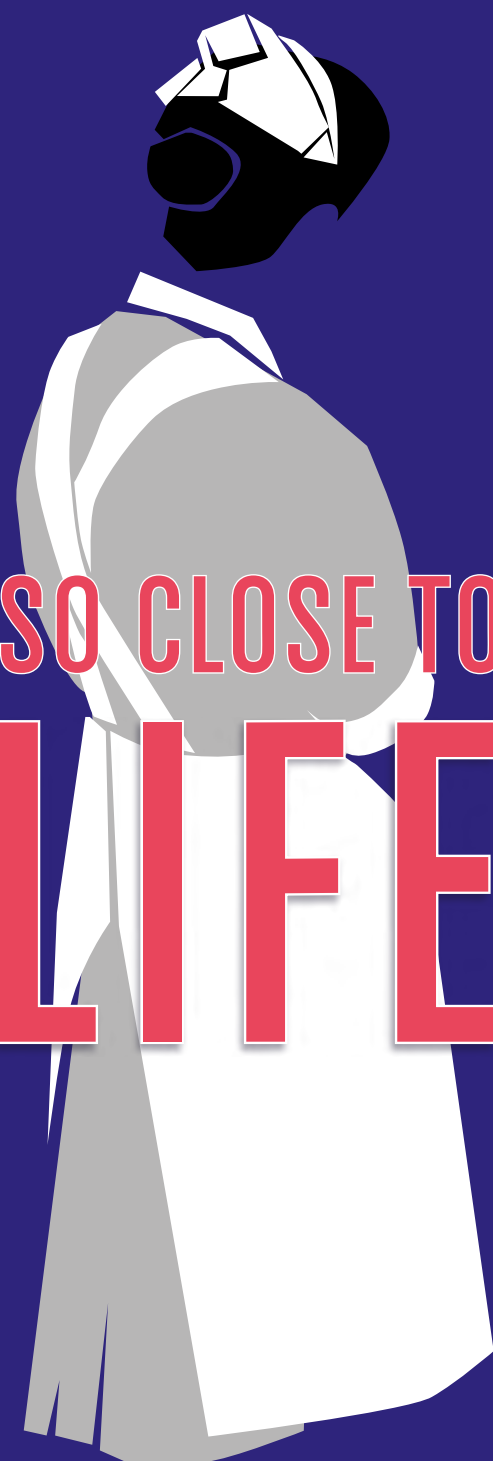


«COMPAGNIE DU PASSAGE» AND «COMPAGNIE DE LA LUNE POURPRE» PRESENT

ADAPTED AND DIRECTED BY  
**HÉLÈNE DARCHE**

WITH  
ALICE ALLWRIGHT  
PERNILLE BERGENDORFF  
PÉNÉLOPE DRIANT  
GWLDYDYS RABARDY



SO CLOSE TO  
**LIFE**

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY ULLA ISAKSSON ADAPTED FOR THE MOVIE BY  
**INGMAR BERGMAN**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR  
JULIE BESANÇON

MUSIC  
JASON MEYER

TRANSLATION  
MARIE HÄGG ALLWRIGHT  
ALICE ALLWRIGHT

LIGHTING  
ARNAUD BOUVET

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  
VALÉRIE DELVA

**CONTACT DETAILS**  
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**ESPACE  
SAINT-MARTIAL**  
2 RUE HENRI-FABRE 84000 AVIGNON

**1H20**  
DURATION



©Jean Christophe Nguyen

**“ HISTORY**

**HAS SHOWN US THAT THE BIG DEBATES THAT ONCE DIVIDED THE FRENCH,  
PROVED TO BE WITH HINDSIGHT A NECESSARY STEP LEADING TO A NEW SOCIAL CONSENSUS ROOTED  
IN A TRADITION OF MODERATION AND TOLERANCE OF OUR COUNTRY.  
I AM NOT ONE OF THOSE WHO FEAR THE FUTURE.”**

*Simone Veil*

November 26<sup>th</sup>, 1974 (speech at the Assemblée Nationale about abortion)

**“ DO NOT FORGET**

**THAT IT WOULD TAKE NOTHING MORE THAN A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC,  
OR RELIGIOUS CRISIS TO SEE WOMEN’S RIGHTS BEING QUESTIONNED.  
THOSE RIGHTS ARE NEVER GARANTEED FOREVER AND IT IS YOUR DUTY  
TO REMAIN CAUTIOUS THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE. ”**

*Simone de Beauvoir*

The Second sex



© Jean Christophe Nguyen

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## SYNOPSIS

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Three ladies, of different ages and background, share the same room in a maternity hospital during 24 hours. One is blissfully happy and about to give birth to a very desired child, the second is going through a traumatic experience of miscarriage, and the last one has ended in a hospital following a failed abortion attempt at home.

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## THE PLAY RECORDS

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This play, first presented and greatly acclaimed in the Festival d' Avignon 2015, returns with a new cast to the 2017 Festival season.

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## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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**1958**

**CLOSE TO LIFE**

is taking place in 1958 in Sweden :

a country where the abortion law was first voted in 1938, where sex education at school has been compulsory since 1956, where women have been entitled to vote since 1921 ;

a social and political environment which has encouraged the emergence of essential questions such as a women's right to decide how to use their body and childbearing as a free will choice, not a fatality...

**2017**

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

are regressing all over the world. Listen with what strength and sharpness Ulla Isaksson and Ingmar Bergman's work resonates and challenges us to day.



## PRESS REVIEWS



© Jean-Christophe Nguyen

« A cast of **stunning actresses**.

For a moment, we experience the drama of the destiny of three women in an aesthetic staging that creates a **womb-like atmosphere**.

We are taken with a **realistic but gutting performance** of four actresses though which the strength of these «ordinary» women prevails.

*Vaucluse Matin*  
67 spectacles - July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015



## DIRECTION

*Hélène Darche*

Hélène Darche is a well known director with a reputation for producing committed and demanding works throughout her career, directing plays by famous authors such as Stefan Zweig, Milena Jesenska, Charlotte Delbo, Franz Kafka or Hjalmar Söderbergh. She also masterfully takes on the cause of Algerian women and Algerian intellectuals. And such is her wide-ranging interests in art and humanity she has even concentrated on Bach's destiny and his masterpieces...

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“ ONE OF THE MOST DEEPLY MOVING SHOWS PLAYING NOW IN PARIS. ”

*Canal +- Philippe Gildas (Algérie en éclats)*

“ A PLAY OF EXCEPTIONALY HIGH QUALITY ”

*France Inter (Lettre d'une inconnue)*

“ BRILLIANT STAGING. ”

*France culture (Lettre d'une inconnue)*

“ A WONDERFULLY AND STUNNINGLY SINCERE MOMENT OF DRAMA AND MUSIC ! ”

*FIP (La Petite chronique d'Anna Magdalena Bach)*

“ THE MAGIC OF PURE AND PERFECT STAGING. ”

*Le journal du dimanche (Édith, la fille au père Gassion)*

“ WHEN LIFE BECOMES REAL ON STAGE, A MOMENT OF PURE MAGIC. ”

*Revue-Spectacles (Denise au pied nu)*

“ LADY HÉLÈNE DARCHÉ, «LA DAME», NOT HER FIRST PLAY NOR HER FIRST STAGING,  
TURNS REASONING UPSIDE DOWN...  
HEADY BUT SAD PERFUMS THAT PENETRATE THE FRAGILITY OF THE SOUL... ”

*La Marseillaise (Les hommes ne veulent plus mourir)*

“ IF YOU ENJOY AND APPRECIATE THE BEST ACTING,  
BEST DIRECTION AND MOST RIVETING ADULT DRAMA ”

*TV 12 -USA (A little grain of sand)*

“ IN ALGERIA IN PIECES EVEN SILENCED VOICES CAN STILL BE HEARD. ”

*The New York Times (Algérie en éclats)*

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**MUSIC**

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*Jason Meyer*

At 16 years old Jason Meyer was the youngest student to be accepted at the University of Hartford in Violin and Composition.

After a career in USA - he was concertmaster of The Boston Opera, violinist for the Boston Symphony Orchestra (under Seiji Ozawa) and the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra (under John Williams), professor of chamber music at New England Conservatory - he decided to settle in France. There, he rapidly became concertmaster of l'Opéra de Troyes, l'Opéra de Toulon, l'Orchestre Padeloup, l'Ensemble 2e2m, l'Orchestre Symphonique de Tours. As a composer, he works for theatre, for the Klezmer music group Yankele, for advertisements : his composition for Carven has been nominated for an award in 2014. He co-founded the piano trio, Le Trio de Lutèce, which was invited three times to perform at the prestigious Cambridge (England) International Chamber Music Festival. In 2013, he was the guest for the radio broadcast «Les Traverses du temps» (Marcel Quillévéré – France Musique) He has also directed at the Philharmonie de Paris.

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**“JASON MEYER IS A MARVELOUS COMPOSER  
AND A GREAT VIOLINIST. ”**

*Martha Argerich*

**“JASON MEYER’S SONATA FOR VIOLIN AND PIANO IS A VERY IMPORTANT WORK.  
ITS REMARCBABLE FORM IS A REAL MUSICAL «TOUR DE FORCE». ”**

*Henri Dutilleux*

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# LA COMPAGNIE DU PASSAGE

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## COMPANY HISTORY

La compagnie du passage, which followed La compagnie l'Amour Fou, was founded in December 2005 in Normandy then relocating in Paris.

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## LA COMPAGNIE DU PASSAGE

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### SHOWS

From its inception, seven plays created.

*“Milena/Kafka Entre les lignes”*

Milena Jesenska 's short stories mixed with Kafka's diaries and love letters

*“Bruant, tu connais ?”*

Spectacle théâtral et musical à partir des textes et chansons d'Aristide Bruant.

*“La Petite Chronique d'Anna Magdalena Bach”*

A theatrical and musical diversion around Bach, related by his second wife...

*“Denise au pied nu”*

A painter realising his model's portrait ... both keeping surprisingly revealing diaries

Le spectacle a été créé avec les véritables protagonistes du portrait

Festival d'Avignon – Théâtre du Temps, Paris -

*“Les Contes de Paris”*

Short stories by Paul Tabet, done in theater form

*“Les Hommes ne veulent plus mourir”*

Extremely moving dialogues between an alcoholic doctor and a women who becomes deranged after her child's accident.

*“Auschwitz et après”*

Extraordinary testimony of the great author Charlotte Delbo

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## OTHER ACTIVITIES OF LA COMPAGNIE DU PASSAGE

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### DRAMA FOR BUSINESS

Several short plays have been commissioned by five top French enterprises

SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE “*L’Audition*”

CHANEL “*La Rupture*”

INEXIA (SNCF SUBSIDIARY) “*Le Panoramique*”

DIOR PARFUMS “*Tournage*”

FAURECIA “*La Croisière*”

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### DRAMA WORKSHOPS

created and directed by Hélène Darche

#### ADULTS

Based on very demanding work of learning and rehearsing, adults are given the opportunity to perform in front of real audiences in rehearsal or Parisien theaters.

Most recent plays are :

“*Le Cercle de craie caucasien*” BY BERTOLT BRECHT

“*Les Couteaux dans le dos*” BY PIERRE NOTTE

“*Sang d’encre*” BASED ON GEORGE SAND AND ALFRED DE MUSSET WORKS

“*Sainte Âme*” BASED JACQUES PRÉVERT

#### CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

Workshops based on improvisation, plays, self written material are organised in various schools.

Young people are given the possibility to play in front of school audiences.

Primary schools in Sarthe, CFA BTP Chartres – LEP Farman of Issy les Moulinaux – PJJ Suresnes

## LA COMPAGNIE DU PASSAGE

### SUPPORTS

FONDATION BEAUMARCHAIS

CONSEIL RÉGIONAL DE LA SARTHE

VILLE DE FRESNAY-SUR-SARTHE

COMPAGNIE THÉÂTRALE GUYANAISE

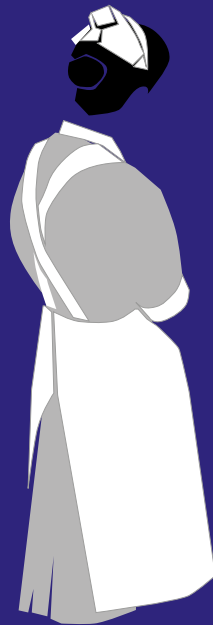
FONDATION PIERRE BERGÉ-YVES SAINT LAURENT

LEADER PLUS

CONSEIL GÉNÉRAL DE LA SARTHE

VILLE DE LEVALLOIS-PERRET EN 2004

FÉDÉRATION DES FOYERS RURAUX DE L' AISNE



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## CONTACT DETAILS

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