

The oldest of the youngest

The project entitled *The oldest of the youngest* allowed us to experiment with different materials and mediums (masks, modelling clay, light projections, songs, theatrical sketches, dance and storytelling) with the children. During the writing process, we also presented scenes from the work-in-progress, *That's My Sister!* to get their comments, criticism, and reactions. We created momentary discussions about themes from the show, i.e., fraternity and the management of emotions (for example, "Is it possible to love and hate your brother or sister at the same time?"). Sometimes we asked philosophical questions ("What is the feeling of fraternity in a community or class?") or scientific ones ("What are clouds made of?").



The show features three disparate animals who are siblings. But at no point in the show do their parents appear. As we worked on the play, our guest psychologist regularly mentioned this absence. Faced with this dramaturgical questioning, the performers-authors became curious to know how the children reacted to this issue. So, we asked them: “Do you find it strange that the sheep, the squirrel, and the ant, who live in the forest, have no contact with their parents? Should their parents be present?” To our great surprise, even the kindergarteners spontaneously replied that animals didn't need parents! But when a little girl shyly said, “Well, they're not far away, are they?”, it made us laugh and think. We pondered this important issue until the end of writing the show. In the end, it was an artefact from the cultural mediation project *Les empreintes réciproques* that pointed

us in the right direction. By then, the children had helped us to distinguish between a wolf and a she-wolf. For them, while the wolf is the villain of all tales, the she-wolf protects the young. And with this in mind, the conclusion of the show came to us: a wolf-puppet -- operated by the squirrel and the ant -- frightens the sheep and provokes its revenge, but at the end of the show, when the three siblings are reconciled and gathered around a campfire, we hear a wolf's cry. The three get up, happy to welcome Matante Louploup (Auntie Wolfie).

Nom : Amis

Date : jeudi 22 Nov 2018



Où aimé quand la grosse tête
de papa fait peur à Changue-
le père que s'était très drôle. Aussi j-
ai aimé quand les personnages un chican-
er. Aussi j'ai aimé quand Changue-
le était un inspecteur parce que c'est très dr-
ôle et j'aime beaucoup la partie.

Nom :

KEVIN

Date :

2018



J'ai que le tout m'a été
 Kikiôhové par l'acte
 Il a été fait sous sa
 tété
 Il a été sous music
 Ça véria con la frotte
 l'écaca J'ai con il éca

édon
10/20
R195

We should mention that the Parc-Extension venue allowed us to do two workshop performances, one for families and one for groups from the Barclay school, as well as some twenty children from the *Autour du monde* daycare. These encounters with the children were very instructive and greatly nourished the writing of the play.

In addition, thanks to the support of the Fondation de la Maison Théâtre and Barclay School, primary school children were able to attend a performance of the show when it was performed at the Maison Théâtre in March 2019.



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