

LULU

by Philippe Ducasse



LULU is a contemporary theatre and circus production, created and performed by Philippe Ducasse. The show is 45 minutes long and best suited for adult audiences (12+), and is conceived for frontal or semi-circular stages. The show can be adjusted to fit non-conventional performance spaces, and shorter or longer versions of the piece (between 20 and 60 minutes) are also available.

"There is no denying that Philippe is an extremely accomplished mime artist. This story of searching for the meaning of life – a big subject to do without words!! – was absorbing and a joy to see."

Kate Darach, Brighton Fringe Review

He is searching.

Constantly searching, for **Lulu**.

In parallel to his desperate search is an equally desperate escape. He is running away; from his fears, his desires, his reality.

Lulu is the story of this paradoxical quest, which leads a troubled, nameless protagonist through deserts, skies, Alan Watts lectures and strip clubs. No matter how far he runs, the path always seems to take him back to where he started. He is constantly brought back to the misery of his reality, and confronted with his own self.

Lulu explores sensitive themes such as loneliness, isolation, and substance abuse, and turns them on their head by asking the audience to see comedy in tragedy. A central theme of Lulu is how beautifully absurd suffering sometimes is, and how being able to be curious about and even laugh at our most painful experiences makes them much easier to bear.



ABOUT THE PIECE

Lulu is a multi-layered performance which incorporates a wide variety of techniques, including dance, clown, object manipulation, and acrobatics. Physical theatre and mime are the primary tools used to create the framework of the piece. Using only gestures and the power of the audience's imagination, the performer embarks on a strange adventure, taking the spectators along with him. The interdependence of the character's mindset and his environment is a central theme of the piece; as the character's mood changes, so do his surroundings. Sudden mood swings completely alter the space and a seemingly insignificant decision or gesture can have drastic consequences. **Warning: the piece contains strong language, reference to drug use, and mild twerking in diapers.**

"A truly beautiful show, between the raw and the wonderful, with all the laughs in between ... Bravo !"

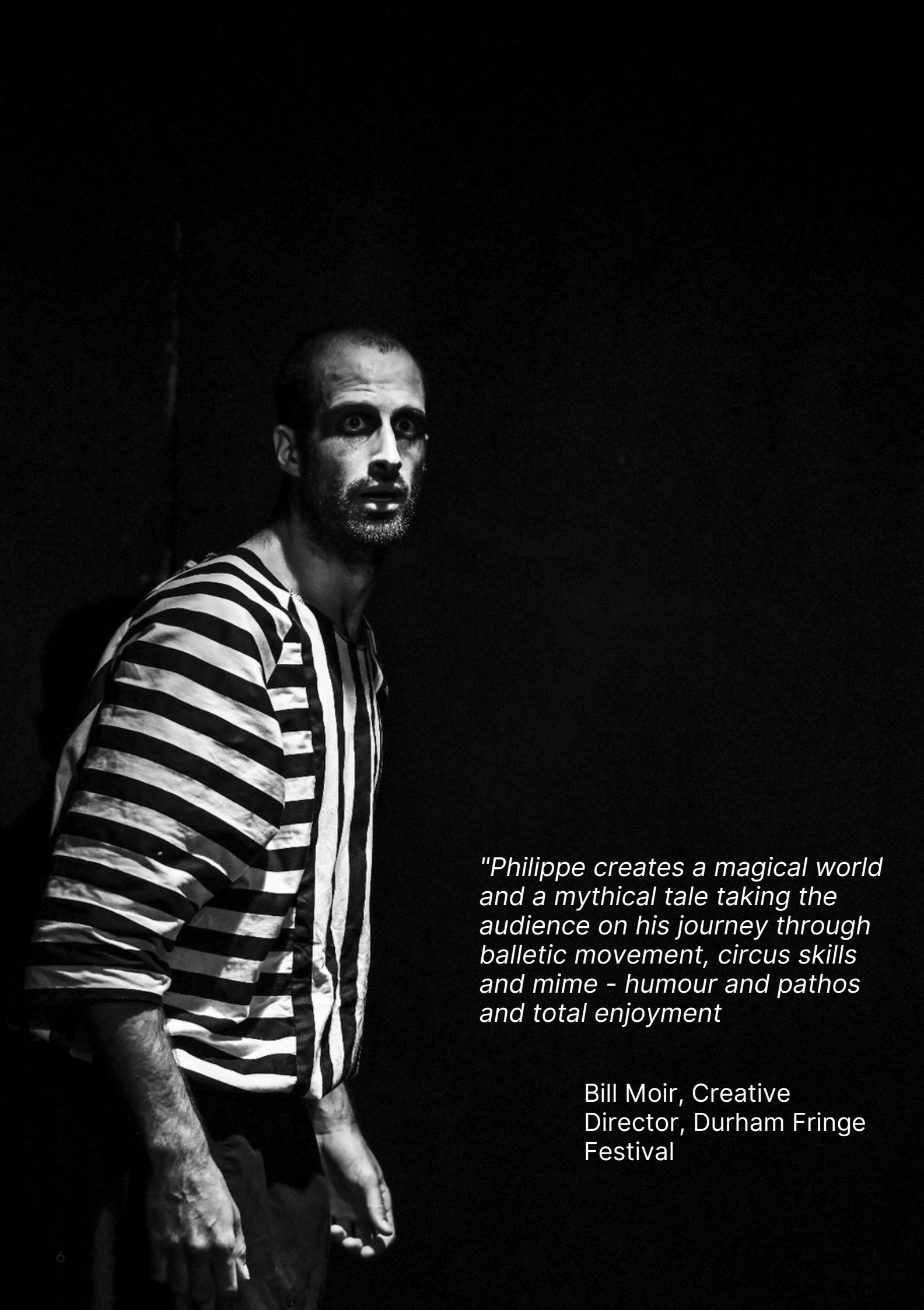
Joanna Bassi, Director



"Lulu takes the audience on a grotesquely funny search for the meaning of life. Along the way, we encounter an incredible composition of handstand acrobatics and object manipulation - artistry of the highest calibre is effortlessly embedded in hilarious dance interludes and astonishing pantomime, telling a gripping story full of dark humour. Absolutely worth seeing".

Julian Frey, Freiburg Juggling Convention





"Philippe creates a magical world and a mythical tale taking the audience on his journey through balletic movement, circus skills and mime - humour and pathos and total enjoyment"

Bill Moir, Creative
Director, Durham Fringe
Festival

SHOWS IN 2025

27-22th February: Kavc Festival, Ljubljana, Slovenia
18th April: Aichtal Juggling Convention, Aichtal, Germany

SHOWS IN 2024

18-24th March - Kavc Festival, Ljubljana, Slovenia
17-19th May - KLP Festival, Güstritz, Germany,
15-16th June - at Gauklerfest, Germany
23rd July: I become a dad! of TWINS!!
17th August - Gute Laune Festival, Haale,
Germany

SHOWS IN 2023

3 February - KavcFestival, Ljubljana, Slovenia
17 - 19 July - TheaterForum Kreuzberg, Berlin, Germany
23 - 25 May - BrightoFringe Festival, Brighton, UK
28 May - Freiburg Juggling Convention, Freiburg, Germany
11 November - Masseria Atipica, Casanella Grotte, Italy

SHOWS IN 2022

9-10 October - Villa Kuriosum, Berlin, Germany
26 - 28 July - Durham Fringe Festival, Durham, UK
16 - 18 June - Internationales Storytelling Festival Wien, Austria
20.May - Alle Mitmischen, Leipzig, Germany 21 - 27 March - Ufer
Studios, Berlin, Germany
27.February - Moos Space, Berlin
21 January - Convention Francilienne de Jonglerie, Paris, France
14 - 15. January - Die Etage, Berlin, Germany

SHOWS IN 2021

03 December - Zirkusquartier, Zürich, Switzerland
5 August - Sommermusikfest, Wolfstein, Germany
13 August - Kiezburn, Germany
23 July - Circus Schatzinsel, Berlin, Germany
6 July - The Palace Residency, Garzanov, Poland

RESIDENCIES

Katapult (DE), The Palace (PL), Zirkusquartier Zurich (CH), Centro Rural de Arte y Creacion
(ES), Ufer Studios (DE), Les Noctambules (FR)

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Philippe Ducasse is a multidisciplinary circus artist. His performances often include his two main specialities - contact staff and contact ball juggling – but Philippe is also trained in a variety of other techniques; including clown, handstands, dance, acrobatics, and mime. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Exeter, he attended a martial arts school in China for nine months, and in 2019 he completed a three-year circus program at «Die Etage» school of performing arts in Berlin, specialising in object manipulation and clown. He has performed the piece a number of times in theatres, festivals, and conventions around Europe; including Aurillac International Theatre Festival (FR), International Storytelling Festival (AU), Zirkus Quartier (CH), Ozora Festival (HU), ACUD Theater (DE), and others.



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

(Technical conditions can be simplified if the show is performed outdoors)

Stage requirements

A "black box" stage is optimal.

Optimal stage dimensions: 8m x 8m x 3m

Minimum stage dimensions: 5m x 5m x 3m

Floor

Black dance carpet is ideal, but wooden or other flooring is also suitable.

Curtains

Black curtains the whole length of the back of the stage with multiple entrances are ideal. A side wing is also preferable.

Lighting

As a minimum, the ability to darken the stage and three different wash settings are required. A spotlight from the side of the stage is needed.

Audio & Sound

A sound amplification and reinforcement system and mixing console is needed. Depending on the size of the venue, a lavalier microphone and hand held microphone might be needed.

Set Up / Down

Set up takes approximately one hour, with an additional hour required for rehearsals. If a technician from the venue has to learn the light and sound cues, a three hour session is desirable. Post-show clean up takes approximately 20 minutes.

Credits:

Created and performed by: Philippe Ducasse

Light technique: Piotr Lemieszczuk

Production: Charlotte Wanda Kachelmann

Photo Credits: Vinzenz Leuppi, Camilla Laverde and Turlach O'Broin

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Artstic support:

Katajult ...VUESCH e.V. UFER_STUDIOS



Les NoctambULES

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