



Volti Subito, an outdoor entertainment

- Rob It's a beautiful summer's evening and I'm near the lake Guerlédan which is nearly running dry now and I've just seen the most breathtaking show in the open air, which involves a man, a woman, and a horse. It's called Terre Anachronisme Circulaire, which we can roughly translate as The Earth A Circular Anachronism and it's been put on by a company called Volti Subito who are Breton-based and the person who is the creator is Julien Nichol.
- Julien Hello. Nice to meet you.
- Rob And you. It's a very mysterious title for your show. Can you explain it?
- Julien Yeah. It's about the different ways we can feel the time inside, but I think the most important is not to, uh, is not to try to understand precisely the title but to leave the feelings coming in the audience, it's a poetic trip in fact.
- Rob This takes place in a circle.
- Julien Yeah. In fact we dance. I sing. Stephanie reads poetry and acrobatics, jumps, and...
- Stephanie Bareback riding - we are bareback riding.
- Julien ...bareback riding.
- Rob Stephanie...tell us about the horse.
Stephanie Tango yes. OK. He's a big stallion. He's nine years old. His name is Tango du Gaie, and we are working with him since he is a baby. So Julien is, is the trainer and we are the bareback riders. So it means that we're walking on the horse standing up, jumping and the horse is on gallop and we're doing acrobatics on his back.
- Rob When I watched the show I was struck by your strengths, your gymnastic strengths. It must take a lot of preparation for a show like this.
- Julien Oh - many years. We practice since, combien de temps pour toi, twenty years for you and fifteen years for me. We used to say that to stay up on the back horse it can takes at least five years of regular practice. Regular I mean every day. Five years to stay on it and more to be really free and really.. and to begin to dance really

with him for a performance like Circular Anachronism.

Rob The music, the soundtrack to your show is extraordinary. Where does that come from?

Julien Yes. In fact I have composed all music. It's only my, my voice in fact. I play on a looper, so I play beat-boxing, a table, and I've got a little egg to shake, ch ch ch like this..., and melody is my voice. I sung a couple of songs in fact. I learn in a conservatoire de chant for two years to compose the play.

Rob The reaction that I saw in the audience around me, people were amazed, but not very clear about what you're trying to say. Is that deliberate?

Julien Yeah of course it is. It is a 'un univers honorique' we say in French.

Stephanie ..dream-like...

Julien So a dream-like universe, that's it. It's something...it can't be real. That's why people are caught like this.

Rob And I notice the children loved it because of the horse. Because of Tango.

Julien Yes. Tango is charismatic. He is impressive. Tango is, we have to say it maybe for the audience, he weights 900 kilos.

Stephanie Yeah and we're working with him as a character. He has really his own personality. So we let him the place to be somebody, to be an actor. This is, um, this is the way Julien wants to work with the horse. Not like a horse as a tool you know, where you're standing up and you're doing tricks. No, it's him. He's got his personality. He's coming and he's giving us who he is and I think this is very important during all the, all the show because every day, every show he is different and he is proposing different stuff you know. Walking this way, turning his head this way, and so we have to act with him and to react with him, with his propositions and that's very very fun.

Rob So each show is going to be a little different.

Julien Of course. That's why we cut with traditional circus. It's, uh, it's really not the same. Because we leave the horse being himself. That's the whole difference.

Rob OK but I notice that the horse Tango is very controlled?

Julien He is, of course.

Stephanie There is the training of course.

Julien The training is encore, is more important because it must be so so

strong qu'on n'oublie dressage...

Stephanie The horse has to be so well trained that when you see him working you forget about the training and the horse inside the training can have liberty. We are living our life by a dream-like way too.

Rob Yeah I think so, and time is different for each one.

Stephanie Yes...just as in the show!

Rob Thank you very much indeed.

Julien You are welcome. With pleasure

Rob Stephanie and Julien.

