

# EPHEMERIDE : A place for Poetry

*"Poetry is eternal graffiti written in the heart of everyone." Lawrence Ferlinghetti*

*"You will never be alone with a poet in your pocket."*

*John Adams*



Since the Factory opened in 1993, the company Ephéméride has shown its appetite for poetry both through inviting poets such as Henri Pichette to come and perform, and through devoting evenings to the 'classics' such as Baudelaire, Rimbaud and Apollinaire.

In 2004 Eure's General Council entrusted them with the mission of organizing the poetry festival 'Printemps des Poètes' for the region. Thus began a huge amount of work raising awareness of poetry through a wide variety of methods in high schools, libraries, public areas and small town village halls.

On this occasion nearly 50 poets were invited along including big names such as Jean-Pierre Verheggen, Jean-Pierre Siméon, Jaques Darras, Jacques Jouet, Jean-Michel Maulpoix, David Dumortier and Marc Delouze. Several editors were also asked to participate.

From 2008, the company started hosting residential poets, notably, Sheymus Dagtekin, Claude Ber and Françoise Ascal. It was also in 2008 that the company launched an annual recital focusing on the work of a chosen poet. This gave light to Jaque Prevert's 'Je dis tu à tous ceux que j'aime,' Aragon's 'Elsa valse' Authur Rimbaud's 'Je quitte l'Europe' Raymond Queneau's 'Queneau? Que si!' and most recently François Villon's 'Testament d'un voyou'.

## COMPANY EPHEMERIDE ► POETRY INTERVENTIONS



**Poetry Intervention Teams (PIT)** consist of two actor-poets; word, story and emotion peddlers who burst unexpectedly into classrooms, lecture halls and offices. Their short summaries, left hanging in midair, enable the discovery of classic modern poems. Their visit is only brief before they vanish in an equally impromptu manner, leaving the words and images to resonate... In this way one exposes the younger generation and reawakens the appetite of the older to the art of poetry.

These **"Surprise" Interventions** are planned in advance in collaboration with the teaching body, the local community or the company in each location, leaving the surprise just for the students, the public or employees. The interventions last from three (in offices) to ten minutes (in classrooms), allowing the two actors to cover an entire community or a school in the same day. Since its founding in 2004, the Poetry Patrol has managed to reach more than 100 000 high school students in the Eure region.

**Cost: 530€/day of PIT + 0.40€ per km distance from Val de Reuil (allow for lunch if necessary)**

## THE GANGS



**The gangs** consist of 3 actors either on foot, bike or under an umbrella. They meander from place to place and town to town in their slow and strange gait, breathing their poetry into the curious ears of the astonished passers-by.

Last year, following the whisperers, who murmured their poems through long pipes, the parapoets, who recited their poems under their umbrella, and the cyclopoets who handed out poems written as letters to the public, the gangs gave birth to poem fishers; at the end of their rod is a poem which they then recite to those who catch it...a playful way to share poetry.

**Street interventions:** these "spectacular" interventions are addressed to the entire population, civil servants, shopkeepers and passers-by alike. They are a small poetic parenthesis that floats above the sometimes hectic lives of the inhabitants.

The three actors perform in the morning or afternoon in two 1 ½ hour shifts. In very large or particularly crowded areas bringing together several gangs at the same time proves particularly interesting.

**Cost: 750€ per gang for 2 x 1 ½ h intervention + 0.40€ per km distance from Val de Reuil**

## THE CoPs



**À LA CARTE POEMS (CoPs)** : An actor equipped with a suitcase goes to meet the general public (in an association, at their home, in a library...) and makes an innovative presentation of a small collection of authors, both classical and modern, in keeping with the theme of 'Un Printemps des Poètes.' The listeners are left to choose the books for themselves from those in the suitcase. Once two works are chosen, the actor then launches into a reading of them. Two different programs are proposed as suitable for their audience: one for adults and the other for children.

**PERFORMED READINGS** : these readings are as much an occasion for remembrance as they are for discovery. They are a clearly a moment to share and transmit a taste for poetry books that emerge from library aisles decidedly too little. The chosen books are then donated to the library, association or inhabitant that received the reading enabling the texts to live on and fulfill their potential. These interventions can take place either in the morning or evening (during afternoon tea, cocktail hour, or an evening event.) They last an hour and include a presentation about the authors, the choosing of the books and the reading of extracts from two of them.

**Cost: 350€ (including the actor and books) + 0.40€ per km distance from Val de Reuil**

## STILL BREATHING POETS



(JULIEN MARCLAND, DURING A READING OF HIS WORK)

One of our favourite moments: an encounter with a poet who is still breathing! Since 2004 more than fifty poets have participated; guiding us with greater and lesser skill (clumsiness proves just as touching) through the magic of their work. From the most seasoned such as Jean-Michel Maulpoux or Claude Ber, for example, to the most impressionable such as Valérie Rouzeau, Stéphane Bataillon or Norman Warnberg, it is almost always a charming moment that surprises and enthuses through the discovery of an author voicing his own words.

For around an hour, and generally in a library, the poets, accompanied by an actor, read their texts either alone or in a pair. Then the discussion is open, often informally; each individual reacting with their own sensitivity and story and always having many questions to ask and reflections to share. The poets, who sometimes when producing their art maintain a very solitary lifestyle, generally take a lot of pleasure in being directly confronted with the public's reaction.

**Cost: 530€ per event (lasting on average an hour, which can go on depending on the exchanges) + transport depending on where the poet is travelling from.**

## POCKET RECITALS



Patrick Verschueren, artistic director of Fabrique Ephéméride and Evelyne Boulbar, the pianist and singer, pare down today's and yesterday's poetic texts putting them to music and interpreting them for everyone's enjoyment. **The recitals** take place in small rooms without any equipment and, whether it be about Quenau, Aragon or Rimbaud, the ever growing public rush to listen to the original compositions of these two iconoclastic interpreters.

**Who's turn will it be in 2014?** Hugo? Appolinaire ou Vian? And why not a female poet? The answer to this question is not far off. Whatever state it be in, a new recital is coming next March to enrich the repertoire of pocket recitals.

**Cost: 850€ for a recital lasting around an hour + 0.40€ per km distance from Val de Reuil. The team arrive with equipment (instillation time: 1h, disassembly: ½ h)**

## POET CAFÉS



Poet Cafés are constructed in the convivial form of a cabaret. The spectators are welcomed in to music and seated around small tables. They are served a drink accompanied by a little poem and the evening commences. It starts with everyone bursting into song followed by the first section nicknamed “we know our classics”, a sort of general revision of the commonly learnt or studied poems at school. Then, after a musical interlude, the floor is handed to the guest poet who takes us with him into the heart of his universe. Next comes a short musical interlude generally accompanied with a mulled wine allowing the poet to catch his breath. Then a third part commences with the poet’s, actor’s and musician’s favourite poems and is brought to an end with a last well-known song, performed en masse by the public and the actors. Notably this last part is also a time for free expression, anybody who has a poem to share is welcome in this round table of words.

**Cost: 2500€ for an evening lasting around 2 ½ hours with 3 actors, a musician, a poet, a cabaret ring-leader and a studard. The necessary material (sound, lighting, curtains...) outside of this the tables and chairs are supplied by the company (envisage dinner for 7 people).**

**Cost includes an afternoon gang intervention in the community’s streets as well as a meeting with the poet in a library or school group depending on demand.**

## ➤ SURROUNDED BY POETRY



### WRITING RESIDENCES :

With the help of CNL (Centre National du Livre) and targeted for poets who wish to get out into the countryside in order to write a new collection, writing residences are also an occasion for artistic introductions and activities in the area (the next poet in residence at the Factory will be Jean-Louis Ascal).

### CORRESPONDENCES

Correspondences are a possible add-on to the PITs or symposiums with a poet, an opportunity for an epistolary exchange between a class or a writing workshop and a poet. The outcome of this exchange is obviously the symposium but often afterwards the desire for other epistolary exchanges is expressed.

### COURSES

- **Performative Reading course.** Through breathing, diction and address techniques this course is about giving the reader the confidence to clearly express a text to listeners. This training takes place over two days and is led by Patrick Verschueren, the director of Ephéméride company.
- **Contemporary Poetry discovery course.** This course aims to familiarize its participants with today's poetic works through a presentation of 10 contemporary poets alongside an analysis of their style and an encounter with a poet. This all takes place over 2 days and is led by Gersende Michel, Patrick Verschueren's artistic director.





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