
Praise of Freedom

Music Theater
Caribbean Tour



The Ship of Fools

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Introduction

Singladura hacia la lucidez

"A One Way Boat Travel to Lucidity"
Vilagarcía, Spain. Voz de Galicia, 27-08-2012

The Ship of Fools is since almost thirty years an itinerant theater that has presented a comic satirical play in more than two hundred cities in and around Europe, from Russia and Iceland up to Cape Verde.

Now the ship has crossed the Atlantic to the Caribbean for joint projects with local artist communities.

The ship's cargo consists of the immaterial wealth of theater, music, stories, images and dreams in a contemporary remake of the colonial travels, this time for healing instead of stealing.

The Cultural Foundation Azart offers her ship, facilities and experience in order to produce yearly a new show with a local director and actors and tour the Caribbean.

In every harbour ship and crew stay about two weeks to present her show on a 250-person tribune that is build on the quay.

Suriname is the basis of the first tour in Oct-Dec 2018, because we share with the country a common history. The performance made by Surinamese artists then travels to Trinidad, Aruba and Curaçao,



Azart La Nef des Fous navigue de Cabo Verde au Surinam, Janvier 2018

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Le « Azart » fait bien les choses

The Opportunity (l'Hasard) Does Things Well
Marseille, France. La Marseillaise, 28-07-2011



Praise of Freedom

Caribbean Tour Sept-Dec 2018

Suriname, Moengo Paramaribo	Sept 21-22-23 Oct 10-11-12-13-14
Trinidad, Port of Spain	Oct 26-27-28 Nov 02-03-04
Barbados, Bridgetown	Nov 10-11 Nov 16-17-18
Curaçao, Willemstad	Nov 30. Dec 01-02 Dec 07-08-09

Program subject to change



Show Maroon Heritage, Paramaribo, April 2018

The show 2018-2019 is a musical theater about the common heritage of Suriname and the Caribbean: an Indian culture mixed with immigrants from African, Indian and Chinese origin who have freed themselves from slavery and colonialism.

The show is a hymn to the unity of the Caribbean people, a chant for joy and freedom, with satirical and comical notes, around dance, singing and music that invites to reflection and that entertains large layers of the population.

The director is Tolin Erwin Alexander (Suriname, 1971), who, among many other projects, produced several social dramas targeting the integration of the Maroon community in Suriname.

The performance is a collective creation of the director and the local and international artists, made especially for a mixed audience of all ages, because children and adults reinforce each other in the experience of the show..

Festival of Fools



Festival of Fools, Amsterdam NDSM, Juli 2015

The Festival of Fools is an itinerant small-scale arts festival that focuses on the personal involvement of an audience of all cultures and ages and on a cross-cultural exchange between local and foreign guest artists.

In each port, the crew builds a festive place, which includes the ship as a stage and backdrop and a seating area for up to 250 people.

The quay serves as a temporary theatre and meeting place that welcomes cultural activities of actors, musicians and other artists of different disciplines from the local community.

Always, the crew invites the public on his centenary ship for a *Guided Theatrical Visit* - a sequence of sketches on six locations: the Wheel House, Garden, Penthouse, Dressing Room, Stowaway's Cabin and the big Artist's Hull.

An itinerant Artist in Residence



Show Peer Gynt during SAIL, NDSM Amsterdam., August 2015

The project owes its existence and survival to the selfless dedication of countless artists whose collaboration lasted from one evening to ten years or more. Generally, guest artists participate for one season that takes about six months, including preparations.

The crew consists of about twelve artists that includes sailors, actors and musicians, joint by a film-maker or photographer.

Local guest artists consist of about half of the crew. Often specific guest artists are invited, like a dress designer, writer, animation artist e.a.

The project serves for its participants as a unique, intensive learning experience in living, travelling, creating and working together, simultaneously in an ever-changing set of languages.



copyright piet van der meer

Show Peer Gynt during SAIL, Amsterdam NDSM, August 2015

Technical Data Festival



Amsterdam NDSM. Homeport 2015-2017

A stay of up to three weeks concentrated around a weekend of cultural activities.

A mooring for the ship that measures 28 x 6.70 mt. with a draft of 2.90 mt.

A space on the quay for the tribune of about 20 x 5-8 mt. (flexible).

An electric connection of 220V or 360V for illuminating the shows.

Exemption of harbour duties and related costs.

Affordable entrance prices so as to include a broad public.

Entrance price for local guest artists benefit themselves.

Technical Data Ship



EQUIPMENT

The ship as a way of transport.

The ship, decks, and masts as scene and backdrop to the show.

The ship as a remarkable sculpture and a powerful publicity statement.

The ship as artist residence (10 private cabins with 14 beds).

A 60-m² hull used as kitchen, workshop, rehearsal room and micro-theater for about 60 guests.

A dressing room with sewing machinery and home made costumes and props.

A sound and light system and two 15 KVA generators.

A large beamer and movie screen.

A seating area for about 250 persons as an outdoor theater and meeting place (17.67 m. X 3.60 m).

TECHNICAL DATA

Flag: Netherlands.

Category: Pleasure Craft.

Certificate: 5197/2013.

Bruto tonnage: 110.

Netto tonnage: 30.

Length: 27.86 mt.

LOA: 29.56 mt.

Beam: 6.70 mt.

Draft: 2.90 mt.

Engine: Industrie 220HP, 1959.

Build: 1916.

The History of the Ship of Fools

Carnival Culture



"Die Blau Schuyte" (The Blue Barge) Pieter van der Heyden, 1559.
Hieronymus Bos inventor. Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

The medieval tradition of flamboyant popular laughter is a unique phenomenon that provoked a 'carnivalisation' of western worldview.

These carnival traditions engendered modern literature and played an important role in the reversal of the 'Holy Order' of God and Kings.

As such, they belong to the essence of European heritage. Of these traditions the "Ship of Fools" became the exquisite emblem, as a symbol of the society that has lost its bearings, a symbol of mankind adrift.

The Blue Barge" (Die Blau Schuyte) is one of the famous, five compositions that the painter Hieronymus Bosch bequeathed on the theme of the "Ship of Fools".

In homage to this (lost) work, the whole ship as well of the masts, rigging, furniture, costumes and props are painted in a mosaic of blue.

The History of the Ship



The wheelhouse, installed second hand in 1963 Drawing Elza Monlahuc.

The ship is a typical 1916 riveted fishing craft destined for the catching of herring with drifting nets. On deck stood only two masts and the steering wheel. In 1929 she was fitted with an engine and appeared a small steering cabin on deck.

In 1940 the Nazi's transformed her into a minesweeper. From 1948 to 1987 the ship was lengthened with eight meter to stow more herring. In 1963 she received her current wheelhouse, second-hand from the scraped steamship Saturnus VL205

In 1971 the ship became the very last that employed drifting nets, in a technology invented back in 1423. Till that last day, the herrings were still gutted and salted by hand and stowed in barrels in the fish hold.

In 1989 the cultural foundation Azart purchased the ship to give a contemporary dimension to Amsterdam maritime traditions. Over the last century the ship has known seven names and eight owners but none as long-lasting as The Ship of Fools.

Azart

Etymology of the Ship's Name

The name of the ship Azart reflects thousand years of European playing and gambling. The Arabic (زهرة) (AZAHR) means "flower" or "the whole mountain in flower after the spring rains". This introduced already an element of chance.

This AZAHR became the name of a dice-throwing game in which a flower was depicted on the 6th side of the die – the fatal throw that spelled instant loss!



With the crusades the popular game spread rapidly all across Europe and with it its name..

In Portuguese AZAR came to mean "bad luck". The Spanish AZAR and Catalan ATZAR gave the more neutral meaning of "fate, destination" and the French HASARD "opportunity, chance". In Italian AZZARDO means "venture", the English HAZARD and Serbian XAZART "danger, risk". In the 17th c. the word and game reached Russia, where AZART (A3APT) came to mean "the lucky passion to put everything at stake".

In 1994, the Amsterdam City Council gave the name Azartplein (Azart Square) to the homeport of the ship in honor of its cultural activities

"Von Glückes Zufall"

Of Chance

Who perches high on fortune's wheel

In harmful tumble soon may reel

And drenched he'll be from head to heel.

Daß Narrenschiff ad Narragoniam

Sebastian Brant, Basel, 1494

Chapter 37

Woodcut Albrecht Dürer

The Ship Certificate of Tree Amsterdam Lord Mayors



SHIP CERTIFICATE

To All To Whom These Writings May Come,
We Send Greetings!

To the illustrious, very illustrious, very powerful
and wise lords, emperors, kings, republicans, princes, dukes
counts, mayors, sheriffs, councillors, judges and rulers
of all the good cities and places, ecclesiastical as well as worldly,
we request to welcome the captain of

AZART

registered in the Rotterdam ship register,
belonging to the Cultural Foundation "Friends Of Azart" in Amsterdam,
to receive him, his ship and crew courteously
and to offer him appropriate hospitality,
permitting him to sail, according to local laws and customs,
in your harbours, rivers and dominions.

Granted in Amsterdam, March 1995
Schelto Patijn, Lord Mayor of Amsterdam.

Signed in Al Hoceima, Morocco, 14 September 2005
Job Cohen, Lord Mayor of Amsterdam

Signed in Amsterdam, 6 June 2013
Eberhard van der Laan, Lord Mayor of Amsterdam

*Identical to those Ship Certificates as granted
by the Amsterdam Mayors at the end of the XVIII-century.
By courtesy of the Amsterdam Maritime Museum.
From a series of calligraphic welcome letters
signed by High Dignitaries.*

More Headlines

"The Ship of Fools is a Model of the World"
Helsinki, Finland. Kolmapäev, 09-08-1995

"Crazy for the Theatre and the Sea"
Formentera, Spain. Diario de Ibiza, 19-09-2006

"The Pilgrims of Art"
Vigo, Spain. Faro de Vigo, 20-07-1999

"A Travel to Folly"
Herakleion, Crete, Greece, Nea Kriti. 23-08-2006


"The Floating Babel of the Fools"
Cádiz, Spain. El País, 23-06-1999

"Drifting in the Sea of Dreams"
Eckenförde, Kieler Nacrichten, Germany. 29-05-1995

"Course to Utopia"
Barcelona, Spain, El País. 04-03-2006

"Most Important, we have a Dream"
St. Petersburg, Soroki, Russia. 21-08-1995

Август Диркс:
**"Главное,
что у нас
есть мечта!.."**



***Narride laev on nagu
maailma mudel***

Locos por el teatro y el mar

Los peregrinos del arte

Ταξίδι στην... τρέλα

***La Babel flotante
de los locos***

Schwankend im Meer der Träume

Rumbo a la utopía