

so

IS IT HERE ?

by  
Clémentine Baert

# PROJECT

02 / so...

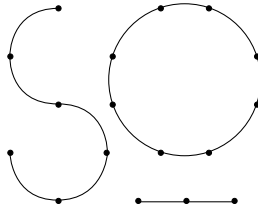
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It's a project about the absence of a loved one and the abyss opening in the person left behind.

The greater the absence, the bigger the room for an overwhelming imagination in the person left behind.

Here, it's a monologue from a woman who goes in search of a man and who investigates what he said before disappearing. He had woven the story of an uncommon, trepidatious, heroic life, about which she never stopped dreaming.

Her journey begins at a Cemetery in Paris, travels to the United States and then all over the world.

This inquiry into the imaginary steps of the absent man transforms into an internal inquiry that allows her to accept her life, in all its contradictions.

This project questions Reality and investigates what separates the truth from the fiction, by playing on the different perceptions of the audience using light and sound.

This monologue is an interrogation on identity. It is a right of passage journey; a wandering that allows this woman to accept who she is.

# SOUND, SPACE & LIGHT

The project revolves around the immobility of the performer and the movement of the scenography, light and sound, which orbit around her.

The stage is empty. The light creates an optical illusion by playing on the retinal persistence of the audience to keep them from clearly assessing the real distance that separates them from the performer.

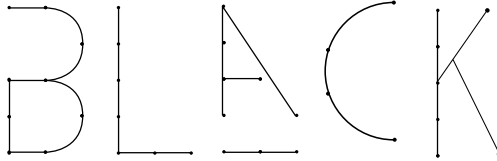
We are going to work on the contrast between blinding light and absolute darkness in order to mark the weightlessness and gravity.

The soundscape allows to shift the action, to reinforce or decrease it, to disconnect the sound from the image or movement associated with it, to vibrate the bass, create echoes, sonic perturbations that correspond with the interior evolution of this woman.

Finally, the sonic work is a direct link with the woman's voice, particularly when the speech transforms into song. The singing is speech slowed down, everything she can't say, she will be able to sing.

The vocal research relies on the ability of the human voice to reach extreme sounds, from the lowest to the highest. For example, according to some theories, the only thing that can escape a black hole is the infra-bass: how can the voice reproduce this; is it possible?

# ASTROPHYSICS AND BLACK HOLES



Black holes can only be detected indirectly, thanks to the movement of dust particles gravitating around them. We cannot actually see them. This is a fascinating concept, which we decided to use as a metaphor to our disappeared man. Like a black hole, he shines by his absence.

Other parallels between the absence of this man and concepts in physics and astrophysics are included in our show. Relativity is used as a correspondent to Reality being dependent on the observant. What may be true for one may be fiction for another. Similarly, we draw a parallel between attraction and repulsion, which drive movements in Space, and desire, which makes us move emotionally and physically in real life or onstage.

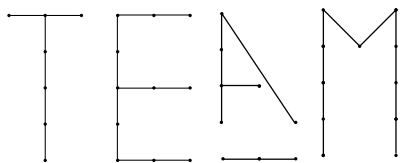
These parallels are translated on stage on one side by the scenography, light and sound, and on the other by the work on speech.





«Like that ! It could have  
started just like that...»





## CLÉMENTINE BAERT

*Conception & Performer*

After studying at L'E.R.A.C. (Ecole régionale d'acteurs de Cannes), Clémentine Baert has performed under the direction of, among others, Pascal Rambert, Georges Lavaudant, Bernard Sobel, Christophe Fiat and Oriza Hirata. Her regular collaboration (1998-2002) with Robert Wilson at the Watermill Center in New York, made her a cosmopolitan and singular artist.

In 2004, she could be seen in Pascal Rambert's *Paradis*, at the Théâtre National de la Colline in Paris, which marked the debut of their long-term artistic collaboration. She performed in many of Rambert's productions, including *After/Before*, *Pan !*, *Mon fantôme*, *Toute la vie*, and *A (micro) history of world economics, danced*, which have been presented in France and abroad.

In film, she has worked with Jean-Charles Fitoussi, Emmanuel Mouret, Siegfried Alnoy and more recently, with Olivier Dahan, Philippe Lioret, Whit Stillman and Wim Wenders.

In 2006, she created *ECHO*, a contemporary rock opera based on Ovid's story of Echo in *The Metamorphoses*. This production was performed in many places in France. In March 2015, she presented her new solo work *So, is it there?* at the Théâtre de Vanves during the festival *Artdanthé*, which will be shown at the T2G Centre Dra-

matique National of Gennevilliers and at TDB Centre Dramatique National of Dijon in 2016.

She will also present a show for young audience *One morning* at the T2G Centre Dramatique National of Gennevilliers in November 2016. This show was created at the Théâtre de Vanves in January 2016.



## ALEXANDRE MEYER

*Music & Sound*

Alexandre Meyer is a composer and a performer (guitar).

Member of various groups since 1982:

Loupideloupe, the Three 8, Sentimental Three 8.

Working with Marc Citti, Fred Costa, Frédéric Minière, Xavier Garcia, Heiner Goebbels, directors Clémentine Baert, Maurice Benichou, Patrick Bouchain, Robert Cantarella, Véronique Caye, Jean-Paul Delore, Michael Deutsch, Nasser Djemaï, Daniel Janneteau, Minyana Philippe Pascal Rambert, Jacques Vincey, Marie-Christine Soma; Odile Duboc choreographers, Fabrice Lambert, Mathilde Monnier, Julie Nioche Rachid Ouramdane; sculptor Daniel Buren; storyteller Muriel Bloch; for France-Culture with Blandine Masson and Jacques Taroni.

## PHILIPPE GLADIEUX

*Lighting Designer*

Phillipe Gladieux is a lighting designer. He has worked among others with Catherine & Carlotta Sagna, Fabrice Lambert whose show *Never enough* was presented at the 2015 Avignon Festival and (*Imposture*, *Nervures*, *Solaire*), with Olga de Soto (*Dehors*), Yves-Noël Genod (*Chic by accident*, *I take care of you personally*, *A little bit of Zelda*, *1er Avril*), Leno Kaklea et Lucinda Childs (*Two L.*), François Chaignaud (*Dumy moi*, *How slow the wind*) and with Robert Cantarella (*Faust*).

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# CONTACT PRODUCTION

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