



Nico JONGEN

### About the artist

Nico Jongen is a theatre director and founder of the Barcelona-based performing arts company Ça marche. His artistic vision merges theatre, performance, movement, and visual arts, exploring the complexities and contradictions of contemporary life. Nico's work often focuses on the intersection between craftsmanship and technique, seeking to disrupt conventional boundaries between professional and non-professional performance.

A key aspect of his practice is the involvement of non-professional performers, such as children, elderly people, and members of marginalized communities. This approach allows him to develop pieces that not only challenge the traditional norms of stagecraft but also create a deeper connection with the local community. By centering on the experiences and embodied knowledge of these diverse groups, Nico's work fosters inclusion and innovation, ensuring that his projects resonate on both a personal and societal level.

With Ça marche, Nico has led numerous projects that have been showcased at international festivals and venues, reflecting his commitment to creating work that is both locally grounded and globally relevant. Some venues and festivals with whom they have collaborated are Kunstenfestivaldesarts Brussels, Condeduque Centre for Contemporary Culture Madrid, Teatre Lliure Barcelona, Festival Grec Barcelona, CAMPO Gent, Graner creation centre for dance and live art Barcelona & TNT Festival Terrassa.

### About the research

For the past two years, as part of the European project Future Laboratory, Nico Jongen's research was focused on exploring the relationship between language, silence, and the body, particularly within deaf communities in Reims, Liège, and Porto. His investigation delves into the tension between chosen silence and imposed silence, questioning the dominance of spoken language in Western civilization. Drawing from historical figures who embraced silence – like Kafka and Beckett – he examines how deaf individuals experience and navigate the societal imposition of oral language.

The research prioritizes the involvement of non-professional actors from these communities, who actively shape the artistic process. This approach emphasizes a non-conventional understanding of language, where the body takes precedence over spoken word. Workshops and collaborations with deaf adolescents also form a crucial part of the project, providing a space to reflect on accessibility and alternative modes of communication. The research aims to deepen our understanding of language's physicality, challenging traditional frameworks and creating more inclusive artistic spaces.

### About the presentation

In his presentation, he will share the outcomes of his research and conduct workshops with deaf individuals from Luxembourg's sociocultural sector. These workshops are designed to engage deaf participants in exploring the themes of his research through a collaborative, creative process. This approach highlights the body as a central medium of expression, over and above spoken language.

A key objective of his project is not only to create a theatrical piece with the deaf community but to establish lasting, accessible spaces within cultural institutions—spaces that can be inhabited by the deaf community over time, extending beyond any individual performance. This approach is aimed at fostering inclusive environments that prioritize and support the active presence of the deaf community in the cultural landscape, emphasizing the importance of creating inclusive environments that prioritize accessibility and alternative modes of communication.



- Comédie, CDN de Reims : 20th October – 3rd November 2022
- Teatro Municipal do Porto: 15th – 28th January 2024
- Théâtre de Liège: 14th – 24th March 2024