

**INDOORS
&
OUTDOORS**



GANDINI

2010

Smashed

**You are cordially invited to a tea
party that you will never forget...**

***Juggling: not just artful
but art. Glorious. When it
comes to juggling,
Gandini Juggling pip
everyone else.***
The Guardian ★★★★★



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THE SHOW

Introduction & artistic process





Inventive and very funny
The Independent

★★★★

THE SHOW

The dark art of juggling.

80 apples, 9 performers, 4 crockery sets.

You are cordially invited to a tea party that you will never forget...

At the forefront of contemporary circus for over 20 years, and having performed in over 40 countries, Gandini Juggling bring their award-winning sensation Smashed. A mesmerising mix of circus and theatre, inspired by the work of Pina Bausch, this is a rare opportunity to catch this global SMASH-hit.

In Smashed, the manipulation of the forbidden fruit takes a sagacious look at the strained relations between seven men and two women, kindly flaying traditional juggling and contemporary circus.

Premiered at the National Theatre's Watch this Space festival in 2010, Smashed is an hour-long piece involving nine skilled jugglers, 100 red apples and a soundtrack featuring popular songs ranging from Tammy Wynette to Music Hall and Bach. A series of nostalgic filmic scenes explore conflict, tense relationships, lost love, and afternoon tea.

Inspired by the work of the great choreographer, Pina Bausch, directors Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hokkala have borrowed elements of her gestural choreography and combined them with the intricate patterns and cascades of solo and ensemble juggling.

Simultaneously evoking great pleasure and small disquiet, Smashed lightly disrupts the rigid conventions of etiquette, dress and body language. The result is a new hybrid of juggling which is performed with meticulous unison and split-second timing. This funny, inventive, and characterful work is akin to dance theatre and will challenge your perception of juggling.

ARTISTIC PROCESS

“This is how one pictures the angel of history. His face is turned toward the past. Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing from Paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such violence that the angel can no longer close them. This storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress.”

In the dark spring of 1940, shortly before his death, Walter Benjamin on his experience looking at Angelus Novus, a Paul Klee painting he owns.

“It's been twenty years since we started doing Contemporary Juggling. We started mixing our discipline to Dance a few years ago, Kati and I are fans of Dance, including Trisha Brown and Merce Cunningham. The week we were in residency creating Smashed, Pina Bausch died and that's what inspired us this Bauschienne parade. [...]

For us, this is not a show to be funny, even if people laugh generously. Smashed is a freed composition, with British humour, where we laugh as much tradition as contemporary jugglers who take themselves very seriously!”

Extract of an interview with Sean Gandini by Isabelle Paré in Le Devoir (Montreal, 4 July 2013)

ARTISTIC PROCESS

In the original outdoor incarnation of Smashed, commissioned for the National Theatre's Watch This Space Festival in 2010, Gandini Juggling continued their joyful acceptance of the failure of juggling, of the 'drop'. This resulted in a light-hearted and zesty destruction of apples and crockery which celebrated the release that comes with accepting failure, accompanied by the performers' mischievous disruptions of each other's work.

For this new version, now indoor and extended, the material has taken on a darker, less benign feel. Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hokkala have acknowledged their debt to Pina Bausch, and this influence runs through the piece, with echoes of 1980 and Kontakthof. Ostensibly, much of the material is the same as the outdoor version, but now the summer romance has turned sour. Instead of the light-hearted teasing, each of the nine jugglers prey mercilessly on each other.

What is central to this new version of Smashed is that Gandini Juggling have taken advantage of the juggler's underlying relationship with power. The act of juggling imbues the juggler with power, merely through keeping their objects aloft. This power, which comes with a certain mastery over the fundamental force of gravity, is here translated into power over the other performers. Thus, we see acts of humiliation, subjugation and isolation played out around and in-between the various solo and passing patterns.

With Smashed, Gandini Juggling have concluded twenty years of experimentation with an increasingly nuanced and complex theatricality. In many ways Smashed is no longer a juggling show. [...] Instead the juggling is one gestural vocabulary within the work, alongside the choreography and the personae of the performers. This last part is key in the impact of the piece: each gaze or response from the performers sets-up and develops the underlying relationships on the stage. All the while, the audience is complicit in this developing action, as the performers seek their approval and play-up to their responses.

Text written by Thomas JM Wilson and published in Total Theatre, January 2012

02



INFORMATION

Press, marketing, credits, technical information





**"A juicy treat from first
bite to its mid-air core"
Herald Scotland**

PRESS

New York Times and chief dance critic Alastair MacCualay

"Here, juggling becomes flights of inspired poetry, musical choreography with strong dance elements, crazy-comedy surrealism, breathtakingly dexterous virtuosity, darkly absurdist drama. Gandini opens windows in the mind."

★★★★ The Guardian

"Glorious. When it comes to juggling, the Gandinis pip everyone else"

★★★★ The Independent

"Inventive and very funny"

Herald Scotland

"A juicy treat from first bite to its mid-air core"

Full press coverage:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/b4o2h9eot8ldnis/AACXCJfOOG4CQ3-SGkjjLyiva?dl=0>

MARKETING

Images:

All images of the shows are available in HD here:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/h0levk3ftr9l7rt/AACYo8ijOeDA_XKZUS_-LZtva?dl=0

Trailer:

The trailer is available (and can be downloaded) here:

<https://vimeo.com/51011132>

Duration:

- Indoor: 60 minutes (no interval)
- Outdoor: 35 minutes (no interval)

Age range:

- Indoor: 8+ (because of the duration of the show)
- Outdoor: all age groups

Full Marketing pack available on demand at info@gandinijuggling.com.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Smashed exists in different versions:

- An indoor version (60 minutes)
- An outdoor version (35 minutes)

Both versions can be adapted to be outdoors or indoors.

Technical:

- Ideal stage dimensions : 10m wide x 8m deep x 4m high
- Technical rider available on demand: info@gandinijuggling.com.

Touring party:

- Indoors: 9 performers and 1 technician
- Outdoors: 9 performers (+ 1 technician if show performed at night)

CREDITS

Director: Sean Gandini

Assistant director: Kati Ylä-Hokkala

Dramaturgy: John-Paul Zaccarini

Lighting designer: Mark Jonathan

Soundtrack curated by Gandini Juggling

Jugglers since 2010: Michael Antony Bell, Sean Gandini, Tedros Girmaye, Doreen Grossmann, Kim Huynh, Antoni Klemm, Sakari Männistö, Chris Pattfield, Owen Reynolds, Ben Richter, Carlos Romero Martin, Iñaki Sastre, Niels Siedel, Arron Sparks, Malte Steinmetz, José Triguero Delgado, Jon Udry, Kati Ylä-Hokkala, Cecilia Zucchetti

Production: Gandini Juggling

Supporters: Smashed was originally commissioned as a short outdoor piece for the Watch This Space Festival at the National Theatre in 2010. Additional funding was received from the Arts Council England and La Brèche Centre for the Circus Arts to create the theatre version currently touring.

EDUCATION

One of the most joyous occasions in Gandini Juggling touring life is when we meet a good juggler who tells us that they did a workshop with us many moons before.

This seemingly obvious realisation pushed us to embark on an educational drive. We find that there is a shortage of performers with the specific skill sets they need as well as that there is a shortage of female jugglers.

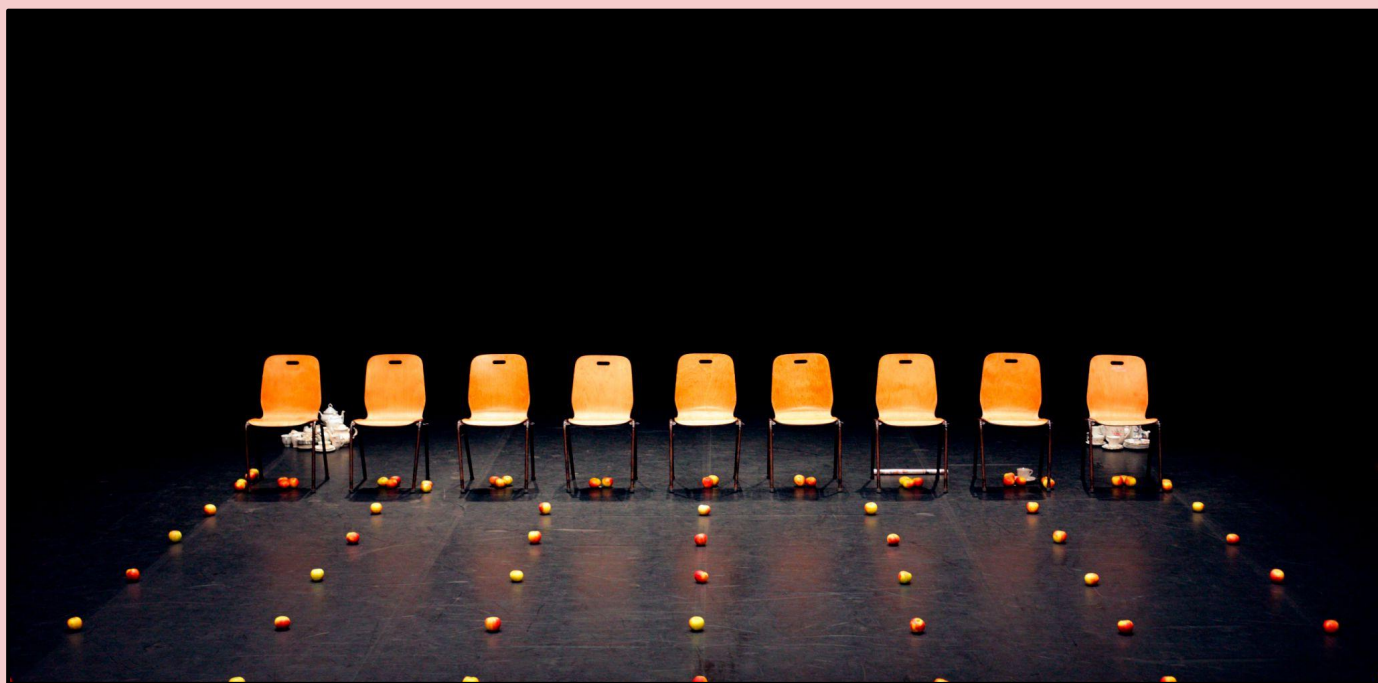
So, to plant seeds for the future Gandini Juggling's aim is to inspire, educate and motivate acting as highly experienced facilitators, teaching in not only the world's best circus schools but providing workshops in community centres and cold church halls...

We have a range of workshops available, aimed at both professional jugglers/performers and those that are new to the art form:

- Each workshop last 2 hours and will be led by 1 or 2 performers.
- Group size can range from 20-30 participants, depending on space.
- Workshops and lecture can take place in person or online
- All of the workshop titles below can be used as lecture topics.

For more information, contact info@gandinijuggling.com.

03



ABOUT US

Biography and contact



The Guardian
***Gandini is at the forefront
of British circus' quiet
revolution***



THE COMPANY

Formed in 1992 by world-renowned jugglers Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hokkala, Gandini Juggling continues to be at the vanguard of contemporary circus, reinventing and reinvigorating juggling for the 21st Century.

Gandini Juggling celebrates juggling in all its facets, exploring not just what juggling is, but what juggling can be. Currently an ever-evolving ensemble made up of a virtuosic core group of jugglers, they regularly expand to include up to 20 performers for specially commissioned events and performances. Ferociously prolific, they are constantly creating new works, which range from radical art/juggling fusions to accessible theatrical performances, from choreographic studies to commercially commissioned routines.

Since their inception the Gandinis have performed over 6,000 shows in 50 countries. They continue to perform at many of the most prestigious festivals and venues throughout the world. These venues range from Contemporary art museums in France to Opera houses in Germany, from theatres in Lebanon to tents in Argentina. Closer to home the Gandinis can be seen performing at the UK's major outdoor festivals and theatre houses including London's Royal Opera House, English National Opera, The Royal National Theatre and Sadler's Wells.

In creating their work Gandini Juggling collaborated with a wide range of cultural leaders, initially teaming up with the pioneering and influential dance artist and choreographer Gill Clarke. The Gandini's continue to be influenced by a range of disciplines, which include amongst others, composers, ballet choreographers, fashion designers, computer programmers, sound designers, set makers and mathematicians. They have spent several seasons working with orchestras, choreographing juggling patterns to a wide range of classical compositions and have had music specially composed for them by leading composers Tom Johnson, Nimrod Borenstein and Gabriel Prokofiev.

THE COMPANY

In addition to performing, Gandini Juggling is very much in demand at leading circus schools. Teaching workshops, creating performances and supporting the next generation of circus artists. Alongside this, Gandini publishes books and delivers virtual classes to support the wider understanding of the beautiful possibilities of juggling, for jugglers and non-jugglers alike. The Gandini's have an insatiable thirst for juggling pieces and a fiery desire to collaborate, communicate and provoke. They aim to reposition juggling as a versatile, engaging and malleable art form for our times.

SEAN GANDINI

Sean Gandini is one of the pioneers of contemporary juggling. Working as a performer, choreographer and director he has, for over 25 years, pushed the boundaries of juggling as a discipline and as an art form.

Growing-up in Havana, Cuba, Sean was fascinated by Magic and Mathematics, but shortly after he began juggling, prompting a life-long fascination with all aspects of the art form. Sean's professional career began in the 1980s, regularly performing in London's famous Covent Garden and touring with various theatre companies – including the pioneering Ra-Ra Zoo. In 1991, with Kati Ylä-Hokkala, he co-founded Gandini Juggling and together they have been at the forefront of experiments into what juggling is and what juggling can be.

Sean is a prolific creator. Whether working with the technicality of 'pure' juggling, crafting spectacular street art shows, or exploring the ways juggling might blend with other art forms, Sean is guided by a natural curiosity and delight in the myriad possibilities of throwing objects into the air.

This has led to the creation to a diverse array of shows, including the playful Sweet Life; the fiendishly complex celebration of the London Olympics Twenty/Twenty; and their smash hit, the darkly humorous and theatrical homage to Pina Bausch Smashed.

THE COMPANY

KATY YLÄ-HOKKALA

Kati Ylä-Hokkala is one of her generation's iconic jugglers. As a co-founder of Gandini Juggling she has built a reputation not only as a highly-skilled technical juggler but is also renowned as one of the leading innovators in dance-juggling.

Kati's professional career began in the 1980s, performing with the influential Ra-Ra Zoo. In 1991, with Sean, she co-founded Gandini Juggling. Since then she has been instrumental in the company's experiments into the possibilities of juggling, including working to create unique 'two-person sharing' juggling patterns.

A former rhythmic gymnast, Kati's distinctive ability to combine movement with extremely complex coordination is second-to-none. In this she has crafted an intimate and extensive knowledge of the relationship between dance and juggling. Knowledge that has ensured that Gandini Juggling's work is always of the highest technical standard. Kati's own performances are always accompanied by a unique calm precision, a precision that comes from decades of throwing whilst standing on one leg. Kati has used this same calm precision to steer Gandini Juggling for the past 25 years.

Kati has performed in all of Gandini Juggling's works since 1991, performing in over 2,500 shows throughout the world – in art galleries and palaces, in town squares and in stadiums, in intimate theatres and on the stages of some of the world's most iconic venues. In recent years Kati has co-directed many of the company's pieces.

THE COMPANY

REPERTOIRE

1992 <i>nEither Either both and...</i>	2010 <i>Smashed</i>
1994 <i>Caught Still / Hanging</i>	2011 <i>Blotched</i>
1995 <i>... and other curiOus questions</i>	2011 <i>Motet</i> (with Circo Aereo)
1996 <i>Septet</i>	2012 <i>Chinoiseries</i>
1998 <i>Septet/2</i>	2012 <i>Twenty/Twenty</i>
1999 <i>Remembering Rastelli</i>	2013 <i>CLOWNS & QUEENS</i>
2000 <i>Big</i>	2014 <i>4 x 4 : Ephemeral Architectures</i>
2000 <i>Cube</i>	2015 <i>8 Songs</i>
2000 <i>Dome</i>	2015 <i>Meta</i>
2002 <i>Don't Break My Balls</i>	2016 <i>Sigma</i>
2002 <i>Vivaldi Light Balls</i>	2016 <i>SmashedXL</i>
2002 <i>Quartet</i>	2017 <i>Akhnaten</i>
2002 <i>Racketeers</i>	2017 <i>Spring</i>
2004 <i>No Exit</i>	2019 <i>stackKcats</i>
2006 <i>Mozart Glow Clubs</i>	2020 <i>Smashed2</i>
2008 <i>Downfall</i>	2022 <i>LIFE</i>
2009 <i>Night Clubs</i>	2023 <i>The Games We Play</i>

For more information on production currently available for touring, visit:
www.gandinijuggling.com/en/our-shows

Fore more information on previous shows, visit:
www.gandinijuggling.com/en/previous-shows/

CONTACT



Do you have any questions?

For further information please contact our office:
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unicycleproductions@gmail.com

