

**BEGAT THEATER**  
**Avignon Festival / Villeneuve en Scène**  
**July 10 - 17 2011**

**Histoires Cachées** [ Hidden Stories ]  
urban soundwalk



**[VOUS N'ÊTES  
PAS SEUL]**

July 11-17 2011 at 11 a.m. in AVIGNON

*Have you ever wanted to listen in on the thoughts of a total stranger?*

[ The Village Idiots ]

**Les Demeurées**  
a theatrical installation based on the book by Jeanne Benameur

**[VOUS ÊTES  
SEUL]**



July 10-14, 16-17 from 18:00 to 20:00 in VILLENEUVE

*Enter the strange box, the box of stories.*

*You are no longer here; you are there, in their world.*

**bəgət  
theater**

Begat Theater's new show:

**VOUS N'ÊTES  
PAS SEUL**

## **HISTOIRES CACHÉES** **[Hidden Stories]** urban soundwalk

*Have you ever wanted to listen in on the thoughts of a total stranger?*

*Hidden Stories* is an invisible performance, a site-specific event that blends itself into the urban landscape. Supplied with headphones, the audience is temporarily endowed with the power to hear the thoughts of certain passers-by and to follow them into the unknown. A single rule of thumb: follow an ordinary object (an orange, a newspaper, a box of matches, or a pen) as it makes its way through the streets of the city.

Begat Theater creates four disparate slices of life, four separate yet parallel stories. The audience follows these characters, slipping into their heads and delving into their deepest secrets. They are alert yet discreet; everyone they see is potentially part of the show.

"The performance is visible for those who are aware that it's happening."

The sound-scape detaches the spectator from the real world and plunges him into a world of fiction, opening his eyes as well as his ears. No two groups of audience see exactly the same thing.

The city is transformed into a sound stage, the audience's eye is the lens of a camera, and the spectator himself is the editor, choosing which images to synchronize to the sound track being played in his ears. He is free to follow the story from up close or from far away, to look at each detail, each gesture, each blink of an eye, or to let himself be carried away by his own imagination and abandon himself to the urban decor.

The anonymity of city life, sometimes suffocating and other times liberating, is the question at the heart of the piece. "How can I live in a city of thousands, or even millions, and yet still feel so alone?"

Inspired in part by the protagonists of contemporary novels such as Michael Cunningham's *The Hours* and Nicole Krauss' *The History of Love*, Begat Theater has chosen to experiment with a new form of dramatic composition. Blending together elements of performance art, environmental street theater, visual art, and sound installation, and blurring the boundaries between reality and fiction, it offers its audience a new perspective on ordinary life. With *Hidden Stories*, Begat Theater aims to reveal the poetry hidden in the fabric of urban space, encouraging people to be attentive to the world around them.

### **PRESS:**

A completely new experience which must absolutely be seen... like a film that mixes reality and fiction, "Hidden Stories" is a separate category of street art... A poignant and strange adventure that shouldn't be missed. - L'impartial

The audience is not safely tucked into their seats, watching and listening to a theater piece, rather he's the principal actor. - La Provence

"A show that grabs you... and brings you into an enchanting unknown." - La Provence

"Four delightful destinies that the spectator comes to know through chance encounters and crossed paths. - Le Reveil

### **Technical Information at a glance:**

Length of the show: 1 hour + preshow activity (15 minutes)

Shows per day: 2 (possibly 3 if conditions permit)

Audience size: 40 people per show – up to 120 people per day

Number of people on tour: 5 (or 6, depending on budget)

The performance is mobile: it commences in a public square, spreads out into the streets and alleyways of the neighborhood, and ends in a second square.

Each performance site requires a degree of site-specific adaptation. Please consult the company for ideas on the most appropriate and appealing spaces to imagine staging the show.

**Translations:** The show is available in French and English.

Each spectator is free to choose his or her language.

**Textes:** collective creation- Excerpts from *Manière* by Joël Bastard (© éditions Gallimard).

### **Cast & Crew**

Concept development:	Karin Holmström, Dion Doulis and Erika Latta
Direction:	Erika Latta (Waxfactory)
Sound Engineer:	Fabrice Gallis
Sound Design:	Erika Latta, Dion Doulis, Philippe Laliard
Original Music:	Peter G. Holmström (The Dandy Warhols)
Recording Artists (music):	Benoît Campens (tuba and upright bass), Philippe Laliard (percussions), Nolwenn Moreau (vocals), Sébastien Smither (saxophone)

### Actors / Co-authors

The Garbageman:	Philippe Laliard
Léon Schmitt :	Hervé Cristianini
Tamina :	Nolwenn Moreau
Colin Blackwell :	Dion Doulis
Emma Ducourtois :	Karin Holmström
	+ accomplices to be recruited in each town.

### **Residencies and Partners**

LE CITRON JAUNE ILOTOPIE - Centre National des Arts de la Rue - Port Saint Louis du Rhône ; Le PARAPLUIE - Centre international de création artistique – Aurillac ; L'Atelline - Lieu de Fabrique Arts de la Rue Languedoc-Roussillon - Villeneuve-les-Maguelone ; Quelques p'Arts... le SOAR, Secteur Ouvert des Arts de la Rue, scène Rhône-Alpes - Boulieu-lès-Annonay

### **With support from**

La Fondation E.C.Art Pomaret - Fondation pour l'Enseignement et la Création Artistique (Fondation sous égide de l'Institut de France) ; L'Adami - Société Civile ; DMDTS – Ministère de la Culture – Direction Générale de la Création Artistique ; Conseil Régional Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur ; Conseil Général des Alpes de Haute Provence ; CCLDV – Communauté de communes Luberon Durance Verdon ; Le Bruit qui Court – MJC de Manosque

### **VIDEO available on [www.pacabox.com](http://www.pacabox.com)**

⇒ Click on “Arts de la Rue” then “Bogat Theater”



# LES DEMEURÉES

## [The Village Idiots]

A theatrical installation by BEGAT THEATER  
adapted from the novel by Jeanne Benameur (éditions Denoël)

VOUS ÊTES  
SEUL

A 21 minute show for one person at a time, entrances every 3 minutes  
-an intimate, sensory and poetic experience  
-a moment outside of time...

*Enter the strange box, the box of stories. Place the headphones on your ears: first come sounds, then images and sensations. The characters are there too, right next to you. They look at you, reach out and touch you. You are no longer here; you are there, in their world. In another time.*

From the outside of the box, nothing is revealed about the journey you are going to take. Every three minutes, a bell rings: an actor allows you, one at a time, to penetrate inside the enigmatic structure, a living book that invites you through its pages to meet the characters of the novel: the Varienne, the village idiot, the one who perceives the world differently, Luce, her daughter and the primary school teacher Miss Solange, who has decided she will open the doors of knowledge to Luce

Begat Theater proposes a unique adaptation of a contemporary novel that is both performance and installation: *Les Demeurées* by Jeanne Benameur is a fable of another time with universal resonance questioning handicap, separation, and access to knowledge

The spectator advances through the story materialized by seven tiny triangular spaces. "Page" by "page" s/he interacts with the setting, the objects and the characters, using all five senses. Words, sounds, smells, painted and projected images depict the touching atmosphere of *Les Demeurées*. The story also takes shape through an intense individual relationship with the actresses: fleeting, soundless, emotionally charged appearances, physical contact... This theatrical installation offers complete emersion for the spectator who becomes both a witness and an actor in the story.

Using inspiration from pages of children's picture albums, school exercise books, embroidery patterns, as well as contemporary art, the set design summons the spectator's personal memories of school and learning.

### **About the novel by Jeanne Benameur, *Les Demeurées***

The mother, the Varienne, is the village idiot. The little one, she's Luce. Something in her has stopped. Nevertheless, the two of them, form a block of love. Invincible. School threatens this fusion. The primary school teacher, Miss Solange, wants to tear the child away from ignorance, because knowledge is compulsory. But can we cross the threshold of this world without consequences? The art of the pure, the quintessence of emotion, such is the secret of *Les Demeurées*. Jeanne Benameur, like a lace maker, places her words with infinite modesty and her words catch in your throat.

– édition Folio

### **Comments about the show by the author Jeanne Benameur**

"Strong, so strong. These are the words that come to me after the unique experience offered by Begat Theater. The solitary passages proposed by this installation of *Les Demeurées* made me relive the strangeness which inhabited me during all of the writing process. It was unexpected for me. Deeply moving. Thank you for the sincerity. It is rare."

## PRESS

### Télérama – N° 3140, du 20-26 mars 2010

**Les Demeurées TTT** The most beautiful emotion from the 2009 street theatre season! In its box of stories, Begat Theater, inspired by Jeanne Benameur's novel, tells the story of Luce's difficult learning process. Provided with an audio headset, each spectator goes alone through this installation-show. From one small room to another, the audience member discovers traces of a life, and pearls of hope... Silhouettes appear suddenly from the walls, grab your attention, brush up against you and leave silently. The beauty of the set design strengthens the poetic impact of this unique theatrical experience. Unforgettable! - Thierry Voisin

### Festival Chalon dans la rue - july 2008

**Les Demeurées.** The story, quite simple, inspired by Jeanne Benameur's novel, stages a young peasant and a primary school teacher, both silent, who guide the spectator from tableau to tableau. The strength of the performance, the pertinence of the text, the set design full of imagery make this show a great choice, confirming the vitality of street theatre. - Floriane Gaber

### Length and audience size

One spectator enters every three minutes.

S/he spends three minutes per space; there are 7 spaces.

The total length of the show inside the box per person: 21 minutes.

We can perform for two two-hour sessions (80 spectators).

The show is appropriate for all ages from 12 up.

Suitable performance areas : outside or inside (public square, park, outside of a theatre, interior hall...)

Artists on tour : 4

**Traductions** The show is currently available in French, English, Italian and Dutch. Each audience member can choose his/her language of preference.

**Concept / set design:** Karin Holmström

**Drawings / Paintings :** Bénédicte Blanc

**Set construction / technical director :** Philippe Laliard

**Sound design :** Erika Latta and Philippe Laliard

**Voice (English) :** Dion Doulis, translation Véronique Otto

**Voice (French) :** Françoise Trompette - Orphéon *Théâtre intérieur*

**Voice (Dutch) :** Elizabeth Kestens, translation Djamilia Bekkour et Tine Steeman

**Voice (Italian) :** Jeanne Benameur, l'auteur, translation Flore Giordanengo

**Director od actors :** Erika Latta - WaxFactory

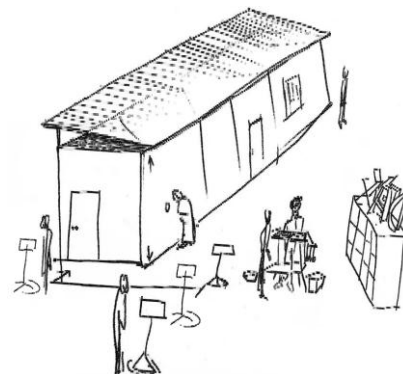
**With :** Bénédicte Blanc, Karin Holmström, Philippe Laliard and Eric Gaudé

**With support from :**

Conseil Général des Alpes de Haute Provence, Conseil Régional PACA

**VIDEO available on [www.pacabox.com](http://www.pacabox.com)**

⇒ Click on "Arts de la Rue" then "Begat Theater"



# BEGAT THEATER

Since its beginnings in New York, in 1992, Begat Theater's work aims to create a place for contemporary texts and authors in the public space.

How to tell powerful and relevant stories, provoke strong emotions, and play with subtleties of language in the context of daily life? How to explore the frontiers between the real and the imaginary?

The company has developed a multi-disciplinary form of theater in order to seek out new performance spaces and new actor-spectator relationships (unlikely spaces / active spectators).

Based in the south of France since 1994, the company brings together French and American artists in their work-space, La Ferme de la Colle, and they also invite other companies in artistic residency.

The company has performed in France and numerous countries around the world: Austria, Belgium, Brasil, Croatia, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and the United States.

The company's artists come from diverse artistic backgrounds: architecture (Karin Holmström), sound and lighting design (Philippe Laliard), cinema (Dion Doulis), fine arts (Bénédicte Blanc), contemporary art (Fabrice Gallis), experimental theater (Erika Latta), classical theater (Hervé Cristianini, Nolwenn Moreau).

## COMPANY MEMBERS

Artistic director:	Karin Holmström
Technical director:	Philippe Laliard
Associated artists:	Bénédicte Blanc, Dion Doulis, Hervé Cristianini, Fabrice Gallis, Erika Latta, Nolwenn Moreau, Stéphane Pastor...
Bookings:	Marie-Charlie Pignon - <b>MCP Factory</b>
Production manager :	Didi Van Stipdonk - <b>La Boîte à Ressort</b>

### **A NEW SHOW for 2013 : *I so want you to remember***

adaptation of the book *Je voudrais tant que tu te souviennes* by Dominique Mainard

It is an improbable and impossible love story between two fragile and solitary characters: a woman who looks only at the ground, finding her sense of the world through the infinitesimal and a man who looks only at the sky, contemplating the boundlessness of the world there. These two characters connect through a young woman who has the gift of telling stories.

An interplay between dream and reality on the themes of the loss of memory and old age.

A path, connecting some forty-odd sound "Hot-spots", crosses and inserts itself into a neighborhood like a gigantic *connect-the-dots*, a kind of treasure hunt. Drawings and photos of characters appear on the walls of the city over night. Written "reminders" indicate the way from one point to another like Tom Thumb's white pebbles... Real flesh and blood characters are there too: a man installing a sculpture on a roof of a building on a public square, moving with around with ease in the heights; other characters are in the streets, reacting with the passers-by and inviting them to enter the fiction.

Everyday life is heightened: a breach opens on an imaginary world.

A show between sound installation, art installation, happening, and theater. The performance would be open all day long, the audience members roam as they please. No limited capacity ...

⇒ **Currently looking for coproductions and partnerships**

# BEGAT THEATER

Villeneuve en Scène / Festival d'Avignon 2011

## **Histoires Cachées** - *soundwalk*

from July 11 – 17, 2011

at 11 a.m. (length 1 hour 15 minutes)

**SECRET** meeting place in **AVIGNON**

Reservations required: +33 (0)6 16 39 78 72

*The show is available in French or English – please specify your language when you reserve (limited number of English headsets)*

## **Les Demeurées** - *theatrical installation*

from July 10 – 17, 2011 (no performance on July 15)  
between 18:00 and 20:00.

A 21 minute show for one person at a time, entrances every 3 minutes

at **VILLENEUVE-LEZ-AVIGNON**

Accessible by bus from Avignon : Bustival 1

Reservations suggested: +33 (0)6 16 39 78 72

*The show is available in French, English, Italian and Dutch – please specify your language when you reserve*

**Booking contact in Avignon :**

**Marie-Charlie Pignon +33 (0)6 16 39 78 72**

**Karin Holmström +33 (0)6 25 93 42 39**

***Prices and technical rider available on request***

**+ other performances elsewhere.....**

### ***Histoires Cachées***

- July 21-24 : Street theater festival - Chalon dans la Rue, Chalon-sur-Saône (71)

- September 10-11 : Street theater festival - Cergy Soit !, Cergy Pontoise (95)

### ***Les Demeurées***

- November 11-12 : Scène Nationale de Cavaillon (84)

