

Xtra Large

Compagnie Irene K.

(by Irène Kalbusch, choreographer)

I needed the desire to create a play for young teenagers which deals with their desires, their emotions and their anger.

From there, I drafted a questionnaire and I collected their responses. Responses were sometimes very short, sometimes illustrated by drawings, sometimes very private and explicit. In all these responses, I found a lot in common. I wanted to know how I could deal with it, abstractly or with a new and different approach.

It is during a discussion with Michel Bernard, stage manager and playwright, that I spoke about this project. At the same time, I was also talking about my enthusiasm for Botero's works (a famous South American painter). It was then we decided to tackle the work through the look of Botero's works.

Characters of Botero are extreme in their physical appearance, their bodies look like ripe fruits and ooze sensuality. Their bodies monopolize our look. It is the same for teenagers; all is extreme. They monopolize our attention, their bodies are in transformation and their sexuality is in alert. Everything is upheaval: they feel bad in their body and their "me" is buried under several coats which they will have to give up year by year. They are rebellious and they want to reinvent the World. Chaos, their energy, is both their strength and their weakness.

The link between characters of Botero and teenagers was clear. Imagination had no limits and we immediately went beyond the initial clichés. The apple which crosses the room becomes an excuse for playing, rebelling, charming and transforming.

Irène KALBUSCH