

Press release





Mineurs - Teaser

« What would we do if there were nothing left, if there was a massive break down? What could we scratch, explore, dig up and bring back to light? A vital heart beat would come out of this imaginary gallery. From the chaos of raw material slowly emerges a new world. »
Raymond Gabriel - metteur en scène

MINEURS creation 2018

« What did they dig up? »

Les Commandos Percu's 2017 piece "Silence!" explored a very peculiar universe: musicians rising out like miners from the ashes of an ancient world. This show toured widely across Europe and gave birth to "Mineurs" which explores the identity of these men at work, getting out of the mine to bring the machines back to life. This show focuses on closeness and interaction with the audience.

Miners take the streets as if they have just been extracted from the guts of the earth. Streets turn into a gallery where working men move forward in the beam of their lamps. The audience becomes a moving wall. What did they dig up? A warm breeze rises, the breath of a living machine, a powerful heart beat setting their pace. Miners progress, surrounded by slivers of metal and sparkles, they drag, scrape, heat. The beat develops into a whirlwind of drum. Arriving on a city square where they gather all their treasures, Miners blackened arms make the drums speak. What they dug up is a whirlwind of life.

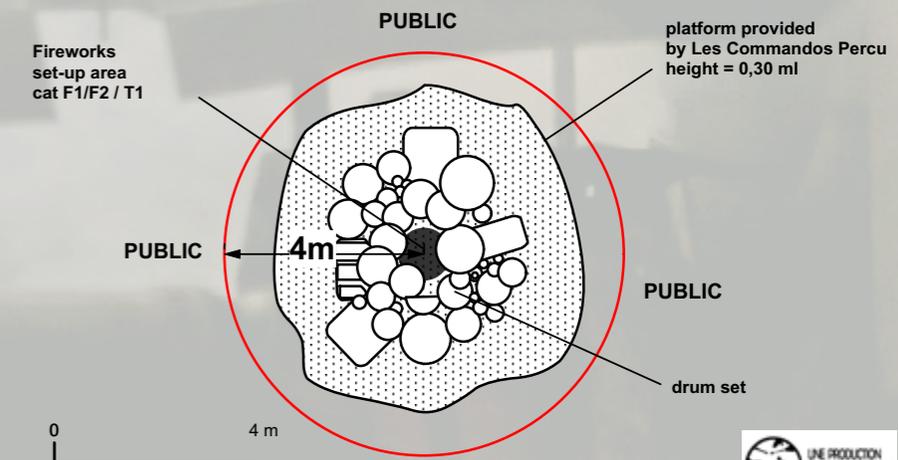
Mineurs is a Big Drum production - Supported by Association Multimusic, Rythmes et Sons Strasbourg, Pro ORCA, HH Producties Amsterdam. sponsored by le Conseil Général de la Haute-Garonne and la ville de Toulouse.

- > outdoor - night time
- > 7 artists on tour
- > duration 40 min
- > Audience : several thousand people

> [Technical rider to download \(pdf\)](#)

Drumming show unplugged and with mobile lights, including small pyro effects.

Finale on a square with very little technical requirements and 360° visibility for the audience.





CLIP Silence! - Festival Chalon dans la Rue

« a possessed trance toward an ultimate point : enjoying the silence »



(c) V. Balège

SILENCE!

« 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. »

Raymond Gabriel - metteur en scène

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS :

- > outdoor - night time
- > team of 7 artists and 2 technicians
- > procession followed by a final on a fixed set
- > duration about 40-45 min
- > audience : several thousand people
- > technical rider being created currently : 2 options will be offered with an acoustic set or a full sound and light system
- > fireworks safety area is located near the rear area of the stage



Technical rider (pdf)

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.

Powerful rhythms intersperse with silence creating a tension that will not fade. Along the path, procession will stop to create collective sculptures forms which spring lights and sounds before moving forward again in a relentless move. Nothing will stop this oscillating human machine, bodies progressing in unison with the rhythms

At the end of the route musicians and pyrotechnicians reach a fixed set evoking a mountain of metal. Viewing angle from the audience is wide, almost circular around the stage. Characters invade this strange space as one exploring a new territory, covered with metals and items that endlessly need to be pushed away, reorganised, transformed. Anything is good for action. The limit between chaos and music is thin.

What seems to be a countdown, or maybe a clock telling hours, creates a spiral of tension and surprises.

Objects and fire manipulation, percussion playing on and on, exploring what appears to be a gigantic musical instruments creating a possessed trance toward an ultimate point : enjoying the silence.

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.

- REFERENCES : Toulouse - Fête du Jardin Michelet • L'Argentière-la-Bessée - Championnat de France de Kayak • Tourcoing - Fête Nationale • Chalon sur Saône - Festival Chalon dans la Rue • Libourne - Fest'arts • Clermont-Ferrand - Les Contre-Plongées • Chassepierre (BE) - Fête des Artistes de Chassepierre • Aalst (BE) - CIRK ! • Barcelone (ES) - Fira Tàrrega • Aalst (BE) - CIRK ! • Zaragoza (ES) - Fiestas del Pilar •••

Silence ! est une coproduction Big Drum et Festival International des Arts de la Rue de Chassepierre.

Avec le soutien du Théâtre Le Liburnia - Ville de Libourne, Le Rio 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.





Danbor Talka - Festival Chalon dans la Rue



Clash of Drums - Rugby World Cup UK



Technical rider (pdf)

« The two tribes meet in a cataclysmic collision of fast and frenzied drumming. »

MILTON KEYNES CITIZEN

Les Commandos Percu & Deabru Beltzak

DANBOR TALKA

Clash of Drums

After many years spent traveling the world with their amazing drum and firework shows, the Basque company DEABRU BELTZAK and the French company LES COMMANDOS PERCU combine their talents and know-how with a clear objective: to reclaim the streets.

Movement, rhythm, fire. These three words indicate the common background of the two companies, each revealing their culture and their history. Approximation does not eliminate differences; on the contrary : symbolic confrontation becomes shared energy. Aesthetic of form, the art of surprise, fireworks, proximity in motion: contact with the public is total.

Collision, friction, percussion. There are many ways to make fire: the clash of drums produces sparks, communicative warmth, a wild whirlwind of colours & aromas.

This show evokes the clash of cultures, the need to talk, a common song invented. A warm-hearted show of interaction and sharing.

••• **REFERENCES** : Rendez-vous étudiants in Aurillac • Luton Arts in Luton (UK) • CAST à Doncaster (UK) • Grande Marée in St Nazaire • Greenwich & Dockland International Festival in London (UK) • River of Light in Liverpool (UK) • Fest'Arts in Libourne • Festival Bilboko Kalealdia in Bilbao (ES) • Rugby World Cup in Milton Keynes & Newcastle (UK) • Festival Chalon dans la Rue in Chalon sur Saône • Paléo Festival in Nyon (SZ) • Viva Cité in Sotteville les Rouen • Festival Toulouse d'Été in Toulouse • Centre culturel de Warande in Turnhout (BE) • Festival Cour et Jardin in Champigny • Festival la Sarre à Contes in Sarralbe • Derby Festé in Derby (UK) • Festival des Arts de la Rue Orly in Fête • Les Antoniates in Flobecq (BE) •••

Night-time - outdoor

Duration : 50 min

Audience : several thousand people

• **Parade : 20 min**

Out of nowhere, drummers march towards each other pounding stretched skins. Street to street, their drumsticks twirl, their colourful faces sizing each other up for a confrontation of rhythm and light. What will be the outcome of the clash? The sole purpose of this symbolic confrontation is to turn collision into interaction, to sublimate fury into language, to light the unifying fire that brings hearts together.

• **Fixed set : 30 min**

At the end of this wild parade through crowded streets, the blazing musicians climb onto the stage for a clash of drums. They light a huge fire that seems to burst from their instruments, as if every percussion note sparks an explosion in the starry sky. But this is just a transition point. The black and yellow devils again take to the street and disappear just as they came : surrounded by fire.



DANBOR TALKA / Le Choc des Tambours is a coproduction : Production Big Drum, Dis Dis Productions, Mairie de Libourne – Service Festivités et Actions Culturelles et le festival Fest'Arts, L'Abattoir – Centre National des Arts de la Rue – Ville de Chalon sur Saône, Lekeitio Festival Internacional de Teatro de Calle, Le Fourneau – Centre National des Arts de la Rue – Brest.

Funded by : L'Institut Français, la Ville de Toulouse, le Conseil Général de la Haute Garonne et la Région Midi-Pyrénées.



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 rhythmic 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.

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.



Le Concert de Feu in Heerlen NL



Reportage



Technical rider (pdf)

« Steady and furious percussion ! »

THE STRAIGHT TIMES, SINGAPORE

Night-time - outdoor or indoor

Duration : 45 or 60 min

Audience : several thousand people

• **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 rhythmic dialogue with fire. Shouts from the audience accompany the Big Drum rhythm in an astonishing final volcanic set.

••• **REFERENCES** : Singapore Arts Festival (SIN) • Toronto Winter City Festival (CAN) • Festival les Années Joué • Festival les Accroche-Coeurs d'Anger • Festival les Virevoltés à Vire • Chelmsford Festival (UK) • Festival Échappée Belle de Blanquefort • Mot Festival (MK) • Festival Les Flambarts à Dreux • Festival Les Chromatiques à Fos sur Mer • Fête des Lumières à Lyon • Festival les Zaccros d'ma Rue à Nevers • Festival Internacional de Teatro Belo Horizonte (BR) • Salisbury International Arts Festival (UK) • Festival les Affranchis à La Flèche •••





(c) Les Commandos Percu



Les Interventions Mobiles - Annonay France - (c) QuelquesArts

- • • **REFERENCES** : Goyang Lake-park Arts Festival (KS) • Lightpool in Blackpool (UK) • Inauguration du Musée d'Ethnographie in Genève (CH) • Parc Préhistorique de Tarascon (FR) • Kervénanec : faites le quartier! in Lorient (FR) • Temps fort de l'APSOAR in Annonay (FR) • Château de Saint Priest (FR) • Olympiade des métiers de Clermont-Ferrand (FR) • Le Mans fait son Cirque (FR) • Bodega de Saint Alban (FR) • Ouverture de saison à La Tranche sur Mer (FR) • Les Givrés de la Rue à Orcière (FR) • Boules de Notes aux Ménuires (FR) • Carnaval de Tonneins (FR) • • •

LES INTERVENTIONS MOBILES

ACOUSTIC SHOW

They play everywhere.

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.



(c) QuelquesArts



(c) X. Boymond



Technical rider (pdf)

- EXTREME INTERVENTIONS MOBILES**
- Illuminated water at the Parc de la préhistoire in Tarascon (FR)
 - Official opening of Albi Theater (indoor-outdoor) (FR)
 - «Human rafts » at the Perth International Arts Festival (AUS)
 - Rappel down in Madrid (SP)
 - Show on snow in the French Alps
 - Official opening of an industrial site in Trento (IT)

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

• **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.

WORKSHOPS AND SPECIAL CREATIONS.

The point of doing workshops is to create a large scale performance. The volunteers are trained by Les Commandos Percu to develop a project from its composition to its concrete fulfillment.

Special creations, original scenographies and specific circumstances are as many parameters that become creative challenges.



(c) Ville de Noisy le Grand



(c) eventdigital.co.uk



(c) eventdigital.co.uk

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 environment in which the sharing of experiences is a priority.

[>> FULL INFORMATION PACK TO DOWNLOAD <<](#)

SPECIAL CREATIONS

The conclusion of the project is a public creation. The impact of the 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.



Special creation : Fête de la Saint Paul FR - (c) Sarreguemines

...REFERENCES...

• RUGBY WORLD CUP, Milton Keynes UK, October 2015.

Les Commandos Percu have been joined by a team of eight UK and Milton Keynes based pyrotechnic artists. With the help of Festive Road, they have been trained to perform in the Clash of Drums, otherwise known as Danbor Talka.

• COAL CHILDREN, Forbach France, 2013, 2014 & 2015.

Gueules Noires : le peuple fier > This performance is an exceptional journey through the life of coal miners and their families in the French area of Moselle. Former miners participate in this unique show. Artistic direction : Laurent-Guillaume Dehlinger (cie Deracinemoa).

• LA FÊTE DE LA SAINT PAUL, Sarreguemines France, June 2014.

Music and pyrotechnic workshops, 75 teenagers take part in a big parade through the streets of Sarreguemines.

• PERTH INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL, Perth Australie, January 2013.

Festival opening show with B.P.M. Bombs per Minute including 60 dancers, musicians and volunteers.

• LONDON OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS 2012, Ulverston, Windermere & Preston UK, 2012.

Creation of On the Night Shift, an exclusive brand new show commissioned by the London 2012 Festival with Les Commandos Percu and 12 North England based dancers and musicians.

WORKSHOPS



DRAW ME SOME MUSIC : LITTLE STICKS METHOD

The little sticks method is a teaching method to formalize rhythm, to write it, to read it in order to finally play it. This is a method tuned towards non-professionals who do not know music theory.

However, the little sticks method comes 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.

The 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 creations, it is directed at non-professionals as well as professionals. Plus : there is also practical application for choreography.



Special creation : On the Night Shift - (c) www.eventdigital.co.uk

LES COMMANDOS PERCU

International Street Arts Company



Energy in motion.

Music that speaks to the guts. For more than 20 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 pyromusicians enlighten the sky with their rhythms.



(c) D. Saint Léger

« 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

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

After their first performances about 20 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 land.

It's been more than 10 years now that Les Commandos Percu have been working with Claude Walter from Rythmes & Sons – Strasbourg through a permanent partnership, a sound laboratory, in order to develop unique and original musical instruments.

The show "On the Night Shift" was a commission for the London 2012 Festival. It presented an original musical composition played on drums specially drawn and created for this show: the "Satellidrum".

RHYTHM - FIRE - MOTION

«Tchernobyl - an hymn to life made of screams, drums, sparkles and explosions.»

Tchernobyl - turning the memory of an absurd disaster into a hymn of life made of screams, drums, sparkles and explosions.

It was a day in April 1986, I had created a nice rhythm by shaking a box of matches when suddenly the disaster was announced on TV. The next day, this innocent rhythm produced by a box of matches became a massive sound of drums accelerating, culminating in a final explosion. I wanted to describe a fine and complex molecule of life, when accelerating it became overheated, it turned into an absurd and destructive smash, then it became deathly quiet. Tchernobyl became a part of Les Commandos Percu's repertoire.

Curiously, the outcome is cheerful, lively and pressurized by a tuneful tempo; almost a love spasm... Besides, in the version of « Le Concert de feu », it is a great moment of fireworks where we have deployed many strategies to create "astronomical scenes", plenty of circles, spirals and trajectories, like a painting of the starlit sky.

I even believe that we could play this partition... in reverse order! Then, it would suggest a kind of Big Bang in which the elementary base gets organized round a pulsation, to end in this fine molecule of life.»

Raymond Gabriel is LCP's artistic director

Drummer, composer, pyrotechnician, he created the company in 1994.

LES COMMANDOS PERCU

Mise en scène : Raymond Gabriel

Musique - Pyrotechnie : Stéphane Augier, Metty Bénistant, Raymond Gabriel, Bernard Graell, Laurent Macaux, William Perez, Ruddy Thery

Régie générale : Vincent Gonzalez

Son : Laurent Boulhabel

Lumières : Michel Pradillon

Production : Lisa Trouilhet

DRUMS AT NIGHT, FIRE IN THE SKY.

« An ending with a bang, certainly not a whimper, as fireworks and drumbeats signal a fitting farewell to this year's Arts Festival. Concert of Fire, by French group Les Commandos Percu, combined wild percussion and pyrotechnics to provide a fitting end as the Arts Festival's closing event. The performers underscored the visual experience with steady and furious percussion. With all kinds of fireworks shooting every which way above the stage, it was a light show that certainly delighted. " I've never seen anything like it. It's really wonderful, it's better than the National Day !" »

THE STRAITS TIMES

ART AS AN AGENT OF CHANGE FOR DEMOCRACY AND A RISER FOR THE GROUP.

« Four years after their noticed appearance in the official line up of Chalon dans la Rue festival, Les Commandos Percu will come back next summer on 20th-23th July 2011. They were in residence this week in L'Abattoir / International Street Art Center for the creation of a new show, entitled Destruction! Don't worry, behind this terrible word hides a pacifist message : "Let's not close our senses or our heart, let's open ourselves to what surrounds us, let's break all the Berlin Walls that grow around us everyday." »

lejournal

PERCUSSION AND FIREWORKS.

« "It's very simple, why we do this », said artistic director Raymond Gabriel, " Percussion makes boom, fireworks make boom too ! " Each musician pounds away on specially designed drum sets that can spew sparks. But despite the blinding show of light, Raymond Gabriel stresses that the music comes first. " The fireworks must be justified by the music." said Mr Gabriel. " We are a musical band first of all, and our music is the common thing that reaches out to everyone." »

the new paper

VISUAL TAPESTRY OF LIGHT AND SOUNDS OF DELICATE BEAUTY

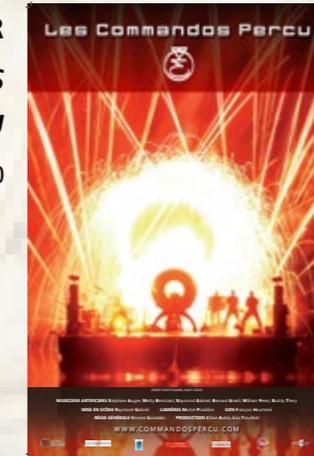
« The Bombs per Minute is a french show and its set stood high and proud like a relic from our industrial past set against the night sky. As the darkness fell, Bombs per Minute began, lightly and softly with an evocative soundscape and beautiful firework display. I was standing and positioned near the front in full view of the group of burly Frenchmen pounding hand crafted drum kits. With the utmost precision and timing, they moved through a series of drumming based musical sets integrated with fireworks emitting from the stage, dustbins, and their drum kits. Mesmerizing and sonically and visually hard core, they took the audience on a journey driven by the force of pure masculine energy. Bombs per Minute is for the most part a violent and aggressive spectacle reminiscent of the works of Bow Gamelan, Test Department and Archaos. This is spectacle for the techo and BPM generation. The show is pure velocity. The genius of Bombs per Minute was the mirror it holds up to humanity – its revels in our love of aggression and ability to enact violence yet at the same time presents us with other parts of human nature through its visual tapestry of light and sounds of delicate beauty.»



DEBBIE LANDER's blog,
programme director of WE PLAY
the Northwest's cultural legacy project UK

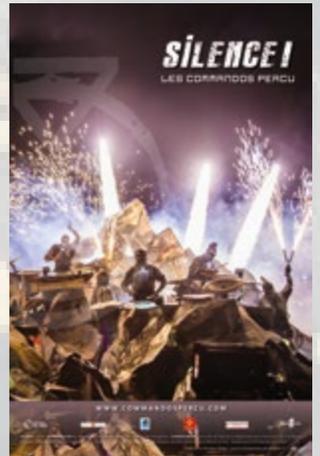
POSTER LES COMMANDOS PERCU

Format 60 x 40



POSTER SILENCE !

Format 60 x 40



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++ images and videos available on our website :

WWW.COMMANDOSPERCU.COM

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