

= Chose Promise =

Chose Promise (French : [ʒoz pʁɔmiz] ; Promised Thing) is a one @-@ man show performed by the French comedian Arnaud Tsamere from 2007 to 2014 . Written by Tsamere , François Rollin and Arnaud Joyet , it features the character Patrice Valenton , a teacher who is performing a comedy show because of a promise he made to his friend Rémi , who died in a car accident . After explaining this , he attempts ventriloquism , shadow puppetry , a vaudeville play and a song about Rémi . Tsamere then comes out of character and does a routine about bulbs around mirrors in dressing rooms .

The show 's title comes from the expression chose promise , chose due (" a promise is a promise ") and it deals with the theme of death ; the character of a teacher was chosen to depict failure . Chose Promise was released on DVD on 6 March 2013 after being recorded at the Sébastopol Theatre in Lille , and its final performances were at the Olympia in February 2014 ? it has been broadcast on the television channels Comédie + and D17 . It was well received by critics , who praised Tsamere 's performance , particularly in the vaudeville sequence .

= = Synopsis = =

This summary is based on the DVD version of the show .

Patrice Valenton (Arnaud Tsamere) introduces himself as an economics teacher at the University Institute of Technology in Vincennes . He explains that he is there to honour a promise he made to his best friend Rémi , who was hospitalised by a car accident . Patrice arrived to see Rémi on his deathbed , and Rémi asked Patrice to perform a one @-@ man show on his behalf . Patrice answered " I promise ... " , and Rémi died , not knowing that the end of the sentence was " ... that you 'll get better " and that Patrice did not want to perform . Patrice explains that he will keep his promise because becoming a comedian was Rémi 's dream , but that he is not a comedian and is not there to get laughs or applause .

Patrice begins the show , explaining that he will use memories and objects relating to Rémi to perform . He says that Rémi loved ventriloquism , and performs his own routine with a monkey puppet called Falzouille , in which the puppet never speaks . He talks about how the puppet is not alive as it has Velcro pads , and imitates a cat and mouse with Velcro on their paws . He tells a story of when he removed the batteries from his colleague 's calculator , then takes out Rémi 's notebook , which contains the telephone numbers of prostitutes and vomit stains . Patrice performs a shadow puppetry routine in which an Armenian soldier rescues his daughter from 25 duduk players . It becomes clear that Patrice is not actually making the shadows , and he gets annoyed at three stagehands called David .

Patrice decides to perform the final scene of a vaudeville play he has written called La Pendule (The Clock) . He explains the complex plot and characters : set in 1929 in a townhouse in Provence , the play involves the Duke of Ponfouy and his family , associates and household servants . He performs the scene , playing all the characters himself and exaggerating their voices and mannerisms . For Patrice 's final act , he plays a recording of Rémi and himself from 1985 , then sings a song he has written about Rémi and the accident . When the audience applauds the song , he criticises them as he does not want to be a famous comedian . After imitating a marionette , he performs his curtain call with a toy dragon ; he dances with it and a sparkler , and flaps its wings to Johann Strauss I 's Radetzky March .

Tsamere comes out of character , thanks the audience , writers and producers of the show , and explains that the preceding story is a fiction . He talks about his stage fright and goes off on a tangent about the bulbs around mirrors in dressing rooms ; he asks a row of the audience to stand repeatedly to check whether pillars in the theatre are load @-@ bearing . He ends by saying that he does not need the mirror , as he does not wear make @-@ up .

= = Background and themes = =

The French expression chose promise , chose due , which is the equivalent of " a promise is a promise " in English , and to which Chose Promise responds , dates from the 17th century . After his first show Réflexions profondes sur pas mal de trucs (Deep reflections on quite a few things) , written with Arnaud Joyet and inspired by a videotape of François Rollin , Tsamere met Rollin at the Dinard Comedy Festival . He joined Tsamere and Joyet to write a new show . Rollin had seen his previous show , which played on theatrical " flops " , and told Tsamere that he could not perform this humour as himself without showing at the end that he could really do ventriloquism and play the guitar , which he could not . Therefore , the character of a teacher was created to play on failure .

Tsamere has described Valenton 's profession as " not far from the style of what I am , [but] very far in substance " ; he said of the character : " Under his generous side as a friend who is keeping his promise ... we have a guy who is ... in the end quite megalomaniacal . " The show deals with the theme of death , which Tsamere said is " a bit strange , but it has the virtue of attracting the public 's attention " . He said that he and his co @-@ authors thought that " the most irrefutable reason to go on stage ... was to talk about something strong " . Tsamere has described how the show changed as the size of its audiences grew and he incorporated improvisations .

= = Performances = =

Chose Promise was produced by 20h40 Productions and Troyes dans l'Aube Prod and directed by Rollin and Joyet . It was written in 2007 , and has been performed at the Européen theatre and the Casino de Paris ; Tsamere has done three tours of the show . In early 2014 , the show was performed in Tours , Strasbourg , Lille , Petite @-@ Forêt , Rennes , Bourg @-@ les @-@ Valence , Voiron , Annecy and Chalon @-@ sur @-@ Saône in France , as well as in Geneva and Montreux in Switzerland . The two final performances took place at the Olympia in February 2014 .

After it was recorded at the Sébastopol Theatre in Lille on 5 October 2012 , the show was released on DVD , Blu @-@ ray and video on demand on 6 March 2013 ; it includes a commentary track by Rollin and Joyet , and a making @-@ of documentary called La boucle est bouclée (" We 've come full circle ") filmed by Simon Astier , who followed Tsamere around with a camera on the day of the recording . Tsamere said he chose Lille for the recording because he has a " special relationship " with the place . On 23 September 2013 , the show was broadcast on the television channel Comédie + ? it was later shown on D17 on 31 August 2014 , when it was seen by 254 @,@ 000 people (a 1 @.@ 1 % audience share) .

= = Reception = =

Pariscope 's Julien Barret praised Tsamere 's " unbridled imagination [and] oratorical ease " , and called his vaudeville performance " exceptional " ; Marie @-@ Céline Nivière , of the same publication , said " [Tsamere 's] talents as an actor are remarkable " and also praised the vaudeville act . Michèle Bourcet of Télérama called it " an acting performance with mastered folly " and rated it " TT " , meaning " We like it a lot " . Le Parisien described " the meticulous writing , the absurd universe and the hilarious digressions " of Chose Promise , calling it a " masterpiece of the genre " . Le Figaro 's Nathalie Simon wrote of Tsamere 's " bubbly disposition [and] tremendous energy " , noting that his appearances on On n 'demande qu'à en rire " have brought him an audience of appreciative fans whatever he does " .