

INSIDE

Bruno Latour and Frédérique Aït-Touati



Concept: Bruno Latour, Frédérique Aït-Touati

Text: Bruno Latour

Staging and set design: Frédérique Aït-Touati

Images and animation: Alexandra Arènes, Axelle Grégoire, Sonia Lévy

Video and light: Patrick Laffont

Music: Eric Broitmann

Production : zonecritique.org

Co-production : Théâtre Nanterre-Amandiers, Künstlerhaus Mousonturm Frankfurt

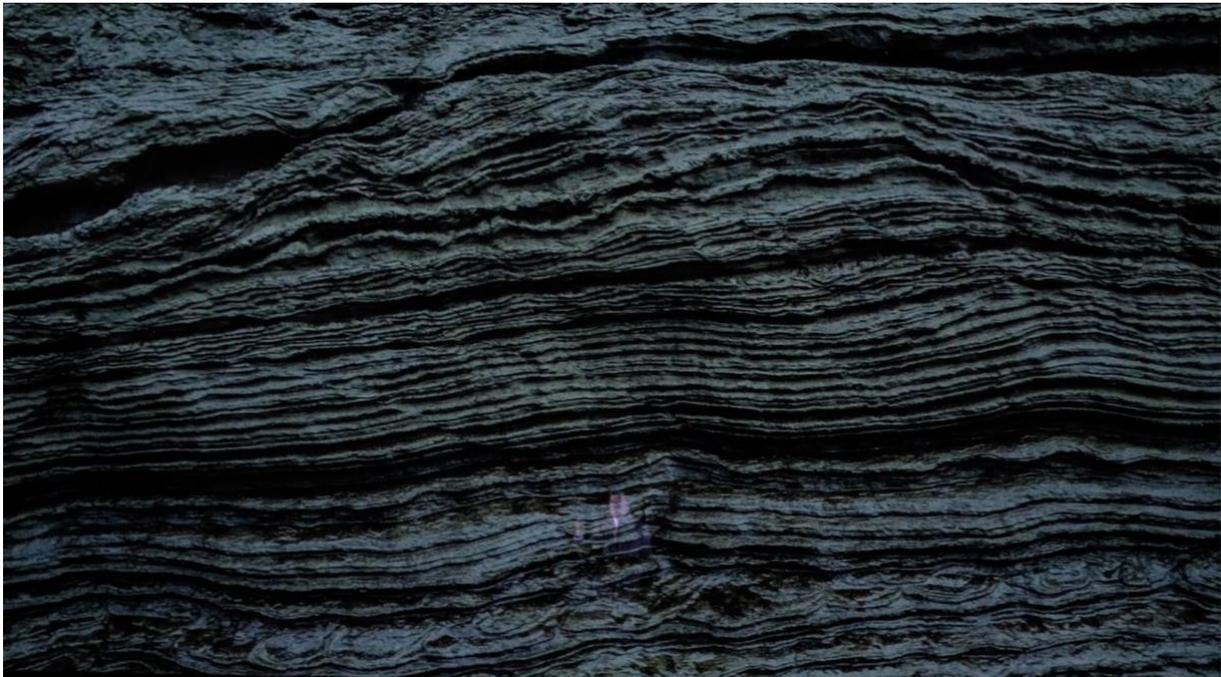
On tour in Frankfurt 23 April 17, Berlin (HAU) 30 September 17, TJP-CDN (Strasbourg) 22 March 2017, Théâtre national de la Criée (Marseille) 24 May 18, Signature Theatre (New York) 26 October 18, Kaaitheater (Bruxelles) 24 November 18, Nanterre-Amandiers 23 November 19

The project

We have long believed that we were walking on a globe, on the Globe. But in recent years, the geochemists have shown us a completely different planet. They look at the “critical zone,” this thin surface film of Earth where water, soil, subsoil and the world of living beings interact. If this area is critical, it is because life, human activities, and their resources are concentrated there. Can we change the way we see the Earth, no longer as the distant blue ball lost in the cosmos, but rather, in cross-section? Our way of walking on Earth would no longer be on but with. Such a change of perception is a matter of perception, sensation and modeling. And there is nothing like the theatrical stage to try out a thought experiment: let us stand not on the globe, but in this “critical area” of which the scientists speak. Welcome to Caveland! If we are in a cave, it's not that we have lived in caves, or in a kind of Platonic cave, but because there is no outside, nothing else for us than the thin and fragile skin of this critical zone. To try to understand what it means to “live inside,” we will do a series of tests that combine the tools of modeling and simulation to bring together two ways to make us sensitive: the way of science and the way of the theater.

For ten years, philosopher Bruno Latour and director and researcher Frédérique Aït-Touati have been working on projects at the intersection of research and theater. Their projects strive to stage the process of a developing thought, putting it in a place of modeling and perceptual experiment : conferences-performances (« Tarde/Durkheim », 2007 ; « Face à Gaïa », Musée des Confluences et Quai Branly, 2015), le spectacle « Gaïa Global Circus » (2013-2016, France, UK, Germany, London, New York, Canada), the political simulation « The Theatre of Negtciations » (théâtre Nanterre-Amandiers, avec Philippe Quesne, 2015).

INSIDE is born of their common interest in the Critical Zone, Bruno Latour's work on the Anthropocene and Frédérique Aït-Touati's projects on the heuristic and immersive qualities of theater. For this project, Frédérique Aït-Touati invited two architects, Alexandra Arènes and Axelle Grégoire working on a new « Gaia-graphy », a visual artist, Sonia Lévy, and the video artist Patrick Laffont-DeLojo, to design a sensitive and responsive set and light design as a support for the speaker's experiments.



Biographies

Bruno Latour

Born in Beaune in 1947, he is a sociologist, anthropologist and philosopher of sciences. His work earned him the highest honor in the social sciences in 2013, the Holberg Prize. Professor at Science Po, he has been interested in the sociology of science and the processes of scientific research (*Laboratory Life*), in the dynamics of innovations and in the philosophy of the techniques that flow from it (*Aramis or the love of techniques*), or philosophical anthropology (*We have never been modern*), calling into question the distinction between nature and society, and to political ecology, Politics of Nature. How do we bring science into a democracy? He was the curator of three major exhibitions: Iconoclasm, Making Things Public and Reset Modernity! He taught for a long time in engineering schools, CNAM first, then the Ecole des Mines where he joined the Center of Sociology of Innovation in 1982. Since September 2006, he is a professor at Sciences Po, where he runs Medalab and created the SPEAP program.

Frédérique Aït-Touati

As author and theatre director, Frédérique Aït-Touati explores the links between science, literature and politics and is particularly interested in the fictions of science. She has collaborated with Bruno Latour for ten years on theatrical ways to test new hypotheses, especially for questioning the irruption of a controversial new figure, Gaia, facing which we struggle to respond. Fascinated by astronomy and microscopy, she has published *Fictions of the Cosmos* (Chicago, 2011), a study of the links between fiction and modern science. A historian of science at the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), she teaches at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and directs the SPEAP (Experimental Program in Political Arts), in residence at Nanterre-Amandiers since 2014. Her work can be found here :

zonecritique.org

Alexandra Arènes

Alexandra Arènes is an architect since 2008 (Ecole Supérieure d'Architecture de Grenoble) specialized in large-scale projects (research, strategy and representation). She took the post-master SPEAP (the Political Science School of Sciences Po in Paris) in 2015-2016. She is currently developing research-action projects in collaboration with research laboratories, agencies, institutions and artists, around the question of territories and their representations. Her research focuses on the forms of representations and the modalities of reconversion of post-anthropocene landscapes impacted by human and nonhuman actions. To make sense in sites often damaged, Alexandra develops, in pluridisciplinary teams, prospective and / or fictional reconversion strategies, some cartographic stories renewing the representations of the landscapes. Alexandra founded SOC (Cartographic Tools Company) in 2016 for this purpose. She currently has two main projects underway: a survey in the "critical zone" with the Institut du Globe de Paris and Bruno Latour, which gives rise to public events (visual creation of the INSIDE show, by Frédérique Aït-Touati); And the other on the creation of models of planets, a project of heuristic fictions on the new conditions to inhabit the territories in ruins (Project Etherre).

Axelle Grégoire

Axelle Grégoire is an architect graduated from the National School of Architecture of Versailles (ENSAV) in 2013. She currently collaborates with *BASE* (Landscape design and urban planning agency) as a project manager on large scale projects and territorial planning in Paris. She has worked for *The Commons Inc*, an architectural think tank and strategic design consultancy firm in Montreal. She understood there that architectural production is not only a design but a synthesis of many complex parameters into an optimized solution. A

systemic approach, she is now applying to her own practice. Her multidisciplinary training (Literature / Theatre / Art / Architecture) and experiences (Curation/ Strategic design/ Set design/ Urban planning/ Research) drives her to cross disciplines to explore territorial key forces and use them as catalysts for landscape design strategies. She takes part in different collaborative projects such as the *INSIDE show* (new cartography) and *The Etherre project* (innovative models to inhabit damaged territories). She is currently founding a territorial strategic design studio through modelling and prototypal development called *Transplant*.

Sonia Levy is a French artist living between London and Iceland. After graduating from Villa Arson, École des Beaux–Art de Nice in France, she undertook a post-graduate course at École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. In 2016 she took part in a programme in arts and politic (SPEAP) at Sciences Po, Paris, led by professor Bruno Latour and Frédérique Aït–Touati. Her practice operates at the intersection of the arts and the sciences (natural and social), and focuses mainly on the nonhumans – nonhuman animals, landscapes and inorganic others. Her works (installations, sculpture, drawings and video pieces) cross the nonhuman realms to register the feeling of being surrounded by others or more abstractly by otherness; to present the spectator with a space where “nature” becomes “culture”. She is currently developing her artistic research in Iceland, looking at different aspects of whales and humans relationship in the controversial territory of the Arctic. She is also collaborating with historian of science Frédérique Aït–Touati and landscape architect Alexandra Arènes and Axelle Grégoire around the issue of human altered landscape and their representation.

Technical rider

2 days of technical setting + 1 day of rehearsal (on the day of the performance)

STAGE :

On the front, a black tulle gobelin type of 8meters large by 8 meters high (all the front stage) hang on O-zug 1 or 2.

This tulle must be manipulated very quickly up and down (in about 3 or 4seconds)

On the back a dark grey cyclorama of 13.5 meters (totality of the back stage) and 8 meters high.

The stage spinner will be used during the performance.

LIGHT :

A EMTTEC USB DMX controller

20 profiles 714 type with 201 filter

6 cycliodes with red filters in front off the stage oriented on the audience

VIDEO :

1 videoprojector 10000 lumens full hd with dmx shutter – Optic 2.2 dispose in regie.

1 videoprojector 10000 lumens full hd with dmx shutter – Optic 0.6 or 0.8 dispose in boom 23 or 25.

Connectic full HD (hdmi or dvi) from regie to the two videoprojetors

1 cable bnc from front stage to regie + direct electrical connection for video camera.

SOUND :

2 hf microphones (one spare) with tiny capsule

8 speackers – 2 on the back of the stage right and left – 2 in front of stage and one central with subbass – 2 lateral speakers and 2 on the back of the audience.

Voice, music and sound will be used during the show.

2 Direct box for the sound, coming from the computer

Connectic mini jack or sound card usb.

