

## CONTACT

### Artistic direction

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Pictures ©Julien Carlier

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COMPAGNIE A<sup>BIS</sup>  
JULIEN CARLIER

# COLLAPSE

HOW CAN WE  
CONTINUE TO BUILD  
WHEN EVERYTHING IS  
FALLING APART ?

ON STAGE, 6 DANCERS  
AND ONE DRUMMER  
START BUILDING A  
CITY.

The dance emerges from this  
minimalist architecture made of  
Kaplas and other wooden objects,  
entering into a dialogue with the  
successive falls and collapses.

**COLLAPSE** highlights a form of  
absurdity and apparent naivety of  
the average human in an increa-  
singly complex world, a primi-  
tive attempt to to understand its  
functioning.





At a time when our reference points are collapsing, and even more serious warnings are being issued about our future, what about the resistance of bodies ?

If we observed and experimented like children the slow and patient construction of a form, followed by its rapid collapse, what states, images, emotions, reactions would we go through ?

With **COLLAPSE**, Julien Carlier goes in search of our points of balance and fall, interested as

always in an exploration of limits, a questioning of our sensitivity and our gravity. In this show, the dancers become objects, manipulable and manipulators, within a scenography conceived as a playground, offering freedom and constraints. In search of ascension, standing or collapsing, stable or unstable, whatever our position, our intention, «we are all – as the choreographer notes — constantly busy dancing to maintain our balance.»

Fabienne Aucant - production and programming - Charleroi Danse

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What do the protagonists experience when faced with these repeatedly collapsing buildings ?

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What resources do they put into play to achieve their goals ?

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What mental paths and emotions do they go through ?



### **A research on collapse**

Collapse expresses a passage between two states. The first state, stability, of a natural or constructed order, will be modified, leading the entire structure to deform through a series of chain reactions, resulting in a state of deconstruction or reversal. If it literally refers to the physics of bodies, such as the sudden collapse of a ground or the slump of a building, collapse also has other meanings of a figurative, psychological, economic or political nature. We talk about the loss of reference of a collapsed individual, the collapse of an empire or the stock markets, for example.

COLLAPSE was born from of research into this principle of collapsing, inspired by the images and physical mechanisms of this phenomenon, exploring unstable balances and moments of falling.

The work with objects has been present since the beginnings of the creation, but also the work with bodies, imagined as plastic materials inspired by or copying these mechanical collapses in games of decomposition, impacts and physical transformations.

### **The construction of a city**

On stage, the choreography unfolds from the action that the dancers undertake to build a miniature city using Kaplas and other wooden objects

Evoked on the stage in an abstract way, this urban landscape provides a reading grid for contextualizing the research around these mechanisms of balance/collapse, linking it to our contemporary experience and referring, in a poetic way, to a much wider collapse than that of our initial experiences.

The creation of this urban landscape inevitably echoes the environmental situation whose « collapse » is predicted, and also gives rise to other evocations linked to the complexity of our society : the search for spirituality and escape bubbles ; a

reflection on the rhythm of work, overpopulation, and the decrease of freedom spaces within cities that suffocate and raise.

### **Resilience**

This term originally refers to the resistance of a material to shocks (the «fact of bouncing back», from the Latin *resilientia*, from *resiliens*), a definition which was later extended to the capacity of a body, an organism, a species, a system or a structure to overcome an alteration of its environment.

Through the piece, and the exploration of collapses (objects, bodies, environment), the question of the resilience of dancers struggling with these multiple reconstructions is raised.

### **Body / dance**

The dance emerges from this scenic construction as words, bearing witness to what the protagonists are experiencing.

In terms of movement quality, the dance plays on contrasts between heaviness and lightness, between organic and mechanical movements. The dancers experiment with different internal physical deconstructions, but also with much more fluid movements that expand on stage.

### **Musical creation**

The music of COLLAPSE is played live. In a contrast between impacts and flights movements, a subtle dialogue is created between the percussions of the experimental drummer Tom Malmendier, present on stage, and the electronic layers of the musical creator, Simon Carlier, played from the control room.

Simon Carlier plays a key role in the work of the Abis company, he is at the roots of each project for which he collaborates on dramaturgy. On COLLAPSE, he has directed the musical creation.

## DISTRIBUTION

**Choreography and artistic direction** - Julien Carlier  
**Musical creation and artistic collaboration** - Simon Carlier

**Creation and interpretation** - Daniel Barkan, Joël Brown, Laury Laurac, Dunya Narli, Benoît Nieto Duran, Jules Rozenwajn

**Musician - live drums** - Tom Malmendier

**Scenography** - Boris Dambly

**Lights** - Arié Van Egmond

**Costumes** - Alexandra Sebbag

**Dramaturgy** - Fanny Brouyaux

**Production** - Cie Abis / Xavier Melis

**Distribution** - BLOOM Project / Claire Alex

## TOUR INFORMATION

Number of people on tour : 10

6 dancers ; 1 live drummer on stage ; 1 off stage musician ; 1 stage and lights manager ; 1 choreographer ; 1 tour manager

Price : on demand

Technical rider : on demand

## JULIEN CARLIER

Born in Brussels in 1985, Julien approached dance in a self-taught way through the practice of Breakdance. At the same time, he trained as a physiotherapist and obtained a Master's degree at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. His first experiences on stage and his exploration of dance came from interdisciplinary artistic exchanges and projects created in collectives.

Since 2015, he has been making his own choreographic work which, over the years, that evolved to be more international. He is currently resident choreographer at Charleroi Danse for the 20-21, 21-22, 22-23 seasons. He is also supported by the FWB (Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles) and the Grand Studio.

Through creations of various forms, combining the virtuosity of the Hip-Hop vocabulary with an interest in sensitivity, Julien works on the porosity between the reality experienced by the individual in his inner self and that perceived by others from the outside. His work is anchored in the concrete encounters, practices and sensations experienced. It is the passage from reality to the stage space that interests her, placing the body as the medium/witness of this transformation.

## AUTRES PRODUCTIONS

- *MON/DE* (2015) : A performance for 3 dancers inspired by the experiences of sleep paralysis, an exploration of a modified state of consciousness, a drift of reality in this in-between «sleep/wake».

- *Déjà-vu* (2016) A maze-like performance for 4 dancers lost in a house setting, where the reference points of time and space are turned upside down.

- *Golem* (2019), A duet between dance and sculpture built around the encounter between Julien and the septuagenarian sculptor Mike Sprogis. Golem has been selected to participate in Objectif Danse 9 (Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles), AEROWAVES SPRING FORWARD and the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

- *Dress Code* (2021), five dancers question the codes of breakdance through a dive into the closed universe of the training room. A moment of encounter with the appearance of confrontation.

## LABS

Since 2018, Julien has been setting up LABS, punctual and itinerant choreographic research residencies in partner venues. They allow the company to work on choreographic material through experimentation, to bring out ideas, to bring disciplines and artists together, to invent multi-disciplinary forms in complete freedom.



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COLLAPSE is a show by Abis company, in coproduction with Charleroi danse - choreographic center of Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Théâtre Les Tanneurs, CDCN Pôle Sud of Strasbourg and CCN Ballet de l'Opéra national du Rhin | With the support of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation - Dance Service, Wallonia-Brussels International and Abattoirs de Bomel | With the help of Centre culturel Jacques Franck, and Le Grand Studio.

