

ACADÉMIE
EUROPÉENNE

des m@rionnettes

BELFORT EUROPEAN PUPPET AC@DEMY

THÉÂTRE DE MARIONNETTES & GRRRANIT SN DE BELFORT

CREATION: OCTOBER 2021



 **THÉÂTRE de
MARIONNETTES**
BELFORT

GRRRANIT
SCÈNE NATIONALE - BELFORT

1 ACADEMY SUPPORTED BY 2 PARTNERS

The **Théâtre de Marionnettes** and the **GRRRANIT Scène nationale de Belfort** joined forces in October 2021 to create together *the Académie européenne des M@rionnettes de Belfort - The European Puppet Ac@demy of Belfort*.

The new collaboration between these two entities located in the Territory of Belfort in the Bourgogne-Franche-Comté region, arises from the shared desire of Antonin Lang and Eleonora Rossi to promote French and European Puppetry in Belfort, drawing upon their combined expertise of over 40 years in the region. The objective of *the Académie européenne des M@rionnettes* is to establish an innovative laboratory to support the creation of puppetry artists **in Belfort, in France and in Europe**.

Our desire is to create **crossroads of creativity, learning, and collaboration** among French and European artists and institutions, aiming to offer a shared artistic direction characterized by quality, simplicity, and excellence around five keywords: **Artists, Puppets, Craftsmanship, Digital, and Europe**.



**THE ACADEMIE EUROPÉENNE DES M@RIONNETTES DE BELFORT
IS ORIENTED TOWARDS THE ARTIST,
FOR THE ARTIST
AND WITH ARTISTS.**

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SCÈNE NATIONALE - BELFORT

**THÉÂTRE de
MARIONNETTES**
BELFORT

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THE ACADEMY'S GOALS

The main objective of the **Académie Européenne des M@rionnettes de Belfort** is to promote creativity in the puppetry arts through grants for encounters between French and European artists, young and experienced, enabling them to travel, learn and discover the modernity of the puppetry arts in France and throughout Europe.

Since 2022, the **@EM Belfort** has been offering training grants to attend master classes, craft and digital creation residencies, cross-research laboratories and grants for puppeteers to travel to festivals and theatres in Europe via «European Mobile Academy» residencies.

@EM Belfort aims to create an artistic and human emulsion at European level via partnerships and discoveries between artists, companies, networks, festivals and structures on a European scale. The artists supported by the **@EM Belfort** are helped to follow up their projects and supported in the dissemination of their shows in France and Europe.

The **@EM Belfort** acts as a complement to and shares its work in France and Europe with higher national schools, theatres, festivals, training institutions, puppeteer networks and puppet production and dissemination venues.

At the instigation of GRRRRANIT SN, a communication dedicated to **@EM Belfort** is produced and relayed by our two structures in French and English.



INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMY IN 2021

OCTOBER 2021

Inauguration of the Académie Européenne de M@rionnettes de Belfort !

From 30.09 to 02.10.2021: GRRRANIT SN and the Théâtre de Marionnettes de Belfort have invited over 300 participants to celebrate the **inauguration of the Académie Européenne des M@rionnettes** during 3 days:

- Festive strolls with the giant puppet AMAL - The Walk
- Rap clip from Belfort «Amal»
- Research and laboratories
- Training courses and workshops open to the public
- Round-table discussions with European and regional puppeteers
- Invitations to regional companies and French artists

INAUGURATION PROGRAM OF THE ACADEMY

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 from 5pm to 8pm:

Place d'Armes & Place Corbis in front of the GRRRANIT SN:

- **Festive strolls bringing together over 300 children and adults to celebrate the arrival of the little big AMAL in Belfort:** puppet flashmobs, rap video and rap concert with 5 Belfort rappers (Lorenzo Opinel, Dynasty, Comores, Gorée, Anissa), giant pterodactyl puppets, puppeteers from the Bourgogne Franche-Comté region, music from the National Conservatory, Odysée du Cirque, Community centers, IUT de Belfort, candy stand, etc.

GRRRANIT SN Theater Hall:

- **VIP Cocktail from 6 to 7pm with President-Mayor Damien Meslot, Trustees and Officials.** Amal rests in front of the Theatre.... And she dances again at 7pm...

THE WALK in BELFORT, 30th september of 2021

The Giant Puppet **Little Amal**, a young Syrian refugee, embarks on a great journey - an artistic journey across Turkey and Europe. To find her mother. To return to school. To start a new life. To prove that solidarity can achieve great things. The Good Chance Foundation UK, in collaboration with the world-renowned creators of South Africa's War Horse Handspring Puppet Company and international filmmakers, present **The Walk** - a **traveling international festival of art and hope** touring European cultural venues from Syria, under the artistic direction of Amir Nizar Zuabi.



Little Amal was welcomed by the GRRRANIT SN on September 30, 2021 in Belfort: she was welcomed by numerous partners, including the Théâtre de Marionnettes de Belfort and various other players in the cultural life of the region and partners

Rappers associated with GRRRANIT SN

L'Odyssée du Cirque

Le Théâtre de Marionnettes de Belfort

After-school programs:

Victor Schoelcher school of Belfort
Auguste Bartholdi school of Belfort
Victor Hugo school of Belfort

Community centers:

Barres et Mont of Belfort
Belfort North
Downtown Belfort
Jacques Brel of Belfort

**The Henri Dutilleux
National Conservatory in Belfort**

The IUT of Belfort

FRIDAY OCTOBER 1, 2021 from 10am to 11pm - at GRRRANIT SN in Belfort

- **Meeting of puppet artists from the Bourgogne Franche Comté region and France**
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. / Open to the public / Free admission - **GRANDE SCÈNE DU GRRRANIT SN**
with the **Théâtre de Marionnettes de Belfort**
- **Round table Puppets & digital**
6pm / Open to the public / Free admission - **GRANDE SCÈNE DU GRRRANIT SN**
with the **Théâtre de Marionnettes de Belfort**

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2021 from 10am to 6pm - at GRRRANIT SN

- **Free puppet workshops for children / families / adults offered by GRRRANIT SN and the Théâtre de Marionnettes de Belfort**
10am to 6pm / Open to all / Free admission on reservation.

ACTIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE ACADEMY

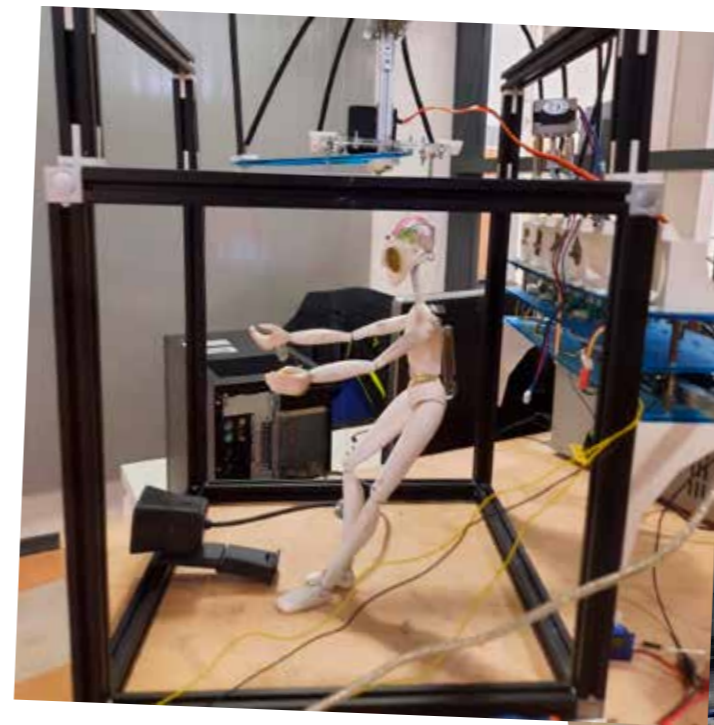
1 ACADEMY MOBILE GRANTS

Selected artists benefit from a 7- to 15 day European Mobile Academy residency **in a European theater** (to attend rehearsals, build puppets, meet the crews, exchange ideas and experiment with artistic techniques).



2 DIGITAL RESEARCH LABORATORY GRANTS IN BELFORT

Selected artists benefit from a 7 to 15 day **digital puppet research laboratory** at the Théâtre de Marionnettes de Belfort (Mapping, Tracking, Arduino, Robotics, 3D, etc.).



ACTIONS & SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE ACADEMY

3 AMBASSADOR MISSIONS SCHOLARSHIPS @EM FESTIVALS IN EUROPE

Selected artists will go on @EM Belfort Ambassador Missions to **European festivals** to develop their artistic vision, present their projects and select a show that could be chosen for the next Belfort International Puppet Festival.

Belfort International Puppet Festival every year for 29 years, the 1st week of the February vacations

The *Belfort International Puppet Festival* takes place every year in Belfort for **1 full week during the 1st week of the February vacations**. It has been organized by the Lang family and the Théâtre de Marionnettes de Belfort for 29 years.

Since 2020, the **GRRRANIT Scène nationale de Belfort** has joined forces with the **Théâtre de Marionnettes** to host and co-produce the Festival's shows, held in the main hall at the Grrranit SN and the Coopérative SN.

The Belfort International Puppet Festival presents numerous international, European, French and regional puppet shows and creations. The Festival brings together regional, French and international puppeteers.

4 EUROPEAN MASTER CLASS RESIDENCY IN BELFORT

The @EM Belfort is offering a 5-day European Master Class Residency in Belfort, led by European puppet professionals, for 14 selected French artists (travel, hotel, expenses and construction materials covered). The puppets will be built in the GRRRANIT SN Workshop and/or in the TMB Workshop. A festive evening will bring the training to a close.

The European Master Class Residency is supported by the **DRAC Bourgogne-Franche-Comté**.



**1st European Master class residency directed by Enzo MANCUSO,
Maestro PUPI from Palermo, Sicily
May 23 to 27, 2022 - at GRRRANIT SN in Belfort**

Participants learned the ancestral tradition of building Sicilian PUPI puppets with materials brought from Palermo.

14 French and European artists were selected to take part in this Residency, and were awarded a grant from the Academy to cover their travel, accommodation, meals and building materials.

LE MAESTRO PUPI ENZO MANCUSO - Palermo/ Sicile-Italie:

The **Carlo Magno** Company was founded by **Enzo Mancuso**, the last descendant of a family of puppeteers, artists from father to son. The Mancusos began their activity in Palermo in 1928, opening a small puppet theater in the Borgo Vecchio district.

Enzo Mancuso is an heir to the Sicilian art of puppetry - the pupi siciliani - whose tradition dates back to the 19th century. These rod puppets mostly depict knights in luxurious armor, embodying the heroes of a universe inspired by medieval gesture songs.

Classified by UNESCO as one of the «masterpieces of the oral and intangible heritage of humanity», the Sicilian puppet shows present various episodes from the «story of the Paladins of France».

His grandfather, the knight **Antonino Mancuso**, a pupil of the puppeteer **Pernice**, traveled to many districts of Palermo and provincial towns with his itinerant theater, until he had a permanent theater in Palermo in Piazza Don Luigi Sturz. This remained active until his death in 1988. **Antonino Mancuso** was a great innovator of armor with Greek and Roman-style helmets. He relied on the help of his children **Nino**, **Pino** and **Stefano** for his performances. His son, **Nino**, is still a skilled puppeteer and is considered an expert in the art of puppet creation.

Among his children, only **Enzo Mancuso** followed in his footsteps. He is a very precocious puppeteer, having started at the age of 13. The artist restored a few puppets inherited from his grandfather and began working independently in 1994. Following the teachings of his father and uncle, he dedicated himself to creating puppets using the old techniques of the masters and staging certain episodes linked to the history of the paladins of France.

Enzo Mancuso, considered today to be Palermo's youngest and most talented puppeteer, not only learned the techniques of creation and manipulation, but also deepened and perfected his technique as an actor.



**Solo Creation Workshop
With Yael RASOOLY, director, actress, puppeteer, singer
september 19 to 23, 2022 - FIGURTEATRET I NORDLAND
(STAMSUND norway)**

The relationship between the performer/puppeteer and the object or puppet was at the heart of the work. Participants challenged this relationship, questioning its meaning and pushing its limits. They examined how this dynamic can advance the dramaturgy, echo multiple layers of thought and awareness, and express specific emotions, all with minimal resources. **Shérzade FERRAJ** has been selected to take part in this Residency and receive a grant from the Académie to cover travel, accommodation, meals and building materials.



Yael RASOOLY - ISRAËL:

Born in 1983 in Jerusalem, Israel, Yael trained as a classical singer before studying theatre design in London. She began developing her unique theatrical language at the Jerusalem School of Visual Theater, where she specialized in directing, puppetry and design, graduating with a Diploma of Excellence.

Since 2006, Yael has been creating independent theatrical works and performing at leading international festivals in Europe, the USA, South America and the Far East.

Yael's theatrical language is based on a multidisciplinary approach, combining different forms of theater, puppetry, visual art and music.

Yael's solo show, **PAPER CUT**, is currently touring extensively around the world. The show has won several international awards and has been presented at over 30 international festivals, including the Festival international des marionnettes de Charleville-Mézières, Schaubude, Berlin and the Festival of Wonder, Silkeborg, The theater boat of the Forman Brothers in Prague, and many others.

THE HOUSE BY THE LAKE, co-created with Yaara Goldring and produced by HaZira Performance Art Arena, is a musical cabaret for actresses, dolls and objects, depicting the story of three sisters hidden away during the Second World War. The international premiere took place in 2012 at the Théâtre de la Cité, Paris, during the Festival Scènes ouvertes à l'insolite. The show continues to win acclaim from audiences, and is the subject of invitations for future tours.

The solo show **HOW LOVELY** has been presented at festivals such as the Festival international des marionnettes de Charleville-Mézières (2009), the Festival d'Avignon and many others.

Alongside her theatrical work, Yael is also an international singer.

Her varied repertoire ranges from medieval and classical music to jazz, from small intimate performances to audiences of thousands. Currently, Yael is on tour with her **GRAMOPHONE SHOW**, a musical show full of eloquence, talent and spice, taking audiences back to the songs of the 1920s to 1940s.



«THE POWER OF THE PUPPET»

Neville TRANTER, Dutch master puppeteer
october 10 to 13, 2022 - FIGURTEATRET I NORDLAND
(STAMSUND norway)

This 4-day puppetry workshop with Neville Tranter was designed to help participants explore and learn the possibilities of puppetry as a powerful theatrical medium. Emphasis was also placed on the puppeteer's role as actor. The puppeteer does not disappear behind the puppets. His presence on stage is an integral part of the show.

Marcos DIOS has been selected to take part in this Residency and receive a grant from the Academy to cover travel, accommodation, meals and building materials.

THE MASTER NEVILLE TRANTER - NETHERLANDS:

Neville Tranter, puppeteer, Australian by birth, Dutch by adoption, is the founder of the Stuffed Puppet theatre.

Since 1982, Neville Tranter's talents as a soloist have been showcased in some twenty productions: Macbeth, after Shakespeare in 1990; Molière, about the relationship between the playwright and Louis XIV; VAMPYR in 2006; Cuniculus, a fable about the cruelty of rabbits; Schicklgruber, Alias Adolf Hitler, about the last moments of the Third Reich; The Hills Are Alive in 2019, making him an undisputed master of the art of puppetry.

«The always funny and sensitive relationship between the actor and his puppets is gradually transformed into a power struggle between master and servant, creator and puppet. As in his previous creations, Neville Tranter confronts the audience with their fears and dreams. His universe takes shape: he is present on stage, surrounded by his almost human-sized creatures, with huge faces and hands. Slit mouths, sparkling eyes, they're creepy, funny or moving. Their presence is such that they're all you see: the spectator's gaze is constantly drawn to them, not to him, the living, breathing human actor. Neville Tranter is their voice, their guide, their servant. He loves this strange relationship, this balance of power and tenderness between master and servant, creator and puppet, and servant, creator and puppet.» Neville TRANTER - Excerpt - Le Monde



2nd European Master class residence
directed by Neville TRANTER, Dutch master puppeteer
December 1 to 5, 2023
at the Théâtre de marionnettes de Belfort

14 French and European artists have been selected to take part in this residency and receive a grant from the Académie to cover travel, training, accommodation and meals. The Académie also paid the trainer's fee. They learned how to handle human-sized muppets, the relationship between puppets and puppeteers, and new vocal techniques.

THE MASTER NEVILLE TRANTER - NETHERLANDS:

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3RD MOBILE RESIDENCY AT CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL PUPPET THEATER FESTIVAL JANUARY 17 TO 27, 2024 - CHICAGO (USA)

3rd 10-day mobile residency at one of the world's leading puppet theater festivals.
Wednesday January 17 to Saturday January 27, 2024

OBJECTIVES

- Participate in North America's largest puppet festival and meet Masters of the art of puppetry.
- Develop international contacts through on-site meetings and networking.
- Discover numerous international shows.
- Take part in workshops with international puppetry professionals.
- Be an ambassador for the Académie Européenne de M@rionnettes de Belfort with a @EMB representative during the festival in Chicago.

@EMB COVERS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING EXPENSES:

Round trip to Chicago from January 17 to 27, 2024
Accommodation in Chicago
Breakfasts, lunches and dinners from January 17 to 27, 2024
Subway pass for duration of stay in Chicago
Tickets for shows
Tickets to workshops with international professionals
Tickets for puppetry symposiums

1 French artist has been selected to take part in this mobile residency and receive a grant from the Academy, following a call for applications. The artist will be accompanied by an ambassador of the Académie Européenne de M@rionnettes de Belfort, **Mr. Antonin LANG**. This mobile residency will contribute to the Academy's international reputation.

The **Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival** is the largest event dedicated to this art form in North America. In the dead of winter, the festival spans 11 days and dozens of venues across Chicago, sharing more than 100 puppetry activities with over 14,000 guests. The festival includes performances, a symposium, workshops, free neighborhood tours and much more. Since its launch in 2015, the Festival has featured artists from countries such as Iran, Korea, Japan, Chile, South Africa, as well as Europe, Chicago and the United States, with the aim of promoting peace, equality, mutual understanding and local and global justice.

Retrieved from <https://chicagopuppetfest.org>



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The Academy thanks DRAC Bourgogne-Franche Comté


**PRÉFET
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BOURGOGNE-
FRANCHE-COMTÉ**
*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

Direction régionale
des affaires culturelles