

Cocoon

A performance for children from 6 months to 2 years 1/2
with an actress,
a musician,
eggs,
caterpillars,
a cocoon,
and butterflies



In conceiving this performance, we found our inspiration in the tradition of raising silkworms.

The magnanarelles, the women who take care of magnans, of silkworms, accompany them throughout their metamorphoses. The eggs need to be kept warm at a constant temperature for them to hatch. The constantly famished caterpillars are fed with the leaves of mulberry trees harvested round the magnanerie. They then form their pretty white cocoons made of a single kilometre-long thread. And then come the butterflies.

Like these women the female character takes care of the eggs, the caterpillars, the cocoon and with her companion, a musician, she attends to the smooth progress of their evolution until the butterflies hatch.



It is a love story. A couple go on the road and stop wherever they are invited to share with the « inhabitants » their knowledge of the stages of the transformation of eggs into caterpillars, a cocoon and then butterflies. This is a metaphor of the stages through which a child goes as it grows up.

The rugs and the objects in the scenography have been made of natural materials. Nathalie Strickaert, the scenographer, has chosen wool, tulle and silk. The stage area is a comfortable, warm felt rug, and the objects are soft and easy for the children to handle.

This performance addresses children aged from six months to 2 years and a half. In keeping with their age, the children associate the actions of the characters by analogy with their everyday life. In this way it touches them and concerns them. The actors are very close to the children during the performance. They welcome their emotions and those of the adults and familiarise them with the character-objects of the performance. All the objects are «precious», they are handled with attention and delicacy as we do with very young children



The music is composed of sound environments and sounds representing the languages and actions of the objects.





At the end of the performance, the stage space becomes a place of exploration. Both children and adults are invited to come on the wool rug to freely appropriate the objects.

The older ones begin to enjoy symbolic dimension. The performance inspires them. They take over elements of the scenography to reinterpret them.

The younger ones explore the space, lying or crawling on the soft rug. It is a gentle, peaceful, very cheerful moment, for both children and adults, and it can last quite a while.





Stage area: 7m x 7m.

This area includes the 4,5m x 4,5m rug, as well as room for the audience on 3 sides round the rug.

There is a version for day nurseries with a 3.50m x 3.50m rug.

Capacity: 12 children and 24 adults

Duration: 25minutes + an exploration time of roughly 25 minutes

Assembly: 2h30

Dismantling: 1h15

We can be autonomous in rooms without equipment.

The performance is devised for children between 6 months and 2 and a half years.

Different types of performance are possible:

- A performance for non- walking babies.
- A performance for walking children up to 2 years and a half.
- A performance for 6 month to 2 and a half year old together.

COCOON is a co-production by Compagnie Zvouki and La Noria asbl

Conception: Valia Chesnais and Charlotte Fallon.

Direction: Charlotte Fallon.

With: Valia Chesnais and Evgeny Makarov

Scenography: Nathalie Strickaert.

Music: Evgeny Makarov.

Body in movement: Lieve Hermans.

Costumes: Anne Guilleray.

Lighting: Frédéric Houtteman.

Photographic credits: Véronique Michel. Altana Pasalodos.

With the support of :



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