



# J'AI SOIF

Joseph HAYDN / Primo LEVI

## **I'M THIRSTY / J'AI SOIF**

Joseph HAYDN / Primo LEVI

Based on "If This Is a Man" by Primo Levi and  
"The seven last words of our Saviour on the Cross" by Joseph Haydn



## I'M THIRSTY / J'AI SOIF

Created and directed by : Serge Barbuscia  
Dramaturgy: Pieralberto Marchesini  
With Serge Barbuscia  
Actors coaching: Clara Barbuscia  
Acrylics: Sylvie Kajman  
Stage design and lights: Sébastien Lebert  
*Versions for Piano only, String Quartet or Organ*



### **“An impressive and moving play”**

Two men from the same origin, separated by 2,000 years, were tormented and tortured. They said the very same words: “I’m Thirsty”

Millions of others suffered the same fate or are still suffering...



**« I'm Thirsty » is a universal play that goes beyond the frontiers and opens the way to new perspectives.**  
**« I'm Thirsty » is a play that scrutinizes the depths of human nature and reveals its ambivalence.**

In the worst moments of being tortured and humiliated, enduring the sharpest pain, both Christ and Primo Levi pronounced these words: "I'm Thirsty".

This observation was the starting point of this drama and music creation that was then enriched by Sylvie Kajman's paintings.

From the notes of Joseph Haydn to the words of Primo Levi – who gives in « If this is a man » his testimony as a survivor of Auschwitz concentration camp - "I'm Thirsty" sounds like the screaming of any man throughout the ages and civilisations.

By discovering the powerful resonance that links these two masterpieces, Serge Barbuscia imagined a dialogue between both of them in a process of remembrance on several scales. With the participation of the painter Sylvie Kajman, the scenography became an important element and shaped up "I'm Thirsty" into a multidisciplinary art project.

"I'm Thirsty" is a play that scrutinizes our inner world wondering about human suffering, tragedies and atrocities perpetrated by men against other men.

"I'm Thirsty" is neither a religious nor hagiographic work, it is the screaming of any man throughout the ages. It's a "fervent sorrow that flows from era to era" according to Baudelaire's own words.



**« Whoever forgot his past, is condemned to live it again »**

Primo Levi

In this work of remembrance opened towards several fields, humanism, love and light are overwhelming.



**“I’m thirsty“ can be adapted in countless ways, according to the sounds of the musical instruments existing all over the world**

On tour, the musical part can be played by the musicians of the Serge Barbuscia Company or by local artists. This play can be adapted according to the requests and wishes made by the artistic teams of the venues.

For the time being, “I’m thirsty” proposes 3 different musical adaptations:

- For piano
- For organs
- For string quartet

**“I’m Thirsty” can be performed all over the world, without any language barrier**

The play is suitable for adults and teenagers. On tour, it enriches itself with the artistic cooperations developed locally where it is performed. The Serge Barbuscia Company asserts its will to unite men by forging universal cultural ties. On international tour, the play can be presented with subtitles in the language of the country. If so requested, the Company can provide the original text in French for translation purposes.

**“I’m thirsty” can adapt to all kinds of prestigious, unusual or ephemeral places**

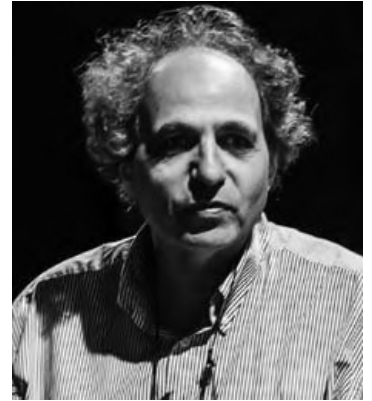
The play can evolve according to the spaces and venues where it is going to be presented, in cathedrals for instance, as well as big theatre stages or atypical places.





## **THE SERGE BARBUSCIA'S COMPANY – THEATRE DU BALCON - SCENE D'AVIGNON**

The main artistic purpose of Serge Barbuscia's Company is to support contemporary playwrights, to bear witness to the world and to put in a human dimension at the heart of its creations. That's why was founded "Le Théâtre du Balcon" in 1983, in order to show new original texts by contemporary living playwrights. Le Théâtre du Balcon became a venue permanently open and an outstanding place in the cultural and artistic life of Avignon. It enables the discovery of new artistic talents, musicians, actors and authors... who blossom and successfully win the recognition of a curious and demanding audience.



The Serge Barbuscia's Company ambitions are to investigate human nature, the place of Man in a world of permanent changes, to put him into perspective with the help of writers, to confront him with History. The dynamic of the Company is to offer a civic space where a wide diversity of themes can be expressed, with confrontation of ideas, the will to share and exchange, to clarify without any judgement.

The purpose is to transmit humanistic values through the work of contemporary writers who bear witness of the world they live in, to leave a legacy and wordprints, musicprints, emotions and values, through artistic and sometimes risky choices...

Up to now, Serge Barbuscia's Company sums up to 30 creations that have been shown in France and other countries of the world (Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Poland, Luxemburg, Japan, China, South Korea, Gabon and Cuba). Among those creations, we can highlight: "Monsieur Plume, Plis au Pantalon", "Victor Hugo the Visionary", "The Deposition", "Tango Neruda", "The Life Thief", "Let's meet at the Black Cat", "The paintings of the exhibition", "The Disgrace of J.S. Bach", "The Firemen", "Beat the Childhood", "Marche"....





## SERGE BARBUSCIA

Drama actor, director and playwright, Serge Barbuscia founded “Le Théâtre du Balcon” in 1983 and is also director of Serge Barbuscia’s Company.

It was in Marseille, during his university studies, that Serge Barbuscia started his artistic career. He studied mime with Lecoq and started his own Company named “Three Suns Theatre Company”. Later, he settled down in Avignon where he founded “The Serge Barbuscia’s Company” and “Le Théâtre du Balcon”.

He developed a permanent action that principally aims at discovering new talents and opened the doors of his theatre to artists like Jean-Luc Revol, Christophe Lidon, Michel Fau, Carlo Boso, Nemanja Radulovic, Patrick Timsit, Yolande Moreau, Michel Bruzat...

He also supports the works of living playwrights. In this aspect, he has been a member of the Grants for writers Committee of Association Beaumarchais / SACD. In this role, he helped people to discover new authors like José Ply, Rémi De Voos, Natacha de Pontcharra, Adeline Picault, Isabelle de Toledo, Christian Petr, Anne Jolivet, Pascal Bancou ...

His last creations are Bertol Brecht’s “Songs of Exile” (texts and songs), “The conference of the birds” by Jean-Pierre Carrière, “Straight to the wall” adaptation and direction, presented in the framework of the report “Bad housing 2013” by Abbé Pierre Foundation, “Beat the childhood” by Adeline Picot, “I’m Thirsty”, based on the music of Joseph Haydn and the text of Primo Levi, “Pompier” by Jean-Benoît Patricot, “The Disgrace of J.S. Bach” by S. Deschamps and J.F. Robin, “The Secret of Avignon Bridge” in collaboration with OLRAP and the director Jonathan Schiffmann, “The paintings of an exhibition” inspired by the music of Mussorgski, “Let’s meet at The Black Cat”, “Tango Neruda”, based on the poems of Pablo Neruda, with images by Pablo Picasso and the music of Astor Piazzola, “Life thief” by Christian Petr, “Theory and play of the Duende” by Federico Garcia Lorca, “Victor Hugo the Visionary” selected by Amnesty International to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, “End of Service” by Yves Garnier (Awarded with the Beaumarchais Prize).

## SYLVIE KAJMAN

Visual Artist, Sylvie Kajman used for “I’m Thirsty” a series of big acrylic paintings as a base to her scenography for the play. Her artwork is brought to life on stage according to the lights effects and video projections designed by Sébastien Lebert.

The main topic of Sylvie Kajman’s work focuses on Human nature.

From her universe, characters spring up, looking up for livelihood, as well as peaceful landscapes, made using applications of China ink. She humbly tries to express the inexpressible human mystery, in a journey that goes beyond the words, wishing that everyone may discover his or her own inner world through her artworks.

In “I’m thirsty” her scenography takes the audience in a scenery of lights, of mosaics and written and projected words that lead the music and the text in a universal environment.

## SEBASTIEN LEBERT

He integrated the Théâtre du Balcon and the Serge Barbuscia’s team in 2004. Since then, he took part to the creation of « Wagons divagons », « Cabaret Républicain », « Rendez-vous au Chat Noir », « S’il te plait, fais-moi écouter un tableau », « Enquête vers le Polar », « La disgrâce de J.S. Bach » and « I’m thirsty ».



Initially created in a version for piano, “I’m Thirsty” was also presented in 2016 at the request of the Circle of Sacred Music Circle of Avignon, in the official selection of the Avignon IN Festival in a version for two organs at the Notre-Dame des Doms Basilica.

The very same year, it was also selected by “The Organization Committee of the Year of France in South Korea” initiated by Institut Français

In 2017 “I’m Thirsty” was presented in the Avignon Fringe Festival in a version for String Quartet with “Classic Radio Quartet” after an art residence in South Korea

**Since its creation, “I’m thirsty” has been performed in France and internationally in the following prestigious or unusual places:**

- Theatre Vladimir Canter in Reunion Island
- National Theatre of Martinique
- Montfavet Church in the framework of the City Cultural Festival
- Auditorium Jean Moulin of Vaucluse (Le Thor)
- Jacques Prevert Cultural Centre in Villeparisis
- Tehatre Interface in Sion (Switzerland)
- Theatre Comoedia in Aubagne
- Espace Culturel Saint-Paul in Reunion Island
- International Festival of Yedang (South Korea)
- Dongnae Cultral Centre – MAC OFF Festival in Busan (South Korea)
- Gwangju Cultural Centre – The Peace Theatre Festival (South Korea)



## **PRESS REVIEW**

### **L'EXPRESS**

"The success of this project is based on the fact that it looks like a big poem of inner pain... This intense play revives our thirst of love and truth..."

**Laurence Liban**

### **LE MONDE**

"Serge Barbuscia makes us hear Primo Levi's message that thrills up his whole body. His voice sometimes appears to be as affected as the one of a child... It is beautiful because we are still alive, let's not forget it!"

**Evelyne Tran**

### **Daily La Provence**

"You will understand why this play is so humble, generous and moving. You can never forget it. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!"

**Danièle Carraz**

### **Zibelif**

"The instinct of survival, the need of love and humanity are stronger and stop the machine of death on the way."

**Delphine Michaelangeli**

### **LA MARSEILLAISE**

"I'm Thirsty" is a play that scrutinizes our inner world wondering about human suffering, tragedies and atrocities perpetrated by men against other men. It is also a work of remembrance upon different aspects, in order to reveal humanism, love and light..."

**Henri Lepine**

### **LE DAUPHINE**

"A heartbreaking creation!

We've been told about a duet between voice and piano. It really is much more than that. It's a quartet because the lights of Sébastien Lebert and the paintings of Sylvie Kajman have their own role...

Let's say it again loudly: "I'm Thirsty" is neither a religious nor hagiographic work, it is the screaming of any man throughout the ages. It's a "fervent sorrow that flows from era to era" according to Baudelaire's own words"

### **MAGAZINE LE VAUCLUSE**

"Serge Barbuscia directed the play in a very simple, harmonious manner...and it is precisely this simplicity that enable to express the essential... "I'm Thirsty" is the screaming of men through ages and civilizations.

**Geneviève Dewulf**

### **TESTIMONY**

"An impressive and moving play. Two men from the same origin, separated by 2,000 years, were tormented and tortured. Millions of others will suffer the same fate or are still suffering it..."

The music of Joseph Haydn, "The seven last words of our Saviour on the Cross" and "If this is a man" by Primo Levi, the texts, the music, the acting, the stage set... everything contributes to turn "I'm Thirsty" into a heartbreaking play."

**Philippe Salomon – Amnesty International**







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- Amnesty International
- La ligue des Droits de l’Homme
- Association Primo Levi