



GANDINI

# Spring

A production from Gandini Juggling in collaboration  
with Alexander Whitley

Original music by Gabriel Prokofiev  
Costume design by Lydia Cawson  
Lighting design by Guy Hoare



Gandini Juggling present their colourful new production *Spring* created in collaboration with a luminous creative team including acclaimed contemporary choreographer Alexander Whitley (associate of Rambert and New Wave associate at Sadler's Wells), geometrically eye-popping lighting designer, Guy Hoare, the celebrated urban composer Gabriel Prokofiev and the prince of style Lydia Cawson on costume design.

**Co-produced by:** Cambridge Junction (UK), London International Mime Festival (UK), Plateforme 2 pôles Cirque en Normandie / La Brèche à Cherbourg et le Cirque-Théâtre d'Elbeuf (FR).

**Supported by:** Arts Council England, Arts Depot (UK), Theater op de Markt, Dommelhof (BE).



## SHOW SYNOPSIS

Gandini Juggling's new large-scale show *Spring* embraces deconstructed rhythms and jubilant patterning, with the talents on show primal and emblematic. A kaleidoscopic show, *Spring* is visually arresting from the outset and at the vanguard throughout. It is an innovative cross art form experience challenging notions of movement and physicality, exploring the relationships between contemporary dance, circus and music.

The piece follows on from Gandini Juggling's successful forays into dance and theatre and delves deeper into the company's obsession with juggling as a pure choreography. It builds on Gandini's time flirting with various neighbouring art forms and their findings from directing the Skills Ensemble in ENO's *Akhnaten*, to performing their Pina Bausch inspired show *Smashed* and their marriage of ballet and juggling in *4x4: Ephemeral Architectures*.

Director Sean Gandini and contemporary choreographer Alexander Whitley share a passion for pure form. They are both interested in the differences between what a word describes and the thing itself. For them, it is in the limits of the language where dance and juggling unfold their revealing power. Sean Gandini and Alexander Whitley are joined by composer Gabriel Prokofiev with a score of magical urban baroque and lighting designer Guy Hoare who uses the presence of colours and their echo's (as they disappear from space) to tell a journey. Finally iconoclastic costume designer, Lydia Cawson dresses the shows virtuosic cast of six jugglers and four contemporary dancers.

## ARTISTIC PROCESS

*'Colours are light's suffering and joy'*  
Goethe

"The production is inspired by the spring season, with echo's to Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring", and all its *joyeux* implications; the nature blooming in the garden, the lightness and the brightness of little details.

*Spring* is also a reflection on choreography. With our previous show *4x4*, dance and juggling operated at the same time, while in *Spring* the notion of counterpoint is introduced. Another difference is the approach to gravity. While in classic dance, the weight is very high, aerial; in contemporary dance, the weight is attracted by the floor, to the earth"

**Sean Gandini, November 2016.**



## ARTISTIC COLLABORATORS

### Alexander Whitley

Gandini Juggling are thrilled to be collaborating with choreographer Alexander Whitley. Whitley has created work for several of the UK's leading organisations including the Royal Ballet, Rambert, Balletboyz and Birmingham Royal Ballet. He is a New Wave Associate artist at Sadler's Wells theatre, an associate artist at DanceEast and is an associate of Rambert.

### Guy Hoare

As with their previous shows, *Spring* will see the company produce a high quality and technically ambitious production working with Guy Hoare – a prestigious lighting designer with a list of accolades and awards to his name. Hoare's collaborations include work with Rafael Bonachela, Christopher Bruce, Mark Bruce, Shobana Jeyasingh, English National Opera, National Theatre, Young Vic, Royal Court, Donmar Warehouse and the list goes on.

### Gabriel Prokofiev

Gabriel Prokofiev creates music that both embraces and challenges western classical traditions. A London-based composer, producer, DJ, and founder of the NONCLASSICAL record label and club night, he has emerged at the forefront of a new approach to classical music in the UK, recognised by Financial Times as being "in the vanguard of redefining classical music conventions." Prokofiev's distinctive sound is informed by his background as a producer of hip-hop, grime, and electro records, as well as his earlier involvement in electroacoustic music at York and Birmingham Universities, where he won a Residency prize at the prestigious Bourges International Electroacoustic Music Competition in 1998.



## WITH

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Artistic Director</b>   | Sean Gandini  |
| <b>Choreographer</b>       | Alexander Whitley   |
| <b>Lighting designer</b>   | Guy Hoare   |
| <b>Costume designer</b>    | Lydia Cowson  |
| <b>Rehearsals director</b> | Emma Lister   |
| <b>Jugglers</b>            | Dominik Harant, Kati Ylä-Hokkala, Kim Huynh, Liza van Brakel, Tristan Curty |
| <b>Dancers</b>             | Erin O'Toole, Leon Poulton, Tia Hockey, Yu-Hsien Wu                         |

## A Gandini Juggling production

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| General Manager    | Marina Arranz    |
| Executive Producer | Rae Boswell      |
| FR Producer        | Anne-Agathe Prin |
| UK Producer        | George Warren    |

**Credits images:** Simon Carter, Martin McLachlan.

## PARTNERS

The international success of the Gandini's previous productions has helped to develop the company's partner organisations and touring networks. With *Spring* Gandini Juggling hopes to expand on these relationships and create new partnerships to help support sustained platforms for the presentation of contemporary circus. The interdisciplinary nature of the production also helping to build, develop and diversify audiences from the dance, circus and classical music worlds.

Gandini Juggling have received Arts Council England funding for the development and production of *Spring* with support from the **London International Mime Festival**, **Arts Depot**, and **Cambridge Junction** in the UK, **Plateforme 2 pôles Cirque en Normandie / La Brèche à Cherbourg et le Cirque-Théâtre d'Elbeuf** in France and **Theater op de Markt**, Dommelhof, in Belgium.

## THE COMPANY

Formed in 1992 by world-renowned jugglers Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hokkala, Gandini Juggling continue to be at the forefront of contemporary circus, reinventing and reinvigorating juggling for the 21st century.

Ferociously prolific Gandini are constantly creating new work, which ranges from edgy visual art experiments to family friendly entertainment, from narrative infused dance escapades to humorous shenanigans. Liberation call them the "Kings of Juggling" whose works are "...marvels of originality", whilst The Guardian says of the company "juggling that is not just artful, but art".

Since their inception, the Gandini's have performed over 5,000 shows in 50 countries. They continue to perform at many of the most prestigious festivals and venues throughout the world. Their work transcends cultural barriers: the simple pleasure of watching people move whilst keeping objects in the air has a natural theatrical quality that has beguiled audiences globally.

Gandini continue to collaborate with a wide range of leading artists ranging from ballet choreographers to computer programmers; from costume designers to set makers; mathematicians to composers. They have spent several seasons working with symphonic orchestras, their choreographed juggling patterns lightly meshed to canonical classical works.

Notable accolades and performances include:

- Launching the Millenniums Dome in 2000.
- Performing at the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony.
- Showcasing two productions as part of the British Council Edinburgh Showcase resulting in 58 performances across Russia, the Middle East, Asia and South America.
- *Smashed*, Gandini's Pina Bausch inspired piece premiered at the National Theatre London in 2010, and was part of the British Council Edinburgh Showcase in 2013 with a sell out run. It has been performed globally over 500 times.
- *4x4 Ephemeral Architectures* premiered at the Royal Opera House in 2015. It has been performed over 80 times across 12 countries after a sell out run at the Edinburgh Festival 2015 with the British Council Edinburgh Showcase.
- *Sigma* premiered at the Edinburgh Festival 2017 and received the Total Theatre Award for Visual Theatre and the Asian Arts Award for Best Directing as well as Gandini Juggling receiving the Herald Archangel Award for their contribution to the Fringe: 'IT LOOKS, AND IS, EXQUISITELY BEAUTIFUL'\*\*\*\*\* The Herald.
- In 2016 Gandini choreographed and performed the Skill Ensemble for the Philip Glass piece *Akhnaten* Directed by Phelim McDermott and produced by the English National Opera. It has since taken the company to the LA Opera House (2016), with future dates at the New York Met (2019) and a return to the London Coliseum. *Akhnaten* won the Olivier award for Best New Opera Production.
- The London premier of *Spring* will take place at Sadlers Wells in 2019.

In addition to performing, Gandini continue to be very much in demand at leading circus school; teaching workshops, creating performances and supporting the next generation of circus artists. Alongside this, Gandini publish their own books and DVDs, continuing to support the wider understanding of the beautiful possibilities of



juggling, for jugglers and non-jugglers alike.

The company is currently touring *4x4*, *Smashed*, *Sigma*, *Director's Cut* and *8 Songs*. A book documenting and celebrating the last twenty years of Gandini Juggling "Juggling Trajectories: Gandini Juggling 1991 - 2015", has been written by Thomas JM Wilson to celebrate the 24th anniversary of the company.

## ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

### SEAN GANDINI

As a child growing up in Havana, Sean was fascinated by magic and mathematics. In the 1980s, he was a regular performer in London's Covent Garden and toured with various theatre groups. Since then, Sean has spent the last 25 years researching and contributing to all aspects of juggling; he is a prolific creator and his work also extends to choreography and directing. With Gandini Juggling, Sean has performed in over 2,500 shows from art galleries to palaces; street corners to stadiums. In 2016 Sean worked as juggling choreographer on English National Opera's Olivier winning opera - Philip Glass' *Akhmaten*. In 2017 Sean Directed the company's show *Sigma* which won the Asian Arts Award for Best Directing and the show won The Total Theatre Award for Visual Theatre.



## KATI YLÄ-HOKKALA

Kati is one of her generation's iconic jugglers. Renowned as one of the leading innovators in dance/juggling, her ability to combine movement and extremely complex coordination is second to none. A former rhythmic gymnast, Kati's juggling has a unique calm precision, which comes from 25 years of throwing whilst standing on one leg. In recent years she has co-directed many of the company's pieces.



## DEVELOPMENT AND TOURING

### 2016

February: first encounter R&D sessions with choreographer.

3 - 9 July: R&D at Arts Depot, London, UK. □

4 - 20 August: R&D at Cambridge Junction, UK.

### 2017

3 - 15 April: R&D at la Brèche, Pôle national des arts du cirque de Basse-Normandie / Cherbourg-Octeville, FR.

3 - 14 July: R&D at Theater op de Markt, Dommelhof, Belgium.

28 Nov - 3 Dec: R&D Circa, Auch, FR.

### 2018

8 - 13 Jan: Birmingham Hippodrome production week UK.

17 - 20 Jan: Lighthouse Poole production week with soft premiere UK.

7 - 8 Feb: Cambridge Junction, UK premiere.

11- 12 April: Arts Depot, London Preview. Part of Circusfest.

16 - 20 April - Opera Rouen as part of SPRING Festival, La Brèche, FR premiere.

4rd June - Oxford Playhouse UK

26 Sep - FORUM Leverkusen, D premiere

30 - 31 Dec - Burghof Lörrach, D

### 2019

31 Jan - 2 Feb - Sadler's Wells, London premiere

**All current and future tour dates will be listed separately. Please contact us for more details: [info@gandinijuggling.com](mailto:info@gandinijuggling.com) and visit [gandinijuggling.com/en/tour-booking/](http://gandinijuggling.com/en/tour-booking/)**

## CONTACT

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

Gandini Juggling: **Spring** info pack



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