

La tentation des pieuvres

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Photo Cyrille GUIR

As part of the Goût de la France Gastronomy Festival, La Tentations des Pieuvres (The Octopus Temptation) CREATED AND WRITTEN FOR A CHEF, FOUR MUSICIANS AND A HUNDRED GUESTS is a musical and culinary experience at the Scène Nationale d'Orléans on Friday September 21st at 20h30 and Saturday September 22nd 2018 at 12h30.

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If you enjoy delighting the senses with new experiences are capable of letting go, i.e. leaving your identity in the cloakroom to let yourself slide into the arteries of a culinary-musical dream, then you will most certainly be seduced by «La Tentation des pieuvres» (The Octopus Temptation) a performance written and created for a chef, four musicians and a hundred guests. Maguelone VIDAL, the creator of this show is not only an accomplished musician, but also a poet. Using her orchestral baton like a fairy, she may not be transforming pumpkins into coaches, but the magic she creates is in a similar vein.

In the spotlight leeks, potatoes and onions wait for the chef to appear out of the shadows and apply his gentle touch to liberate the aromas. Excited to be taking part in the banquet the guests' eyes come to rest on the chef, who is unfailingly peeling, slicing and chopping the vegetables into tiny pieces.

Before their empty plates, the guests are showing patience and savoir vivre, welcoming, without flinching, a multitude of invisible noises which invade the atmosphere. These noises, which could easily be imagined to be ghosts, are difficult to distinguish. And then gradually our ears begin to understand where these sounds are coming from; the steaming soup tureen, water running from the tap, a knife crashing onto a surface, the heat from a hot plate.

The audience, who have barely recovered from their initial surprise are only just starting to understand the olfactory and musical emotion they are about to experience.

Enters Philippe Foch, the percussionist, like an animal, furious at having been forgotten, launching his tambourine offensive. A curious musical torment, scary and evocative. But the chef, unwavering, has only one mission in mind, continuing to prepare his fish stew. In disarray, Philippe returns to his drums and his musical siblings scattered throughout the dining room: the saxophonist Maguelone VIDAL, Didier PETIT, cello, Christian ZANESI, electronic music.

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Imagine the joy of being part of this living painting that exists only through music and smell. It would take an artist accustomed to extracting all the nuances of light from the darkness to express the atmosphere of this recital.

Sounds, like smells, are volatile, but it is possible to tame them. They only disappear after they have died.

Maguelone VIDAL is certainly fascinated by the secret, mysterious sounds hidden in every object. She is capable of making a battery of saucepans howl, of playing her saxophone when immersed in a gurgling bowl of water. She uses a range of resonances that are most astonishing, to create musical magic. Whether unusual or familiar, they respond to the commands of the instrumentalists.

This music is exploratory, intriguing and curious. It feeds the imagination; it calls for instinctive recognition of sounds in all the brilliance of their primal state.

The musicians burst forth, escaping from the belly of Dionysus, from his entrails, they scold our appetite. Oh, if only the growling of our intestines could be as joyous!

Astonished, we now attend a frenzied, jazz concert which takes our breath away! And then, a serenade of little bells announce that it is time to taste the stew, graciously served by the chef and the musicians.

The concept of this extraordinary creation originated from an encounter between Maguelone VIDAL and chef Claudius TORTORICI, two personalities who are theatrically unstoppable!

Don't miss this enchanted supper! You will delight in it, like a Molière character exclaiming «It is a wonderful seasoning of all enjoyments to think of those we love”.

Evelyne Trân

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