

SCHNEE BIS ZUR NEIGE

Un symposium pour l'année bissextile

Schnee bis zur Neige

The Symposium for the Leap Year

Artistic direction: Daniel Rausis, Georges Pfruender

Administrative direction: Delphine Tini, Francesco Walther

Co-produced by the Snowball Association and Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais

1. Who are we?

The snowball game "Last One Standing" was developed by the "Snowball Association" in collaboration with the Academy of Arts (ECAV) and has already been presented to a broad audience twice in Valais: 2006 in Fully and 2007 in Grimentz.

Situated at the interface between art and play, this interdisciplinary project also aims to do justice to the requirements of high-performance and mass sports. As a team game, it will be a model for stimulating processes of social integration, which has already been tested with the help of teachers in the region's daily school life, and now – as a large-scale project with partners – is being further developed for Johannesburg.

The first time, Last One Standing was seen at the Festival "Sion 2006 Quand-Même", and in February 2007 a new production of the game was hosted in Grimentz. The next steps have been decided: LOS will become active internationally – it will even become popular in previously snow-free areas, such as Johannesburg and Adelaide.

Our broad aim is, in the foreseeable future, to establish LOS as a new, officially recognised Olympic discipline, in the canon of the Winter Olympics.

2. Why this Symposium?

A colourful range of questions concerning snow, games and art will be posed and answered in dialogue between scientists, sportspeople, social workers, philosophers and artists from Europe, Africa and Asia. The LOS project will be able to take manifold new impulses and facets from this. The presentations will bring LOS closer to a wider audience,

in all its complexity. The resulting reports will be published in specialist journals and on the Internet.

In the context of snowball tournaments, a particular eye should be on the topic of artificial snow and the impact it has on the natural and social environment. Positions on this are groundbreaking, not only for the LOS tournaments, but for all the future Winter Olympics.

Important contributions will also come from the arts. For example, percussionist Christophe Fellay will play the first performance of his composition for the silent film "Napoleon", in which a snowball fight is narrated at epic length. In addition, Donna Kukama, a performer from South Africa and Zhang Chung Yan from China will each create a new work on the topic of snowballs.

The Symposium "Schnee bis zur Neige" serves to write history for LOS and to allow an archive of knowledge about snowballs to be created. Foremost, LOS is simply a very entertaining game, but there is also an immense specialist knowledge that flows into it from very varied disciplines, and this knowledge should be further developed and captured.

With pride the Snowball Association can announce that Jean-Daniel Mudry, Director of Swiss-Ski up to 2005, has become a Patron of the Symposium. Thanks to the participation of numerous other luminaries it is now already clear that the interested audience for "Schnee bis zur Neige" in Château Mercier will experience extraordinary and unforgettable moments.

Symposium programme 29 February 08

Welcome note by the Symposium direction on behalf of the Snowball Association:
Georges Pfründer, Daniel Rausis

Introductory talk by Jean-Daniel Mudry, on winter sports in general and snowball fights in particular

"L'effet boule de neige de Matthieu 28.3" (The snowball effect of Matthew 28.3) Talk by Dr François-Xavier Amherdt, doctor of theology, doctor of philosophy, doctor of biblical studies, football referee, musician and professor of pastoral care, religious education and preaching at the University of Fribourg. His publications include: "Le sport, religion universelle du XXI^e siècle?" (*Que penser de?* no. 60), Namur, Editions Fidélité 2004; and *Dieu est arbitre: le sport comme parabole*, St-Maurice, Editions St-Augustin 2001. At the heart of the Christian mystery is the angel who announces the resurrection, who is white as snow.

"Boule de neige et jour de l'an et bonne année grand-mère" (Snowball and New Year's Day and happy birthday grandma"

Choral interlude by the Octuor Vocal de Sion, directed by François-Xavier Amherdt.

“Last One Standing et le développement durable” (Last One Standing and sustainable development)

Dr Christophe Clivaz, political scientist, doctor of public administration. Professor at the Instituts Economie & Tourisme et Santé-Social de la HES-SO Valais (Sierre and Sion), he teaches, researches and consults in the tourism sector, sporting events and sustainable development.

“La boule de neige et les Enfants Terribles” (The snowball and the Enfants Terribles)

Talk by Marisol Diz, licenciée en lettres and teacher, Lausanne. Specialises in analysing the scenes of Jean Cocteau, she demonstrates how the snowball fight at the beginning of the novel *Les enfants terribles*, published in 1919, takes on symbolic value. In the tumult and agitation of the schoolchildren, Paul advances, insensible to the game: “He was looking for Dargelos; he loved him. And here was Dargelos, god of lightning: a blow struck him right in the middle. A dark blow.” It was more than a snowball that struck Paul, it was fate. Immobilised in his movement, Paul will succumb to a fixation that he will never be able to look back on.

We will listen to the adaptation of this scene for radio by Maurice Cazeneuve in 1947 for Radio France and realised for the cinema by Jean-Pierre Melville.

“pataplay: joy-jeu-jouissance”

Margarethe Jahrmann, Austrian artist and lecturer in the Game Design course at the IAD Zurich, co-founder of the art server konsum.net and the Ludic Society, presents: “Similar to a 'pataphysical bike, ludics is a levitation model for a thinking machine, providing the salvation that is embedded in the danger and joy of in-game techniques. Behind the books of physics and science, the methods and practices of 'pataphysika and pata-science fiction for adults vanquish the physics of the rules of play.”

“Does a snowball have to be white?”

Donna Kukama, South African performance artist, assistant at ECAV, will give a lecture in Tswana/English about snowballs and racism.,

“Mais où sont les neiges d'antan?” (But where are yesterday's snows? François Villon)

Introduction by Daniel Rausis, with the participation of Dr Raphaël Maître, sociolinguist and gallo-roman dialectologist at the University of Neuchâtel. Glossary of Suisse-Romande patois. Is a snowball a *pallotte* or a *mallotte* (a *pelote* or a *meulette*)?

“La mallotte, boule neige de mon enfance” (The *mallotte*, snowball of my childhood)

Report by Dr Jérôme Meizoz, sociologist of literature, who directs the interdisciplinary doctoral programme at the University of Lausanne. “Those who gave me a few words of patois, as well as the expressions of regional French, were primarily the women who brought me up day to day, my mother, then my aunts. This gynaeceum was papered with marked formulae for a child. Even some words, like “mallotte”, were so meaningful and

commonplace that it was quite late, at around twelve perhaps, that I became aware – still a mild shock – that they were, as we said then, ‘not French’.
Morts ou vif, Editions Zoé, 1999.

“Napoléon et les boules de neige” (Napoleon and snowballs)

Talk in Arabic and French by Dr Néjib Jaouadi, doctor of sociology, producer of video documentaries and professor at the ECAV, followed by projection of the silent film “Napoléon”, with sound composition by Christophe Fellay, Valaisan musician and composer, who is active on the international scene.

“Richesse et variété des mots qui désignent la neige dans les patois alpins” (The wealth and variety of words for snow in the Alpine patois)

Talk by Dr Gisèle Pannatier, doctor of dialectology, speaker of the patois from Evolène. Will words disappear before snow does?

“Last One Standing, un jeu qui exclut!!!” (Last One Standing, an exclusive game!!!)

Jorge Pinho, lecturer at the HES, Jean-Marc Roduit, lecturer at the HES, and a group of social work students from the HES Santé Social, will present Last One Standing as a space that mobilises, tests, verifies and reinforces social skills, and finally exploits personal resources. For the students, the prime interest of this collaboration with the game’s initiators resides in the use of an original teaching space, developed at a distance from a traditional training context. In February ’06, having tested Last One Standing through accompanying, supervising, directing 800 children and adolescents, this group of students will present a reflection on the topic of exclusion, introducing the game as an exemplary situation.

“La couverture des risques par les assurances dans le Snowball”

(Covering insurance risks in Snowball)

Elisabeth Revaz, master of law, attorney, lawyer at the Unité des affaires juridiques et éthiques of the CHUV, Lausanne.

“A Snowball in Hell?”

Dr Jackie Leach Scully, senior lecturer in Sociology at Newcastle University and Senior Research Associate at the unit of Ethics in Biosciences, University of Basel and Monica Buckland, music director at the TU Dresden, will jointly present a paper on crucial ethical questions regarding the action of snowball fighting.

“Last One Standing. Encore des règles!!” (Last One Standing. More rules!!)

Line Stunzi, social educator, Jean-Marc Roduit, lecturer at the HES, and a group of adolescents from the social institution Don Bosco will speak about their participation in Last One Standing matches. The children are familiar with snowball fights that did not

have rules. Last One Standing obliges them to submit to rules. The children thus lose independence, but gain on the level of the wealth of relationships, since a game permits confronting one another. The rules of the game fix a beginning, a course and a conclusion. Each person's place is determined and their roles defined. The relationship between the players thus develops in finesse and depth. Last One Standing is a veritable metaphor of issues of the group and the individual. The creation of rules allows participants to master themselves, and to govern themselves before governing the world.

“Les risques de lésion musculaire dans le lancement de la boule de neige” (The risks of muscular lesion in throwing snowballs)

Dr Damien Tagan, specialist in emergency medicine, chairman of the Riviera Hospital, director of the Intensive Care Unit, responsible for the unit of functional explorations, diploma in economics and healthcare management. Lecture on preventive medicine, followed by his inauguration as chief of the sports medicine dispensary of the World Snowball Union.

“Pourquoi les boules de neige durcissent?” (Why do snowballs go hard?)

Dr Amédée Zryd, physicist, doctor of natural sciences at the ETH Zurich, has always been interested in mountains, and in particular the Valaisan glaciers, on which he wrote his doctoral thesis. He happily combines his scientific work with his passion for writing and speaking. He is currently coordinator of applied research in Charmilles, of the Agie-Charmilles group, which is world leader in this area. His publications include *Les glaciers. La nature dans les Alpes*, Saint-Maurice, éditions Pillet, 2001.

“Xuechiou” Zhang Chung Yan, Chinese artist, will present an art action about snowballs, referring to Chinese traditions.