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# EXTENSIVE INFORMATION LEF!

*(30-minute festival version)*



**LEF!** *(COURAGE IN ENGLISH)*

*(30 MINUTE FESTIVAL VERSION)*

FOR THE ADVENTUROUS FEARFUL

A spectacular circus theater performance for the whole family

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# ABOUT LEF!

LEF! (COURAGE/GUTS in English) is a spectacular circus theater performance for daredevils, wimps, adventurers, people who stay at home and mommy's children.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if you were never afraid again, just do it! No obstacles and color outside the lines, whatever others may think. But who or what is actually stopping us from doing this?

"Fear is a bad counselor," they say, but is that true? Fear is also there to protect us from danger, to make informed decisions and to assess risks. But what if fear takes over and becomes a hindrance?

LEF! is a family performance in which three acrobats balance on each other and on the border between danger and reason.

## FROM THEATER PERFORMANCE TO FESTIVAL SHOW

The theater performance LEF! premiered in 2018. This is our most successful performance to date and with this performance Laura van Hal has put herself on the map as a creator of circus theater for families.

This festival season, we are reviving this successful performance and adapting it to a festival version for indoors and outdoors

## SHORT STORYLINE

In LEF! the world of two highly trained acrobats is brutally disrupted by the arrival of a newcomer. This outsider is put to the test and subjected to all kinds of physical and social challenges. This does not happen without a struggle and the group dynamics come under considerable pressure if he manages to conquer a place in the group, but dethrones someone else in the process. Ultimately, they learn to work together and notice that more is possible with three than with two.

LEF! is about courage, in a broad sense. Not only doing breakneck feats, but also daring to take the first step, daring to go against the group and embracing the unknown. A performance full of recognizable situations for young and old, through spectacular acrobatics.



*"The great thing about the performance is that the story is told with beautiful and spectacular acrobatics."* Dutch newspaper Het Parool about the theater version of LEF!

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# ABOUT THE ACROBATIC WORKSHOP

## WHAT DOES THE WORKSHOP ENGAGE

After the last performance of the day, the acrobats give a 30-minute parent-child acrobatics workshop.

The moving energy that WIRWAR performances unleash in the audience is channeled in this workshop!

During the workshop, parents and children work in pairs. Each parent works with their own child.

In the workshop, simple acrobatics tricks are taught, which can be performed safely by novice acrobats.

The aim of the workshop is to get parents and children to work together and move in a new way by learning these simple acrobatics techniques. The workshop also contributes to bonding with the festival audience and is a playful way to translate from seeing to doing.

## PRACTICAL

- We only give the workshop after the last performance, to maintain the focus on performing between the two shows.
- The acrobats need at least 20 minutes between the last performance and the start of the workshop to catch their breath, have a drink and put on dry clothes.
- We can give the workshop to a **maximum of 50 participants** (25 children with 25 parents/supervisors) at the same time. This is to ensure the safety of the participants.
- The festival itself arranges a registration system to guarantee this maximum. Tickets, stamps, wristbands, registration list, etc. are options to organize this.
- The workshop can be given on stage or at another suitable location. The location must be large enough to accommodate 50 participants. Unlike the performance, the workshop can also be given on grass, provided there is no dog poop, etc. there.
- The festival itself determines whether costs will be charged for participation in the workshop. In line with the accessibility of WIRWAR's performances, we have a strong preference to offer this workshop for free, so that there is no financial barrier to participation.

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# ABOUT WIRWAR PRODUCTIES



WIRWAR Producties is the circus theater company of theater maker Laura van Hal. WIRWAR creates professional circus theater performances for families. The performances are dynamic, exciting, humorous and wordless, making them extremely suitable for introducing inexperienced viewers and viewers who do not have a good command of language to the performing arts within the setting of a festival. Due to the unique combination of the circus form with a solid

theater basis and thematic content, the performances contribute to the diversity and innovation of the festival offering.

Laura van Hal is a pioneer within the 'New Circus' in the Netherlands. By combining acrobatics with dance and physical theater, she gives a deeper meaning to spectacular acrobatic tours. All acrobatic arts are used dramatically by the players and contribute to a continuous narrative with the players as characters. This gives the circus form meaning and becomes a metaphor for challenges and recognizable situations. With her appealing, energetic theater language, Laura involves young and old in recognizable, social topics without using words.



Watch the video about **WIRWAR Productions** here and turn on captions for English subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tgDvEIShbdE>

*"Laura van Hal and her productions always surprise. No gratuitous circus tricks... but well-thought-out circus theater that is passionate about dance and movement theater. They do not ignore the target group, as long as there is a specific target group... After all, it fascinates young and old. For me, Laura van Hal is a permanent fixture that we have far too few in Flanders."*

*Wim Hoekx*

Former programmer Cultuurcentrum De Adelberg – Lommel (België)

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# ABOUT MAKER LAURA VAN HAL

## SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Laura van Hal (1983) graduated from the dance academy in 2006, training as Theater Dance Teacher at the Amsterdam University of the Arts. During her



training, Laura developed both as a dancer and as a maker. As a dancer she has appeared with various youth dance theater companies, including De Meekers, Jeugddanstheater Plankenkoorts, Project Zeezicht and Groen Gras.

As a creator she focused on the circus theater, fascinated by the - more extensive - physical possibilities of the new circus, she developed as a director of circus theater. She made her debut with the performance **IX US** (2008) at **Circus Elleboog**.

Together with **Samuel Jornot** she created the performances **Hoog Toerental** (2008) and **Crème Brûlée** (2009) with the top talents of the youth circuses from the

Netherlands. At **TENT Circustheater Producties** she made the step to working with professional acrobats. Here she directed the very successful performance **LOOP** (2011), which was a hit throughout Europe and even beyond, in both theaters and festivals. Laura also directed a short and long version of **NET** (2012 and 2013 respectively) at TENT and discovered her passion for 'hand-to-hand' circus technique.

## CIRCUS THEATER FOR FAMILIES

Since 2013, Laura has been making circus theater especially for families. In 2014, she co-directed the musical theater performance **Heroïca** with **Dan Tanson**, commissioned by the **Lucerne Festival** (CH), for which she won the prestigious '**Junge Ohren Preis 2014**'. She then created the performances **VLIEG OP!** (2015) at **STIP theater productions** and the theater version of **LEF!** (2018).

In 2018 she founded **WIRWAR Producties**, where she works as director and artistic director. The performance '**WIRWAR**' (2020) was the first production of this independent company. Since 2021, WIRWAR Producties has been structurally subsidized by the **Performing Arts Fund**. With this subsidy in hand, Laura created her first festival performance '**BONJE**' (2021), which was also shown at various festivals in the summer of 2022. This short version of BONJE also played on schoolyards and in gymnasiums of primary schools throughout the Netherlands.

In 2022, Laura made a theater version of **BONJE** (2022) and then a new festival version of **BONJE**.

In the spring of 2023, the performance **HOKJE** (2023) toured theaters in the Netherlands and Belgium. In the autumn of 2023, we revived the short version of **BONJE** on the occasion of Children's Book Week, with the matching theme 'at our home'. **HEBBES** (2024) was shown in theaters in the winter of 2024. This acrobatic music performance was a co-production with music collective **Frisse Oren**. From May 2024, the short version of **HEBBES** toured festivals and schools. In the autumn of 2024, the performance **HOKJE** played again in Dutch and Flemish theaters.

In recent years, developments for WIRWAR Producties have followed at a rapid pace. From 2021 onwards, there will be room for circus in the structural cultural infrastructure in the Netherlands for the first time. WIRWAR Producties is one of a select number of companies that have been structurally supported by the **Fonds Podiumkunsten** (Performing Arts Fund) since 2021. WIRWAR can also count on support from the FPK for the period 2025-2028 and we can continue to create circus theater for families.

*"WIRWAR's performances are accessible, imaginative, layered and heart-warming. Sensitive subjects are not avoided, but that never makes the performances difficult. The combination of dance/movement, theater and circus ensures productions that are suitable for both novice theater viewers and audiences with more experience. It is valuable that the performances are not in language, so that an international audience can enjoy a WIRWAR production."*

Kirsten Bootsma

programmer Openluchttheater Caprera/De Schuur, Haarlem

## FUNCTIONAL CIRCUS AS ARTISTIC SIGNATURE

Laura van Hal is seen as one of the pioneers within the 'new circus' in the Netherlands. She developed an original, artistic signature, which calls 'functional circus'. The way in which she uses spectacle and circus tricks dramatically is characteristic of her work. Functional circus means that the 'trick' is used as a physical expression of the players' state of mind.

Laura approaches her acrobats like a choreographer; using their bodies she builds structures in which emotions, jokes and situations are expressed using different bodies. She stacks her players on top of



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she

each other, places them in seemingly impossible positions and challenges them to push the limits of their physical capabilities. She works with her players on ways to transcend the 'trick' and give the circus element a credible place in the dramaturgy of the performance. A 'trick' never stands alone, but is an indispensable element that carries meaning.

*"Acrobatics is the dramatic vehicle in my performances, a physical storytelling form that touches people directly in the heart. My style is based on the fact that the performer's action is not only performed to perform the trick to perfection, but serves as a narrative means to show the humanity behind the action and is therefore connected to the duality that we all face and recognize." (Laura van Hal)*

Just like in dance, in the functional circus the story is told by setting bodies in motion. Laura uses the tension between the physical possibilities and (apparent) impossibilities of the human body, which is always in conflict with the forces of nature. She challenges her players to repeat or sequence movements that demand the utmost from them. This struggle contains the tragedy of the circus, in which she sees a metaphor for the challenges we all face in life.

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## ABOUT THE CAST

Based in Toulouse, France, this acrobatics trio consists of three acrobats: **Bérénice Moschietto** (flyer), **Romain Burnier** (base) and **Max Spuhler** (flyer/middle base).

**Max Spuhler** (1997) is the oldest of the trio. Born to actor parents, he grew up in Marseille in the south of France. After a bachelor's degree in sports sciences, he changed course and pursued a circus career. To do this he went to the Amiens Circus School to learn acrobatics, tumbling and teeterboard and has since worked in shows such as *"Le Carnaval Barok"* by *"Le Poème Harmonique"* or *"La Traversée"* by *"Cie 4 Parallèles"*.

**Romain Burnier** (1999) has a circus background. Born to circus performer parents, he toured from an early age and took up circus as soon as he could walk. After completing high school, he attended the circus school in Montpellier in the south of France, where he trained in tumbling, and then the circus school of Amiens to learn acrobatics and teeterboard. There he met Max and they began working together in an acrobatics collective and as a duo in teeterboard and hand-to-hand. They worked together on *"La Traversée"* and in a stunt and acrobatics show in *"Le Parc Astérix"*.

**Bérénice Moschietto** (2003) is the youngest of the trio. She grew up in Châlons-en-Champagne in the Champagne region of France, where she took up artistic gymnastics and circus. After graduating from high school, she attended the Amiens Circus School, where she learned acrobatics and tumbling and trained to become a flyer. There she met Max and Romain and in 2023 they decided to form an acrobatics trio.

Trained in acrobatics by **Maxim Pervakov** since attending the Circus School of Amiens, they participated together in the 2024 Olympic closing ceremony show *"Records"*.



From left to right: Bérénice | Max | Romain

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# CREDITS LEF!

Concept & direction:	Laura van Hal
Acrobats:	Max Spuhler, Romain Burnier and Bérénice Moschietto
Dramaturgy:	Martine van Ditshuyzen
Dramaturgical advice (2018):	Job Raaijmakers
Sound design:	Nineyards Audio
Production:	Nikki Kracht
PR&Marketing	Elselien Leemhuis
Bookings & Communication:	Simone Lensink



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# CONTACT, QUESTIONS, PR & BOOKINGS

## TOUR PERIOD

April to November 2025

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SHOW

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# WEBSITE, SOCIALS & NEWSLETTER

## WEBSITE

[www.wirwarproducties.nl](http://www.wirwarproducties.nl)

## SOCIALS

[Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)

## NIEUWSBRIEF

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