

Brotipo

Acrobatic Clown



"A rhythmic, precise, rigorous and endearing show."
Rue du Théâtre



"Somptuous"
L'avenir Newspaper

Study Guide





Presentation of Les Foutoukours

The production company Les Foutoukours works on original and creative scenic performances since 1997. The study of movement, states, body precision and inner activity has been the core concept of all creations from the very beginning.

Inspired by many genres and styles for every production, Les Foutoukours fights for the respectability of clown art in the province of Quebec and all around the world. Through the years, they worked on different facets of performance and of clown until they developed their own form of intelligent acrobatic clown.

The meeting of storytelling, theatre, clown acting, dance and circus allows in Les Foutoukours to offer unique and diversified shows that speak to people from Quebec as elsewhere.

Synopsis of the how Brotipo

It's not always easy to work in pairs! The art of giving a chance to the other and collaborating when the right time comes is what the Brotipo will have to learn! Two clowns who touch and make laugh through their quarrels, their acrobatics and their lonely moments. A show filled with handstands, diabolo and a hand-to-hand act that will make you sing and dance with them! Hilarious and comical, that's Brotipo, for the young and old!

Origins of the show

Brotipo has been created in Bercher, Switzerland in August 2015. It's under the big top of Association l'Alchimie that the two acrobat clowns Rémi and Jean-Félix began the adventure of Brotipo. Inspired by the American clown tradition, the show is born from a desire to transport the warm atmosphere of a big top everywhere the duo would stop by. Les Foutoukours wants to bring up to date the energy and extravagance of traditional circuses while keeping the crowd proximity and intimacy that the tent allows.

Why Brotipo?

A clown duo lives adventures on stage as in real life! That's what the show wants to put light on; the strength of a friendship between two persons until they feel like brothers. The complicity of two brothers under a big top, "chapiteau" in French.

The bros in a "chapiteau"...

Bropiteau?

Brotipo !



The American clown

The tradition of American clown follows the story of the traditional circuses that appear in the United-States at the end of the 19th century. Huge big tops covering acrobats, exotic animals and clowns travel through the country. The artists company is composed of real families in which the abilities are transmitted from generation to generation. As everyone of the group participate in the show, when the acrobat is getting too old, he become clown and perform in the ring with the young children who are learning. This is one of the first characteristic of the American style: the clown has been an acrobat, then he has more than a trick up his sleeve and he has a complete control of his body. The size of the big top (sometimes three adjacent tracks) requires the clown to be very visible to the general public in the stands. That explains the bright colors put on the costumes and make up of the clown. The festive and radiant nature of the American clown comes from the structure of the shows in which there's a chain of acts more breathtaking than the others. The clown is there to impress, make the crowd vibrate by several appearances through the show. But he's also there to balance the thrills. He is the contact with the public, the most human character who earns sympathy, the one who knows how to defuse emotions and bring new ones into being.

There are the characteristics that Les Foutoukours kept from the American clown: colorful, energetic characters who connect to the crowd with their acrobatic prowess as well as their clown stories.



Rémi Jacques

Founder and artistic director of Les Foutoukours since 1997. After his numerous studies and formations in dance, theater and circus, he has been on tour with Dynamo Théâtre during 5 years while creating shows for Les Foutoukours.

He has created more than ten shows and several acts that toured and won prizes around the world. His artistic vision is strongly influenced by the work on physical acting of Vsevolod Meyerhold.

Through the years, Rémi Jacques developed his own technic of active interpretation that he teaches in dance and circus schools beside his clown masterclasses.



Jean-Félix Bélanger

Graduated from Circus School of Quebec City, he is co-director of Les Foutoukours since 2014. He has been a creation collaborator on the last 4 productions of the company.

Immersed in circus, theatre and music since childhood, Jean-Félix has developed as a versatile artist who has shined through various competitions, artistic programs and shows all over the world.

Discussions

Before assisting to the show, here are discussion leads, linked to the show's themes, that you can tackle with the students:

The circus :

- Have you already seen a circus show?
- What do we find in a circus show?
- Have you ever participated in a show?
- Are you stressed when you perform in front of a crowd?

Friendship :

- Do you ever quarrel with your friend?
- How do you reconcile?
- How do you have fun when you are alone?
- Do you ever feel sad when a friend leaves?

After the show, come back with the students to find out what they have understood and received from the Brotipo adventure!

- What moments of the show have you liked the most and why?
- Even if the Brotipos didn't speak, was everything understandable? Why?

Activities

We suggest you different games and activities to initiate the students to clown acting, make them discover the themes of the show and let them have fun in the universe of Brotipo! For the more physical activities, we recommend to make space in the classroom so the students can be free in their movements and that everybody sees well.

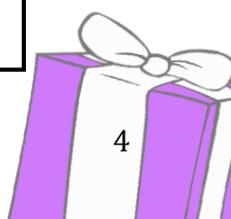
Activity 1 : The Human Knot

A clown duo must know how to help one another and laugh in the moments of challenge, of proximity and of reflection!

Preparation: Form teams of 5 to 8 persons. Each team must be place in a little circle in which everybody looks to the other.

Action: Every student must give its right and left hand to another teammate, and be sure that it's not the 2 hands of the same person. Once the "knot" of arms is created, they need to unknot it successfully without letting go any hand. They will succeed when a circle will be formed again and that everyone is still holding their hands.

Following: When every team has succeeded, join them 2 by 2 to do a bigger knot. Continue until the whole class create a big knot to be resolve!



Activity 2 : Object transformation

In physical and clown acting, besides transforming their body to represent different emotions, the artists use common objects to create new ones. As example, a sheet can become a cape, a broom a horse, a stick a barbell, etc. The object transformation calls out to the spectator's imagination to create, in collaboration with him, comical situations and precise universes with low material means.

To develop the student's creativity and bring them to think differently, do the object transformation game.

Object propositions: Dish towel, cone, wooden spoon.

Action:

Form a circle with all the students and place the object in the middle of it.

On a voluntary basis and in turn, the students go in the middle of the circle to mime an action in which the object represents another one. The other students must guess the new object and say the answer out loud.

The student in the middle can stop to mime only when the good answer has been given.

Then a new student takes his place to mime another action. The same transformation can't be done twice.

Activity 3 : The Fresco

The body is really important in clown acting, even more when there are no words. It become the language and to voice of the clown, it expresses itself in various ways.

The students are called to create a fresco/picture by taking a still position to represent a given place.

Themes: The circus, the Olympics, a birthday party, the bedroom, etc.

Action: Once the theme is chosen, one student must take a still position that represent an action, an animal, an object, etc. One at the time, the students add a position to complete the picture. Continue until about ten students create a live fresco, then suggest a new theme!

