

## Literature and dance, a tandem partnership at the Transversales 2021 festival



"We haven't had such a rich social life in a long time!" After almost two years of the Covid crisis, Malou Beziat and Célia Frankel, 2nd year master students in comparative literature, threw themselves with obvious enthusiasm into the organization of Transversales. The festival, which has been held every year without interruption since 2011, lives up to its name. In addition to addressing the bridges between literature and the arts - "*our object of study in action!*" - it "breaks the categories" of the university community by involving students and teacher-researchers on the same level in the construction of the event. Malou Beziat had the idea for the theme of this edition, **dedicated to choreography and more broadly to the body in movement, and named "Trans'en danse"**.



Célia Frankel and Malou Beziat, 2nd year master students of general and comparative literature at Rennes 2 and co-presidents of the organization responsible for putting together Transversales, FTR2.

"The initial pedagogical project, initiated by *Timothée Picard* and *Jean Cléder* in the Literature Department, was to co-construct a festival using a horizontal form of organization", explains *Gaëlle Debeaux*, who is now the coordinator with *Marianne Di Benedetto*. "Concrete spaces to prepare the event were developed within the framework of the master's degree in general and comparative literature, mainly in the form of a course in the first semester of the degree program that introduces the chosen theme and allows students who wish to get involved to do so." Created in April 2020, the student organization *Festival Transversales Rennes 2 (FTR2)*, has succeeded in giving "real decision-making power to students." *Malou Beziat* and *Célia Frankel* are the co-presidents but "everything is discussed collegially and then coordinated in small groups of 2-3 people". Volunteers from all fields of study - "not only literary or artistic! Everyone is welcome whether it be for organizing an event or just sticking up posters, proposing ideas or other things."

For the two students, this is a golden opportunity "to become familiar with our future professional world, whether it be research or cultural mediation." Indeed, *Transversales* relies on numerous partnerships, both internal and external, offering a first contact with the world of events and the network of cultural actors in Rennes, such as the *Triangle*, the *Champs Libres* or the cultural office of *Rennes 2*. *Malou Beziat*, who is in charge of the festival's study day, will also take part in the M1 seminar: "It's an opportunity I would never have had without it, and it's great on a CV when you're considering a doctoral or post-doctoral contract," she says. The work on *Transversales* can also be the subject of a *VEE* (Validation des engagements étudiant.e.s) to validate certain courses or to get bonus points on one's average.



*Gaëlle Debeaux*, lecturer in general and comparative literature, is the editor of this 11th edition of *Transversales*, whose graphic design is signed by *Benoît Gaudin* of the cultural service of *Rennes 2*.

### On the program:

During this 11th edition, don't miss:

- *Gilles Amalvi*'s performance at the *Triangle* on November 23 at 7pm: The artist will talk to us about his body on stage and play dancing tunes while remaining static.
- The evening of November 25 at the *Tambour* will begin with a concert by *Michel Cloup* duo and *Pascal Bouaziz*, who put to music *A la ligne. Feuilletts d'usine*, a very rhythmic poetic text by *Joseph Ponthus* testifying to his experience in Breton food factories, and will continue with the screening of a short film on the gestures of workers in a factory manufacturing dance shoes, *Le ballet mécanique* by *Lorraine Féline*.
- Finally, before its closing on November 27, the festival will move to the *Bois Perrin*, a venue recently taken over by the [EUR CAPS](#) graduate school, for a very varied day around the writing of dance, combining workshops, exhibitions and round tables.

After "Trans'en danse", from January 2022, the team will work on a 12th edition, with the idea of making the festival live throughout the year through other actions.

Find the full program and practical information on the [Transversales website](#).

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