

Gandini Juggling: 4x4: Ephemeral Architectures **Press, Reviews and Copy**



Credit: Photography by Ash

THE COMPANY: Gandini Juggling

Formed in 1992 by world-renowned jugglers Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hokkala, Gandini Juggling continue to be at the vanguard of contemporary circus, reinventing and reinvigorating juggling for the 21st century. Gandini celebrates juggling in all its facets, exploring not just what juggling is, but what juggling can be.

Ferociously prolific, Gandini are constantly creating new work that ranges from edgy visual art experiments to family friendly entertainment; from narrative infused dance escapades to humorous shenanigans. An ever-evolving ensemble of virtuosic juggling performers, producing everything from elegant duets to 20-strong choral pieces.

THE SHOW: 4x4 (118 words)

Tracing pathways in space, 4 jugglers and 4 ballet dancers share a stage for the first time

4x4 is a celebration of where these paths meet.

This season sees the sensational Gandini Juggling returning to its love affair with pure patterns and mathematics with **4x4**. Following the international success of



Smashed, this new work takes us on fleeting journeys through time and space in a unique dialogue between jugglers and ballet dancers.

COLLABORATORS:

Directed by world renowned juggler Sean Gandini, choreographed by Royal Ballet dancer Ludovic Ondiviela, with original composition 'Suspended opus 69' by Nimrod Borenstein and performed live by exceptional young chamber ensemble Camerata Alma Viva. Incredible lighting design by Guy Hoare completes this sensational cross-art form experience.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

4x4 is a co-production between Gandini Juggling, National Centre for Circus Arts, Lighthouse, Poole and La Breche, Pôle national des Arts du Cirque de Basse-Normandie / Cherbourg-Octeville.

4x4 is supported by The Royal Ballet Studio Programme, Arts Council England, Agit Cirk, Shoreditch Town Hall and Jacksons Lane.

LOGOS: Where possible, please use the logos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/4x4%20EXTERNAL%202015/9.%20SUPPORTER%20LOGOS>

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Early Production Photos: Jane Hobson, edited by Paul Silver

Screen Grabs: Amelie Cohendet

Rehearsal Photos: Dan Pickard

REVIEWS:

Title: [4x4 review: Gandini turn juggling into a jaw- dropping game of chess.](#)

Publication & date: The Guardian, 14 January 2015

Author: Lynn Gardner

‘A SHOW OF ELEGANT, WISTFUL BEAUTY’

★★★★ The Guardian

4x4 turns all life into a dance; one that is physical, cerebral and very much aural.

There are times in this show directed by Sean Gandini and choreographed by Ludovic Ondiviela when it's hard to see where the limbs stop and the clubs begin, or where the arc of a ball becomes extended by the arm of a dancer. Sometimes the dancers cling to the jugglers, sometimes they seem like an extension of thought itself; at others they wheedle and needle.

This is a show of elegant, wistful beauty, in which the spatial becomes something you can almost reach out and touch. At times it feels like a game of chess. Like much of Gandini's work, it has a cool gaze but never a cold heart, while it obsessively and wittily looks for the meaning of life in the mathematical patterns of bodies and sound.

Title: [4 x 4 Ephemeral Architecture – Linbury Studio Theatre, Royal Opera House](#)

Publication & date: Everything Theatre, 16th January 2015

Author: Don Calogero

‘A PHENOMENAL DISPLAY’

★★★★ Everything Theatre

This show is not your ordinary set of street juggling. This is what you get when you fuse art forms so different that they shouldn't really rub elbows on stage together, whilst at the same time trying to explain order and perfection to mathematical rules. It all starts with the jugglers warming up their balls, rolling out the mathematical rules that will accompany the rest of the performance. A hypnotizing melody follows the steps of the ballet dancers, cheekily gaining positions from behind.

Soon we are transported to a dimension of architectural symmetry where everything seems to be related yet all remains singular. And as the ballet dancers become jugglers and the lights start dancing with the music, I just lean back and smile. What a pleasure for the senses. And the witty finale adds a bit of variety to an engaging but otherwise inevitably repetitive pattern.



GANDINI

Title: 4x4, Linbury Studio, London — review

Publication & date: Financial Times, 14th January 2015

Author: Louise Levene

A SPLENDID BLEND OF TALENTS IMBUED WITH BOTH ELEGANCE AND WIT'

★★★★ The Times

Nimrod Borenstein's commissioned score (played live by a quintet from the Camerata Alma Viva) was agile and atmospheric and Maria Grozova's no-nonsense costumes — jeans for the jugglers, natty leotards for the dancers — kept the focus on hands and bodies. Best of all was Guy Hoare's lighting, which not only sculpted and dramatised the bare stage but joined in the mathematical argument, patterning the floor with lines and chequerboards. Juggling involves a great deal more than hands and eyes and the Gandini foursome melded surprisingly well with the ballet-trained bodies, notably in the duet in which Sakari Männistö juggles with nerveless insouciance while supporting Kate Byrne with his free hand.

Title: [Gandini Juggling: 4X4 Ephemeral Architectures review](#)

Publication & date: The Stage, 15th January 2015

Author: Louise Levene

'A CLEVER, COOL AND WONDEROUS SHOW THAT GIVES DELIGHT'

★★★★ The Stage

As the eight performers weave intricate physical patterns via their respective skills, it is hard to tell where juggling ends and dancing begins. The four dancers two men, two woman perform in and around the four jugglers ditto, ducking and weaving as balls, clubs and rings fly around them. As they form groups, meshing like cogs in a living machine, before splitting apart like atoms, they accompany their activity with mantras, questions, squeaks and huffs or just plain nonsense. Backed by a string quintet, whose minimalist sound curls through the leaping bodies and flying balls, they evolve into a hybrid organism through a cross-infection of talents - the jugglers dance and the dancers juggle. There is a pleasing symmetry throughout. This is a clever, cool and wondrous show that gives delight and hurts not.

4x4 CREATIVE TEAM: SHORT BIOGRAPHIES:

ARTISTIC DIRECTORS:

Sean Gandini

As a child growing up in Havana, Sean was fascinated by Magic and Mathematics. In the 1980s, he was a regular performer in London's Covent Garden and toured with various theatre groups. Since then, Sean has spent the last 25 years researching and contributing to all aspects of juggling; he is a prolific creator and his work also extends to choreography and directing. With Gandini Juggling, Sean has performed in over 2,500 shows from art galleries to palaces; street corners to stadiums. He also regularly teaches in many of the world's leading Circus Schools.

Kati Ylä-Hokkala

Kati is one of her generation's iconic jugglers. Renowned as one of the leading innovators in dance/juggling, her ability to combine movement and extremely complex coordination is second to none. A former rhythmic gymnast, Kati's juggling has a unique calm precision which comes from 25 years of throwing whilst standing on one leg. In recent years she has co-directed many of the company's pieces.

CHOREOGRAPHER:

Ludovic Ondiviela

Ludovic is a First Artist with the Royal Ballet and has been given a very rare year of sabbatical to explore choreography due to his exemplary talent. Ludo has recently been commissioned by the Royal Ballet to create full-length work 'Cassandra' for The Linbury Studio. Ludo was integral to the first phases of '4x4' and he continues his role as choreographer to realise the production.

COMPOSER:

Nimrod Bornestein

Nimrod was recently made an Associate of the Royal Academy of Music, his compositions gaining a worldwide reputation. Nimrod's wide ranging catalogue includes vocal and orchestral music as well as solo instruments pieces and chamber music. His works are becoming part of the repertoire of many ensembles and orchestras. This will be the first time that Nimrod works with Gandini, composing for the string quartet played by Camerata Alma Viva .

MUSICANS:

Camerata Alma Viva

Charlotte Maclet, director of CAV, plays as co-leader of both the BBC Scottish Symphony and of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Charlotte leads emerging string orchestra, Camerata Alma Viva, from the violin. The group has developed its own sound, philosophy and identity having become one of the only UK based string ensemble of young musicians all in their first years of entering the profession.

'4x4' gives this young company their first opportunity to play within a theatrical context.

Quotes from the creative team about the process:

The 4x4 team are creating innovative work which enhances traditional audience experiences, providing further opportunities for cross-sector collaboration:

"There is an unexpected balance and beauty between the two art forms; the fact that they are archetypally considered in such different ways adds to the creative chemistry. After years of working in the contemporary world the Ballet world comes with a fascinating new set of tools, tools we can learn from."

Sean Gandini

By inviting Ludo (choreographer) and Nimrod (composer) into his artistic process, Sean is creating opportunities to teach, and learn from, other professionals:

"The most interesting part of the work so far is the place where the art forms seep into each other; the shadows one art form casts on the other."

Ludovic Ondiviela

"Considering music with the visual elements is new to me; it's an open invitation to innovation." **Nimrod Borenstein**

Follow these links for further information:

Gandini Juggling <http://gandinijuggling.com/>

Ludovic Ondiviela <http://www.roh.org.uk/people/ludovic-ondiviela>

Nimrod Borenstein <http://www.puskasinternational.com/artists/#/nimrod-borenstein/>

Camerata Alma Viva <http://www.puskasinternational.com/artists/#/camerata-alma-viva/>

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