
LE COCHON SOURIANT (Smiling Pig)



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PROMOTER

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Presentation of the issue:

How to bring life to our heritage, in the cultural sense, while keeping its authenticity in our modernity? How to stay alive as a cultural institution in a rural area?

Project description:

The company was founded in 1996 with experienced actors and technicians from many disciplines, who had had enough of the institutional structure and the distance from the audience.

Le Cochon SouRiant was created as a road show, quite homeless with no fixed location. The company applied for a social economy grant from the Social Economy Fund at the regional level. It then purchased an "extra-heritage" house (former convent, school, sewing shop) in Sainte-Marguerite-de-Lingwick, that proved an extraordinary opportunity. From that moment, this acquisition allowed them to alternate local performances and tours.

To reduce the distance from the spectators, the company adopts several approaches to reach all types of audiences. To be in a rural area is not a crisis, but rather a slow disintegration. The decline sets in gradually, as the population continues to grow older. That is when the questions arise on things like: the presentation schedule, the heating solutions in the performance tent, the necessity to arrange transportation for some of the patrons. There is also a gap between the young family clientele that is overwhelmed and the seniors growing in age.

As the community is of Scottish origin, the idea for a multimedia show with projections emerged. The company was looking for ways to add a historical dimension by integrating several objects. Thus was born *Ciélidh Echoes of Scotland*, a show inspired by the traditional Scottish evenings.

Le Cochon SouRiant performs from local to international, and is also involved in the street arts. The company mentored a road-show theater festival from Niger, and participated in a project with France and Mexico.

The funding issue is always present. The company carries out small projects, appropriate to their scale for the programming, and relies heavily on volunteers.

Le Cochon SouRiant is working with the local councils. For example, it lends their performance tent for other activities.

Le Cochon SouRiant was also well-known for its puppet project. Having learned that 250 puppets from Germain Boisvert were headed for the junk yard, the company went out of its way to save them. Approximately 70 puppets were recovered. This project helped highlight these heritage puppets and brought the opportunity to tell their story.

The key elements to remember according to the promoters:

- continue to do what we find significant, and do so with others;
- work on projects with partners;
- have the support from the CLD.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

NOTE: All *linked* documents (PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.) are only available in their original French version.

Le Cochon SouRiant website: www.cochonsouriant.org