

'DIOX - GIVE WHAT YOU CAN'

GESTU GROUPE + SENCRIK

Circus + AfroJazz



# DIOX - GIVE WHAT YOU CAN

## New show of Gestu Groupe + Sencirk

- for all audiences +6 years

- 90 min

A Captivating and interactive show, 'Diox - Give what you can', the new creation of Gestu Groupe and Sencirk takes you on an impressive journey to the crossroads of contemporary dance, acrobatics and afro-jazz. This amazing mix of live music and circus acrobatics leaves a lot of space for improvisation and spontaneity. With 'Diox - Give what you can', the artists take us into every day life of Africa, between chaos and physical contact, with plenty of humor and drama.



The beginning of the show catapults us into a street setting with confrontations between prayer and scuffles, followed by the juggling of oranges distributed by a fruit seller from Guinea. We then meet the owner of a 'pousse-pousse', a typical coffee cart, who turns out to be an excellent handstand acrobat and who, of course, does not miss the opportunity to serve the acrobat-musician, the only woman of the troupe ..

Throughout interactive exchanges between the circus acrobats and 'Gestu Groupe' who performs original afro-jazz compositions, the audience can discover African realities: 'Diox - Give what you can' is also about limited resources and supplies that artists in African are facing, however, these difficulties are outweighed by their overwhelming optimism and energy.

## VIDEO

<https://youtu.be/UazNnqhN-0c>



# GESTU GROUPE

'Gëstu', which means 'research' or 'to deepen' in Wolof, is a band founded in 2017 that is dedicated to mixing different styles of music and culture. This young band which is based in Dakar unites musicians from Benin, Senegal and Germany, amongst them Ambroise Zinsou and Conny Schneider and Lamine Faye. 'Gëstu Groupe' wants to realize their dream of a peaceful and productive coexistence of cultures. Their first album called 'Alekke', a traditional percussion instrument from Benin, is comprised of 8 original compositions and was produced and recorded in Dakar in 2018. 'Gëstu' mixes traditional rhythms from their respective countries with jazz, African sounds and of course a zest for groove and melodies.

## CONCERTS:

Festival 'Jazz à Ouaga' (Burkina Faso) 2019

Institut Français Dakar (Senegal) 2019

Goethe Institut Dakar (Senegal) 2018

Festival 'St. Louis Jazz' (Senegal) 2018

## ALBUM:

'Alekke'

8 original compositions

recorded and produced in Dakar 2018

## WEB:

<https://www.musicinafrica.net/directory/gestu-groupe>



# SENCIRK

Mamadou Younoussa Barry 'Jimmy' et Modou Touré are part of Sencirk, the first circus company and school for circus arts in Senegal. Working as professional acrobats and circus trainers at the same time they form a diverse troupe which realizes shows and tours in Senegal as well as internationally. 'For us the circus is a place for exchange, meeting others, but also to be committed. We use circus arts to investigate the era we live in and to share this research with our audience.'

## SPECTACLES:

United Africa - *Ethiopia 2015*

I'm a man - *Tandem Dakar Paris avec Cirque Electrique 2013*

Chiopite - *Institut Français Dakar, Senegal 2012*

## WEB:

<https://sencirk.wixsite.com/sencirk/spectacles>



# DISTRIBUTION

**Number of artists on stage: 7**

**Concept & production: Modou Touré and Conny Schneider**

**Saxophone, trapeze, trumpet, compositions:**  
Conny Schneider

**Juggling, acrobatics, voltige, handstand: Modou Touré and Mamadou Younoussa Barry 'Jimmy'**

**Trombone, saxophone, compositions: Ambroise Zinsou**

**Bass: Lamine Faye**

**Piano, compositions: Mermoz Deguenon**

**Drums, compositions: Pape Laye Dieng**

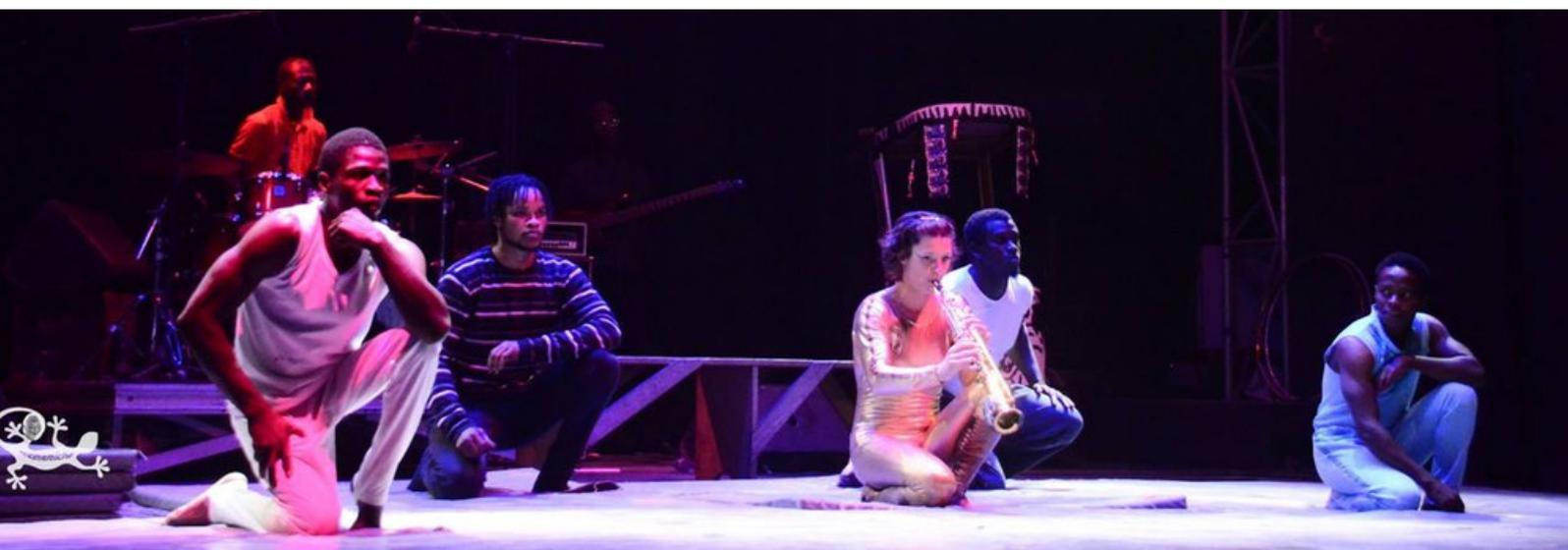
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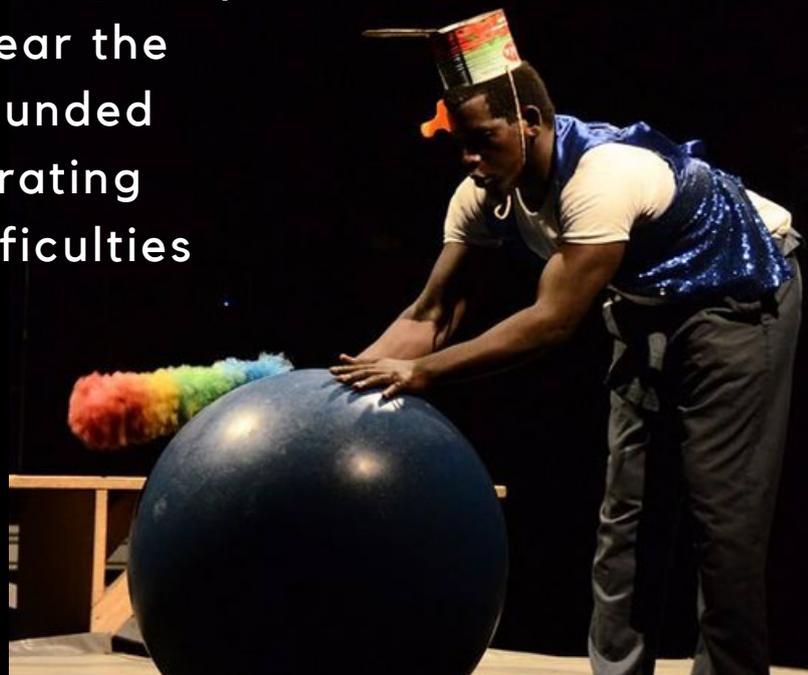


# BIOGRAPHIES

## Modou Touré

At the age of 13, Modou decided to leave the Gambia, his country of birth, to escape his Koranic master and being trained as a talibé. Arriving in Senegal he was received at a centre for street kids called 'Empire des Enfants'. He discovered circus skills through the Swedish association 'Djef Djel' which organizes circus classes at the centre. Modou learned how to express himself through his body and how to channel his energy, gained self confidence and confidence in others and .. fell in love with the circus. The members of 'Djef Djel', convinced by his outstanding talent, proposed him to follow a circus training in Sweden, an opportunity that he accepted with great enthusiasm.

Modou deepened his circus skills in Europe and then decided to return to Senegal, with the goal of creating opportunities for African children to discover the world of the circus. In 2010 he started to teach circus skills at reintegration centres, including 'Empire des Enfants', and in schools. That same year the association 'Sencirk' was founded which has as a goal reintegrating young adults with social difficulties into Senegalese society.



Sencirk teaches young adults and creates circus shows with Modou becoming choreographer and program officer. Modou wants to create a space for circus in Senegalese culture and promote his association internationally.

He performs as a juggler, acrobat, areal acrobat, tumbler, unicyclist, ..

A real circus guy.

Especially attracted by juggling and object manipulation he makes as well his own circus objects.



## **Conny Schneider**

Conny Schneider is a young German artist who combines music and circus in a unique way: playing the saxophone while hanging upside down on her trapeze, she takes the audience with her into her own world, a colorful place full of emotions that makes you dream. At the same time being a jazz composer she includes influences of the various countries she has been living in in her compositions.

Let's have a look at an unusual life story: her journey began in Germany, where her passion for circus since her early childhood brought her to the State School of Circus Arts in Berlin.

The saxophone always next to her she followed a professional education for trapeze acrobats. Countless concerts as well as recordings with the band Tiefenrausch Ska and other groups evoke the dream of bringing her saxophone playing to the next level and she moved to Maastricht to obtain a Bachelor of Jazz at the Conservatory. Attracted by the rich mixture of cultures she moved to Brussels, where she played with jazz bands and produced her own shows which toured in several European countries. Traveling to Senegal the young musician was captivated by music and 'teranga' and she decided to move to Dakar.



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She performs with well-known artists such as Souleymane Faye and Titi, and played, amongst others, at the festivals 'Jazz à Maastricht', 'L'Emoi du Jazz Abidjan' (Ivory Coast), St. Louis Jazz (Senegal), 'Jazz à Ouaga' (Burkina Faso) and 'Ongala music festival' Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania).

# TECHNICAL RIDER

**Duration:** 1:30h

## **Technical requirements:**

- flat space min 7m x 5m, height min 3m
- one rigging point for trapèze-fixe between 4,50m and 6,00m high, carrying min 500kg, the trapeze can also be rigged up to a tree or part of a building

## **Sound:**

- two microphones for brass
- one wireless clip microphone for brass
- keyboard amplifier
- bass guitar amplifier
- amplification drums
- complete drum set
- min. 4 monitors on stage

**Build-up and try-out:** 2h

**Break-down:** 20 min

# PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

