# ANYWHERE

FOR PUPPET OF ICE

AND ANIMATED ELEMENTS

© Pierre Hybre / MYOP pour ONDA

THÉÂTRE DE L'ENTROUVERT

© Eric Bourret

# FRAMEWORK

We are living in a society where reality is drained of its meaning, space and time of their substance and the individual is cut off from his true existence.
In this glossy world of superficiality, is there any room for those who do not participate in the power game: those who stumble, those who search and lose themselves?

ANYWHERE traces with gentleness and strength a poetic journey, in black and white, of fire and ice, which speaks to us about our bodies, our fragilities, our wanderings in the infinite circle of renewal.
Freely inspired by the novel 'Oedipus on the road' by Henry Bauchau ANYWHERE evokes the long wandering of Oedipus accompanied by his daughter Antigone.
The fallen Oedipus appears in the form of an ice puppet that gradually turns into water, then into mist and disappears in the Erynian Forest, the place of clairvoyance.
The inner evolution of this mystical character is in the image of the metamorphosis of water.
The spectator is invited to live an experience: to be one with the transformed material.

In this unstable reality, where from one instant to the next, everything can break apart, we merge with the elements, we sense the feeling of abandonment and transformation, we walk the same 'road where one gets lost and the being reveals itself (Heidegger).

**INTENDED FOR ALL AGES OVER TEN**

***"Everyone will eventually have to recall the itinerary of their dreams and draw up in heaven and on earth the unknown route which corresponds to their inner image."***

*Œdipe sur la route*
Henry Bauchau

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## VISUAL DRAMATURGY

In the beginning of the story, Oedipus appears as someone who has been rejected, hurt and alone. It's through walking that he slowly comes back to life. The visions and signs that appear to him become clearer as he wanders further and they facilitate his self-understanding.
Finally, at the end of his travels, having crossed foggy landscapes, Oedipus disappears on "the sunlit path, where the deepening lines spread out towards infinity and where he soon becomes no more than a tiny dot which slowly fades away".

## ICE ,METAPHOR OF EXIL

Because Oedipus is portrayed by a dual movement of absence and presence, being at the same time subject and spectrum, I imagined him in the form of a **puppet of ice.** The puppet will be manipulated by very longs strings. It will change throughout the play. The audience will be able to relate to the evolution of the character by means of the evocative force of the physical transformations: solid, liquid and finally gaseous.

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# EXPLORING THE ELEMENT

**Ice as a sensation** : the cold which holds, which freezes, solidifies and consolidates the molecules of water, which suspends thought. That concept contains the metaphor of exile, because by leaving his family, his home, his throne, Oedipus abandons the warmth that one generally associates with home, he goes where nothing can warm up his soul.

In contrast to this substance **the element Fire** is present in different forms along the journey : flames which revive joy, the power of the unleashed elements present in thunder and lightning, light which transcends. The blind Oedipus is accompanied along the way by Antigone, his light, his daughter and his tutor, puppeteer and guide. Clothed with a felt cloak which protects her from the devastating effects of the cold, she guides her father.

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## SCENOGRAPHY

### ICE SCREEN

The first background to the performance is an ice screen on which is inscribed in black ink the first words of the story:
"«The wounds of Oedipus' eyes which bled for so long are beginning to heal. Black tears no longer course down his cheeks, inspiring the horrific feeling in others that these are their own bloodied tears.»

### THE MIST

The roaming of Oedipus and Antigone finishes at the forest of Erinyes at the gates of Colone. Everything is swathed in a heavy mist, a place at the crossroads of the worlds, where identities disappear.

## ANTIGONE, THE PUPPETEER

### ANTIGONE

The daughter of Oedipus, accompanies him along the way. This is also my approach as puppeteer : to follow, ever present, until the melting of the ice which becomes vapour.

The performance represents that accompaniment, just as one accompanies a dear one who's dying, who fades away slowly little by little.

## THE AUTHOR HENRY BAUCHAU

Born in Belgium in 1913, the poet and novelist Henry Bauchau died on September 12th 2012. He always felt he was on the fringe of Theatre. Concerned with introspection, he brought to light happiness, suffering, love and detachment. His works, where the words dance like wounded shadows in the mist, help us decipher our contemporary world, somewhere between the heart and spirit, reason and instinct, shadow and light. The novels Oedipus on the Road (Actes Sud, 1990), Antigone (Actes Sud, 1998), and Diotime and the Lions (Actes Sud, 1991) form a Theban trilogy.

## OEDIPUS ON THE ROAD

Oedipus, who, as a plaything of the gods, killed his father and married his mother, leaves Thebes blind and crushed by the weight of his transgression. Accompanied by his daughter Antigone, he sets out on a long voyage which takes him to Colone, the place of clairvoyance.
In fact the book reveals an inner voyage where a man confronts the shadows he carries within, until he achieves self knowledge.

The novel Oedipus on the Road by Henry Bauchau occurs in the silence of Sophocles between relating Oedipus king and Oedipus in Colone. Through his use of the mythical approach, Henry Bachau offers a different reading of the story of Oedipus.
It leads us into the depth of the unconscious where disorder plays with the workings of the world and where the invisible brings about metamorphosis and transformation of the individual.

The figure of Oedipus as a hero of loss and transformation is intriguing. Even though the evolution of the character is embodied in the novel by means of the different parts that he plays – cursed king, exile, sculptor, bard, healer, man of the people – I'm more interested in his physical and inner transformations, his intimate identification with the surrounding environment. I mean to base my work on the text, extract phrases and the narrative architecture, and conserve only their evocative power and atmosphere.

# THE COMPANY

THÉÂTRE DE L'ENTROUVERT

The Compagnie du Théâtre de l'Entrouvert was created in 2010 by Elise Vigneron.
Through her solo, TRAVERSÉES, she lays the groundwork for a visual writing close to plastic installation mixing a strong presence of the elements (water, earth, fire, air) with disturbing images. In 2011, this show received the prize for innovative form at the Lleida International Festival in Spain. In 2020, it is being recreated for the outdoors.

IMPERMANENCE was created in 2013, based on poems by Tarjei Vesaas. This show initiates the research that Elise Vigneron will be carrying out on ephemeral materials and more particularly on ice.

ANYWHERE (creation 2016), a piece freely inspired by Henry Bauchau's novel «Oedipus on the road», highlights the metaphorical force of the transformation of ice through the staging of an ice puppet, figure of Oedipus. This show received the Vice Major Award of the International Puppet Festival in Ostrava, Czech Republic in 2017 and the Henry Bauchau Prize in 2018.

L'ENFANT (creation 2018) is an immersive form that leads the viewer to physically experience the play «Mort de Tintagiles» by Maurice Maeterlinck.

From 2020 to 2022, Elise Vigneron begins a new cycle of research on ice. LANDS, habiter le monde (creation May 2021) is a collaborative creation based on casts of ice feet. GLACE (creation October 2021) is an arts / science form between Elise Vigneron and Maurine Montagnat (glaciologist). LES VAGUES (creation January 2023) is a performance for ice choir, adapted from the novel "Les Vagues" by Virginia Woolf.

The company is supported by the DRAC Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, the Région Sud and the Conseil Départemental de Vaucluse. It receives for its creations the support of the City of Apt (84), the SPEDIDAM and the ADAMI.
It is supported for its diffusion by the ONDA and for its international tours by the French Institute.

The Théâtre de l'Entrouvert company is associated with the Cratère, Scène nationale d'Alès (30), the Théâtre de Châtillon – Clamart (92), the Halle aux grains, scène nationale – Blois (41) and the Théâtre Joliette scène conventionnée art et création expressions et écritures contemporaines de Marseille (13). Élise Vigneron is an associate artist at the Vélo Théâtre, Apt (84).

WITH

# ELISE VIGNERON

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Apt

Trained in visual arts, circus, then puppetry arts at the École nationale supérieure des arts de la marionnette de Charleville-Mézières, Élise Vigneron developed a language at the crossroads of the visual arts, theater and movement.

From 2005 to 2011, she collaborated with the theater company « Le Théâtre de Nuit », the choreographer Gang Peng and the director Aurélie Hubeau.

In 2009, she created a solo TRAVERSÉES which laid the foundation stone for the creation of the company THÉÂTRE DE L'ENTROUVERT. Follow the shows IMPERMANENCE (creation 2013), ANYWHERE (creation 2016) and L'ENFANT (creation 2018). Through her different creations, she digs a furrow relating to the animation of the material and the ephemeral scenographies.
In July 2019, she co-created with the dancer Anne Nguyen the piece «Axis Mundi» as part of «Vive le Sujet!» «, SACD programming, Festival d'Avignon.

She received the Henry Bauchau Prize in 2018 for the direction of the show ANYWHERE and the Creation / Experimentation Prize delivered by the International Institute of Puppetry in September 2019.

From 2015 to 2020, she is accompanied by Les Théâtres, directed by Dominique Bluzet in Aix en Provence and Marseille (13) and associated with the Théâtre du Bois de l'Aune in Aix-en-Provence (13) for the 20/21 season.

She is currently an artist accompanied by the Cratère, Scène nationale d'Alès (30), the Théâtre de Châtillon – Clamart (92), the Halle aux grains, scène nationale – Blois (41) and the Théâtre Joliette scène conventionnée art et création expressions et écritures contemporaines de Marseille (13). Élise Vigneron is an associate artist at the Vélo Théâtre, Apt (84).

AND

## HÉLÈNE BARREAU

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Douarnenez

After three years training in Applied Arts followed by three more years training as an actress, she obtained a diploma at ESNAM (National school of puppet art) in 2014. Since then, she has been collaborating with various theatre companies both as a builder and as a performer : Théâtre de Nuit/ Aurelie Morin, «La Loba» 2011, CDN from Sartrouville/ Sylvain Maurice, «Histoire d'Ernesto», 2014, Cie La Volige/ Nicolas Bonneau, «Les Malédictions», 2017, Cie Papier Théâtre/ Narguess Najd, «Un secret de rue », 2017. She has been colaborating with The Théâtre de l'Entrouvert since 2009 on «Traversées» (construction), «Impermanence» (construction), « Anywhere » (construction, manipulation and co-stage production), «L'Enfant» (external advices).

## BENOÎT VREUX

For the dramaturgy

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Bruxelles

Benoit Vreux directs the Centre des Arts scéniques, which is a structure for professional integration for actors trained in the schools of the Fédération Wallonie Bruxelles and the Centre International de Formation en arts du Spectacle (CIFAS), a post-formation structure active in the domain of performing arts. He is also a professor of theatre studies at the school of theatre management of the Fabrique de Théâtre (Frameries).
Benoit Vreux regularly gives conferences and publishes articles about art, the social conditions of artists and cultural policies. He is editor-in-chief of the on-line review Klaxon, specialising in performing arts in the public arena.

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# FRENCH DISTRIBUTION

\ Conception, scenography Elise Vigneron
\ Extract from *Œdipe on the Road* by Henry Bauchau
\ Directors Elise Vigneron and Hélène Barreau
\ With Elise Vigneron and Hélène Barreau or Sarah Lascar
\ Sound and light manager Thibaut Boislève or Cyril Monteil
\ Stage manager Corentin Abeille
\ Display Benoît Vreux
\ External advice Uta Gebert
\ Work on movement Eleonora Gimenez
\ Light creation Cyril Monteil
\ Sound track Pascal Charrier (guitar), Robin Fincker (saxophone), Sylvain Darrifourcq (drum), Julien Tamisier (clavier), Franck Lamiot (sonorisator)
\ Puppet construction and manipulation process Hélène Barreau
\ Construction Messaoud Fehrat, Cyril Monteil
\ Fluid realisation Messaoud Fehrat, Benoît Fincker
\ Technical research Boualeme Bengueddach

\ Greetings to Atelier de construction de décors du Service des Arts de la Scène d'Hainaut / La Fabrique de Théâtre / Stéphanie St-Cyr Lariflette / Manuel Gomez Mendina / Cécile Rattet / Agnes Magnan

# AMERICAN DISTRIBUTION

TRANSMISSION to an american team
Firsts rehearsals en janvier 2023
> Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival

\ Artistics directors Elise Vigneron et Blair Thomas
\ With Ashwaty Chennat and Mark Blashford
\ Sound and light manager recruiting
\ Stage manager recruiting
\ Sound track Pascal Charrier (guitare), Robin Fincker (saxophone), Sylvain Darrifourcq (batterie), Julien Tamisier (claviers), Franck Lamiot (sonorisateur)
\ Manipulation process Hélène Barreau
\ Copy puppet construction Vincent Debuire et Alma Roccella
\ Construction Théâtre de l'Entrouvert
\ Diffusion Yolanda Cesta Cursach Montilla, Claire Saxe

\ Coproduction Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, Théâtre de l'Entrouvert
\ Partners Ambassade de France à Chicago ; l'Institut Français with IF Export; Ambassade de France à New-York-City ; Fondation FACE ; AVIAMA

After discovering the company in 2019 at the Festival Mondial du Théâtre de Marionnette in Charleville-Mézières, and then the show ANYWHERE during its performances in 2020 in Canada, Blair Thomas, director of the Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, wishes to program the show in his festival. The confinement having made any international tour impossible, the exchanges between Blair Thomas and Elise Vigneron give birth to this project of transmitting ANYWHERE to a young American team.

# PRESS

\ PRESS REVIEW
h http://lentrouvert.com/prod/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/TDE-Revue-presse-ANYWHERE-180410_WEB.pdf

\ DOCMENTARY
ARTE journal - Puppets made of ice
https://info.arte.tv/fr/les-marionnettes-de-glace

\ INTERVIEW
France Culture - Les Carnets de la création, Aude Lavigne
https://www.franceculture.fr/emissions/les-carnets-de-la-creation/elise-vigneron-metteur-en-scene

\ NEWSPAPER
\ TÉLÉRAMA
« This show fascinate by its slowliness and its bewitching beauty; the delicate play of elements and the darkness, its poetical and crual strength. Beautiful art ! »

\ LIBÉRATION Interview of Élise Vigneron and Hélène Barreau
« In Anywhere, its a third play, Elise Vigneron plays Antigone with a puppet made of ice which appear to be an Oedipe running for transformation. Hélène Barreau manipulate it with a long string. A real esthetic and logistic feat. »

\ LES INROCKUPTIBLES
« The intiatic journey turn into an interior travel, when in ice its body turn into water, then evaporate. The hope that a form of redemption is still possible. A nice metaphor from this human condition which makes us think of being an inmate within ourselves. »

# AWARDS

ANYWHERE won the Award of the Vice Major of the City of Ostrava in october 2017

ANYWHERE won the Bauchau Price in 2017

# PARTNERS

Production Théâtre de l'Entrouvert
Coproduction
\Espace Jéliote in Oloron-Sainte-Marie / Scène conventionnée «art de la marionnette» Communauté de Communes Piemont Oloronais (64)
\Théâtre Gymnase-Bernardines in Marseille (13)
\TJP Centre dramatique National d'Alsace in Strasbourg (67)
\Théâtre Durance in Château-Arnoux (04)
\3bisf-lieu d'arts contemporains in Aix-en-Provence (13)
\International festival of puppets in Charleville-Mézières (08)

Support
\La Fabrique de Théâtre in Mons / Belgium
\Arts vivants en Vaucluse / Auditorium Jean Moulin (84)
\Pôle de création Le Phare à Vent (84)

The creation of ANYWHERE received support for the creation of the DRAC and the Provence Alpes Côte d´Azur region, the Vaucluse Departmental Council, the City of Apt.
It received assistance from SPEDIDAM for the production of the soundtrack, the cover, and its distribution, as well as assistance from the city of Paris, and the South Region for its distribution in Paris in December 2017. It has was supported by the French Institute for the tour in Seoul (South Korea).

THÉÂTRE DE
L'ENTROUVERT

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