



PRESS RELEASE

THEATRE AND DANCE: A QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE PRESENCE AT THE 16th EDITION OF THE FIRA

- From 7 to 10 November, Manresa will lift the curtain on more than twenty shows, from different European stages
- Avant-garde shows and much more traditional productions come together in a programme open to all kinds of audiences

To define the **Fira Mediterrània de Manresa** as a strictly music event would be to make a big mistake that needs correction. Apart from filling the streets and stages of the city with rhythms and melodies, the **Fira** has always been open to the spoken word and bodily expression so that, today, the **Mediterrània** would lose its *raison d'être* if it did not have a significant presence of theatre and dance. This year's programme is no exception, and you only need to glance through the listings to see that the theatre and dance on offer this year make these into one of the strongest elements of the artistic events on offer.

Theatre and dance thus, once again, have a highly significant presence in this **16th edition**. Avant-garde and tradition share the spotlight in a series of productions which come to us from various European stages, and aimed at audiences of all ages, tastes and objectives. A full and varied offer which has something for everyone, from children to the most sophisticated adult audiences; open both to those who seek mainly visual and aesthetic expression and to those who want to get inside more intense contents.

In terms of theatre, the Portuguese company, **Pia – Projectos de Intervenção Artística**, will bring for the first time to Catalonia the installation entitled *Passagem*, a show that aims to transform public space into a privileged stage for visual poetry. In this work, the artists will decorate different trees of the Parc de Casino over the four days of the **Fira**, and will then, finally, do a physical

theatre performance on stilts using mask techniques. For their part, the company hailing from Madrid, **La Rueda Teatro Social**, go one step beyond simple representation and will convert the play *Los Rodríguez: una familia en crisis*, with a very special production that they locate within so-called forum theatre. A performance in which the audience at the Plaça Major will be able to intervene to change the course of a show which reveals the experiences of a family that decides to live on the streets after being evicted from their home.

The union of the companies **Taaroa Teatre** and **Bufa & Sons** is another of the highlights of the stage programming of this edition of the Mediterrània, with the adaptation of the classic *Il Barone Rampante (The Baron in the Trees)*, by **Italo Calvino**. With a piece whose content is very relevant today, the two companies want to inspire the viewer to believe not just that things could be different, but that we ourselves can change them. Also presenting an adaptation are the **Associació Cultural Recreativa de Fals**, with the revival of the story of *Antigone*, in **Salvador Espriu's** 1939 version of the classic by Sophocles. The Valencian company **Albena Teatre** bring us yet another adaptation with *Kafka i la nina viatgera (Kafka and the Travelling Doll)*, a piece based on the novel by **Jordi Serra i Fabra** and which critics consider to be one of the best shows currently on offer in family theatre. And from the writer **Miquel Àngel Riera** we have *Centaures*, a dramatisation of three short stories presented by the company **Iguana Teatre**, from the Balearic Islands, which can be defined without question as a little gem of the theatre.

And as for street performances, the company **FaberTeater** arrives from Italy to offer the piece entitled *Emigranti*. This is a street show aimed at family audiences, in which the six members of the company bring us a voyage full of action and songs with which they wish to evoke a journey through different worlds, an adventure full of fantasy, with love and betrayal, dances and disputes. Meanwhile, coming from Holland we have **Lichtbende** with *Poufff*, a show which also falls within the category of family theatre. They are certain to arouse the emotions of the audience, using old magic lanterns to try to show how dreams are produced.

The poet and rhapsodist from Barcelona, **Josep Pedrals**, will bring us *Dir-se en cruïlla*, a poetry reading in the company of the guitarist Albert Sagrera, in which he offers a journey through words originating in the Mediterranean which over the centuries have become part of our language. **Jordina Biosca and Mauricio Molina** also lead us to look into our origins, with *Tots som sants (We are all saints)* where they tell us a series of passionate stories inspired by characters who in the past were heroes and who now form part of our typical expressions and celebrations.

A donkey's head is the prop chosen by **Jordi Rocosa** in the stage presentation of *Excèntric plàstics*. The artist will invite the audience to put on this symbol of the stubbornness and capacity for hard work of this great animal in order to share the experience of a unique performance that is presented using a portable installation. The three metre high structures of **Galiot Teatre**, which they have dubbed *Els bowts*, and the giants' dance from **Geganters de Manresa** complete this year's theatre offer at the **Fira Mediterrània**.

Dance at the Mediterrània

Within the world of dance we must highlight the presence of the Tunisian **Héla Fattoumi** and **Eric Lamoreux** from France, who jointly present *Manta*. This show, produced by the National Choreographic Centre of Caen and which received an award from the French Ministry of Culture, offers us a poignant reflection on the role of women in the Arab world. Another award winning artist who will be at Manresa — **Álvaro de la Peña**, who received the City of Barcelona Prize for 2012 — has worked with a group of inmates from the Lledoners prison, with whom he presents a piece created with them in a workshop during the weeks prior to the celebration of the **Fira**.

Plaça Major will be the scene of a world premiere with the staging of the show *Balla-Fira* by **Factoria Mascaró**. This is another production based on participation, created with the objective that the children from Manresa's schools who participate in it learn to express themselves through their bodies. This is not the only work brought by **Factoria Mascaró**, since this multifaceted group will also bring to the Teatre Conservatori the four choreographic pieces that make up the show entitled *La Via Crucis*.

Also aimed at family audiences is the offer from **Nats Nus**. In creating this show directed at children over six years old, and which they have called *Mons (quan tanco els ulls)*, the Catalan company was inspired by the work of the writer and illustrator Jimmy Liao. Another exciting project is that offered by the members of **Proyecto D_Ruses**, formed by Jordi Vilaseca and Moisés Rojo, called *5*. This is a short piece created during a residence at the Estruch creation factory in Sabadell.

Special mention is deserved by the prestigious Basque company **Kukai Dantza** who present the Catalan premiere of *Gelajauziak*, a piece created by **Cesc Gelabert** following a meeting between this Catalan choreographer and the dancers at the 2011 **Fira Mediterrània**. Moreover, we must highlight the presence of **Thomas Chaussebourg** from France, who brings the Spanish premiere of an equestrian show entitled *Ma bête noire*, a choreography designed for a dancer and a majestic horse, with no saddle or reins; a partner on stage rather than a controlled steed. Meanwhile, the

couple formed by **Sònia Sànchez** and **Jordi Molina** will present *Temple*, a show which blends flamenco with the particular sound of the tenora.

The use of traditional music to achieve modernity was the foundation stone for the five dancers who form **CollectifPoPs** when they created Units. And finally, we must mention the participation of the **dance troupes** from **Mollet** and **Rubí**; the first offers us an overview of Catalonia's linguistic diversity with the production *SomDansa*, from east to west, while the latter brings us *Festa-3* which, as its name suggests, revisits in three different choreographies some festive dances which originate in the counties of Baix Llobregat and Vallès.

Press room (documents, graphic material...):

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