

XTRA LARGE



COMPAGNIE IRENE K.

**Show of 55 minutes for teenagers from 11 years
Selection 2011 on a competition of Theatre for Young Audiences
(Recognized and supported by the Belgium Government)**

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In their XL bodies, or even XXL, three teenagers live their emotions to their fullest because for them, everything inside and outside is extreme and extremely funny! They monopolize our attention, their bodies are in state of mutation, their sexuality is in alert. Everything is in upheaval: they feel bad in their bodies and their “Me” is buried under many coats that they will have to give up over the scenes. Their recklessness is both their strength and their deepest weakness. Emotions burst forth, from tenderness to anger, from fresh, youthful feelings to hot-blooded intensity. They want to reinvent the world, disseminate it with new fruits ...let’s do it with apples!

An apple, a symbolic fruit that we can taste, admire, destroy, give and exchange. The apple with which we play, we dance, we smile and weep. Apples become an excuse to play, to revolt, to seduce and transform.

Personal reflection, the search for oneself, for our own image, the feeling of the body, skin and soul ... Irene Kalbusch, choreographer, formally inspired by the work of Fernando Botero, explores these realities through dance, in a humorous, burlesque and sometimes dramatic way.

Duration : 55 minutes

Choreography: Irène Kalbusch

Dance: Marie-Laure Fiaux / Arden Metford, Hiroshi Wakamatsu, Masami Sakurai

Dramatic assistance : Michel Bernard

Stage design: Celine Leuchter

Costumes: Sabine Kreiter

Music: Viola Kramer, Dany Gallo

Stage management: Jean-Louis Gille

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Why Botero ?

Irene Kalbusch, choreographer, was formally inspired by the work of Fernando Botero, a Colombian painter and sculptor. His unmistakable identity is marked by the curve of his characters with exaggerated and disproportionate volumetry.

To the question "Why are your characters so fat?" Botero said, "Fat, my characters? No, they have volume, it's magic, it's sensual. And that's what fascinates me: to find the volume that the contemporary painting has forgotten". It is both humor and love. Love of the body and of the sensuality. Botero's characters are extreme in their physical appearance; their bodies look like ripe fruit and free sensuality.



This form allows us to deal with a lot of topics of thought, developed in a serious way but also with a touch of humor.

Designed for an audience of teenagers from 11 years, the play deals with many topics related to this age. Xtra Large could be analyzed on classes.



The main topics are:

- Self-seeking,
- Difference, obesity,
- Biological transformation of the body,
- Sexuality, eroticism,
- Social behavior, friendship,
- Violence,
- Overconsumption of food

The show is an interesting and less conventional starting point for developing these themes in class.

A more comprehensive study guide is available on demand. Specially written for teachers or organizers, this file provides different orientations of discussion that can be discussed before or after the performance.

A flexible show...

Xtra Large is a show that gives many different options.



Xtra Large **Junior !**

Xtra Large, in a more suitable version, is also available for children.

The performance is shorter and more focused on themes for children from 7 years.

(healthy food, sports and movements, friendship...)

Please, ask our specific file

« Xtra Large **Junior !** »

Duration: 40 minutes

From 7 years

Workshops

For schools and groups, days or half-days of activities are organized. The Irène K. Company offers various workshops. The activity ends with the representation of the show (details below). We also encourage schools to take over the apples used during the show and make together stewed apples that could be distributed, why not, at playtime/break, extending the discussion on the topics of healthy food and waste of foodstuffs.

Outside version

Suitable for outdoor installations, Xtra Large gets out of the theaters in order to meet you: in a park, on a public square, in a church or quite simply in the streets.

Ideal for a festival or a schoolyard...

(The technical requirements are reduced for this version).

Duration: 25 minutes

For all ages



Workshops

The **Irène K. Company** is also active in various educational fields by giving engaging lessons in our studios or by projects realized in school settings. The Company aims to educate children and youth to movement, creativity in general and dance in particular.

Several workshops are offered.

Show-workshop specifically focused on Xtra Large: 60 to 90 min

The "key" to understand the show can be communicated before or after the performance in workshops with the dancers of the Irène K. Company. The choreographer explains some aspects of the work of Botero and inspires them questions related to the topics developed in the show. Am I different? What is the difference? I am influenced by the others? What is the desire to be together?

The workshop lasts about 1 hour and ends with a dance session.



Experimental workshop: 60 to 90 min

This workshop enables students to test their ability to move according to themselves and the others. They will discover themselves and see what influence they can have on the group and, in turn, the group on themselves. Through this experience, they can live a whole new group process.

Workshop as an overall project: long-term (1 day minimum)

Another concept proposed is a work of longer duration with a same group. The Irène K. Company gives various workshops relating to various fields (dance, voice, stage design, lighting, accessories ...). After a certain period of time, the workshops will get together to form one overall project. The end of this project may lead to a school show.

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