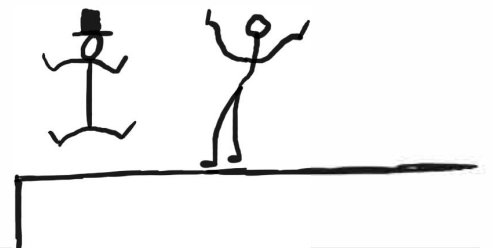
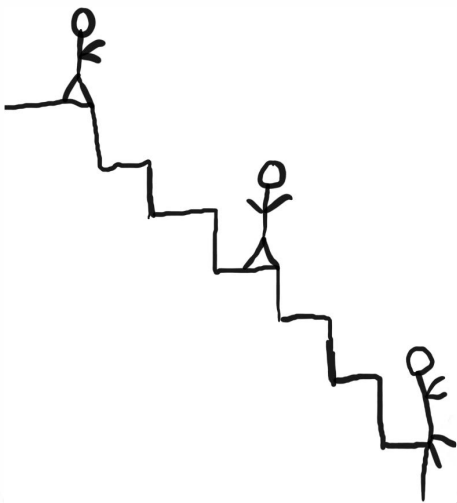


SHENANIGANS

presented
by

Jam. Shenanigans





*"We don't stop playing because we grow old;
we grow old because we stop playing."*

- George Bernard Shaw

GENERAL INFO

Show *circus, object manipulation*

Duration *~ 60 minutes*

Language *non-verbal*

Recommended audience *8+*

Location *indoor*

Crew *2 artists*

Creation *September 2022 - October 2023*

Première *Fall 2023*

Supported by *TENT, CIRKLABO, PERPLX, CIRCUSSTAD, KORZO,
MAD-FESTIVAL, ITU*

For further information *please contact Jam.Shenanigans via email*

SHENANIGANS



Shenanigans is a contemporary circus performance about the role of playfulness, creativity, and imagination in a society in which everything revolves around screens. By manipulating and creating visual illusions with toys such as airplanes, toy cars, and ball pits, the two performers aim to shine light onto the value of the inner child.

Does the constant technological immersion we have created limit our creative and imaginative capabilities? Batist van Baekel and Henri Kangas use their artistic skills in combination with their high-energy and playful approach to explore ways of relating to toys from the perspective of all ages. Why do we stop playing when we “grow up”? By setting themselves in the shoes of different age groups, they hope to bring back memories of flying cars, the rush of a new toy and the excited feeling in your stomach of having built your dream fort. With ideas limited only by fantasy and the predispositions we set on ourselves, Shenanigans aims to spark their audiences’ inner children back to life and show that being playful and imaginative are not only tools for children.

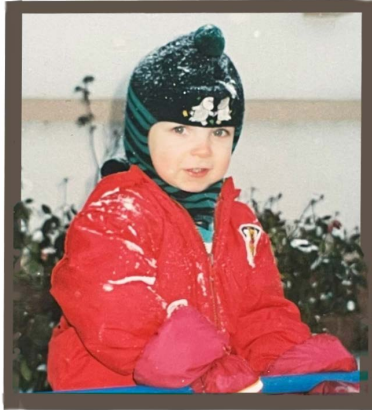
Shenanigans will become a full-length contemporary circus performance for indoor settings. It will be the first creation of the fresh and young collective Jam.Shenanigans.



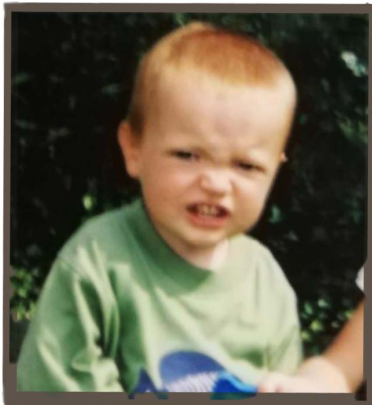
ABOUT THE MAKERS

Jam.Shenanigans is a high-spirited duo consisting of Batist Van Baekel (2000, BE) and Henri Kangas (1998, FIN).

Henri and Batist met during their studies at Codarts Circus Arts in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, where they graduated in 2021 and 2022 respectively.



Henri Kangas, a circus artist born and raised in Tampere, Finland, grew up in a vibrant, colourful city full of adventures. In 2012, he started his circus journey after joining the local youth circus Sorin Sirkus. Henri specialised in diabolo during his studies and graduated with his solo piece "Symphony of Recollection" in July 2021.



Batist Van Baekel was born in 2000 in Brussels. He grew up in Houtem, Belgium, a small, green and lively farmers' village. In the summer of 2012, he joined the circus camp of youth circus Circolito (Mechelen, BE), and has never since left the warm, magical, and safe space the circus offered him. During his studies, Batist has specialised in club juggling, a discipline in which he explores physicality, playfulness, and the connection between the object and the body.



During their studies, Henri and Batist started to collaborate together and quickly found out that they share similar interests in object manipulation. They formed a duo called "Jam.Shenanigans" with the idea of exploring playful manipulation with juggling materials as well as everyday objects. By exploring their abundant energy and goofiness both after-hours in school studios and in front of audiences, they have combined their love for creativity, movement, imagination, and playfulness into a shared language.



ABOUT SHENANIGANS

Driven by their love of circus, object manipulation, and their goofy approach to life, Batist van Baekel and Henri Kangas are full-time investigators in exploring their playful inner children. They are approaching the moment in life almost every person has to go through: crossing the bridge between school and the working field. The expectation of growing up has been present for a while, but neither of them wants to give up their inner child and stop living their playful life. But the question is, does one rule out the other?

Focusing on the physical sensations of playing, the piece talks about the disappearing presence of toys in an environment where we grow up watching tablets and TVs from an increasingly young age.

Shenanigans intends to show the beauty of playing with toys and what it has to offer to us. During the show the audience gets a glimpse into some of the childhood dreams of the performers both as a viewer, but also as a participant.

Shenanigans is an ode to the inner child.

*The performance is inspired by the feelings provoked when one asks:
Could a roller coaster come to life through the performers manipulating its tracks? What does a nerf gun fight look like in the middle of a balloon forest?
How would an audience feel when they see two jugglers throw baby dolls around?
Could a ball pit become an infinite fountain of juggling and drops?*



Shenanigans hopes to give the audience food for thought and reflection about their inner children. The performance is accessible for audiences of all ages and backgrounds. To achieve this, the piece will have a layered appeal; it aims to be visually pleasing to attract the younger audience members while simultaneously creating a deeper dramaturgic layer beneath the visuals for the adult audience members to grasp. The envisioned target audience gears toward a family audience whose children have already developed an awareness of their own creative imagination.

Shenanigans will not only be an entertaining show, but also an immersive experience. Besides sparking the audiences' interests, Jam.Shenanigans wants to indulge their nascent imaginative and creative desires. To achieve this, they will create a play corner accessible to the audience both before and after the show. The idea of this experiment is to see if the performance can change the perception of a play corner from a practical place where parents can drop off their kids to a creative and imaginative place that sparks playfulness in everyone. Furthermore, the goal is to create an interactive experience with the audience by the end of the show. The hope is to have sparked their imagination and playfulness to share and (re-)explore their inner child with the artists on stage. Jam.Shenanigans will invite the audience into their secret fort full of toys and creative input, where they will play their final scene(s) and hope to tempt the audience into releasing their inner children and playfulness.



CREATION

The creation of the performance will take place between September 2022 and October 2023 and Shenanigans will premiere during the Fall of 2023. Jam. Shenanigans aims to perform its work in Belgium, the Netherlands and Finland. The performance aims to be presentable in indoor venues.

The team as of October 2022:

Artists - Henri Kangas & Batist Van Baekel

Outside eye - Sander De Cuyper

Outside eye/technical help - Michael Zandl

Shenanigans is supported by as of October 2022:

TENT - House for Contemporary Circus Arts - co-production

PERPLX - Circus Werkplaats - co-production

CIRKLABO - Circus Werkplaats - Blank Space

Korzo Theater - support for residencies + working with outside eyes

MAD-Festival - residency

ITU - Lasten ja nuorten kulttuurikeskus - co-production

Circusstad-Festival - co-production

Timeline as of October 2022

September 2022 - Creation week at Circolito

September 2022 - Creation week at Korzo with Michael Zandl and Sander De Cuyper

Oktober/November 2022 - Creation week in NDD (TENT), Creation week in Antwerp (MAD)

December 2022 - Creation week in Leuven with CIRKLABO

January/February 2023 - Creation weeks in Kortrijk with PERPLX

April/May 2023 - Creation weeks

May/June 2023 - Try-outs (Circusstad Festival)

August 2023 - Final touches

October 2023 - Premiere (option)

October 2023 ---> tour in Belgium, The Netherlands and Finland



CREDITS

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Pictures: *Lily Schlinker (Schlinka)*
Editor: *Melody Nolan*
Supported by: *TENT, CIRKLABO, PERPLX, CIRCUSSTAD, KORZO, MAD-FESTIVAL, ITU*



Korzo

CIRKLABO
— circuswerkplaats —

