

Création Studio Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles 2025-2026

Justice Clément Papachristou



**It is quite simply the story
of those we look away
from, those we do not
listen to enough.**

Artistic note

The fight for the inclusion of people with disabilities cannot ignore certain sensitive issues. What are the principles on which justice is based? Does justice rest on strict egalitarianism? Are there multiple forms of justice? What are the rights and responsibilities of people with disabilities in legal proceedings? When we take the view that a person with a mental disability cannot understand the nature of their actions, nor answer for them in court, isn't this a way for us to maintain the naive image of the "good" person with a disability?

Shifting the gaze

This is undoubtedly the underlying subject of the creation *Justice*. Inspired by the first plays of Clément Papachristou, it incorporates the exploration of adapted dramaturgies and dis-abilities of *Une tentative presque comme une autre* created together with Guillaume Papachristou, who has the disability cerebral palsy, combined with the quest for fiction and wonder of *La Grotte* (2021). Ultimately, *Justice* continues further along these lines, the better to move beyond them in candid nuances.

Epic journey

Today, the man is here before us. At trial. The judge questions him. One day, he committed what he calls "the irreparable" and his journey began. It was a few years ago. He has passed through the Underworld. His journey lasted a long time. He came back. The judge is there. She has her back turned. She is in our place. She listens. She is about to judge. But this time something drives her: her journey begins.

Like an imaginary topography

In *Justice*, we take inspiration from the epic journey, the poetics of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, and Peter Weiss' vast yet unfinished project to rewrite *Inferno/Purgatorio/Paradiso*. Where "the executioners live eternally unpunished in Paradise" and "the victims never obtained compensation in Hell". A man driven by dark forces descends into Hell to bring back justice, freedom and redemption. He is our guide. The court floor opens. We descend into the underworld where the outcasts live. We don't take enough care of them: the judged, the chastised, those driven out by the people who dominate the world from above. This is not a fantasy story. It is quite simply the story of those we look away from, those we do not listen to enough. Isn't the only way to burst the bubbles to come together?!

A revolution of awareness... adapted dramaturgy

What we are doing here is building a work that is at once fictional and reality-based, that is constantly stretched and turned upside down through the processes known as *adapted creation*, by creating together with artists with or without disabilities.

We work with artists who, through their *dis-abilities*, rearticulate the hierarchies and codes that can be found onstage. And above all, artists who challenge the standard of theatrical grammar, to the point of creating unsuspected languages and dramaturgies.

The creative strength here lies in the singular and innovative ways of weaving together theatre, choreography, cabaret, song and music into *adapted dramaturgies*. And of establishing a sensitive dialogue that interrogates highly topical aesthetic, political and societal issues.

Here, we do not conform to the expectations of the genre. We are not afraid of the silences, nor the depths nor the fullness. We accept duality, tertiality, complexity, swept up together in the same unifying movement.

Clément Papachristou

Clément Papachristou is an actor, director and playwright. Since 2022, he has been an associate artist at the Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles. A graduate of the ESACT/ Conservatoire de Liège in 2014, he quickly became interested in inclusive artistic practices for excluded audiences. His work is particularly oriented towards the relationship between the body and collective history. After *Almanach*, presented in 2017 at the Festival Émulation, he presented *Une tentative presque comme une autre* together with his disabled twin brother Guillaume in 2020, at the Festival Pays de Danses and the Festival de Marseille. The performance was revived in 2022 at the Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles, and reprised at the Théâtre de Namur, at Mars – Mons Arts de la scène, at the Kinneksbond Mamer Cultural Center in Luxembourg, as well as at Orme festival in Lugano, at the Out of The Box at the Comédie de Genève, at the BewegGrund.Das Festival in Bern and at the Wildwuchs Festival in Basel as part of the IntegrArt Network. His third production, *La Grotte*, created in 2022 at the Théâtre Varia in Brussels and at the Théâtre de Liège, was revived that same year during *Scènes nouvelles* at the Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles.



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Conception and staging Clément Papachristou

With Guillaume Paps, Noémie Zurletti

Writing Clément Papachristou, Guillaume Paps, Noémie Zurletti

Collaboration in writing and staging Marie Alié

Dramaturgy Salim Djaferi

Set design Silvio Palomo

Scientific and legal advice Germain Haumont, Antoine Bréa

Costume design Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles

Associated researcher Marie Astier

Production Théâtre National Wallonie-Bruxelles

Co-production (in progress)

Painting Sadamasa Motogona

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