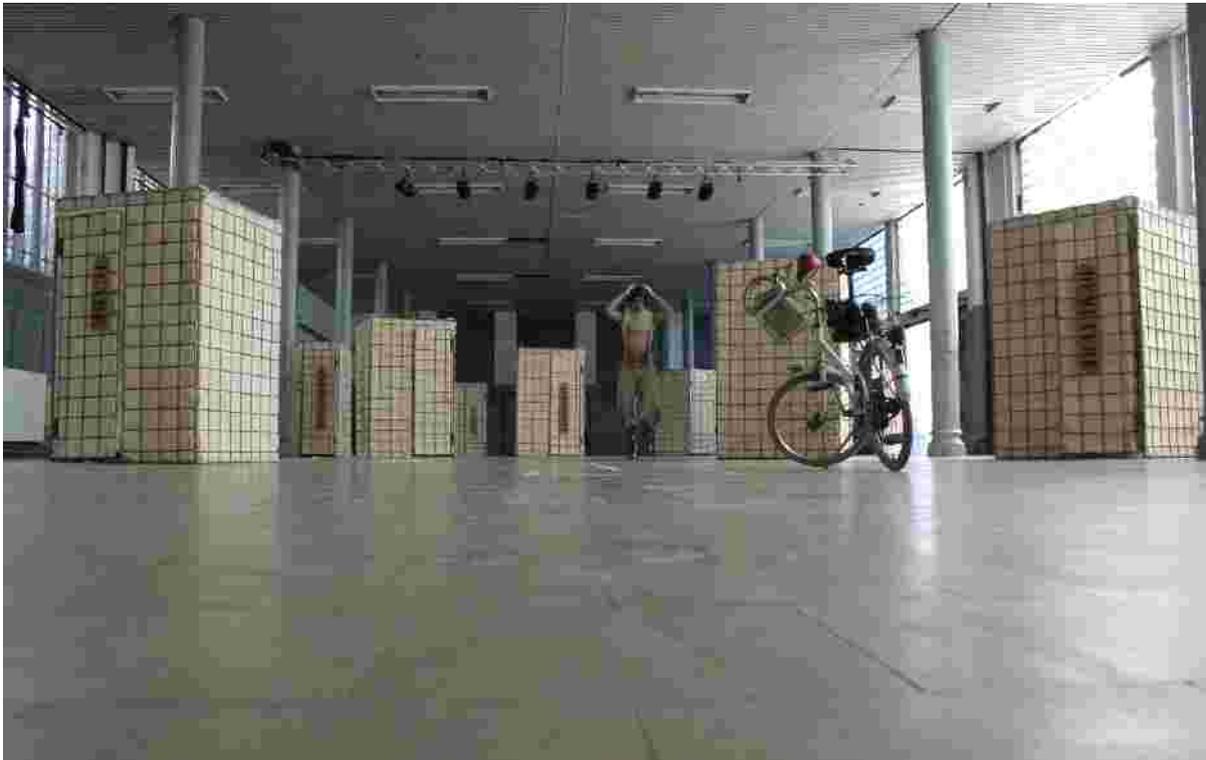


# LA FOIRE AUX MONSTRES

## OR THE FREAK SHOW

INDIVIDUAL JOURNEY THROUGH THE ESSENTIALS FEARS OF THE  
HUMAN BEING



Plastic art as basis of an interactive show

*The Freak Show* is the conclusion of the work of two stage designers, Florine Delory and Nathalie Maufroy, both graduated from ENSAV (Ecole Nationale des Arts Visuels de la Cambre) in Brussels. This project was created out of various shows performed all over the 2005-2006 academic year.

The desire to work on the monstrosity and the mystery of a classic freak show has become a laboratory of fears: the fear of the other, of the unknown, of the monstrous,... This eventually led to a reflection about anxieties related to the biggest steps of one's life.

*The Freak Show* is a plastical structure occupied by actors and spectators. This approach points out proximity, intimacy and the exploration of senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell).

*The Freak Show*'s structure is composed of 8 cells made of railings and foam mattress. The external aspect of all cells is inspired by fair cages as well as by the psychiatric aesthetics, but each one of them has a proper internal design. The structure's guideline is articulated around the idea of mystery, although several themes are explored by each cell, such as mythology, psychoanalysis, popular tales, religious beliefs, moving arts, among others.

## When the Spectator becomes active

The special relationship between actors and spectators stands out classical patterns. The entire show is articulated around the spectator, which is invited to live a unique and personal experience. A "barker" individually welcomes the spectator, before starting the journey. The spectator will visit 8 mysterious cells that each host one human fear. These incarnated fear's names are taken from Greek mythology:

DEMETER	<p><b>THE ORIGINS, THE BIRTH</b></p> <p>The labyrinth, the cord, the mother, the uterus, the vagina, the egg, the birth, ...</p>
NARCISSUS	<p><b>THE CORPORAL IDENTITY</b></p> <p>The mirror complex, the discovery of the body, complexes, the limits of perception, the market value of the body, self-representation, ...</p>
ICARUS	<p><b>FREEDOM AND CAPTIVITY</b></p> <p>Administration, dogmas, sins, boundaries, hard labor, time, dreams, advertisement and its dictatorship, art, drugs, ...</p>
PYTHON	<p><b>DESTINY, CHOICES</b></p> <p>Superstition, divination, professional paths, children, social relationships, regrets, making dreams come true, ...</p>
APHRODITE	<p><b>LOVE, FATHERING</b></p> <p>Love, soul mate seeking, suffering, commitment, family bounds, fathering, heredity, rupture, ...</p>
EVE	<p><b>SEX, DESIRE</b></p> <p>Sexuality, pulsions, Unconscious desires</p>

PANDORA	<p><b>OLD AGE AND DISEASE</b></p> <p>Handicaps, medication, amnesia, the will of eternal youth, infantilism, memories, regrets, hospital, loneliness, ...</p>
MEDUSA	<p><b>DEATH, BELIEFS</b></p> <p>Suicide, murder, earth, spirits, reincarnation, the hereafter, ashes, the morgue, judgment, the string, ...</p>

## Progress of the show

*The Freak Show* 's length can vary (2h30 max. per session).

Every 3 minutes, the “barker” chooses a spectator, which starts his 24 minutes journey through the different cells. Within 2h30, about forty people are chosen. The spectators receive a torch and a “travel diary” to guide them on the freaky way.

Between each cell, the spectator can read some instructions about the cell he’s about to enter. In 6 of the 8 cells is an actor that the spectator meets closely and intimately. The journey demands some interaction, but always respectfully to the spectators. The actors, all from various landscapes (Royal Academy of Brussels, IAD, INSAS) collectively took part to the creation process.

After the last cell, the “barker” welcomes the spectator again.

The moving spectators and the “barker” compose together a prosper show, open to other (waiting) spectators, in a peeping tom’s posture. The public that still isn’t on the set can freely leave and arrive at any moment of the show.

## Aimed public

*The Freak Show* is a discerning and humoristic show, addressed to an adult, physically able public. It is unadvised to minors under 16 as well as to people suffering from claustrophobia or physically disabled.

## Cast

### ? Conceptors, directors and technical support

Florine Delory  
Nathalie Maufroy

### • Barker

François Demoulin

### • Actors

Alexandre Dewez  
Elfie Dirand or Chloé Périlleux  
Guillaume Dumont  
Martin Firket or Gabriel Da Costa  
Marie Ougergouz or Marion N-Guyen Thé or Anne Catherine Regniers  
Cécile Vangrieken or Caroline Leboutte

### ? Communication Agent

Virginia Petranto

## Technical information

*The Freak Show* is a relatively autonomous show.

The minimum needed space (for 8 cells of 1,2m x 1,2m each) is 8x8m and must be at least 3m high (the ideal space being a gym or such). A wall socket should be available. The set is adaptable and can always be transformed to suit the place better. It is easy to set up and transport (20 m<sup>3</sup> truck needed).

Putting up time and dismantling: 4 hours.

Preparation time before each session: 1 hour.

Price for one day: 1500 euros (transports fees not included).

The show can be performed twice a day, with a minimum length of two hours between the end of the first session and the beginning of the second one.

## Contact

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