



# PIANI IN BILICO

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Clara Storti e Filippo Malerba / Quattrox4

contemporary circus show

duration: 50 minutes

file update: April 2018



production



with the support



Show designed as part of the three-year project *Residenze artistiche della Regione Piemonte 2015/2017*, described in art. 45 of D. M. 07/01/2014





Can we lie down 5 meters above the ground?

What does it mean to live in a vertical space?

## SYNOPSIS

Two performers are *flatmates*, sharing their everyday life in a **HOUSE** continuously changing. The house is the overarching theme of the show, as a place to live, share, and where to pursue self-recognition. In life we explore many houses: we build them, live in them, we move out, and go back looking for another one. The show tells the story of how the physical appearances of the house influence the relationships and the interactions between the two main characters

Is it possible to sit up in the air?



## NOTE OF INTENTION

The show PIANI IN BILICO takes its origins from Clara Storti and Filippo Malerba's need to work on their bodies in a condition of physical suspension. They use many years of circus experience to *investigate the aerial dimension* without have to be light and heavenly.

The novelty of this work lies in designing a three-dimensional space *constantly changing*, with ropes allowing the two performers to navigate in the space, as if they were in a normal share house.

The aim of the show is to share with the public an absolutely normal situation as living in a house, except that this time the flatmate are suspended in the air. The play is set in a *three dimensional stage*, where the audience will immediately feel welcomed as if invited at the house of the two flatmates.







The show is organized around the discipline of aerial ropes, explored in its many technical and expressive potential, through in-depth research on the quality of movement and the different styles that emerge from the relationship with the tool.

The scene is made by *7 ropes*, which create the entire show and determine the dramaturgical development. In the first part the show, the ropes knotted together create a tangle, a node, a nest, occupying the entire stage and turning it into a platform suspended from the ground. In the second part the ropes are freed, each one hanging vertical from the ceiling. These ropes form an aerial connection, allowing the two performers to move between the floor, the ceiling, and the space in-between.



After practicing gymnastics, at the age of 16 years she begins learning circus skills. She specializes in aerial acrobatic disciplines, attending workshops in Italy and abroad. She studies with many leaders in the field of aerial technique, such as Elodie Donaque, Roman Fedin and Leo Hedman. She further attends courses on movement research coordinated by Roberto Magro, Shai Faran, David Zambrano, Martin Klvady, Fighting Monkey, Judith Sancez. Clara also follows an extended workshop on "authorship actor" with Sabino Civilleri and Manuela Lo Sicco. She works with Dario Fo, Arturo Brachetti, Massimo Navone, Marco Silvestri and Willi Dorner. She has many years of teaching experience in circus and aerial acrobatic. At the same time she studies the bachelor of Set Designer at the Brera Fine Arts Academy in Milan.

CLARA STORTI



A man with dark, curly hair, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and light-colored trousers, is balancing on a high wire. He is barefoot and looking towards the camera. The background is black. To the left of the wire, there are three hand-drawn white diagrams: a horizontal line with a triangle at the end, a curved line with a triangle at the end, and a vertical line with a triangle at the end.

## FILIPPO MALERBA

At the age of 11 Filippo starts studying circus and he specializes in aerial acrobatic, attending workshops with Roman Fendin, Terry Crane, Ana Perez De Manuel, Stevie Boyd, Leo Hedman. He gets selected for an intensive program at the Ecole Nationale de Cirque in Montreal. Roberto Magro and Elodie Donaque soon become very influential figures in his professional upbringing. In 2010 he spends 2 months travelling through Germany as a member of the European Union program. Since 2011 Filippo participates in the plays *Solomon*, *Burn*, *QuiXote* and *Fellini*, acrobatic shows led by world-renown italian director Firenza Guidi, and he creates with her a solo performance, *You and Your Army*. He regularly teaches aerial disciplines.

In 2013 Filippo also graduates in modern literature with a thesis on *The role of directing in the new circus* and he achieves a master's degree in history of theatre presenting his thesis on *The contemporary circus in Italy: analyzes and comparisons on the body languages*.

He is co-creator of Censimento Circo Italia, the first mapping project of Italian circus companies.



## QUATTROX4\_CIRCUS LABORATORY

Association founded in **2011** in Milan by Clara Storti, Elisa Angioni, Filippo Malerba, and Marco Dellabianca to promote new forms of circus, proposing the practice and encouraging the vision. The courses includes amateur classes for children and adults, circus projects in the elementary schools, and a program of technical seminars, coordinated by professionals selected from all over Europe. In addition to the training courses, the activity also organises regular shows and meetings, which help to raise audience awareness. The Association aims at collaborating in the artistic development of *Italian contemporary circus*, by mediating between artists-audience-institutions, in view of a recognition of this artistic language.

The company QuattroX4 is currently creating two shows: *PIANI IN BILICO* for theater and *Flock* for urban spaces.

[www.quattroxy.com](http://www.quattroxy.com)







Alessandro graduated from the circus school Flic in Turin and the **ESAC** in Brussels and he is formed through the work of "circus actor" by Roberto Magro. In 2010 he wins the price of the audience at festival Pistes de Lancement in Brussels with the performance *Dieu me doit des explications*. His talent fully emerges after collaborating with Maxime Pythoud with whom he founded the company **CIRCONCENTRIQUE**, created the play *Respire*, and performed the show more than 200 times worldwide. He is co-founder in 2012 of the **MAGDALEAN** circus, with which he creates the shows *ERA: sonetto per un clown* and *Extra\_Vagante*, to promote and spread the culture of contemporary circus in Italy.

ALESSANDRO MAIDA

LIGHT DESIGN AND SOUND EDITIG Flvio Cortese  
ARTISTIC SUPERVISION Alessandro Maida

AID FOR CREATION Lara Guidetti, Marcello Gori, Saverio Bari



# RESIDENCES

November–December 2014: Quattro4, Milan  
July 2015: Quattro4, Milan  
3 to 9 August 2015: Granara Festival, Parma

September 2015: Quattro4, Milan  
December 2015: Quattro4, Milan  
May–June 2016: Quattro4, Milan  
19 to 25 September 2016: Casa del Circo Contemporaneo (Cirko Vertigo), Grugliasco TO  
5 to 16 October 2016: Casa del Circo Contemporaneo (Cirko Vertigo), Grugliasco TO  
16 to 19 November 2016: Casa del Circo Contemporaneo (Cirko Vertigo), Grugliasco TO  
November 2017: Quattro4, Milan  
January 2018: Quattro4, Milan

January 10, 2015: Lab. Quattro4, Milan  
August 9, 2015: Granara Festival, Parma  
December 20, 2015: Lab. Quattro4, Milan  
October 14, 2016: Casa del Circo Contemporaneo (Cirko Vertigo), Grugliasco TO  
November 19, 2016: Casa del Circo Contemporaneo (Cirko Vertigo), Grugliasco TO  
December 1, 2017: Quattro4, Milan

## SHORT PRESENTATIONS

July 6, 2016: Mirabilia Festival, Savigliano CN  
September 1, 2016: Berlin Circus Festival  
September 15, 2016: Piccolo Teatro Studio Melato, Milan  
March 4, 2017: Teatro Gerolamo, Milan

## PRESENTATIONS ON RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

*Special Mention of Interest conferred by Mirabilia Festival 2016*

**PREMIERE** February 17, 2018: Teatro Bruno Munari, Milan









## CONTACTS

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graphics Clara Storti | Photo by Laura Novara and Alessandro Villa