

DES CHÂTEAUX EN L'AIR / Ramona Poenaru & Gaël Chaillat
Strasbourg, France

DANUBIA - MIRROR IN THE WATERS

[a geopoetic Journey]

a multimedia immersive experience to wet your feet in



for
audiences
aged 8 and
above

first performance on 24 November 2021 at the TJP - National Centre for Performing Arts, Strasbourg, France



From May to August 2021, visual and performance artist Ramona Poenaru and actor and director Gaël Chaillat go with the Amorados boat to discover Danube, the river that crosses Europe from Germany and flows into the Black Sea after a travel of 2888 km.

During their *geopoetic* journey, they are attentive to light, colours, sounds, immaterial perceptions and emotions. They observe the relationships between living organisms, geological forces, climatic elements and the passage of time.

They dialogue with the inhabitants of the river : historians, geographers, naturalists, architects, artists, boatmen, fishermen, workers. They collect the «stories» of this particular country called **Danubia**.

On their return, they create the show *Danubia - Mirror in the Waters*.

site-map of the boat trip
film of the boat trip :
www.danubia.org



With *Danubia - Mirror of the Waters* the public experiences an imaginary journey on the Danube from its source to its mouth. The spectators evolve through an interactive multimedia device where their participation is necessary for the performance to take place.

Five crew members - a musician, a visual artist, an actor and two stage operators - guide them on this participatory journey which is written without text, but with sounds, images, bodies in movement, objects and water.

Each stage of the show is a picture frame inspired by Danubian history and culture and the real experience of the travelling: Germanic river mythology, Viennese dance and painting, Danubian music and languages, Balkan border wars, storms and floods, human constructions, traces and memory. The subjects and places, the landmarks of the past and the present cross, intermingle and take the public on a discovery journey to **Danubia**.

CREDITS



Danubia - Mirror in the Waters

a multimedia immersive experience to wet your feet in

by Des Châteaux en l'air / Ramona Poenaru & Gaël Chaillat

For audiences aged 8 and above

expected duration : 1H20 (cloakroom included)

estimated capacity : 50 spectators (all publics) / 2 classes (scholars)

cast & crew

written, directed and performed by
Ramona Poenaru & Gael Chaillat

sound design and performance
Étienne Haan

set design and construction
Olivier Benoît

digital program developer
Loïs Drouglazet

video and light operator
Lou Zimmer

general stage operator
Yann Argenté

general stage operator for the creation
Philippe Lux

teaser

<https://vimeo.com/719521174>

reportage

<https://vimeo.com/735256652>

PRODUCTION



produced by

Des châteaux en l'air

co-produced by

Espace 110 - Centre culturel d'Illzach / Illzach Arts Centre, France

TJP - CDN Strasbourg Grand-Est / TJP National Centre for Performing Arts, Strasbourg, France

Les 2 Scènes - Scène Nationale de Besançon / Besançon National Playhouse, France

Le Nouveau Relax - Scène conventionnée Chaumont / Chaumont Public Playhouse, France

MDMIX Festival International Jeune Public / International Festival for young Audience, Kingersheim, France

support and funding

French Ministry of Culture / Regional Department of cultural Affairs Grand Est - Creation Grant 2021

Regional Council of Grand Est, France - Creation Grant 2020/21

City of Strasbourg, France - creation grant 2021

Quintessence - Performing Arts Network - Quint'Est professional meetings for live performance, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté Grand Est, France, 2020/21

The Grand Est Cultural Agency, programmes : Cooperation Residency & Agency's Rehearsal Set Selestat, France

The François Schneider Wattwiller Foundation for Contemporary Arts, France - Residency Grant, 2021

University of High-Alsace, Mulhouse France - département ASI (Automatic Signal Image) & SIUAC (University Service for Cultural Action)

TEATROSKOP (South-Eastern European Network for performing Arts) a program initiated by French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, French Ministry of Culture, and Institut français Paris



contact

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www.entre-cabanes.net

 [deschateaux.enlair](https://www.facebook.com/deschateauxenlair)

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SCHEDULE

Premiere

24-28 11 2021

TJP CDN - National Centre for Performing Arts Strasbourg / FR

Tour

01 - 05 02 2022

Espace 110 Illzach, in the frame of **MOMIX** International Festival for young Audiences, Kingersheim / FR

22 - 23 03 2022

Le Nouveau Relax - Public Playhouse, Chaumont / FR

06 - 12 04 2022

A4 - Priestor Sucasnej Kultury (*Space for Contemporary Culture*), Bratislava / SK

11 - 15 05 2022

Passages Transfestival, Metz / FR

23 - 28 01 2023

Les 2 Scènes - National Playhouse Besançon / FR



CREATIVE CREW



Ramona Poenaru

Multimedia artist, performer and director, born in Romania (where she graduated MA Literature) and established in Strasbourg since studying at the HEAR Strasbourg (Strasbourg Higher Academy of Arts) and at Fresnoy National Studio of contemporary Arts. Her works, exclusively inspired in situ, generally take shape during a residency, and have been exhibited in Europe, Canada, The United States, Mexico, Argentina, Korea, Tunisia, Morocco, Palestina etc. Since 2005 she has also worked with performance artists such musicians, choreographers and theatre directors. She is one of the founder members of Interim, an art collective that questions roles and rules of society, operating in situations that are not art specific. She is also a member of Sweet and Tender Collaborations, a group bringing together artists from around the world in order to research new performative art forms.

www.ramona-poenaru.org

www.interim-artistes.info

www.ramona-poenaru.org

Gael Chaillat

Actor, director and dramatist. Trained as an actor at the Ecole de Théâtre National de Strasbourg (Strasbourg National Theatre School). Has performed plays by classic authors and been involved in the writing of contemporary works (Adely, Contamin, Levey, Sonntag). He regularly participates in projects using digital technology and has also performed in contemporary dance shows, scientific theatre shows, photography and digital performances. He advocates his artistic work as a form of political resistance. Gael Chaillat is co-writer of *MurMure (WhisperWall)*, a comedy about the Israel-Palestine conflict and of *Mouton (Sheep)*, a vaudeville theatrical show about racism. In 2019 he directed *On comprend rien (We understand nothing)* performed by the actors of L'Atelier des Artistes en Exil (Artists in Exil) at the Palais de la Porte Dorée - Musée national de l'histoire de l'immigration (Porte Dorée Palace - National Museum of Immigration History) in Paris, France.



Étienne Haan

composer, conductor and sound artist, he studied with Philippe Manoury, Tom Mays et Daniel d'Adamo in Strasbourg and with Hanspeter Kyburz at the Hanns Eisler Hochschule für Musik in Berlin. He composes for Hanatsu Miroir, Zafraan Ensemble, Télémaque Ensemble, Philharmonic Orchestra of Strasbourg, Orchestra of the Nordharzer Städtebund Theater. As he has a particular interest in interdisciplinary projects, he created for the international festival Musica in Strasbourg „Vivian...connais pas!“ for actor and ensemble (2014) and „Eclipse“ for dancer and ensemble(2017). Other collaborations : theater companies „Quai n°7“ (Strasbourg) and „Robert aime Jocelyne“ (Cannes), the choreographer Alica Minar (Berlin), the visual artist Keke Vilabelda (Valencia), the film maker Marine de Contes, the set designers of „Scenotype“, or the architect Hans Walter Müller. He was member of the Académie de France à Madrid - la Casa de Velázquez - 2019/20.

CREATIVE CREW



Loïs Drouglazet

Sound Designer and Engineer, Visual Director, Real-time Digital Designer for interactive, electronic and web performances. Member of several companies and artistic organisations (didascalie.net, Collectif Anonyme, Hana San Studio, Cie Adrien M/Claire B, Cie Vraiment Dramatique, KLP), he is particularly interested in developing hybrid projects that are open to exchange and sharing. For Des châteaux en l'air, he is the webmaster of www.entre-cabanes.net and the digital designer for interactive videos of **Danubia**.

Lou Zimmer

Passionate about cinema and video, he is interested in ways of using the image outside of the screen. He graduated in computer science and video editing at the University of Aix-Marseille, he trained in set and light design with a company in Marseille, works with artists and directors for interactive writing projects, teaches editing techniques in cinema high school and cinema department of the University in Strasbourg. He directed several short films, 16mm and photo films, programmed interactive pieces, worked as an editor and colorist (Via Storia, Arte, Diverse Marseille) and as a video operator for several theatre companies, including Des châteaux en l'air for **Danubia**.



Yann Argenté

graduate of the École supérieure d'art dramatique du Théâtre national de Strasbourg (National Theatre School) in stage, sound, lighting and general management, he has worked with numerous companies (L'Imaginarium, X-Ici) for their creations in Strasbourg, in France and their tours abroad, but also with prestigious theatres (TN Strasbourg, Le Maillon Strasbourg, TN Toulouse, Scène Nationale Besançon). He is the stage manager for several festivals in France (Interceltique de Lorient, Étonnants Voyageurs de Saint-Malo, Cornouaille à Quimper, Babel et Premières à Strasbourg) and for more than 10 years he has been the stage manager for the International Musica Festival in Strasbourg. He is the general manager for the **Danubia** tour.

Philippe Lux

Sound Engineer, Audio-visual and Digital Concept Designer. Works regularly with: Dominique Guibert-Pandora Company; Ivan Favier – IF Company; Christophe Greilsammer – L'Astrolabe Company; Jean-Marc Eder – Mythe de la Taverne; and Eve Ledig – Le Fil Rouge Théâtre. Also works as Technical Manager for a number of theatres in Strasbourg, including the TAPS-Actual & Public Theatre of Strasbourg and the Maillon - European Scene. Since 2013, he is Technical Manager of Des Châteaux en l'air and participated to the creation of the spectacle **Danubia**.



Olivier Benoit

Specialized in set design and set building since '98; has built sets for theatre companies such as Les Méridiens; Le Fil Rouge Théâtre; La Cie S'appelle Reviens, for circus and dance companies such as Les Acroballes, Anomalie, Dégadezo and for street theatre companies such as La Trappe à Ressort, La Soupe. He is the stage designer and builder of **Danubia**.

THE COMPANY [itinerary]



In 2013, visual and performance artist Ramona Poenaru, and actor and director Gaël Chaillat create the company Les Châteaux en l'air in order to develop hybrid projects involving multiple art forms such as theatrical performances, immersive displays and art installations. They have set up an exploratory research that experiments with philosophy, learning, anthropology, science, poetry and architecture. Their various artistic proposals always involve the participation of the public in part of the creative process.

The company currently runs two "mother" projects that are in constant development, each carrying its own challenges and aesthetic vocabulary: **Cabanes (Cabins)** and **Corps public (Public Body)**.

Cabanes (Cabins) is composed of several participative performances, all inspired by Henry David Thoreau* (1817-1862) and his book "Walden or Life in the woods" which tells of his reclusion in a forest in search of autonomy, and his questioning of the human condition. In all the variations of **Cabanes (Cabins)** we find the same recurring materials: cardboard boxes of one size to build or manipulate volumes, video mapping based on algorithms used in VJ-ing applications, electroacoustic compositions made from sound recordings and interviews.

Corps public (Public Body) questions the divide between private space, public space and performance space. All projects provoke interaction by placing both the audience and the performers in situations that engage them physically. The body is considered the main material of the performances and, depending on the subject, they may also use images, texts, sounds, objects and water.

* Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) is an American author: poet, philosopher, abolitionist, naturalist, tax protester, surveyor and historian. Thoreau is best known for his essay **Resistance to Civil Government** (often titled **Civil Disobedience**), an argument for disobedience in an unjust state. The essay inspired Martin Luther King, Gandhi and all contemporary pacifist resistance movements such as Occupy Wall Street, ZAD (Zone to defend), the Umbrella Movement, etc.). Thoreau is also author of **Walden** that tells of his reclusion to a forest in search of self-reliance, and his questioning of the human condition at a time when the industrial revolution was taking hold.



At present, **Cabanes (Cabins)** includes :

- Ma cabane / My Cabin**, multimedia spectacle-installation, La Filature - National Playhouse Mulhouse, France, 2013 •
- O cabana in centru / A Cabin Downtown**, participative installation, Brushpaint Factory Art Space, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2014 •
- Shelter**, public space participative installation, Make City Architecture Festival Berlin, Germany, 2015 •
- Cabane conversatoire / Cabin Meeting**, participative installation, Strasbourg University, France, 2015 •
- Cabane à sauvage / Cabin Wilderness**, installations, performances, interventions, Territory of Bitche, France, 2015-2016 •
- Une cabane en ville 02 / A Cabin Downtown 02**, participative installation, Syndicat Potentiel Art Gallery, Strasbourg, France, 2016 •
- Entre-cabanes / Between Cabins**, participative installation, Le Maillon Theatre - European Playhouse, Strasbourg, France, 2016 •
- Cabane à palabres / Palaver Cabin**, participative installation, World Forum for Democracy, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France, 2016 •
- Point de vue d'une île / Island View**, participative installation, Ososphere Festival for Urban digital arts, Strasbourg, France, 2017 •
- Cabane sans nom / Nameless Cabin**, participative installation, Le Vaisseau, Centre for Children, Strasbourg, France, 2017 •
- Cabane du peuple / People's Cabin**, participative installation, World Forum for Democracy, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France, 2017 •
- Manzel bê manzel**, participative installation, FADJ 36th International Festival of Theatre and performance, Tehran, Iran, 2018 •
- Cabane sans nom 02 / Nameless Cabin 02**, participative installation, Le Vaisseau Centre for Children, Strasbourg, France, 2018 •
- Cabane mixte / Mixed Cabin - Chorus**, performance installation, World Forum for Democracy, Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France, 2018 •
- Une cabane en ville 03 / A Cabin Downtown 03**, participative installation, La Méridienne City Playhouse Lunéville, France, 2019 •
- Appartement témoin / Showflat**, public space installation, Ososphere platform for urban arts, Strasbourg, France, 2019 •
- Shelter 02**, public space installation, Sir J.J. School of Architecture, Bombay, India, 2019 •
- Shelter 03**, public space installation, Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa, India, 2019 •
- Carried Cabin**, public space installation, Odisha Biennale of performing arts, Bhubaneshwar, India, 2019 •
- Shelter 04**, public space installation, Art Space Erstein, France, 2020 • cancelled •
- Cabane sociale / Social Cabin**, Social Economy Forum Strasbourg / Palais de la musique & des Congrès, Strasbourg, 2022 •

At present, **Corps public (Public Body)** includes :

- Miroir des eaux / Mirror in the Waters**, multimedia performance, Micro-theatre festival, MOTOCCO Mulhouse, France, 2016 •
- Public Body**, group performance, IUTF 21th Iran International University Theatre Festival, Tehran, 2018 •
- Occupation des sols / Occupying Grounds**, Le Maillon Theatre, Strasbourg, France, 2020 • cancelled •
- C'est beau ! / Beautifull !** performance, Micro-theatre festival, La Filature-Scène Nationale Mulhouse/ France, 2021 • cancelled •
- Danubia - Mirror in the Waters**, multimedia spectacle / TJP CDN Strasbourg Grand Est, France, 2021