

cia Passabarret
presents



Josafat

The unknown story of the other Hunchback of Notre Dame

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A circus adaptation of Prudenci Bertrana's classic modernist novel that deconstructs the passion, fear, contradictions, obsessions, contrasts and tragedy of this unknown Hunchback of Notre Dame of the Catalan literature, resulting in a short, astonishing and naif story



Official synopsis

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The show

The challenge of turning a modernist classic novel like 'Josafat' into a circus work for all audiences is nothing more than using a new language to tell a recognizable story, but giving it a vision as open-minded as the scenic art that now reviews it, focusing on the background but reinterpreting the content, with licenses for the circus and the acting performance. 'Josafat' is the story of the "Hunchback of Notre Dame" of Catalan literature. A story of a dark carácter that now sees the light revitalized and with a new perspective.

This adaptation aims, at the stroke of a scalpel, to maintain the original background of the stories that relate the two main characters of the text, Josafat and Fineta, but to tear out their scenic presentation. A lonely bell-ringer, used to the height, who can play with a six-meter mast as he rises with the danger of knives, is seduced by a young girl with an acrobatic language. A passionate relationship with a fatal end, represented by a knee perch...

From literature to circus?

'It is not usual to find literary adaptations using the circus as a stage art to reinterpret them. The charisma of the main character of the novel seduced us from the beginning, in the frame of a short novel, almost a fable, that transports us to a mystical but very realistic world. We have always thought that a literary adaptation was possible. Why not? We had the idea, now we have the dream: Josafat'.

David Sancho (producer)



The Company

Cia. Passabarret was founded in 1995 in Valls (Tarragona – Catalonia, Spain), with young street artists who decided to present on a stage some of their most elaborate numbers. This is how their first show, *Qui té la pela?*, was born, a juggling proposal that was presented at the 13th Marató de l'Espectacle at the Mercat de les Flors in Barcelona (May 1996), which allowed the Company to be introduced to the general audience.

However, the first spectacle that made them tour professionally was their gypsy, itinerant and musical circus band, *Tandarica Orkestar* (2004), which led them to work at the most important festivals of the Spanish street theater circuit, reaching other countries like Monaco, France, Holland, Jordan, Colombia or Cuba, performing with some of the most important names in international Balkan music, such as Fanfare Ciocarlia or Emir Kusturica.

During the last years they have worked alongside artists such as Peter Ercolano, Maku Fanchulini, Pepa Plana or El Capitán Maravilla, although it highlights the influence of outstanding clowns like El Payaso Chacovachi or Jango Edwards, with whom they have collaborated closely. Cia. Passabarret and Jango Edwards premiered at Fira Tàrrrega 2010 the show 'Big Boss & Tandarica Circus', in which the prestigious American artist performed as the leader of the family.

In 2014 they began their first tour with their own circus tent in the North of Spain, using the name 'Tandarica Circus Experience'. That same year they began collaborating with Clowns Without Borders as expeditionary artists.

Cia. Passabarret annually performs an average of one hundred performances with its different shows, and in October 2012 they opened their own center for creation and production of shows, called 'La Circoteca', in addition to their own circus school. 'La Circoteca' has been awarded with the 2015 Zirkòlika Prize, in the category of best initiative for the projection of the circus in Catalonia.



Artistic Team



Oriol Llop, 'Josafat'

Multidisciplinary circus artist, trained at the Rogelio Rivel Circus School (Barcelona), Carampa Circus School (Madrid) or the Circo de Los Muchachos (Orense). He has worked in companies such as Malandandus or Traüt de Tarí, although most of his professional career is developed in Cia. Passabarret, which he joined in 2003 in the show 'Més Joguines'. He has trained as a clown with Àlex Navarro, Chacovachi or Pepa Plana. Currently he is also an active artist in the shows 'Tandarica Circus' or 'Rodolfo & Rita'.

María Cavagnero, 'Fineta'

Born in Buenos Aires, during the 90s and until 2003 she moved to Italy, but finally decided to travel to Barcelona and start her career as a photographer. In 2010 she came into contact with the circus arts. From that moment he is exclusively dedicated to body work. She's been formed in aerial silks, smooth rope and cyr wheel, being this last discipline the one that wakes up a greater interest towards the experimentation with the element. He has worked in France, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. Last 2017 was nominated in the "revelation artist" category at the Zirkòlika Circus Awards (Barcelona).



Guillermo Cides, 'Prudenci'

The Argentinian Guillermo Cides is a world reference of the "stick", an unconventional musical instrument that joins in a single device the strings of a guitar and an electric bass, which are played with the 'tap' technique. He is one of the few concert players of this instrument, a fact that makes him a true "one-man-band" that works with the technique of 'loops'. Linked to progressive rock and with several albums published, he has performed alongside personal names such as Lito Vitale, Trey Gunn (King Crimson), Fish (Marillion), Emerson, Lake & Palmer, John Wetton (Asia), Rick Wakeman (Yes), Roger Hodgson (Supertramp) or Jethro Tull.



Adrián Schvarzstein, the director

He is a mix of Spanish, Argentinian, Italian and... whatever! Clown, actor, circus and theatre director, he is a very energetic entertainer-showman! From 1989 in the show business, after studying Commedia Dell'Arte in Italy but theatrically formed all over Europe where he created and collaborated with many street theatre groups, circus, operas, TV programs, etc. After many years with the prestigious Circus Ronaldo from Belgium he has created and directed several collective and solo shows since 2004. 'Circus Klezmer', 'The Greenman', 'The Bed', 'Dans', 'Kamchátka' or the direction of the Opera 'La Barca' in Holland are few of his last successful projects.

Laia Estrada, assistant director

Circus acrobat formed at the Rogelio Rivel School of Circus (Barcelona). He started his professional career with the company Katalambano, with which she premiered the show "La rencontre des petits êtres" in 2016, where he worked as a clown and a Chinese mast acrobat. He joined the artistic project of Cia. Passabarret in 2017, although he had previously collaborated with them in some educational projects. In parallel, she is an active "castellera" in Colla Vella dels Xiquets de Valls, where she performs the traditional Catalan "human towers".





General information

Where can this show be performed?

'Josafat' is a show that was initially conceived to be developed in an equipped theater. However, it can also be done in with its street version (as it was premiered at the Fira Trapezi, in Reus, Catalonia), as long as the "theatre conditions" are respected (it means: the space should have a limited capacity, with a totally smooth floor, not located in a passage area, with open restaurants, bars or vehicle circulation, preferably in the evening, with the audience seated -preferably in bleachers-).

Minimum measures: 8m width x 8m deep x 7m height

Recommended age for family audience: from 6 yo

Duration: 60 minutes aprox.

Number of performers: 3

Number of technicians: 1 (only in theatre or night Street performance)

Mounting:

Indoor

Optimum time for assembly: 6h

Optimal dismantling time: 2h

Outdoor

Optimum time for assembly: 4h

Optimal dismantling time: 2h

Developed circus techniques

Magic
Perch
Rola bola

Smooth rope (Spanish web)
Knife throwing
Cyr wheel

Acrobatics
Aerial silks
Knee perch



Artistic Credits

This show is based on the original novel by Prudenci Bertrana

Adaptation and direction	Adrián Schvarzstein
Assistant director	Laia Estrada
Original Music	Guillermo Cides
Cast	Oriol Llop (Josafat) Maria Cavagnero (Fineta) Guillermo Cides (Prudenci)
Produced by	La Circoteca
Light design	Yuri Plana
Dressmaking	Maria Teresa Baz
Scenography and props	Jordi Gómez
Structure construction (for outdoors)	Diego Polognioli

In co-production with:
Ajuntament de Valls / Xarxa de Cultura

Residence in:
Teatres de Valls
Convent de les Arts d'Alcover

With the support of:
Ajuntament del Morell
Ajuntament de Tarragona
Fira Trapezi de Reus
Litterarum, fira d'espectacles literaris de Móra d'Ebre
Stick Center
Diputació de Tarragona
Generalitat de Catalunya (ICEC)



Technical Information

This document is only an extract.

We have a complete dossier with a lighting plan, much more detailed, both for interior and exterior. It can be downloaded on our website www.passabarret.com

Theatre requirements

- Optimal scenic space: 10m width x 9m deep x 8m height
- Minimal scenic space: 8m width x 7,50m deep x 7m height
- Assembly time: 6h / Dismantling time: 2h
- The stage floor should be flat, black and with very little inclination
- You need a central staircase to go down to the stalls
- Dressing rooms suitable for three people
- Parking near the loading dock
- Staff for loading and unloading: 2 people (they can be the same technicians)
- Staff for assembly: 1 technician of lights and machinery + 1 sound tech.
- Staff during the performance: 1 technician + 1 room manager
- The company has a light, sound and machinery technician

Street requirements

- Optimal scenic space: 10m width x 10m deep x free height
- Minimal scenic space: 8m width x 8m deep x free height
- Assembly time: 6h / Dismantling time: 2h
- Conventional electrical connection
- The floor of the scenic space must be flat, without sand or grass
- Dressing rooms suitable for three people
- Access by van to the work space + nearby parking
- Staff for loading and unloading: 2 people
- Staff for assembly: 1 technician of lights and machinery + 1 sound tech.
- Staff during the performance: 1 technician + 1 room manager
- The company has a light, sound and machinery technician

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VALLS**

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