

# 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

## Creation:

Jun 2021	Lochwitz (DE) (revival + rehearsal)
Aug 2019	Limburg Festival (NL)
May 2017	Beeld & Tuin, Duizel (NL) (Research)
Nov 2016	Bouwjaar' 84 Tilburg / Zwermers (NL) (Research)

## some facts:

Audience capacity:	max. 150 persons (depending on site)
Duration:	30min (+ walk)
Minimum age:	6 years
Shows per day:	max. 3
Site:	ca. 8 x 8 m (plus space for audience), ca 5 min walk to site



## 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

In their artistic research, Julian Vogel and Josef Stiller focus on balancing the objects and the body to find the equilibrium state of objects standing or lying. They 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, they started to work with woods and branches of different lengths and weights, outside the stage, in the forests. These were the initial moments of the creation of Human Time Tree Time. Working with randomly found branches and trunks, all with different shapes brought a new dimension to their research. Additionally, the search for 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 speaks 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 he 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. His first steps becoming a professional circus artist, he did at “Die Etage – Schule für die darstellenden Künste” in Berlin (2014-15). In his solo work Josef works with bamboo sticks, researching the possibilities in balancing as well as release and catch of very small but also very long sticks. 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. Since the beginning of his professional career, he is fascinated by the possibilities of circus and contemporary dance. 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

## 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. Since 2020 he concentrates in his artistic work on the solo project CHINA SERIES, while Josef Stiller and Moritz Grenz continue KLUB GIRKO in DE. Julian is the author of the piece Human Time Tree Time, but doesn’t perform in the piece anymore. Julian is currently based in Lucerne/CH.

## Moritz Grenz

### *technical Support*

Moritz Grenz holds a BA degree from the Academy for Circus and Performance Art (ACaPA), Tilburg (NL) 2018. His main discipline is 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 gives Moritz technical support for the preparation of the performance venue and is sound engineer during the performance. Moritz currently lives in Berlin/DE.

## 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 an accomplished comfort zone or certain style. Therefore KLUB GIRKO sees itself as a framework for artistic exploration, collaborations and creations of many kinds. After being founded in 2017 in the Netherlands, KLUB GIRKO is since 2021 based in DE. Organized as a collective each project includes different members and various collaborations with external parties. KLUB GIRKO was founded by Josef Stiller and Julian Vogel. Since in 2020 Julian Vogel focused his artistic work on the solo project CHINA SERIES, Josef Stiller and Moritz Grenz continue with KLUB GIRKO in DE.

### Creations:

- 2020 Responsive Round
- 2019 Human Time Tree Time
- 2018 122 x 244 – and a lot of little pieces

### Contact

Ute Classen  
info@ute-classen.de  
+49 241 450 48 410  
www.klubgirko.com

### Trailer:

<https://vimeo.com/357404574>

**full length video (password: tree\_time\_klubgirko):**

<https://vimeo.com/357420965>





## Technical Rider: Human Time Tree Time

### Content:

**Page 1: General Info**

**Page 2: Space**

**Page 3: Sound, Light  
and Audience**

**Page 4: Checklist**

**Page 5-8: Pictures**

### General Information

Performer: Josef Stiller + Crispin Bade  
Team on tour: 3 people: 2 performers, 1 technician  
Contact: Josef Stiller +4915238764466  
Ute Classen + 49 241 45048410

Duration Performance: 30min + walk to performance space  
Performances per day: max 3  
Time between performances: 1h  
Audience capacity: ca. 120 - 150 persons per performance  
(depending on space)

## Space

The Performance needs a space of ca 8x8 m + space for audience.

For example, a clearing in the woods, a grove on the field, a park with old trees

The place should be selected at the conclusion of the contract, either with photos or with a local visit. There should be old wood, fallen trees, branches of different kind and sizes. If not there: to be brought.

### **Requirements of the site:**

We should have the opportunity to dig holes in the ground (A tree trunk needs to be dugged in ca 50 cm deep), we should be allowed to use surrounding branches or to cut some small trees and branches. Of course, only in consultation with the organizer and with respect for nature. Alternatively, we can look for and gather appropriate branches in a nearby forest. If we need a permit to do this, please get this for us.

We build sculptures out of these branches, which we gladly leave standing after the performance until they eventually collapse of their own accord.

### **To be provided or found on site:**

- A tree trunk of ca 2,5 m length and 0,30 m diameter. (this trunk will be digged into ground, ca 50 cm deep).  
This trunk must be stable.
- 6 branches with different length, from 50cm to ca. 4m each, with different diameter of ca 2 – 20 cm
- a (fallen) tree with branches and roots of 8-15m length + support to carry and balance it (by a big machine or 10 volunteers)
- Production assistant throughout the performance days (doesn't need to be present all time, but available!)

**Also see example pictures below!**

### **Rehearsal at venue:**

HumanTimeTreeTime is a site specific production and will be adapted on site. This takes 2 – 3 days. Organizer provides a production assistant for these days.

### **Security / barriers:**

During the rehearsals the organizer takes care for the security of the place depending on the local needs and habits (barriers, barrier tape, possibly security personnel) and also provides for necessary security measures if the artists are not on site or at night. Some parts can be transported overnight to a nearby location.

# Sound, Light and Audience

## **Sound:**

The performance has a some electronic sound track.

The sound equipment will be brought by the group. There is no electricity needed, the sound equipment is running on battery.

## **Light:**

No light requirements for daytime performances (during twilight or dark performances: we will develop a plan with a local lighting technician.)

If the performance will happen in the dark, the organiser need to contact us in advance.

## **Audience**

The audience takes place in a semicircle around the performance area. One or two rows on the floor, behind them two rows of benches, behind them.

Depending on the space or tree population, other scenarios are possible, e.g. that we guide the audience around trees / tree sculptures.

We discuss this once we know the place. The organizer needs to provide seating possibilities for the audience. (Benches, Chairs, Wooden trunks, Blankets ...)

# Checklist

## **Materials to be provided:**

- A strong tree trunk, ca 2,5 m long, 0,3 cm diametre
- Branches of different sizes, collected on space
- whole tree of 8-15m length + support to carry and balance it
- Safety measures
- Permit to collect and maybe also to cut some wood or gras  
(will be communicated in detail to the organizer)
- Seating Possibilities for audience
- Access to washing machine / dryer

## **Staff to be provided:**

- 1 production assistant
- 10 volunteers to carry and balance the big tree (for ca 1-2 hours) or a big maschine
- Depending of site: safety guards, guide for audience ...

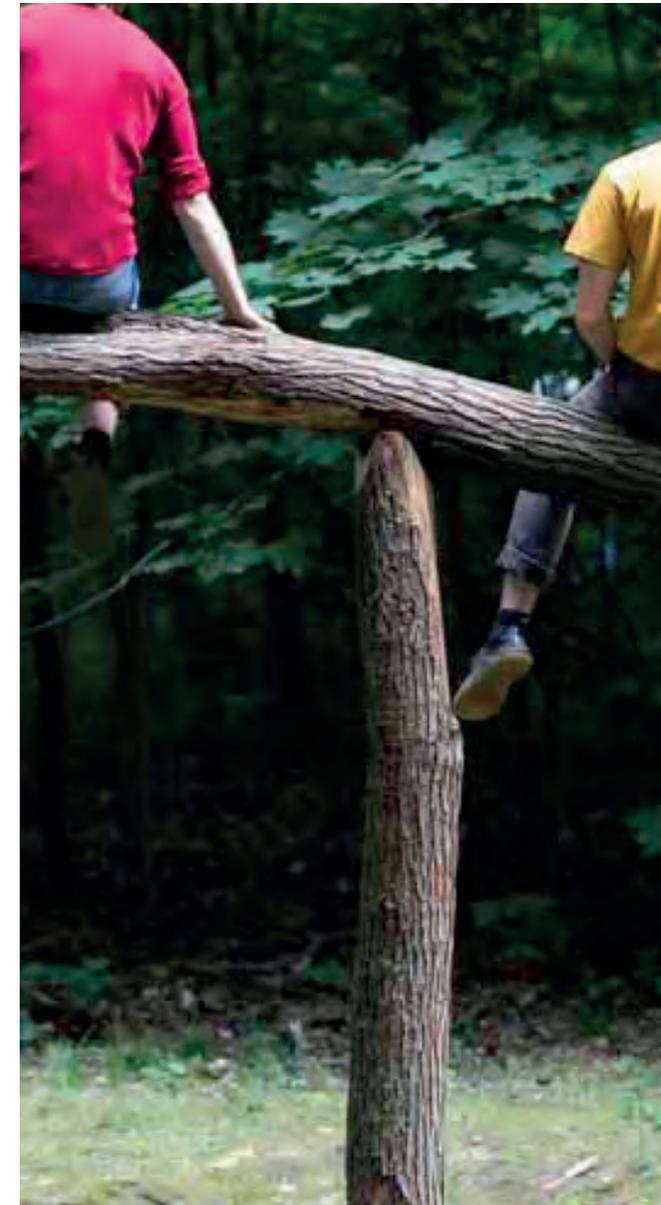
## **Artists will bring:**

- Sound Equipment
- Saws and other tools
- Costumes and props

## example Spaces



## example Trunk



**example Tree**



## example Branches

