



PANIC LUDIC

Cie Pol & Freddy

The new outdoor performance by

Cie Pol & Freddy

PANIC LUDIC

Creation 2026

ABSURD, POST-APOCALYPTIC OBJECT DRESSAGE

The world after the Apocalypse. Everything lies in ruins, civilization has crumbled, the future is uncertain. A man wanders around in a desolate landscape. With what he has saved, he tackles his loneliness and the everyday ugliness.

First and foremost for himself, but gradually for everyone in search of a last shred of beauty. Determined, this fragile hero tries to save what seemed lost, to let it shine one last time.

PANIC LUDIC is a post-apocalyptic dressage act, a tribute to the friendship between human and object, and a visual manifesto that defies the test of time.



PREPPERS, FISHERMEN AND PET DOGS

For this performance, Sander De Cuyper immersed himself in the extraordinary world of preppers: people who rigorously prepare for the Apocalypse, whether it be a nuclear war, a deadly virus, a natural disaster or the end of the world in general. They dig themselves in, build shelters, stockpile supplies, and immerse themselves in camouflage and survival techniques.

To dig up his reserves, Sander starts digging. He brings the objects he digs up to life with a combination of juggling techniques and ingenious DIY solutions. He taught himself to set booby traps, crafted new objects that he used as an experienced juggler, and delved into the noble art of fly fishing.

In fly fishing, the camouflage colours and movement patterns of real animals are imitated as precisely as possible. Making and tying artificial bait with strings, feathers, and glittering beads is a true art form that inspired Sander in creating his waste animals.

Humans are natural animal tamers. The fearsome wolf was tamed into a loyal dog, man's best friend. From full-fledged family member to perfect excuse for a daily walk, the love between humans and dogs is unseen. Sander explores this exceptional relationship between pet and owner with a post-apocalyptic, radio-controlled, and self-built robot dog.





A LAWN AS A MINEFIELD

A circular grass field forms the stage. The audience takes their seats on small, wooden stands surrounding it. The pitch looks empty, except for one trash can that was put there earlier. Then a person comes on. From the ground, they dig up artifacts from the “old world”. What follows is a weird dressage act with wind-up chicks, elastic butterflies, a radio-controlled pet and lightning-fast trash animals. All objects have been buried in the grass beforehand and are gradually revealed in a mix of pop-up poetry, slapstick, and bizarre dressage.

HORRIBLY FUNNY

For PANIC LUDIC, Sander De Cuyper conducted in-depth research into:

- ◇ the train-ability of unruly objects
- ◇ the regenerative capacity of various types of grass
- ◇ “He who digs a pit for another...” variations
- ◇ the limits of humor: what is funny, what is horrible, what is horribly funny
- ◇ the lower limit of bad camouflage
- ◇ end-of-life care for dead objects

The results of the above studies are available on request

COMPANY POL & FREDDY

Sander De Cuyper and Bram Dobbelaere founded Cie Pol & Freddy in 2006. Their first creation, 'Ready!', was a performance in and around a tiny car, focusing on absurd humor and innovative juggling. With this performance, they won the audience and jury awards at Humorologie (now PERPLX) in 2007 and the audience award at the ISTF (now Miramiro) in 2008.

After this, the company created outdoor performances that focused on juggling and comedy.



In 2013, Gab Bondewel joined the duo for the creation of 'Le Cirque Démocratique de la Belgique'. This humorous exploration of the limits of democracy and audience participation was performed exactly 365 times between its Premiere in 2013 and its final performance in 2019.

In the next creation, 'De Cuyper vs. De Cuyper', the juggling brothers Sander and Jordaan took on each other in a brotherly battle. After 390 performances, this production played its final show in Hong Kong in the fall of 2025. Meanwhile, the next production is in full swing.

In PANIC LUDIC, Sander De Cuyper performs solo in the grass, with Bram Dobbelaere directing from the sidelines.

TEAM

Sander De Cuyper began his artistic career 25 years ago when, as a member of Cirq'ulation Locale, he performed a parody of the boy bands of the 1990s. That is where he met Bram Dobbelaere. In the years that followed, Sander created performances with Cie Pol & Freddy, ShakeThat, Cie EaEo, Kopergieterij, and Side-Show. The combination of juggling and humor is a recurring theme in all these performances. Together with a number of colleagues and friends, De Cuyper has also been running the creative haven 'De Clinch' for the past ten years. In addition to a residency program, De Clinch organizes an annual circus festival in Clinge (located on the Flemish-Dutch border). After years of sharing the stage with others, Sander is now creating his first solo performance.

Bram Dobbelaere is a colleague, friend, and artistic sounding board. He founded the circus school Woesh, was the resident columnist for Circusmagazine for many years, is the driving force behind Cie EaEo and Cie Pol & Freddy, coaches many Belgian and foreign circus companies, and is the director of PANIC LUDIC.

Griet Herssens created figure and object theatre with Ultima Thule and Kopergieterij and also has her own company. For PANIC LUDIC, she is responsible for the costumes and the design of the objects.

Lars Senders is responsible for the soundtrack of PANIC LUDIC. He composes strange auditory landscapes using synths, pedals and field recordings. Ideal for adding a dystopian soundscape to this performance.



CALENDAR

- ◇ October - December 2023: preliminary research at De Clinch -November 2024
- ◇ April 2025: residencies at Miramiro, Chassepierre, and Theater op de Markt
- ◇ September 2025 - April 2026: residencies at Latitude 50, De Clinch, and Miramiro
- ◇ September 12, 2025: try-out Latitude 50, Marchin -March 2026: try-outs Miramiro Ghent (date to be confirmed) en De Clinch
- ◇ April 10, 11, 12: previews Gevleugelde Stad, Ypres (to be confirmed)
- ◇ April 18-19: Premiere, FAR in Huy
- ◇ May 24-25: Parkaplex, Hamburg
- ◇ June 3-7: Tête à tête, Rastatt
- ◇ July 17-21: Miramiro, Ghent
- ◇ July 24-26: Cirque Plus, Bruges
- ◇ August 15-16: Festival de Chassepierre

CONDITIONS

These are the conditions for performance dates in 2026

Buyout fee

- ◇ First performance: €2000
- ◇ Second performance on the same day: €1300
- ◇ Second performance on the following day: €1500
- ◇ Mileage allowance: from Ghent: €0.50/km

Accommodation

In the event of multiple performance days, early setup, or late dismantling, the organization will provide accommodation for two individuals. The performers will not share a room.

Meals

If setup and/or breakdown falls during dinner time, a meal for 2 people will be provided. No special diets or allergies.

Duration of setup and breakdown

- ◇ Setup begins 4 hours before the start of the performance
- ◇ Dismantling takes one hour from the end of the performance
- ◇ There must be two hours between the end of the first performance and the start of the second

Duration of performance: 45 minutes.

Audience: 300 spectators: 180 seats in the stands, 120 standing places (see plan).

Accessible to all ages

TECHNICAL INFO

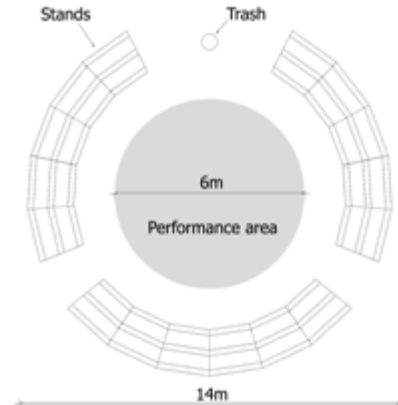
Technical contact

Sander De Cuyper - +32 487544869 – info@panicludic.be

The company provides Set, stands, sound system

The organization provides

- ◇ Electricity: 1 220V/16A power outlet
- ◇ Performance area: circle with a diameter of 6m
- ◇ Total area with stands: circle with a **diameter of 14m**
- ◇ Clear height: 4m.
- ◇ Surface: **grass**
- ◇ The performance can be staged in a field, meadow, garden, park, etc. The grass will be mowed by the company before the start of the performance to a length of 5 cm. In addition, 4 objects will be dug into the ground to a depth of 40 cm. After the performance, the holes are repaired, the turf is replaced, and the lawn is restored as well as possible.
- ◇ The organization will **check whether there are any utility pipes** under the playing field and, if so, where and at what depth they are located.
- ◇ If it is not possible to load and unload in the immediate proximity of the playing area, the assistance of two volunteers and a push or pull cart will be required.
- ◇ If the performance takes place at dusk or at night, the organization will provide suitable and sufficient lighting: 4 wind-ups of 4m, on each wind-up 4x PAR 1000W on a dimmer. Similar lighting with LED lamps is also possible.
- ◇ A parking space near the playing area for a Renault Master van. Plate number: 1ARM 034



CREDITS

Concept Sander De Cuyper

Performance Sander De Cuyper

Direction Bram Dobbelaere

Music Lars Senders

Technische support music Geert de Wit

Costumes and props Griet Herssens

Brainstorm Joris Verbeeren, Sarah Vanheuverzwijn

Photos Sarah Vanheuverzwijn, Christian Gmünder

Production Pol & Freddy VZW

PARTNERS

Production Compagnie Pol & Freddy

Co-productions Miramiro, Theater op de Markt, Circ'uit

Residencies De Clinch, Miramiro, Theater op de Markt, Latitude 50, Festival de Chassepierre

This creation was made with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Flemish Community

CONTACT

Cie Pol & Freddy

+32 487 544 869

info@panicludic.be

www.panicludic.be

MIRA
MIRO
MIRACLES MARKET



CIRC'UIT
Netwerk voor
Outdoor Circus



LATITUDE 50
PÔLE DES ARTS DU CIRQUE ET DE LA RUE



Flanders
State of the Art