

## Human Time Tree Time

a site-specific experience between  
performance and installation

*The performance takes people into the woods to explore the relationship between humans and wood and all imaginable ways of balancing. Surrounded by nature, people will experience a performance next to falling trees and balancing humans or – sometimes – next to falling humans and balancing trees.*

by Josef Stiller and Julian Vogel / KLUB GIRKO

### some facts:

Audience capacity:	max. 150 persons (depending on site)
Duration:	35min (+ walk)
team on tour:	2 performer + 1 technician
Minimum age:	6 years
Shows per day:	2
Site:	ca. 8 x 8 m (plus space for audience), ca 5 -15min walk to site



photography: Hans-Jürgen Schalski and Nichon Glerum

## The performance

*How can we balance a tree? Or how can we balance on a tree? Or how can we balance on a balancing tree?*

Exploring these questions, the two performers investigate balancing of objects and bodies and their state of equilibrium. In a natural surrounding the balance as a circus technique becomes a metaphor that reminds us of the relationship between humans and nature, where - although depending on each other - the balance is in danger. The performance takes place outside, in a forest, in a forest-like environment or in a park with trees. It's supposed to be like an "excursion" into the woods. Therefore, the audience gathers at a meeting point and walks to the performance. To the left and to the right, some balancing structures appear from time to time. Thus, the attention is already drawn to the irregulars of the surrounding. Using trees and branches found on site, various scenes are created, searching for the equilibrium state and facing the different aspects of gravity, which make balancing possible and impossible. In this co-relation between bodies and timbers, the performers also become part of these changing installations and of this game with gravity as balancing influences the relationship of the two performers – and vice versa.

Human Times Tree Times is more than just a circus performance, as it opens to become an exhibition space and art installation in nature including a full tree with roots and the performers functioning as contra-weights.







## Idea and background

Balancing objects and the search for an equilibrium state is the base and focus of this creation. Within this research we define three particular aspects of balance: First, balancing an object on the body, second, balancing the body on an object and third, balancing an object on an object. Finally, these aspects intertwine with each other. After a first series of research with different materials, we started to work with woods and branches of different lengths and weights, outside the stage, in the forests. These were the initial moments for the creation of Human Time Tree Time. Working with randomly found branches and trunks, all with different shapes brought a new dimension to the work. Additionally, the state of equilibrium involves trial and error. Reaching equilibrium and failing to find it, as well as accepting disequilibrium, are part of the process. In this natural surrounding with all its varieties from very old to very young trees, trunks, big and small branches, we find an inspiring setting full of possibilities and challenges about the fragile equilibrium between humankind and nature.

Two people balancing in and with nature concisely speak about the relationship between humans and nature which is a relationship of dependence. On the one hand, the dependence of humans on nature, since without it no life would be possible. On the other hand, however, nature is suffering the imbalance caused by humans – and it is on us humans to act.

We create a special experience for the audience that reminds them of the fragility of this relationship. We all know that this relationship is in danger and that trees and plants play a key role in maintaining our climate and our planet. Humans and plants seem to be out of balance, even though one is dependent on the other. Symbolically, this performance shows how much humankind has become dependent on nature since it has influenced it so strongly.

# Team

## Josef Stiller

### *Author - Performer*

Josef Stiller holds a BA degree from the Academy for Circus and Performance Art (ACaPA), Tilburg (NL) 2019. He did his first steps becoming a professional circus artist at “Die Etage – Schule für die darstellenden Künste” in Berlin (2014-15). Trained as a juggler Josef is applying his techniques on different objects, depending on the project. At the moment Balance is the center for most of his research. Besides the work in KLUB GIRKO he is involved in several artistic projects (e.g. CIE Trottoir). Josef is one of the founders/artistic directors of KLUB GIRKO. He is author of the piece Human Time Tree Time and continues to be performer in it. Josef Stiller is currently based in Jena/DE.

## Crispin Bade

### *Performer*

Crispin Bade holds a BA degree from the Academy for circus and Performance Art (ACaPA), Tilburg (NL) 2019. In 2016 he founded together with Sophia Herzog and Ali Clarke the KNOT collective. Since 2019, Crispin has been performing rope duet “Sometimes it’s not your fault” with Panama Pictures. The work across different disciplines and with different artists offers him the continuous renewal, deconstruction and development of his artistic vision and aesthetics. Since 2021 Crispin works as a performer at KLUB GIRKO with the piece Human Time Tree Time. Crispin Bade is currently based in Hamburg/DE

## Moritz Grenz

### *installations / technical Support*

Moritz Grenz holds a BA degree from the Academy for Circus and Performance Art (ACaPA), Tilburg (NL) 2018. His main discipline is the tight wire, which he combines with his passion for rap and sound. In this combination of movement and text, his performances often deal with socially relevant topics. Moritz interests are diverse, which is also reflected in the number of diverse projects. Moritz has been working with KLUB GIRKO since 2019. Since 2021 he is one of the artistic directors of KLUB GIRKO. In the piece Human Time Tree Time Moritz is in charge of the installations on the pathway, technical support for the preparation of the performance venue and is sound engineer during the performance. Moritz currently lives in Berlin/DE.

## Julian Vogel

### *Author*

Julian Vogel holds a BA degree from the Academy for Circus and Performance Art (ACaPA), Tilburg (NL) 2019. Before attending ACaPA, he studied Psychology and Art History at the University of Bern (CH). In his solo work Julian is researching the deconstruction and reconstruction of the diabolo, where he uses ceramic as a working material, which makes these objects different and valuable but fragile. Julian is one of the founders of KLU GIRKO. In 2020, Julian decided to leave KLUB GIRKO to concentrate on his solo works.





## Credits

**Authors:** Josef Stiller, Julian Vogel  
**Performer:** Crispin Bade, Josef Stiller  
**Technician:** Moritz Grenz  
**Sound:** Julian Vogel, Josef Stiller  
**Production:** Klub Girko / Stiller-Grenz GbR  
**Management:** Ute Classen

### Thanks to:

Jan Klompen - Limburg Festival  
Wendy Moonen - Festival Oerol  
Paul van der Waterlaat - Swermers

## Video Material

### TRAILER:

<https://vimeo.com/357404574?share=copy>

### FULL:

<https://vimeo.com/865726849/cb6679ee91?share=copy>

### DOCUMENTATION (English subtitles):

<https://vimeo.com/865606764?share=copy>

### DOCUMENTATION (French subtitles):

<https://vimeo.com/862468411?share=copy>



# Touring Calendar

[www.klubgirko.com/kalender](http://www.klubgirko.com/kalender)

## 2023

**Theater op de Markt - Pelt BE**

October 29/30

**Festival International des Arts de Bordeaux Métropole FR**

October 3/4/7/8

**Cirkusisoldalen - Bornholm DK**

May 27/28

## 2022

**zwischentöne - Isny DE**

September 25.

**Theatersommer - Idar-Oberstein DE**

August 27/ 28.

**Festival Oerol - Terschelling NL**

June 10-19.

## 2021

**BILDSTÖRUNG - Straßentheaterfestival Detmold DE**

August 20/21/22

**Festival Second Life - Societaetstheater Dresden DE**

July 9/10/11

## 2016-19 / performing during creation

**Limburg Festival NL**

Aug 2019

**Beeld & Tuin - Duizel NL (Research)**

May 2017

**Bouwjaar´ 84 - Tilburg NL (Research)**

Nov 2016

## KLUB GIRKO

is a collective that searches for new and contemporary ways, to work with circus disciplines and various materials, as well as relating circus arts to dance, theatre, music and fine arts. They are driven by the desire to keep things moving and not to stay on a certain comfort zone. Therefore KLUB GIRKO regards themselves as a container for artistic exploration, collaborations and creations beyond the limits of genre and art form. Organized as a collective each project includes different members and various collaborations with external parties. Founded in the Netherlands by Josef Stiller and Julian Vogel in 2017, KLUB GIRKO is based in Germany since 2021 and directed by Josef Stiller and Moritz Grenz.

## Creations

### **2024 PULK - a performance in urban space**

With PULK KLUB GIRKO wants to question the position of public and performer. Bringing the audience into a new situation in which they act independently or as a PULK (crowd).

### **2020 Responsive Round - an interactive Circus Performance**

In an intimate circle the performer is moving with falling or not falling bamboo sticks. In a simple and smart way, the performer is playing with natural reactions of the audience to manipulate not only the bamboo sticks, but focus and attention of the audience.

### **2019 Human Time Tree Time - a site specific Circus Performance**

### **2018 122 x 244 – and a lot of little pieces - the debut piece of KLUB GIRKO**







# KLUB GIRKO

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

## Contact

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