

ANTIGEL

PRESS RELEASE

1 March 2021

ANTIGEL STEPS INTO THE BREACHES

In 2020 we celebrated Antigel's first decade with a truly superlative, exuberant and thrilling festival. Who would have thought that in 2021, Antigel would be fighting for its survival, morphing into a shop for click & collect experiences, hiding and surfing on paradoxes? The trying circumstances had us toiling right until the end but hopefully, this inspiring adventure has opened up new paths. Determined to carry on, we refused to throw in the towel and fought a long and hard battle to show that culture could be kept alive, whatever the costs. The meetings we requested with the authorities and the relentless negotiations enabled us to find some common ground in grey areas, loopholes in which we ventured, making our way through this legal and administrative maze with cunning and brinkmanship. The outcome: the ANTIGEL CLICK & COLLECT EXPERIENCE. From 20 to 28 February, the shrewd and clever Covid-compatible version of the Festival attracted a wide variety of audiences given the extremely limited number of seats, opening the doors of the Alhambra and the Theatre Am Stram Gram, which had been closed to the public for months, to mysterious events, intertwining worship and culture, showcasing Geneva's neighbourhoods through live radio experiments and bringing culture closer to the public. All this in addition to Shap Shap and Motel Campo's widely international programme. From 5 to 27 February, the GRAND CENTRAL STREAM featured a hub of electronic music with 19 DJs from the best contemporary underground scenes. Finally, sportspeople also came forward, rising to the ANTIGEL RUN CHALLENGES with vigour as every weekend in February, they bravely raced around the four routes traced along Geneva's waterways.

The Festival's poster symbolised, with its mirror-like design, the persistent doubts and uncertainties. The logo has now been placed upright again as Antigel looks back on this year's unprecedented event, featuring no less than 183 performances, concerts, live streams, races, radio walks and shows, made possible thanks to more than 60 artists, in 10 Geneva communes over 24 days.

ANTIGEL CLICK & COLLECT EXPERIENCE

From 20 to 28 February, the Antigel Click & Collect Experience showed that risk-free artistic alternatives, compatible with the legal framework in force, could be drawn up. The Alhambra and the Am Stram Gram Theatre hosted concerts, dance performances and even one-to-one poetic prescriptions, which all sold out in a few hours: no less than a dozen artists – MARIO BATKOVIC, CYRIL CYRIL, CIE 7273, SARA OSWALD, FABRICE MELQUIOT, SAMUEL GALLET, EMMANUELLE DESTREMAU, CORALIE EHINGER, JULIEN ISRAELIAN, RAPHAËL ORTIS, PRUNE GUILLAUMON and VAROUJAN CHETERIAN – surprised the handful of participants who came to collect their online purchases. Always on the lookout for new experiences, the public also wandered around the Servette district or on Quai du Seujet, lulled by the stories told live by the GALLET-DESTREMAU duo or by OLIVIA CSIKY-TRNKA and LOUIS SÉ.

As we were unable to welcome the public, we went to find them at their homes. The residents of the eco-district of La Jonction gathered around a temporary stage in the heart of their

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blocks to welcome the explosive performance of the dancers GÁBOR VARGA and JÓZSEF TREFELL. The thirst for culture was also felt at L'Adret. In this changing neighbourhood, the magic worked and the thunderous applause that resounded there will be remembered for a long time to come. Finally the performance at Le Lignon was a huge highlight, as the stage at the foot of the two towers of this emblematic district turned out to be the most beautiful theatre in the world.

Worship and culture also joined forces to question the inconsistencies in the health measures that authorised events: if they were religious they were acceptable but forbidden when they were cultural. RODOLPHE BURGER, at the Parish of Bernex, and FABRICE MELQUIOT together with ALEXANDRE MÜLLER and MARIE DRUC, at the Temple of Satigny gave exceptional liturgical readings, bringing together the faithful and Antigél's public. The two symbolically meaningful events were sold out from the first day.

This myriad of events was made possible thanks to the artists who agreed to play along and campaign at our side. For Antigél, they showed extraordinary agility and were not afraid to revisit their works, adapt their performances and play in places they had never experienced before. Above all, they all trusted us, just like the public did, who followed us and let themselves be drawn into this adventure with their eyes closed. This enthusiasm has warmed our hearts and encouraged us to fight on. THANK YOU!

GRAND CENTRAL STREAM

The closing of the borders did not prevent Grand Central from charting new horizons. Through live streams, the leading hub for electronic music lovers took us on a trip from one end of the globe to the other. In collaboration with ANITA KIRPPIS, MIGHTY and the CUSS and BATEKOO collectives, Shap Shap once again completed its mission, inviting minority artists to perform at the Festival and thus offering them a space for expression. This event full of new discoveries will remain etched in our memories for a long time as Shap Shap flew to Latin America for the first time!

Coming straight from the emerging ultra-underground scenes of El Salvador, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa and Geneva, GHETTO WITCHEZ, EL IRREAL VEINTIUNO, KIARA FELIPPE, FRESHPRINCEABAHIA, ROSE BONICA, X14, I-VYE and VEN3MO all imbued Geneva's airwaves with their raw, powerful and engaging sounds. As far as the Swiss scene is concerned, Motel Campo also won its bet: the *Röstigraben* is no more! Its four evenings brought together the crème de la crème of Swiss DJs from Western and Eastern Switzerland. In actual fact, the booming basslines of ANGELO REPETTO, EL TIGRE SOUND and KEJEBLOS are still resounding in Geneva's flats!

ANTIGEL RUN CHALLENGES

Every weekend in February, runners from here and everywhere came forward to take up the challenges of four races at the beginning of the year. Along the Rhone, the Seymaz, the Aire and the Arve, the virtual version of Antigél's run took them on a discovery route through nine Geneva communes. Hats off to those who faced the muddy terrain, the snowy paths, the freezing cold, and the unexpected sunshine! For the first time and in collaboration with Antidote, a race was organised in a prison for the inmates. Antigél knows no limits!

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NEVER LEAVE CULTURE AT A STANDSTILL!

We have now closed our 11th festival with a sense of mission accomplished. Antigél's initiatives have enabled us to open new paths, challenge our creative processes and develop new formats. Nevertheless, the situation remains unclear for culture and the solutions provided only partially meet the expectations of the public, who remain the real losers in this situation. At this time, all cultural players have stepped up to make their voices heard and we support them most sincerely. We have chosen to thump the table by offering symbolic events that question the health measures. If Antigél's case can set a precedent and pave the way for others, then our work will have been meaningful.

The entire Antigél team hopes to see some light on the cultural horizon for all those involved in the sector: festival friends, artists, partners, suppliers, concert halls and theatres. And of course, the public.

A huge thank you to everyone who has placed their trust in us. Without your support, our 11th festival would have been impossible.

See you next year!

Festival Antigél

SEE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 11TH FESTIVAL:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1VhFRWgS12mkC9Zx8FI-JPftLhVybhS-J>

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