



Régions &gt; Montagnes neuchâtelaises

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## Clowns tendres contre l'électrosmog



"Innocenzo", un spectacle côté tendresse. Godelièvre et Jonathan (avec Nathanaël Morier en arrière-fond) en pleine répétition hier dans leur maison des Ponts-de-Martel. RICHARD LEUENBERGER

**Godelièvre et Jonathan du Piti Theatre Company vont jouer "Innocenzo" pour dénoncer la pollution électromagnétique. Un spectacle basé sur une expérience vécue...**

"J'étais malade, mais je ne savais pas pourquoi", explique Godelièvre Richard, des Ponts-de-Martel. A ne plus pouvoir dormir, à avoir des vertiges, des maux de tête... Après un vrai parcours du combattant, elle a découvert ce dont elle souffrait: une hypersensibilité à l'électromagnétisme. Elle a mis des stratégies en place, sa santé s'est rétablie, mais sa vie s'est singulièrement compliquée. Comment vivre "débranchée" alors que le wi-fi est partout? Elle et son compagnon Jonathan Mirin vivent sur les hauteurs des Ponts-de-Martel. "On n'a pas de wi-fi. L'ordinateur est câblé, et le répondeur aussi... Il y a diverses manières de protéger sa maison quand on se sait électro-sensible. C'est possible, mais c'est compliqué."

## Des abeilles à l'électrosmog

Godelièvre et son compagnon Jonathan Mirin, natif du Massachussets, sont les fondateurs et auteurs-acteurs principaux de la petite troupe Piti Theatre Company, basée aux Ponts-de-Martel et au Massachussets (le couple fait régulièrement l'aller-retour).

Cette compagnie avait déjà créé fin 2012 un spectacle sur la disparition des abeilles, en collaboration avec

Evologia. Un spectacle ludique et pédagogique qui avait été présenté notamment pour les écoliers et qui continue à tourner actuellement, aux Etats-Unis y compris.

Le Piti Theatre est maintenant en train de finaliser un nouveau spectacle, "Innocenzo", basé sur l'expérience vécue de Godelièvre. C'est l'histoire d'un clown qui tombe malade, victime lui aussi de l'électrosmog. Et comment s'en sortir, ou au moins, essayer de limiter les dégâts. Par exemple, "éteindre le wi-fi, éteindre son portable. Des choses simples. Nous ne faisons pas ce spectacle pour dire qu'il faut jeter son smartphone!" Ce n'est pas destiné à jeter l'alarme dans les foyers. Jonathan: "Nous essayons de faire un spectacle léger et humoristique." On y apprend par exemple que vers Mayenfeld, il y a un village "zone blanche" où les habitants ont décidé de ne plus utiliser la technologie sans fil.

## Cause perdue?

"Il y a des dégâts qui sont peu connus", reprend Jonathan. "Si on les connaît, on prend ses décisions en connaissance de cause." Godelièvre: "Les informations ne sont pas claires", et de faire remarquer que "certaines études plus ou moins financées par les industries" concluent que cette technologie est sans danger alors que d'autres études plus indépendantes démontrent le contraire. Une cause perdue? "Si je le pensais, je n'aurais plus d'espoir!", explique Godelièvre.

"Innocenzo" sera présenté en avant-première le 26 novembre au Centre de prévention et santé de Colombier, assorti de panneaux explicatifs de l'Association romande alerte aux ondes électromagnétiques ARA. Les autres dates ne sont pas encore fixées mais on verra probablement "Innocenzo" à l'ABC à La Chaux-de-Fonds.

L'aide à la mise en scène a été réalisée par Dominique Bourquin. Et Carrie Ferguson en a été la parolière. Enfin, on verra sur scène, outre Jonathan et Godelièvre, le musicien chaud-fonnier Nathanaël Morier. Celui-ci n'est pas électro-sensible. N'empêche que "maintenant, j'éteins mon portable quand je me couche. Pour ne pas être dérangé!"

### "Innocenzo":

Par le Piti Theatre Company, avant-première le 26 novembre au Centre de prévention et santé de Colombier. Tél. 032 843 36 10. Site: [www.ptco.org](http://www.ptco.org)

## Du wi-fi d'office!

Par principe de précaution, pour savoir si les écoliers sont protégés contre les effets de la pollution électromagnétique, les autorités cantonales neuchâteloises ont joué un rôle de pionnier en adoptant un arrêté en 2010 (notre édition du 1er novembre) pour fixer les conditions d'utilisation des ordinateurs dans les classes. Arrêté stipulant que seuls les réseaux filaires (câbles métalliques ou fibres optiques) sont autorisés dans les écoles enfantines. L'accès à internet par le wi-fi y est strictement interdit, de même que dans les classes de primaire et écoles secondaires 1. Quant à l'innocuité ou non du wi-fi, une interpellation du PLR, à Neuchâtel, relance la question (notre édition de ce jour).

Le Locle et La Chaux-de-Fonds suivent également la tendance wi-fi. On se connecte dans les parcs ou à la piscine. "On l'impose à la population sans lui demander son avis", relève une mère de famille. Celle-ci ne présente pas de troubles déclarés dus au rayonnement, mais s'offusque de la présence du wi-fi partout "jusque dans les campings! Quand on trouvera aussi des bornes sur les aires de pique-nique et dans nos forêts, il ne faudra pas déplorer que nos gamins restent scotchés sur leur tablette au lieu de s'intéresser à ce qu'il y a autour. Socialement, c'est nul!"

# Thespians with a mission

## Piti Theatre wants to change the world by waking it up

*"Comedy is simply a funny way of being serious."*

— Peter Ustinov, actor

**E**ver wonder just where the strange beast called "theater" came from?

Why on earth would otherwise sensible human beings be willing to unabashedly throw themselves on stage, enact outlandish scenarios and risk looking ridiculous? Why, of course, for the chance to court rapturous favor and glory, of course.

Or else, just perhaps, to send a wake-up call to their less-aware fellows; which is to say, you and me.

Here's the scoop from no lesser source than PBS:

"In the 6th century BC ... a festival of entertainment (was) held in honor of the god Dionysus, (which) featured competitions in music, singing, dance and poetry. And most remarkable of all the winners was said to be a wandering bard called Thespis.

According to tradition, in 534 or 535 BC, Thespis astounded audiences by leaping on to the back of a wooden cart and reciting poetry as if he was the characters whose lines he was reading. In doing so he became the world's first actor, and it is from him that we get the world thespian."

I know this breed. My best friend Preston has been a thespian since I first met him at the age of 12 and has needed nothing more than a whim and a fancy to go off into brilliant comic inventions. I recall him, while walking with my mother and I on a perfectly normal New Canaan street one afternoon, suddenly stumbling across the now-antique prop of an empty glass phone booth. In no time flat he was excitedly answering the, to our ears, silent phone, then launching into a wildly dramatic conversation with an unknown combatant who clearly possessed no interpersonal skills whatever. Histrionics came and went at record speed: expectation, surprise, wonder, annoyance, affront, utter outrage, galvanizing his somewhat pudgy frame into a menagerie of hilarious emotional contortions.

Of course, I was amused by his antics for by now I always expected them; but my mother! That dear lady was bent over double, tickled beyond measure, tears of laughter brimming in her eyes.

Now, say what you will, but I call that magic, genuine magic in the first degree. That's nothing less than pulling a real rabbit out of a nonexistent hat. There we were, three more or less ordinary people with no particular mirth or merriment on hand, and suddenly — presto chango! — the born Thespian taps into his inner clown and the world is awash with delight ... or wonder, or despair or whatever. That's the thing about a true thespian, he can spin any situation whatever way he has a mind to — for sheer entertainment, enlightenment, political agendas or any other reason.

You couldn't have caught me dead hamming it up like that!

Other thespians lie closer to home, right in our midst. Jonathan Mirin, friendly and lanky, breathes theater as we

do air. Together with his wife Godelieve Richard he is the chief cook and bottle-washer for the Piti Theatre Co., a hands-on, very user-friendly little company with a remarkably breakneck theatrical agenda.

Founded in 2004, the Shelburne Falls-based duo occasionally sojourns to Switzerland, the homeland of Richard, a choreographer, dancer and visual artist. Piti ("pea-tea") is an ancient Indian (Pali) word that translates as joy or rapture. The company produces an annual festival every March in Shelburne Falls called SYRUP: One Sweet Performing Arts Festival.

But while gifted with pronounced funny bones and a penchant for looniness, there's a mission and a method to their madness: they want to change the world, wake it up, take it back, set it rolling in the right direction again, whether the subject be the imperiled earth or the fate of the honeybee. And they want to grab humans while they're still grabbable, when they're fresh out of the crib and wide open to take in the message. And it is evidently a message which has made its impact, for Mirin sports a handful



Submitted photo

Piti Theatre's "Innocenzo," ("The Unknowing One"), will be performed Saturday, June 6, at 1 p.m. at the Shelburne Senior Center, 7 Main St., Shelburne Falls, (just after the Frog and Flower parade, which is part of RiverFest, Shelburne Falls' annual celebration of the Deerfield River this weekend.)

of awards for his work, including several Best Solo Performance nominations by the Independent Reviewers of New England.

After all, what better way to get deep stuff into young minds than by wrapping it inside the sugar of comedy and drama?

A case in point is their upcoming revival of "Innocenzo," ("The Unknowing One"), slated to hit the floorboards Saturday, June 6, at 1 p.m. at the Shelburne Senior Center, 7 Main St., Shelburne Falls, (just after the Frog and Flower parade, which terminates next to the Senior Center). Music for the production will be provided by Northampton singer-songwriter Carrie Ferguson. The show sports a tragi-comic scenario about a clown (code for "clueless human being") who attempts to survive amidst the electromagnetic stresses of the 21st century. The comic drama is directly based upon Richard's personal struggle to survive electromagnetic syndrome.

Strangely, this turns out to be a subject of which this writer happens to have had decades of painful first-hand experience. The bottom line is that the human nervous and immune systems were not designed for life in the Wi-Fi world. A wide range of clinical dysfunctions — from systemic inflammation and neurological damage to even cancers — can be the direct result of exposure to high-intensity fields produced by cell phones and

cell phone towers, cathode rays and innumerable other 'advanced' technologies. Indeed, there are, as I write, thousands of individuals across the globe who cannot and do not venture outside the portals of their homes due to severe electro-allergies.

Without going too deeply into my own tale of woe, suffice it to say that it required more than a dozen years of ceaseless effort and experimentation involving many professionals — and more than a few encounters with sneering disbelievers — before emerging into daylight again, so much the wiser.

Another equally pressing focus of Piti Theatre is the fate of the honeybee. On May 19, President Obama's Pollinator Health Task Force released its "National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honeybees and Other Pollinators." The strategy highlights the importance of "public education and outreach" among other measures in the fight to stop pollinator decline, which includes massive losses to the monarch butterfly population as well as 30 to 40 percent annual losses of honey bees and dwindling populations of many native bee species.

Greenfield is having its second annual Bee Week — May 30 to June 7 — and Northampton is having its first from May 26 to June 13. The complete calendar of events and more information may be found at [www.beeweek.org](http://www.beeweek.org)

Below, some of Piti Theatre suggestions on how businesses and homeowners can become involved with Bee Week:

- Partner with a neighbor to create a "pollinator corridor" along the edges of your property
- Reduce pesticide/herbicide use
- Let a little corner of the lawn "go" (ideal for native bee nesting)
- Joining the "10 percent for the Bees" campaign, which involves moving towards converting 10 percent of your lawn to bee-friendly habitat
- Reducing the use of wireless communication
- Planting organically grown bee-friendly flowers or seeds

People can share what they do by emailing [info@ptco.org](mailto:info@ptco.org) or by calling 413-625-6569. Piti Theater will post it on [beeweek.org](http://beeweek.org) to inspire others and perhaps include it in future press releases, eblasts, etc.

Piti Theater experience leaves us no excuse: if one guy, one lady, one musician and one stage can shake and wake the world up like this, what unknown possibilities await the rest of us?

An author and composer, columnist Joseph Marcello of Northfield focuses on music and theater. He can be reached at [josephmarcello@verizon.net](mailto:josephmarcello@verizon.net).



Joseph Marcello  
**Encores  
& Curtain  
Calls**

# Local theater company tells story of electrosmog

By KATHLEEN McKIERNAN  
Recorder Staff

**GREENFIELD** — In 2010, Godeliève Richard and her husband, Jonathan Mirin, visited his mother in Boston, where Richard fell ill.

The Shelburne resident could no longer sleep, felt dizzy and suffered headaches. At the hospital, she was diagnosed with a virus.

She had difficulty breathing, felt tingling in her fingers and toes and had trouble moving her limbs.

It was only the beginning of a three-year search in and out of doctors' offices to find the cause of her illness.

In 2011, a kinesiologist told Richard about the condition of electrohypersensitivity.

To find out whether she had the condition, Richard and Mirin went camping. Within three days, Richard felt healthy.

At a clinic in Switzerland in 2012, where Richard and Mirin spend half the year, she was diagnosed with a sensitivity to electrosmog, a condition in which people feel fatigue and mental impairment from exposure to EMF/RF radiation from cell phones, Wi-Fi, cordless phones, antennas, smart meters, microwave ovens and other devices.

Richard now uses a biotuner in her home, a device that blocks radiation, to stay healthy.

Electrohypersensitivity is a controversial topic, with some discrediting the condition.

Some countries, like Sweden, have accepted the diagnosis as a real condition and have taken steps to reduce radiation use.

To tell Richard's story and raise awareness, Richard and Mirin have created a play about a clown, Innocenzo, who becomes ill due to exposure to ambi-

ent electromagnetic energy, through their traveling theater company, The Piti Theatre Company.

"Innocenzo" is one of several health- and prevention-based themes the company has created since its inception in 2004.

Today, the theater company will debut the show at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls at 11 a.m.

On June 2 at 5:30 p.m. Greenfield Community Television will have a studio taping with an audience. Children ages 5 to 10 are invited to rehearse with the actors on June 1 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Greenfield Public Library.

On June 6 at 1 p.m., the Shelburne Senior Center will showcase the play as part of the Shelburne Falls Riverfest.

Piti Theatre will then take the show on the road to Switzerland.

For more information, visit:  
[www.ptco.org/innocenzo](http://www.ptco.org/innocenzo)

## Sweet and Sour

**P**iti Theatre Company specializes in exploring serious issues in playful ways. Nimble Arts is “a bunch of seriously excellent performers,” as this paper once put it, whose show is a playful exploration of high-flying circus arts. The two troupes co-headline this weekend’s annual Syrup Festival in Shelburne Falls, a celebration of all things spring. Subtitled “One Sweet Performing Arts Festival,” the two-day affair features performances and workshops accompanied by a sweet-and-sour food theme involving maple syrup and free pickles.

Piti Theatre’s new play for kids and families is a clown show with music and magic that is also a cautionary tale. *Innocenzo*, with Jonathan Mirin, is about electropollution, the electromagnetic radiation emitted by cell phone towers, microwave ovens, and other modern conveniences that happens to make some people sick.

*Ruckus* is Nimble Arts’ traveling “cirque spectacular,” a variety show in which much of the action takes place in midair. Below the solo and duo acts on trapeze and aerial silks, there’s solid-ground juggling and acrobatics. On Sunday the troupe offers two workshops, in juggling and aerial gymnastics, where kids ages 7 and up and adults can play with throwing objects, or themselves, up in the air.

March 21, 3 p.m. Memorial Hall, 51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls, \$5-\$12; March 22, 2 and 3 p.m., Buckland-Shelburne Elementary, \$10, advance registration recommended, [ptco.org/syrup](http://ptco.org/syrup), (413) 625-6569.

— Chris Rohmann

