

The Tenderness of Laughter

for school performances

Wordless visual comedy for students and accompanying adults

The Tenderness of Laughter offers an immediate introduction to live performance. With no words, just a few objects, the body, music and a relationship with the audience, the show first and foremost invites everyone to laugh, be surprised and share a moment together. **Before introducing students to the performing arts, it seeks to awaken a taste for them.**

Creating a lot with very little

Simplicity here is not a lack of means, but material for play. A gesture becomes a story, an everyday object takes on a new function, and a look creates a connection. Students discover first-hand that a performance can begin with a presence, an idea, attention and someone to share it with.

A genuinely shared moment

The show is not aimed at children while adults simply supervise them. Teachers and accompanying adults enjoy it too. They laugh, can be surprised and sometimes take part. For the duration of the performance, children and adults share the same emotional experience.

Participation gently shifts the usual roles. An adult invited to play may suddenly be seen differently by the group and, for a few minutes, become one of the most appreciated people in the room. The laughter is not at their expense, but shared with them. This connection can create closeness and a wonderful shared memory.

Testimonial after two school performances in Switzerland

"We had the pleasure of welcoming Gromic to Switzerland for a school performance for our students aged 8 to 12, and it was a wonderful experience. Both the children and our colleagues loved it!"

Through his world and his wonderful ability to bring smiles with simple, physical humour, Gromic takes us towards things that are sometimes sorely missing today: poetry, laughter and simplicity.

Gromic was extremely accommodating, making the whole organisation very easy. A wonderful moment with a generous person, full of lightness and good humour. Thank you!"

Bruno, Switzerland

What the performance offers

- The pleasure of being an audience member: discovering live performance without any prior knowledge and wanting to experience it again.
- Another form of language: understanding an intention, emotion or situation through the body, the eyes, rhythm and music.
- Imagination within reach: seeing how an everyday object and very few means can create an entire world.
- A collective experience: experiencing how attention, silence, reactions and laughter travel through an audience.
- A different relationship: seeing students and accompanying adults share the same play, sometimes outside their usual roles.

Exploring the experience further in class

No specific preparation is required. If the teaching team wishes to extend the experience, they can build on what students actually observed and felt:

- Tell a story without speaking: imagine a short situation using only gestures and looks.
- Transform an object: invent several uses for an everyday object.
- Make people laugh without telling a joke: explore repetition, surprise, rhythm and unexpected shifts.
- Observe the audience: think about the moments when the audience became silent, attentive or united through laughter.

Practical information

Running time	45 to 50 minutes
Audience	Family audiences, ages 4+
Language	Wordless
Format	Indoor and outdoor
Participation	Children and adults may be invited to take part in the performance
Programming	One or more performances depending on capacity and venue conditions
Tone	Visual comedy without vulgarity

For programmers

The show can be presented as a school performance or paired with a general-audience performance. This allows the same venue to welcome students during the day and bring generations together at another time.

