

Project: Clown Without Borders

Group : SNN

2-Home

3-News hub

6-News detail

8-Service hub

9-Detail of services

10-Team

11-About

12-History

12-404 error

Home

Our services

Free shows for all

Artistic workshops

Support to local artists

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Support plan for international cooperation

of international cooperation

Press release for

immediate publication

World Day of Cleaning

of our planet

Testimony

Testimony of Marc Leblanc

A movement

Learn more >

Donation

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Deadly clashes between police and military. Millions of inhabitants facing [...]

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By katel le fustec | February 25th, 2020 | Clowns Without Borders, Haiti | Closed comments on ADVERTISEMENT: Quebec-Haiti 2020 Cooperation Project

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The team of artists from Clowns Without Borders, made up of Nicolas Fortin, [...]

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A look back at the artistic and cultural workshops in Kitcisakik

Clowns Without Borders is back on a social clowning mission in Haiti.

By katel le fustec | July 2nd, 2019 | Clowns Without Borders | Closed Comments on A look back at the artistic and cultural workshops in Kitcisakik

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A look back at our testimonial evening!

Complicity and laughter were the order of the day for our evening [...]

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News detail

HAITI "WE ARE IN A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Deadly clashes between police and military. Millions of people facing food insecurity. Declining purchasing power. Haiti is sinking into crisis.

ÉTIENNE PALUCK

SPECIAL COLLABORATION

PORT-AU-PRINCE - "Civil war-like". That's how the Haitian press described the recent clashes between the Haitian police and military in the heart of the capital, forcing the cancellation of the traditional carnival. While Haiti is going through a serious humanitarian crisis, many are no longer in the mood to celebrate.

"I don't know who shot first, it happened so fast. I had to crawl out when I wanted to leave, with all the bullets flying," said Luckens, a 26-year-old ice cream vendor. The man who runs a kiosk in the main square of Port-au-Prince preferred not to give his real name, fearing reprisals.

Last Sunday, police officers took to the streets to demand the right to unionize. After 20 successive months of demonstrations, road blockades and, in some cases, riots against the government, the

officers say they are out of breath and can no longer make ends meet with their meager salaries. However, the march quickly turned into a confrontation with the military.

"The government doesn't understand when you have a simple [peaceful] demonstration," Luckens said.

Montrealer Katel Le Fustec was about to participate in the first day of carnival in Port-au-Prince with her troupe Clowns Without Borders when the clashes broke out. "We heard gunfire," she recalls, back on the scene with La Presse.

Two young acrobats decided to go and find out. "They came back petrified, saying, 'There is no carnival, we're canceling everything.'"

CARNIVAL CANCELED

The exchange of fire between police and military lasted at least six hours, leaving two dead and a dozen injured. Faced with these skids, the government officially cancelled in the evening the celebrations of the three fat days, however a true institution for the country.

The carnival was considered indecent by the demonstrators, while the country is going through one of the most serious economic crises in its recent history. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that 3.7 million Haitians are food insecure this year. Annual inflation is around 20%, inexorably reducing Haitians' purchasing power.

"I am seriously discouraged about the country. All the efforts you make are useless. You work, but you can't save for the future or meet all your basic needs." - Luckens, 26, ice cream vendor

"For a long time, I stood up straight, proud to be Haitian," Luckens recalls, standing in front of his kiosk with a huge, colorful ice cream cone painted on it. His voice trembles with emotion and his eyes fill with water. "Today, I can't say that anymore."

This observation is shared by many. "This is a country in which the problems that should be managed are not," laments Michel Joseph, co-director of information and presenter of the 7 p.m. bulletin at Radio Caraïbes. The offices of the country's largest private radio station were targeted by a handful of rioters on Sunday, who set fire to a generator, two broadcast vehicles and four other private cars parked in front of the station.

Since the attack, which was condemned by the Haitian Journalists Association, the station has not been broadcasting original programs while it recovers from the damage.

"We're in a humanitarian crisis," the 32-year-old reporter and host reminded La Presse from a few steps away from the charred carcasses. "People are hungry."

Katel Le Fustec, who is due to return to Montreal in a few days, understands the discouragement, although she refuses to give up. Since 2002, the organization Clowns Sans Frontières, which she directs, has been accompanying young Haitians from disadvantaged backgrounds in the circus arts. "I believe in it, because I work with young people who are committed to the future. That's what keeps my hope alive."

Service Hub

The clown and interactive shows combine circus techniques based on social reflection and adapted to the environment.

The workshops allow participants to discover and learn several techniques that are part of the circus family. They will navigate between the worlds of acrobatics and juggling.

The purpose of the conferences is to present a global picture of the situation of children in the world and to raise awareness of children's rights while introducing them to social clowning.

Clowns Without Borders presents a large-format photo essay in Haiti entitled *Le nez de clown? A sun in the face?* accompanied by tools for discussion and exchange. This exhibition presents a series of images taken in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, as part of missions following the devastating earthquake of 2010.

Service details

Shows, animation, workshops and photography exhibition

Did you know that you can call on Clowns Without Borders for your events? The organization has developed a strong expertise in the clowning arts, and its foundations are solid thanks to the quality of its contacts and its extensive network. Our flexible structure adapts to your particular needs.

Clowns Without Borders offers shows, animations and workshops for your various events. Through our artistic mediums, we promote the education of young people and the general public in social responsibility and active, informed global citizenship.

The clown and interactive shows combine circus techniques based on social reflection and adapted to the environment.

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The images of photographer Katel Le Fustec are supported by the texts of Mr. Stanley Péan, writer, journalist, music lover and host of Radio-Canada. The exhibition offers a luminous look and illustrates the strength and beauty of mutual aid. It bears witness to living together, to the right to childhood, to cooperation, to synergy, to the international development of mobilization efforts and to the will to act.

Our photo essay travels and has been exhibited in many places including La TOHU and Rivières-des-Prairies. If you are interested in hosting the exhibition to raise awareness of international solidarity and the work of Clowns Without Borders, please see the presentation document below. Thank you for helping us spread the word about our wonderful projects!

Team

Jean Beauchemin

Lesley Ainsleigh

Claudio Gerard

Mitch Barry

Courtney Canon

Todd Maxwell

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About us (Mission)

Mission

Clowns Without Borders was born of the initiative of Catalan clown Tortell Poltrona. In 1993, children from a school in Barcelona who were in contact with children from a "school" in a refugee camp in Croatia asked the artist to go and perform in that country. They would like their pen pals to experience a moment of magic and dreams, to forget their daily lives. The clown argues that it is far away... the children retort that he only has to fill up his car with gas!

This is how the first Payasos Sin Fronteras (Clowns Without Borders - Spain) mission to the Veli Joseph refugee camps was organized, right in the middle of the Yugoslav conflict. The reaction of the children in the camp proved that the circus and poetry were a spectacular human remedy and therapy. A second expedition is necessary. Spanish artistic teams (puppeteers, dancers, magicians, musicians and clowns) invite artists from the international circuit to join them on this second mission to the former Yugoslavia.

A few months later, the ball was rolling and Clowns Without Borders Canada took flight. In the midst of the chaos in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the first Canadian humanitarian mission, accompanied by French artists, took place in extreme conditions while the conflict was still going on (Sarajevo, Tuzla and Mostar).

Officially, Clowns Without Borders Canada was born on December 22, 1994, and its first international mission followed an invitation from FENIX - Bosnia and Herzegovina for Children.

History

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