :

contact@commandospercu.com

+33 (0)5 61 35 00 77

8 route de Saint Loup , St Geniès Bellevue

CONTACT INTERNATIONAL :

HH Producties - Tanja Ruiters

+31 616 078 534 / +31 204 082 504

tanja@hhproducties.nl