



# HIKIKOMORI – THE SHELTER

Joris Mathieu with Haut et Court collective

**FOR ALL AGE GROUPS, 8 AND ABOVE**

RUNNING TIME: 55 MINUTES

**Creation 2016**



THÉÂTRE  
NOUVELLE  
GÉNÉRATION  
—  
CENTRE DRAMATIQUE  
NATIONAL - LYON



**PRESENTATION PACK**

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# HIKIKOMORI – THE SHELTER

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**FOR ALL AGE GROUPS, 8 AND ABOVE | RUNNING TIME: 55 MINUTES**

**CAPACITY: 250 SEATS**

## **CREATION 2016**

**Written and directed by:** Joris Mathieu with Haut et Court art collective

**English translation:** Catherine Hargreaves

**Cast:** Philippe Chareyron, Vincent Hermano, Marion Talotti

**Set designer:** Nicolas Boudier, Joris Mathieu

**Composer:** Nicolas Thévenet

**Lighting:** Nicolas Boudier

**Video:** Loïc Bontems, Siegfried Marque

**Stage manager:** Didier Hirth

**Blog, outreach:** Maud Peyrache

**English voices:** Samuel Exley, Keith Farquhar, Catherine Hargreaves

**With the participation of:** Lelio Wajnsztein

**Scene shop:** Unpointrois

**Production/touring:** Claire Lonchamp-Fine

**International touring:** Bénédicte Goinard (Bureau Formart)

**Production:** Théâtre Nouvelle Génération - Centre dramatique national de Lyon

**Coproduction:** Le Grand R - Scène Nationale de La Roche-sur-Yon

**With the support of:** Noûs, a set of several venues, partners of the three-yearly artistic events of the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération - Centre dramatique national/Lyon, including L'Espace Jean Legendre - Théâtre de Compiègne - Scène Nationale de l'Oise, Le Merlan - Scène Nationale de Marseille, Le T-U/Nantes and Le Lieu Unique - Scène Nationale de Nantes.

**This piece was premiered** in January 2016 at Théâtre Nouvelle Génération - Centre dramatique national de Lyon, then at Le Monfort Théâtre in Paris, in partnership with the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, as part of their youth&culture program.

**With the support of** Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and of the Institut français du Royaume-Uni as part of its program En Scène! In collaboration with Bureau Formart.



The Haut et Court art collective is associated to the Grand R - Scène nationale de la Roche-sur-Yon.

**Copyright:** Nicolas Boudier

# PRESENTATION

*Hikikomori – The shelter* is a futuristic story, all ages appropriate, structured around an original sound design, which offers for the same show, three different story lines.

Nils is a young boy going through rough times at school as well as in his relationships with others and who finds it hard to adapt to society. From one day to another, Nils decides to hang over in his room and not to leave anymore... What happened to Nils? Why did he suddenly dash off into his room? From now on, it's not only one but three storylines building up one single show. Three different points of view, three levels of reality, echoing one another, leading towards the same story. The audience will be able to experience the adventure through the mother, father or child's eyes.

Hikikomori literally means "withdrawal from others" in Japanese, and is a social psychopathology.

This symptom defines individuals (mostly teenagers), struggling to comprehend their environment and unable to deal with social pressure.

Therefore, they decide to isolate themselves, often in their bedrooms at their parents' place, restricting their outings to strict basic necessities, and hiding their conditions from their loved ones. Based on this very phenomenon, Joris Mathieu and the Haut et Court collective created a fiction, in the form of a subjective adventure, offering several gateways to the narrative. Through headphones, each viewer will be offered, depending on his age group, a radically different approach to the performance.

The group (adults and children together) will then be able to discuss their different experiences at the end of the show. The children's words will be totally liberated, as their parents will be unable to speak for them.

This fascinating narrative experience reminds us that there are as many ways of comprehending existence as being in the world.



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# 1 SHOW: 3 VERSIONS



## **VERSION 1 (FROM 8 YEARS OLD)**

It is a real philosophical and contemporary tale.

We follow a child seeking shelter, which would allow him to protect himself from the outside world's attacks. What are the huts of our time? What intimate and secret spaces are left for our children to blossom and let their imagination run wild? Through the mother's voice, this version of the show avoids the phobic dimension, and gives room for a poetic and interior world to come through.

## **VERSION 2 (FROM 11 YEARS OLD)**

This is Nils' version and it enlightens the same story through the filter of the parent-child relationship.

Which parent hasn't dreamt of getting into his child's head? What if we could keep a virtual umbilical cord going, in order to make sure everything is fine for our kid, as he makes his first steps into the world as a loner? What happens when a security-driven technology becomes a monitoring tool, which enables intrusion and violation of privacy? What other way is left on our way to emancipation, apart from voluntary confinement?

## **VERSION 3 (15 AND OVER)**

This is the father's version. As he plugs in his son's helmet, Nils' father discovers in details his Hikikomori life. Being one of the last practising craftsmen, refractory to technology and all these modern ways of living, he is violently struck with what he discovers. However, doubts quickly settle in, like a hint of conscience. From that point on, he can no longer be sure whether his life is real or not, if he truly is a craftsman and his wife, truly his. By the way, does Nils exist at all?

# THE ARTISTIC TEAM



## JORIS MATHIEU

### Stage director

After getting a Master in Theatre Studies, Joris Mathieu founded in 1998 the Haut et Court company with a few friends in Lyon. As passionate about literature as about visual arts, Joris Mathieu focuses on adapting novels or short stories, which gives him the opportunity to fully express himself visually on stage.

Fairly quickly, the company's work gets noticed on a regional scale and by theatre institutions. They become associate artists in Polaris in Corbas then at the Théâtre de Vénissieux. Joris Mathieu questions theatre involvement in the city and invents different projects to explore and invest the local territories.

Over the years, Haut et Court artistic identity gets stronger and clearer: Joris Mathieu puts together ambitious projects, pushing the envelope poetry and literature wise, as well as in his technological innovation use. With "Des Anges mineurs" and "Le Bardo", Joris Mathieu starts collaborating with the author Antoine Volodine, a prominent figure in French contemporary writing. These clearly theatrical shows combine images, literature, optical illusions, music, new media, as well as traditional machinery, in a totally interlocked way. This atypical stage writing is directed at the spectator's every sense.

The company also develops an interest towards younger audiences, by adapting short stories.

Since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, he is the director of the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération – Centre Dramatique National de Lyon.

The artistic built for the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération-CDN de Lyon totally echoes the one he started back in 1998 with the Haut et Court company, looking at creation and poetic action through an intergenerational lens.

Finding new ways into art for each and every generation, inventing new and innovative devices to reach out to audiences and in particular, the younger ones: this is the very heart of our project.

The presence of the Haut et Court within the CDN is crucial. Stage innovation, anticipation, mixing technology and sciences with imagination, these are the core and powerful forces driving our creation process.

## PREVIOUS WORKS

- **2016** *Hikikomori – The shelter* by Joris Mathieu with Haut et Court art collective
- **2013** *Un jour je vous raconterai une autre aventure extraordinaire...* *Cosmos* adapted from Witold Gombrowicz novel
- **2011** *Urbik/Orbik* based on Lorris Murail, inspired by the life and works of Philip K. Dick
- **2011** *La Sphère d'Or* based on Erle Cox and Barjavel *Sarapis* based on Philip K. Dick
- **2010** *Le Bardo* written in collaboration with Antoine Volodine
- **2006-2010** *Des anges mineurs* by Antoine Volodine
- **2005** *Microclimats* from Maïakovski, Cortazar and Botho Strauss
- **2004** *Notices, manuels techniques et modes d'emploi* from Laurent Gautier
- **2003** *Matin brun* (youth theatre) based on Franck Pavloff
- **2003** *Préambule à une déclaration mondiale de guerre à l'ordre* from Alain Turgeon
- **2002** *Gorges déployées* collective writing
- **2002** *Le palais des claques* (youth theatre) based on Pascal Brückner
- **2001** *pH neutre* by Joris Mathieu
- **1999** *La méthode albanaise* from Lorris Murail
- **1998** *Kernok le pirate* (youth theatre) based Eugène Sue

# THE ARTISTIC TEAM

## **NICOLAS BOUDIER**

Set designer, lighting designer and photographer

After studying automation and robotics, he turned to performing arts in 1992. He's been working with the Haut et Court Company since the very beginning and has been taken part in the making of the shows as a set and lighting designer.

On top of his collaborations with the collective, he has also been designing sets and lightings for Lia Rodrigues, Yuval Pick, Shantala Shivalingappa, João Saldanha, Astrid Takche de Toledo, Pina Bausch, Ushio Amagatsu, Denis Plassard, Gilles Pastor, Olivier Meyrou, Stéphane Ricordel, Carole Lorang, the Talipot Theatre in Réunion, the Nordik Black Theatre in Oslo, Sylvie Mongin Algan, Christian Giriat, Savitry Nair, project Namasya directed by Shantala Shivalingappa, Enzo Cormann, Nathalie Royer, Philippe Pellen Baldini.

Recently he sat up optical, lighting and video devices in collaboration with Enki Bilal for the exhibition "Mécanhumanimal" at Musée des arts et métiers in Paris. He is also a photographer and creates performances and installations together with Astrid Takche de Toledo.

Within the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération he continues to work closely with Joris Mathieu to develop the staging research project of the national center's productions.

## **PHILIPPE CHAREYRON VINCENT HERMANO**

Actors

They have been performing on each and every single show since the start of the company Haut et Court in 1998. In the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération, they take part in development by educational outreach, readings and workshops. Philippe Chareyron has been working with Hans Peter Cloos, and Vincent Hermano has been working with Wladyslaw Znorko, among others.

## **MARION TALOTTI**

Actress

She has been performing on each and every single show since 16 years. Marion Talotti is also the mask designer for the shows. She has produced some for other artists as well, like Denis Plassard. At the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération, she continues her activity.

## **NICOLAS THÉVENET**

Sound designer

Nicolas Thévenet graduated from Lyon College of Music in acousmatic music (musique concrète). He composed each sound design of each performance of the Haut et Court company. He also collaborates with the Traction Avant Company, Jean Christophe Hembert, Jean Lambert-Wild and Nicolas Ramond, la hors de Company, le musée des confluences Lyon. In parallel with stage productions, he develops in the national dramatic center a work of audio fictions.

## **LOÏC BONTEMS**

Video manager and multimedia artist

Loïc Bontemps graduated from Saint-Étienne School of Fine Arts in 2004 and from the Studio National du Fresnoy in 2005/2006. He created several films and multimedia installations and his works have been showcased at the Festival Côté Court in Pantin in 2006, as well as part of "Dans la nuit, des images", exhibition at the Grand Palais, Paris, in 2008. Together with Florent Trochel, he was responsible for the technical development and live images of the multimedia performance "Red Crab in the landscape" in 2007. He has been a video manager for several performing arts shows since 2008, working for Joris Mathieu and the Haut et Court company, as well as Stéphane Ricordel at the Monfort Theatre.

Within the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération, he continues to use both film making and development skills for image creation and innovative technological devices.

## **SIEGFRIED MARQUE**

Videographer and photographer

After studying ethnology, he turned to video and directed his first short film.

In 2003 he became a free-lance photographer. He has been working for the Haut et Court Company since 2008 as a stage manager, videographer and photographer. Since 2015 he has integrated the creative team of the national dramatic center, to invent still and moving images..

# ON TOUR

## SEASON 2017 / 2018

- **20-24 February 2018**

Théâtre National Bretagne - CDN de Rennes

TUE 20 - 19:00

WEN 21 - 10:00, 18:00

THU 22 - 14:30, 19:00

FRI 23 - 14:30, 19:00

SAT 24 - 18:00

- **13-14 March 2018**

Le Granit, Scène nationale de Belfort

TUE 13 - 9:30, 14:00

WEN 14 - 9:30, 19:00

- **17-18 May 2018**

The Lowry, Manchester, Great-Britain

THU 17 - 19:00

FRI 18 - 13:30, 19:00

## SEASON 2016 / 2017

- **12-19 October 2016**

Théâtre Nouvelle Génération – Centre Dramatique National de Lyon

- **09-10 November 2016**

Festival Les Théâtrales Charles Dullin, Pôle culturel Alfortville

- **24- 27 November 2016**

Théâtre Am Stram Gram, Geneva (CH)

- **07-11 December 2016**

La Villette, Paris

- **05-06 January 2017**

Espaces Pluriels, Pau

- **12 January 2017**

Théâtre d'Aurillac

- **17-20 January 2017**

Théâtre de l'Union – CDN du Limousin, Limoges

- **24-27 January 2017**

Espace Malraux, Scène nationale Chambéry

- **02-03 February 2017**

Espace Lino Ventura, Garges-lès-Gonesse

- **07-10 February 2017**

Le Quai, CDN Angers

- **02-04 March 2017**

Théâtre de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Scène nationale

- **09 March 2017**

Le Préau, CDR de Basse-Normandie, Vire

## PREVIOUS DATES

- **08-12 January 2016**

Théâtre Nouvelle Génération – Centre Dramatique National de Lyon

- **19-30 January 2016**

Le Monfort Théâtre in Paris, in partnership with the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, as part of their youth&culture program

- **03-05 February 2016**

T.U Nantes

- **11-12 February 2016**

L'Arc - Scène nationale Le Creusot

- **22- 26 February 2016**

Le Grand R - Scène nationale La Roche-sur-Yon

- **02-05 March 2016**

Le Trident - Scène nationale Cherbourg-Octeville

- **09-11 March 2016**

L'Espace Jean Legendre – Théâtre de Compiègne

- **15-17 March 2016**

L'Hexagone - Scène nationale Arts Sciences, Meylan

- **30 March - 01 April 2016**

Le Merlan - Scène nationale, Marseille

- **05-08 April 2016**

La Comédie de Saint-Étienne - CDN Saint-Étienne

- **03- 04 May 2016**

Théâtre d'Arles

- **25- 27 May 2016**

Bonlieu - Scène nationale Annecy

# PRESS CLIPPING

## HIKIKOMORI IN THE PRESS

*“Joris Mathieu in the broadcast Ping Pong, France Culture Mathilde Serrell and Martin Quenehen”*

[To hear this program – 11 February 2016](#)

*“An exciting theatrical experience and global immersion in the imaginary.”*

[Françoise Sabatier-Morel - Télérama Sortir, 12/01/2016](#)

*“This innovative theater is at the frontiers of literature, visual arts, digital and holographic techniques. (...) it also demonstrates that the richness of our imaginations can compete with reality and that sometimes one may be tempted to take refuge there.”*

**Gil Chauveau - Charlie Hebdo, 20/01/2016**

**Press kit on request:**

[benedicte@bureau-formart.org](mailto:benedicte@bureau-formart.org)

# TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

## PERFORMING AREA

**Stage:** Ideal wall-to-wall width: 14m minimum

**Ideal depth:** 11m - 8m50 minimum depending on the venue

**Ideal height under pipes:** 7m50 minimum

**Prosc. arch:** minimum opening 11m80 minimum height 4m50

## TEAM ON TOUR

9 persons from Lyon

**Volume of freight:** The whole scenery is carried on a 96m<sup>3</sup> trailer or a 50m<sup>3</sup> carrier depending on access to the venue.

## STAGE MANAGEMENT

Nicolas Boudier [nboudier@free.fr](mailto:nboudier@free.fr) - +33 (0)6 08 97 07 84

**Technical rider on request.**



# FURTHER INFORMATION

## CONTACTS

**Production Théâtre Nouvelle Génération – CDN Lyon** : +33 (0)4 72 53 15 17

**Claire Lonchamp-Fine** : [claire.lonchamp-fine@tng-lyon.fr](mailto:claire.lonchamp-fine@tng-lyon.fr)

**International touring (Bureau Formart)** : +33 (0)9 70 46 78 18

**Bénédicte Goinard** : [benedicte@bureau-formart.org](mailto:benedicte@bureau-formart.org)

## WEBSITE

[www.tng-lyon.fr](http://www.tng-lyon.fr)

## VIDEO

**Watch the trailer:** <https://vimeo.com/181005441/ac98bcba50>

## DOWNLOAD

**Blog on rehearsals' process:** <http://hikikomorilerefuge.blogspot.fr/>

The Théâtre Nouvelle Génération - Centre dramatique national, is subsidied by Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, Ville de Lyon, Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Métropole Grand Lyon and Département du Rhône.







**THÉÂTRE  
NOUVELLE  
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Le Théâtre Nouvelle Génération - Centre dramatique national, est subventionné par le Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication, la Ville de Lyon, la Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, la Métropole Grand Lyon et le Département du Rhône.

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