



Aber-Dîn

*Zad Moulaka : music, conception and staging performance
with Red Note ensemble and the Percussions Claviers de Lyon*

Presentation

In 1859, Jules Verne left for Scotland with his friend Aristide Hignard and saw his first big journey, which he will relate in the "Voyage backwards to England and Scotland". The novel features two travelers: Jacques Lavaret, lover of history and literature, and Jonathan Savournon, composer. The book is full of humor! Various adventures lead them to Nantes and then to Bordeaux when their plan was to go north.

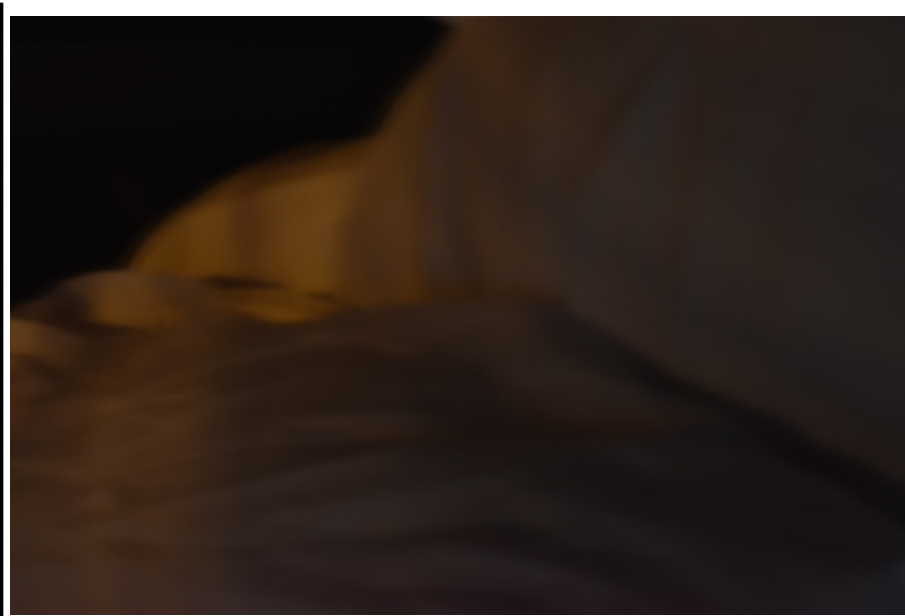
The book is the starting point of a free and whimsical musical adaptation, created by the French-Lebanese composer Zad Moulaka for two ensembles, the Red Note Ensemble (Scotland) and the Percussions Claviers de Lyon (France). We find a Lebanese composer, Jonathan Zadorno, convinced that Lebanon is the center of the earth (of the world!). His friend Gilles Lavouret, an art and science lover, passionate about Scotland, proposed to Zadorno to take a long journey to Aberdeen. Lavouret has just read an obscure scientific article on the history of population movements between the Middle East and the British Isles, which will finally prove that all the British come from Beirut.

After tough musical and scientific investigations, the two friends conclude nevertheless that several thousand years ago, the Scots emigrated to Lebanon, and not the other way around! Worse, the Lebanese language comes from a dialect still spoken today in the city of Aberdeen! Faced with this overwhelming observation, Jonathan sinks into despair and takes his friend Gilles with him. Both then dive into an unexplained delirium and, among other strange behaviors, begin to speak an Anglo-Aberdeen-Lebanese language, percussive and bizarre...

Note of Intent – Zad Moulaka

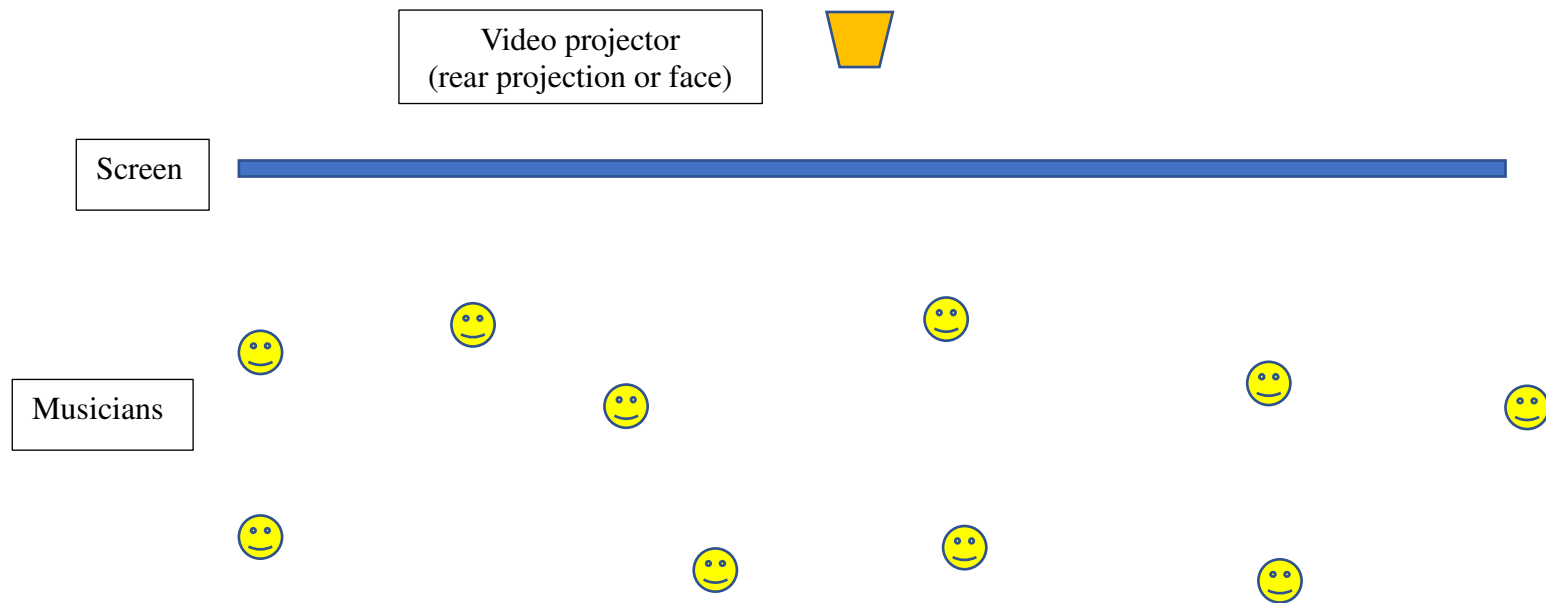
To tell this ironic and funny fiction, a large model will be built with fake mountains and fake lakes, rain with a shower head, a sun with an orange, a boat miniature and many other accessories, all filmed in a totally realistic but seeming very strange way for the viewer, that will have to feel that something very strange is happening with this trip.

The two sets personify each character : Red Note that of Zadorno and the PCL that of Gilles. They will accompany the story filled with music that is sometimes funny, sometimes deep, melancholic, rhythmic, onomatopoeic, hearing the wind, the water, the sirens of the boats, the sea, the birds ... hearing as well the musicians speaking and singing and being instrumentalists and actors at the same time: a delirious journey between story, images, instruments and percussions.



Scenographic Components

Between instrumental and vocal playing, 5 percussionists and 5 musicians on stage interact with a large screen and an electroacoustic setup. Each musician can move from one music stand to another depending on the progress of the 'journey'



Sketch of a synopsis - A journey in seven stages

I - Dreams

Jonathan Zadorno (in Beirut) dreams of traveling with Gilles Lavouret

At the same time

as Gilles Lavouret (in Lyon) dreams of a trip to Aberdeen with Jonathan Zadorno

The two find themselves in a dream blurry and almost abstract images

Miniature-Interlude

Incomprehensible words and images on medicine (molecular formulas, medical charabia...)

II - Quest of Origins

Big discussions about origin and identity: images from the streets of Beirut and Aberdeen ...

Miniature-Interlude (medical charabia)

III - Meeting

Jonathan and Gilles meet: preparations for the trip; on the screens you could see : suitcases, clothes, coffee machine, photo of the dog, teddy bear ...

Miniature-Interlude (medical charabia)

IV - Infernal ticket

A phone call to purchase two boat tickets and a fool voice server: say "yes", say "no", I did not understand, type 1 for the Mediterranean Sea, type 2 for the Red Sea etc ... (foolish labyrinth) - on the screen, letters and sentences are transformed into an electronic writing then into an archaic incomprehensible cuneiform

Miniature Interlude (medical charabia)

V - In the boat

Jonathan and Gilles are in their cabin: Close shots on objects, walls, their own faces... the camera goes up to the porthole, we discover the sea... strange...



VI - The departure

Beginning of the great journey

Meeting the dolphins, pirates, all kinds of strange creatures and a big whale...

The song of the whale

During this trip Jonathan will lose his scores in the water, a second encounter with the whale that have learned one of the melodies written by the composer!

The Storm

A great storm hits our travelers, the interaction, the images and the speeches seem more and more strange ...

The viewer is lost and no longer understands what is happening

VII - Delirium

We hear the phone ringing as it is in scene IV: say "yes", say "no", I did not understand, type 1 type 10 ... Someone asks for Jonathan and Gilles's room. The medical charabia is increased until it was discovered that since the beginning of the journey, our travelers had been in hospital beds. The medical team was wondering what to prescribe for them to get them back on their feet. Before their departure, they had been hit by a strange virus ... **the delirium virus.**