

THÉÂTRE de JOUER

RPM



VIDEO LINK: RPM R&D SESSION



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

The Concept

RPM is a new collaboration between Choreographer Del Mak, Circus Director Ezra Trigg and Dramaturge Pina Wood.

The project is being produced by Gorilla Circus with historical consultation provided by British Historian Onyeka Nubia, and is currently being developed for both indoor and outdoor touring.

This show seeks to question our perception of our colonial legacy on today's society and suggest untold links between modern day problems and conflicts and our country's colonial past.

Set on a large custom-built treadmill, the show features a diverse cast of acrobatic tumblers, roller skaters and dancers, fusing theatre and hip-hop whilst asking the question:

“has our country ever confronted its colonial past?”

RPM explores the intersection between technology and performer movement, blending theatre, dance, acrobatics and street skating to take the audience on an emotional and narrative journey.



The Concept Continued...



Through presenting scenes of colonial history interspersed with similar modern parables, RPM aims to give audiences a chance to reflect and to draw their own conclusions on possible similarities and consequences.

By utilising an ethnically diverse cast and portraying scenes through spoken word, the movement of dance, circus and rollerskating, the show offers a non-judgmental space for people to form ideas and start their own conversations.

As a country the UK has not yet to come to terms and addressed its colonial past, a fact that has become increasingly obvious following the recent BLM protests and conversations about race relations in the UK.

All citizens of this country have benefited in some way from the legacy of colonialism, yet little thought is given in media, schools or conversation to the long-lasting effects this part of our history has had on the wider world, or the structural systems of racial privilege that it has helped create within the UK. The 2011 London riots were the last large-scale racially instigated unrest, however little attention is given to them in our recent history.

Using these events as a contemporary lens to view our past through, a cast of performers navigate the giant moving treadmill, hiding their identity at times with morph suits. The performers assume characters through costume and movement, before revealing their true identities at various points in the performance.



The Story So Far



RPM received an initial ACE project grant of £30k to cover the construction of our treadmill set and a two week R&D periods in the first quarter of 2022. This took place at Out There arts in Great Yarmouth,

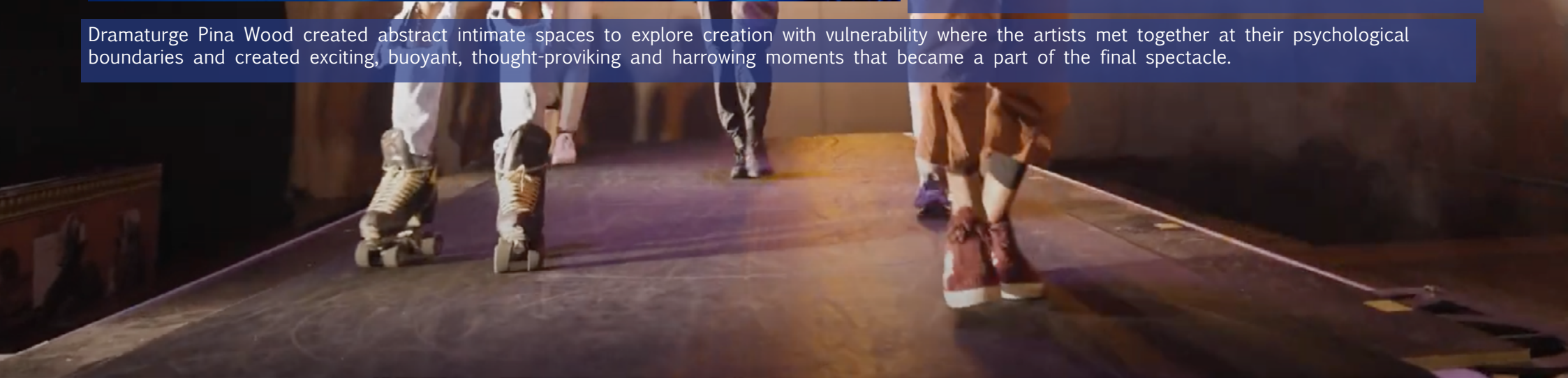
In the initial R&D stage of this show's creation, we employed the help of British historian Dr Onyeka Nubia who informed our initial ideas prior to starting our work on the creative performance aspects, and then invited him to our R&D period to give further guidance.

Through the two week creation period, our performers worked closely with each other to dissect the themes and apply creative movement to convey the narrative.

We asked our performers:

- Where is home?
- If someone were to ask you "where are you from" what would your thoughts/feelings be and what would you say?
- What are the things that come to mind when people mention colonialism?
- If you could re-frame a narrative about modern Britain what would it be?

Dramaturge Pina Wood created abstract intimate spaces to explore creation with vulnerability where the artists met together at their psychological boundaries and created exciting, buoyant, thought-provoking and harrowing moments that became a part of the final spectacle.



About us

Gorilla Circus

We are an independent circus production company based in the UK, delivering interactive, large-scale, and outdoor contemporary shows for all ages; comprised of aerial spectaculars and ground-level performances including dancers, high-wire walking, parkour artists and trapeze performers.

Typically, our shows are performed on eye-catching custom structures which include zip lines, hydraulics, moving props, and various FX.

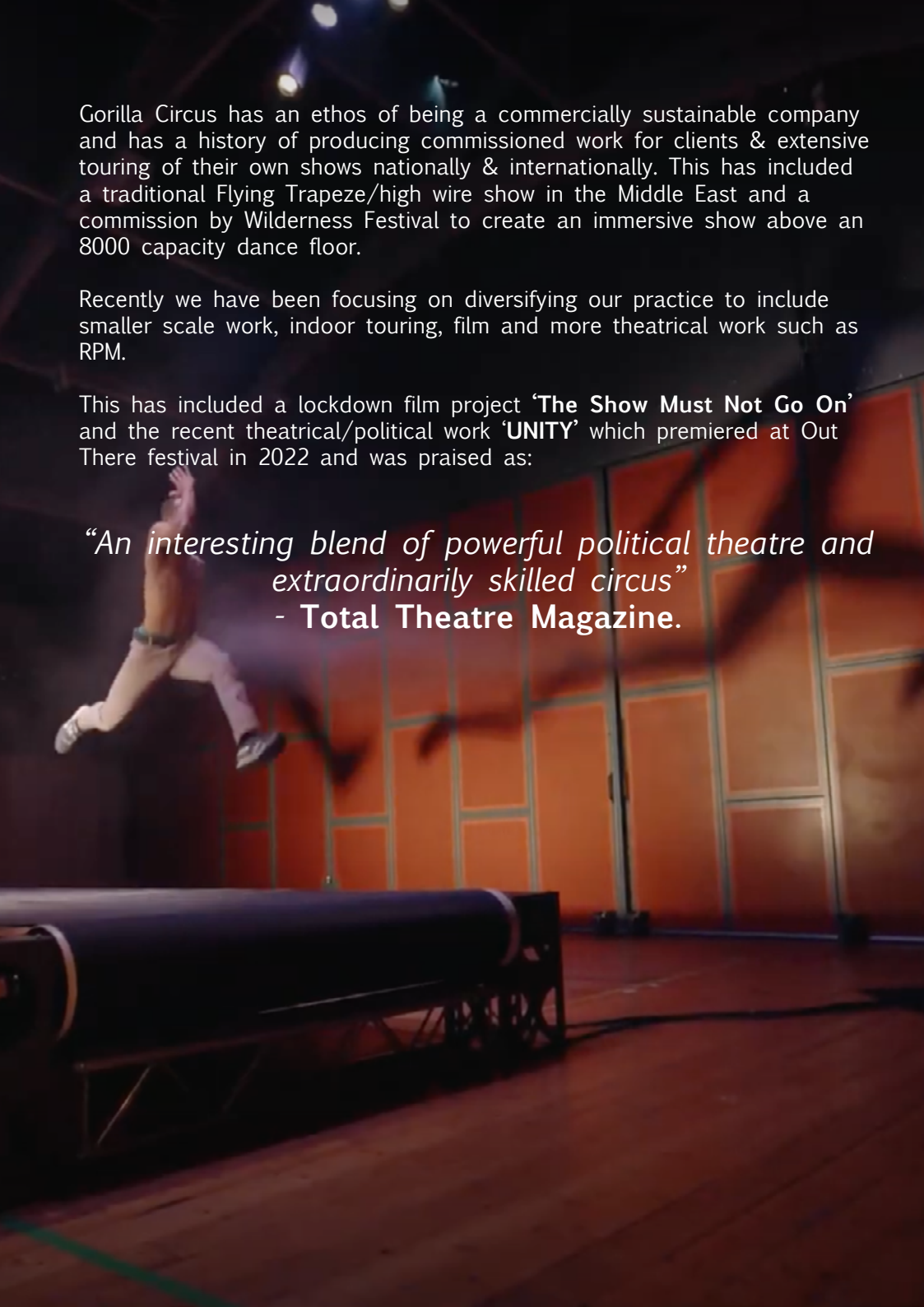
Our structures are as much a character and part of the show as the performers are, and are adaptable to suit the production requirements and budget of each event.

Inspiring and entertaining for all ages, our work is created with intention of educating and provoking thought and discussion about global issues.



Ezra Trigg, Circus Director and Creative Producer.

Ezra comes from a circus background, having spent most of his early career performing ground based circus acts and later becoming a catcher on the flying trapeze. After founding Gorilla Circus in 2009 he started to use his knowledge of creative rigging and acrobatic equipment design to direct and produce large scale outdoor circus spectaculars. These often featured flying trapeze, high altitude acts and performances over the heads of the audience. After collaborating with French street theatre company Generik Vapeur in 2019 to produce an environmentally themed show he became interested in producing smaller more politically themed work and diversifying how that work is presented.

A person in a light-colored shirt and dark pants is captured in mid-air, performing a stunt in a circus ring. The background is a large, orange-paneled wall. The lighting is dramatic, with spotlights visible at the top.

Gorilla Circus has an ethos of being a commercially sustainable company and has a history of producing commissioned work for clients & extensive touring of their own shows nationally & internationally. This has included a traditional Flying Trapeze/high wire show in the Middle East and a commission by Wilderness Festival to create an immersive show above an 8000 capacity dance floor.

Recently we have been focusing on diversifying our practice to include smaller scale work, indoor touring, film and more theatrical work such as RPM.

This has included a lockdown film project **'The Show Must Not Go On'** and the recent theatrical/political work **'UNITY'** which premiered at Out There festival in 2022 and was praised as:

"An interesting blend of powerful political theatre and extraordinarily skilled circus"
- **Total Theatre Magazine.**

A person with curly hair, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is walking on a stage. The lighting is a deep blue, creating a dramatic atmosphere. The person is looking slightly upwards and to the right.

NPO Status

Since the initial R&D we have gratefully been selected to be funded as a National Portfolio organisation by Arts Council England in their 2023-26 investment round. Part of our NPO grant will be going towards a further creation period of RPM in early 2024, ready for touring later in that year.

Collaborators:

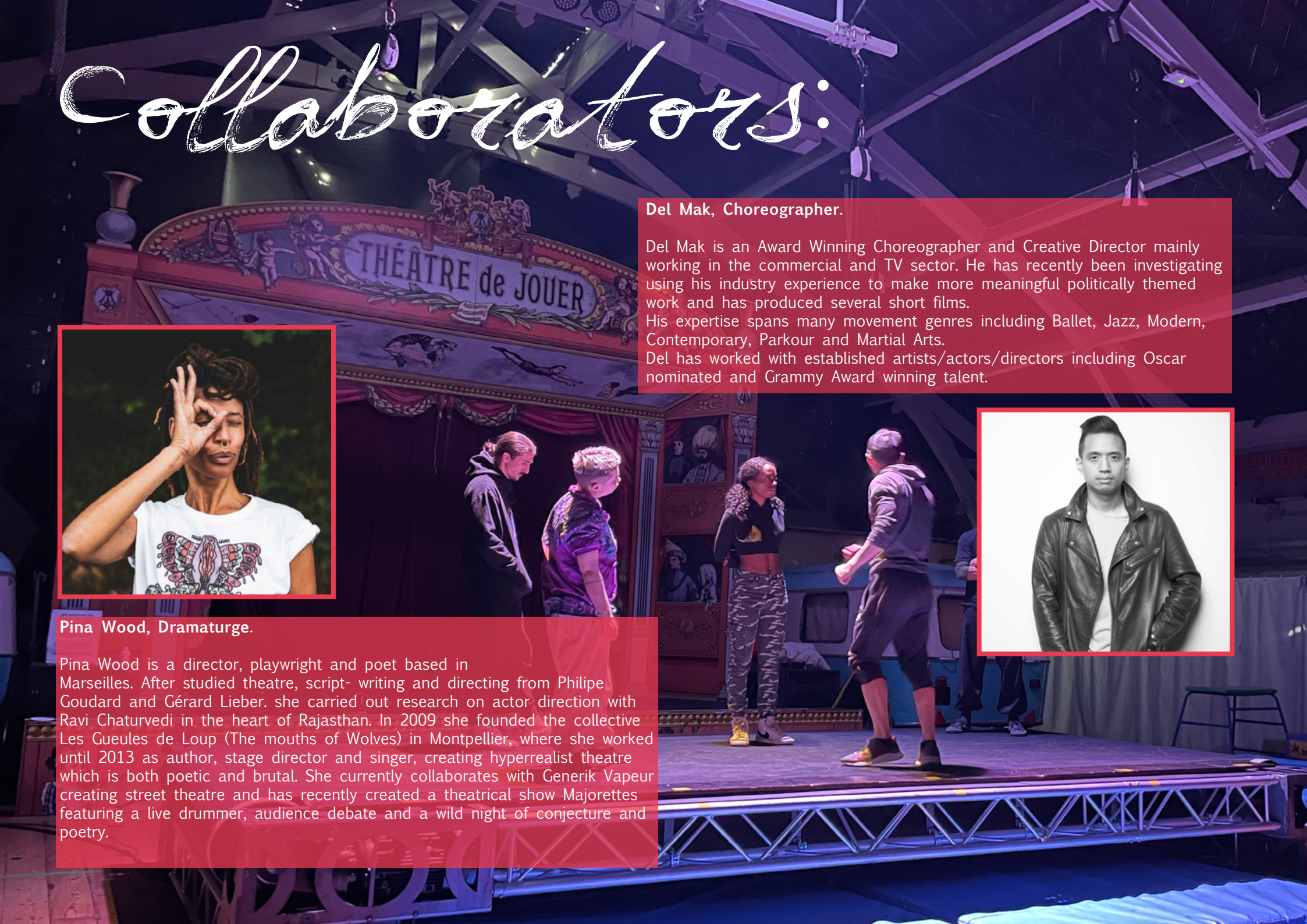
Del Mak, Choreographer.

Del Mak is an Award Winning Choreographer and Creative Director mainly working in the commercial and TV sector. He has recently been investigating using his industry experience to make more meaningful politically themed work and has produced several short films. His expertise spans many movement genres including Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Contemporary, Parkour and Martial Arts. Del has worked with established artists/actors/directors including Oscar nominated and Grammy Award winning talent.



Pina Wood, Dramaturge.

Pina Wood is a director, playwright and poet based in Marseilles. After studied theatre, script- writing and directing from Philippe Goudard and Gérard Lieber. she carried out research on actor direction with Ravi Chaturvedi in the heart of Rajasthan. In 2009 she founded the collective Les Gueules de Loup (The mouths of Wolves) in Montpellier, where she worked until 2013 as author, stage director and singer, creating hyperrealist theatre which is both poetic and brutal. She currently collaborates with Generik Vapeur creating street theatre and has recently created a theatrical show Majorettes featuring a live drummer, audience debate and a wild night of conjecture and poetry.



Budget

RPM Touring Cost

	Quantity	Day Rate	Days	Totals
Performers (rehearsal days)	5	£150.00	1	£750.00
Performers (show days)	5	£150.00	1	£750.00
Stage Manager/Sound	1	£200.00	3	£600.00
Lighting technician	1	£200.00	3	£600.00
Per diems	7	£20.00	2	£280.00
Transport	7	£50.00	1	£350.00
Equipment Transport	1	£300.00		£300.00
Adminstration				£500.00
			Grand Total	£4,130.00

Further Info

RUN TIME:

- Outdoor: 40 mins (no interval)
- Indoor: 60-90 mins (incl. interval)

LIGHTING DESIGN:

Craig West - craigwestlighting.com

REQUIREMENTS:

- 32x3 3phase connection
- Step free access from loading dock to stage.

LINKS:

[Video : RPM R&D Session](#)

[Gorilla Circus Production Website](#)

[Gorilla Circus Production Instagram](#)

[Del Mak Portfolio](#)

[Pina Wood Portfolio](#)

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