

LEON & I

**Theatrical show for little ones
and the little one in each of us!**

Created and performed by Lucia Fusina
Director Micheline Vandepoel
Scenic design Bruno Geda, Lucia Fusina
Costumes Nuria Myriam Aletti



THE SHOW

Leon&I arises from a desire to use the language of clown to describe some of the great issues of being an adult: the endless search for a just compromise between our means/energy/ability and our deepest desires; the unquenchable desire to escape from reality - made up of rationality, level-headedness and appearances - and dive into a world of play!

Clowning is a language, it's a way of seeing the world that's similar to how a child perceives reality; wonder flows through them, as enthusiasm, curiosity and a craving for discovery drive their every action.

Children always want to put their bodies to the test and it is through movement that they discover themselves.

So, with the same naivety and sense of wonder, a Clown can tell the story of how they view the world, without judgment or malice, but with amazement and acceptance.



***Leon&I* is a wordless journey through the non-verbal universe that tells a story of emotions, failure and achievement.**

A huge curtain hides something, we're ready to start and the Clowness proudly presents her Leon, but where is here? This is the start of a game of appearing and disappearing behind the curtain, searching for the famous Leon!

The Clowness explores the stage; a small circus ring, a trapeze, a curtain, the audience. She is not alone, Leon, a small cloth lion, goes everywhere with her, just as cuddly toys and favourite games accompany children wherever they go. Leon is a friend who shares the Clowness' secrets and, above all, a powerful lion who can inspire courage and determination with his roar!



Together, the two characters explore the stage and the possibilities offered by their movement. As a child learns to walk, the Clowness learns to balance on her trapeze, shifting between satisfaction and achievement, and the fear of falling, endlessly putting herself to the test. The Clowness plays with the music. Sound and rhythm have an overwhelming power, making her move her body in ways never thought possible.

The ending brings poetry and a sense of satisfaction, together we can climb so high, become courageous and roar with delight!



THE CHARACTERS

The puppet Leon represents motivation, the roaring desire to achieve, to climb up high and express yourself together with others. The Clowness needs Leon because she is afraid without him, and doesn't trust her own abilities.

The control of the puppet during the show is clearly "fake", and it is evident to all that Leon is brought to life by the Clowness, can only be heard by her and that it is "only" a puppet. Nevertheless, the relationship between the Clowness and Leon is easily recognised by children; Leon is a playmate, a much-loved toy, a friend to talk to, to ask for advice from, someone who listens to both adventures and fears ... he's not "only" a puppet!

The Clowness was born at the **Cascina all'Inverso** and is the fruit of study, in 2018-19, with **Micheline Vandepoel** during the courses that make up the *Trilogy of Laughter* (la Trilogia del Ridere). Micheline Vandepoel then directed the first phase of the creation of *Leon&I*.



LEOM & I

Leon&I is a Clown and Trapeze show for young children, but has a lot to offer to adults as well as they can follow the story from a different viewpoint with a more mature interpretation.

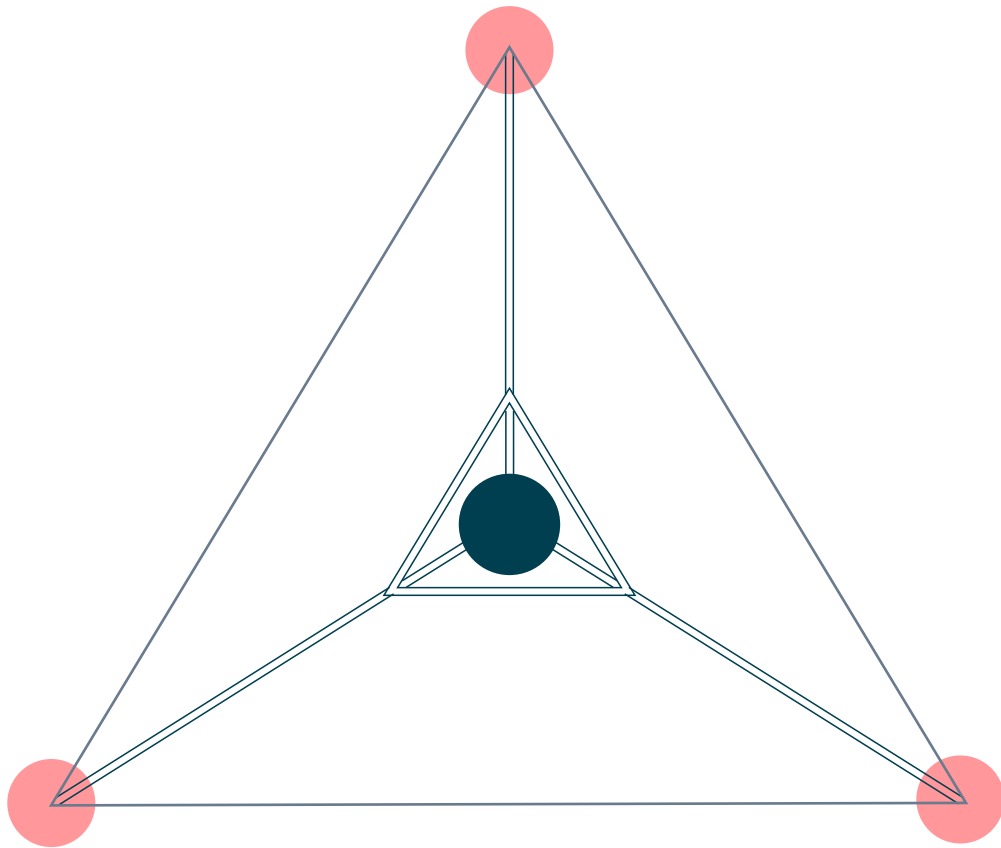
Creating a show for children means interacting with a serious, demanding and candid audience. It requires clarity and consistency. Children do not accept low-energy moments, and are willing to simply leave if they get bored! For this reason, they are a great help in liberating the energy of a Clown, to free oneself from the fear of being judged and the need to appear intellectual and intelligent. In fact, they help to explosively release the most stupid and naïve side of an adult!

The word “stupid” derives from the word “stupefied”: meaning a person who is able to see the wonder around us and is left open-mouthed, stupefied by everything.

- Pierre Byland



MAP OF AERIAL RIG



The aerial structure is a certified freestanding rig. No floor anchoring is required. The rig can be assembled for different heights, in accordance with the available space.

distance between floor-contact points

ASSEMBLY at a
height of 6 m

5,10 m



ASSEMBLY at a
height of 5 m

3,65 m



ASSEMBLY at a
height of 3,6 m

2,77 m



TECHNICAL SHEET

SPACE

- indoor or outdoor
- preferably with vehicle access (van or car)
- flat (grass, cement, wooden stage etc.) and suitable for the assembly of an aerial rig of the following dimensions:

5,10 m x 5,10 m height 6 m

or

3,65 m x 3,65 m height 5 m

or

2,77 m x 2,77 m height 3,60 m

AUDIENCE LAYOUT

This is an end-on show,
with an audience arrayed at 180°
in front of the aerial rig.

ASSEMBLY AND DISASSEMBLY

45 mins, including 15 mins in which 2 assistants are required for assembly and disassembly.

SOUND AND LIGHTS

- artist will provide own sound system
- light system to be provided by organisers and to be agreed upon before the show
- 2 lights

AUDIENCE

from 0 to 10 years of age

SHOW LENGTH

45 mins





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Lucia Fusina

www.luciafusina.it

info@luciafusina.it

+39 333 47 87 789

Cascina all'Inverso

www.cascinainverso.it