

# CAUTION : FRAGILE

EDUCATIONAL BOOKLET

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## POSTER





## KEYWORDS

Caffeinated Comedy – Slapstick, Situation Comedy – Wordless Theatre – Overconsumption and Excess – Online Purchases, Delivery and Environmental Anxiety – Creativity – Bubble Wrap and Paper Costumes – Self-discovery.

## SYNOPSIS

Two bubble-wrapped beings are delivered on stage. On their boxes are printed the words *Fragile* and *Caution*, those simple words naturally becoming their names. Fragile and Caution are akin to the First Man and Woman of this office towers and online shopping era. They receive the basic kit to create an office space where everything is possible. As they familiarize themselves with their environment and try to understand the reasons of their existence, a catalogue falls into their lap. A plethora of objects suddenly available to them. Sale! Clearance! They become hungry to buy, buy, buy! And they grow thirsty for coffee! As deliveries accumulate, their universe rapidly becomes chaotic and impractical leaving them almost buried alive. How could Fragile and Caution have acted differently?

## DIRECTOR'S WORD

What if we only needed very little?

Don't we live in a dizzying time? When I observe my life, I keep seeing myself navigating through the labyrinth of my own contradictions. It's difficult not to be torn between our selfish desires for quick happiness and the need to make advised decisions for our planet.

Caution and Fragile are new, fresh-out of their boxes and their bubble wrap. They are invited to build their own life. But an instruction manual doesn't explain everything... Between the blurred outlines of existence and the accumulation that stems from overconsumption, it seems difficult for them to see clearly, think ahead and make good decisions.

This play could be a metaphor of the human condition, a metaphor of this endearing, inventive, amazing yet disoriented and destructive humanity. If I was being delivered in a box and could hit the reset button on my own life, would I have the courage to see the world in a different way? Is accumulation necessary to feel happy?

Liliane Boucher, director and co-writer

## CREDITS

**PLAYWRIGHT:** Jean-François Guilbault et Liliane Boucher

**DIRECTOR:** Liliane Boucher

**ACTORS :** Jean-François Guilbault, Philomène Lévesque-Rainville et Guillaume St-Amand

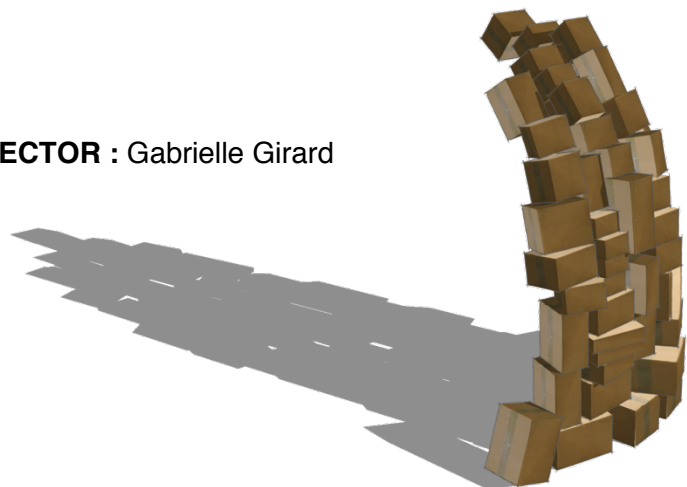
**LIGHTING :** Cédric Delorme-Bouchard

**SET:** Kevin Pinvidic

**MUSIC :** Michel Smith

**COSTUME :** Linda Brunelle

**STAGE MANAGMENT AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR :** Gabrielle Girard



## PHOTOS







## TAKE A LOOK AT THE CREATIONS

### COSTUMES

The character identified as Caution is having fun making a paper costume out of everything she can find! Here are some pictures of costume designers who are using paper to create haute couture.

#### Isabelle de Borchgrave

Official website: <https://isabelledeborchgrave.com>

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACAawazmn-gE>



**Asya Kozina**

Official website: <http://asyakozina-art.com>

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ffsd26tntU0>

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**Miss Cloudy** (paper artist) and **Pauline Loctin** (photographer)  
Website: <http://www.misscloudy.com/blog/2019/4/9/plie-project>

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## SET AND PROPS

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*The character identified as Fragile becomes a compulsive consumer after he discovers a catalogue. Here are some examples of artists who choose to oppose overconsumption and create committed artworks with recovered materials.*

### **Sudodh Gupta**

Website: [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subodh\\_Gupta](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subodh_Gupta)

Video-Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kk2WuLWF9q8>

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## Tim Noble and Sue Webster

Official Website: <http://www.timnobleandsuewebster.com>

Video-link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TB636PcD4Os>

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## Guerra de la Paz

Official website: <http://guerradelapaz.com/gdlpwp/>

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## DEVISED PERFORMANCE

*The play Caution: Fragile is a devised performance, sometimes also called stage writing. What is that? What is a devised performance? It is pretty simple. Instead of starting out with existing text from an author, the play was written directly on stage with the actors, actresses and creators. How did we do it? We made-up the play with the help of improvisation exercises, discussions, or readings. By the way, we drew much of our inspiration from the book Espèces d'Espaces, by Georges Perec. We came up with plenty of situations in the bedroom, the kitchen, the living room, the attic, and a lot of other unusual places. In the end, we chose the office! Now we would like to invite you to try to create your own devised performance.*

### Step 1

Each student thinks about his or her own source of inspiration:

- A story
- A souvenir
- A book (comic book, album, science book...)

### Step 2

Form teams of 2 or 3 students and hand each team a cheat sheet. The students are encouraged to share their source of inspiration as a team. Afterwards, they collectively choose a unique inspiration they will use for their stage writing. Then, they will have to assign the roles, select some available props they need to start their creation, title the scene they will play and sum it up in 5 sentences.

### Step 3

It's time to improvise the scene in front of the class (they have approximately 2 minutes).

### Step 4

The audience share their experience: try not to say "I like it" or "I didn't like it". Focus the discussion on what got to them, what's working. Students in the audience may be encouraged to share ideas the scene inspired.

### Step 5

After the discussion, the teams gather again to try and find some improvements for the scene. Now they can go further in their invention and have fun! They can do the 5-sentence exercise again.

### Step 6

Play the scene again.

You can keep going as long as you wish!



## Cheat sheet for stage writing

**Source of inspiration (story, memory, novel, comic book)**

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**Characters**

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**Props**

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**Title of the scene**

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**5-sentence summary**

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