

# *PAINTED PARADISE*



PEPA PLANA

DIRECTOR: FERRUCCIO CAINERO

# PAINTED PARADISE

*Created 2016*

## INTRODUCTION

Who has not seen at home, or in a family member's living room, one of those paintings depicting little angels? Well, one of these innocent beings stars in the new show of the female clown Pepa Plana, this time working with the playwright and director Ferruccio Cainero. A show that, despite of being funny, will connect us with the most tragic face of the world we live and, as all good clowns do, will also put a mirror in front of us so we can see ourselves reflected and challenged.



## SYNOPSIS

We start with a kind of angel that lives a happy and idealised life, yet despite this she is bored and has a nagging sensation that she doesn't fit into the imaginary space we think of as 'heaven'. She dreams of becoming a guardian angel though she has some confusion between the occupation of a guardian angel and a super hero. Besides, she can't even fly, as it wasn't envisaged that she would ever leave the painting but still, she stubbornly keeps trying until one day, by chance, she realises that it is much easier to swim than to fly. Once under the sea, in an environment visually recreated with video element, she'll enjoy the marvellous entourage until suddenly she will run up with a reality that he had never imagined. Impressed by the experience, we return to find her coming back on the buffet, in the frame of her painting. What's happened? Why has she made such a swift return? Doesn't she want to come back? It seems that she prefers to stay in her Painted Paradise. But, will she remain there for a long time? ...

## NOTE OF INTENTIONS

For a long time we have been considering the subject of migration when thinking about a new production, perhaps because our grandparents were also immigrants.

For some years now, as the economic interests increasingly dictate over the political desires of the citizenship, it has become obvious that the movement of people from one place to another will not stop, rather quite the opposite. We think it is necessary to form an opinion that counteracts the alarmist discourse emanating from many media outlets. It is not an easy subject, nor one that can be addressed carefree.

Our direct experience over the years with the NGO Pallassos Sense Fronteres (Clowns Without Borders) reinforces our conviction that we must try and challenge the perception of migration as a negative phenomenon. All countries are the result of migration flows over time. When we started this project we could not imagine what would follow with the crisis of refugees escaping from the Syrian conflict. We have witnessed how Europe has been incapable to take a look back and remember its recent past by reacting in the worst possible way. We acknowledge and celebrate all the independent and courageous initiatives we have seen emerging throughout Europe's borders, but we think that these can only temporarily patch up the situation, and that a permanent solution to this human crisis will depend on wider social change. That's why, even if for the time being it doesn't seem possible to find a happy ending to this story, at least it aims to open the doors to hope, and, more importantly, remember and pay tribute to those who lost their lives while searching for the opportunity to have a better life.

Moreover, our angel also denounces the attitude of hanging on to our comfort zones, our Painted Paradise. That is, to prioritise the security of a space, a job or a particular environment that perhaps stifles us, to the insecurity of leaving it all being in order to find a different way.

The creative process of this show began at the Creative Centre "La Pallarassa" that our company has in Delta de l'Ebre (southern Catalonia). We continued rehearsals in the theatre of Sant Jaume d'Enveja, and then moved on to the Principal Theatre of Valls. Departing from the initial idea, it is Ferruccio Cainero who develops the script that keeps refining with further rehearsals. The original idea of this angel allows us to play with a series of collective referents that help us create a show without text.



# PAINTED PARADISE *Artistic Credits*

<b>Original Idea and Script</b>	<b>Ferruccio Cainero</b>
	<b>Pepa Plana</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Ferruccio Cainero</b>
<b>Clown</b>	<b>Pepa Plana</b>
<b>Voice-over</b>	<b>David Verdaguer</b>
<b>Production</b>	<b>La Vaca Flaca</b>
<b>Set Design</b>	<b>Lali Canosa</b>
<b>Video</b>	<b>Estudi Nueveojos</b>
<b>Costume Design</b>	<b>Rosa Solé</b>
<b>Lighting Design</b>	<b>Yuri Plana</b>
<b>Props Atrezzo</b>	<b>Oriol Blanchar</b>
<b>Photography</b>	<b>Roser Arques</b>



As for the working team, we have already highlighted the incorporation into the direction and dramaturgy of Ferruccio Cainero ([www.ferrucciocainero.ch](http://www.ferrucciocainero.ch)) who shares authorship with Pepa Plana. Bearing in mind that this is another one-person show, his contribution is determinant to the development of the production, in line with our practice of incorporating new partners in each project so to enrich the creative process.

The other new feature in our career has been the use of video elements to recreate the most dramatic moment of the show. This has been possible thanks to the collaboration with the team of Nueveojos ([www.nueveojos.com](http://www.nueveojos.com)). An audiovisual study with a lot of experience in big spectacular settings and very much looking forward to take part in theatrical settings very diverse

The show was premiered July 14, 2016 as part of the Grec Festival of Barcelona, where he performed two more days on the 15th and 16th. Then he went through the "Ciudad Rodrigo Fair" and in a place like the other was very well received both by the public and by critics. The season in Barcelona from the 25/01 until the 19/02 of 2017 immediately began the tour, which in this first season we have already reached 57 functions and started the international tour of moment for Portugal.



# WHAT DE PRESS SAID

## *Painted Paradise*

With Painted Paradise, Pepa Plana accompanies us in the comfort of laughter to end up submerging us in a moment of intense emotion, one of those that stirs up your innermost. There is a lot and good in this show: the incessant play on stage, the tender and subtle heartbeat of the clown, the gesture, the gaze, the urge to communicate. And there is so much she wants to tell us that words become unnecessary. Instead she offers us wings so we can fly and dream with her. **Joaquín Melguizo, Heraldo de Aragón.**

Behind her red nose, and her soul, Pepa Plana achieves what she wishes for: the love of her audience. Laughing, crying or getting excited is the consequence of this appreciation. Right from the first minute the spectator has been caught up in the magic that the clown is able to project, who masters all the elements of the scene. **Toni Polo, Recomana.**

Committed, critical, rebellious, funny, heartbreaking and shocking. The new show of Pepa Plana is one not to be missed. **Marcel Barrera, Zirkólíka.**

At the end of the show the audience paid tribute to the protagonist with a standing ovation who was thrilled on the stage of 'Los Sitios'. **David Rodríguez, Salamanca al Día.**

Human and expressive, Pepa Plana has a great capacity to empathize with the audience, making them laugh and move them. **Núria Cañamares. Recomana**

Pepa Plana is tender in her gesture, ingenuous in a situation but with such a strong character that leaves her mark. Her scenic narrative, beyond the funny and provocative gags, captures and shakes the spectator's soul in a way that invites him or her to rebel, to take action. **Jordi Bordes, Recomana.**

Pepa Plana is a clown with a red nose that fills the scene without having to speak much so to capture the spectator's senses. She turns the art of clowning into a cry of rebellion against the injustice and cynicism of established power towards the most disadvantaged. **Andreu Sotorra, Recomana.**

Free spirits like Pepa Plana, a wonderful clown capable of make people laugh while crying inside. And, with kindness, she offers a faint but unwavering possibility of hope. Keep searching. Always pursuing. Always free. The paradises lost through the eyes of an angelic clown. **Jonás Saiz. La Rioja**

## ARTISTIC TEAM CAREER SUMMARIES

*Ferruccio Cainero*, director, playwright

Ferruccio Cainero, born in Udine in 1953, is an artist with a renowned career that lives in the Italian-speaking canton of Switzerland. His theatrical vocabulary, simple but complete, is particularly versatile and with a solid technique that has its roots in the tradition of the Comedia Dell'Arte. In his plays family memories and simple facts of everyday life are transformed into wonderful, surreal, hilarious and tragic epics that, scratching beyond the surface, offer unexpected and dazzling interpretations of our times. For many years Ferruccio Cainero has been fascinating and winning over audiences throughout Central Europe with his skills and authenticity that are the evidence of a virtuosity that has no linguistic boundaries.



During the last 30 years Cainero has written and produced 40 plays, many of which have become big hits, and others have toured the world and are still being performed.

His career as a theatre director has involved working with both big and small theatres and companies, especially in Germany, Switzerland and Italy where he is renowned as a connoisseur of the Comedy Dell'Arte. Two of the better known productions he has directed are perhaps "Giovanna d'ArPpo" and "Come un topo nel formaggio" performed by the female clown Gardi Hutter.

Ferruccio Cainero has also been honoured with major awards:

Willhelmshavener Knurrhahn, 2008 Award  
2006 Internacional Prize for narrative "L'Oreille d'Or de Graz"  
2003 SalzburgerStier Internacional award for Cabaret  
Schweizer Kleinkunst Preis, 2002 award

<http://www.ferrucciocainero.ch>

## *Pepa Plana*, female clown

Pepa Plana, Catalan actress and female clown, born in Valls, Tarragona on May 2 1965, is a national referent the quality of her productions and her contribution to the visualisation and promotion of female clowning, standing out as one of the European figures of the genre.



Pepa Plana is one of the few national clowns that come from the world of theatre acting. After graduating from the Institut del Teatre of Barcelona in 1989, she founded the company Pretèrit Perfecte that produced and toured three shows. She also participated in more exotic collaborations such as the Turkish company Sandimay. And it was not until 1998 that she made the definitive step of creating her own company with a clear intention of producing clown theatre specifically thought for adult audiences. Her first show of this new adventure is “De Pe a Pa”, premiered at the Fira de Tàrrrega and then performed for eight consecutive months in the Sala Muntaner of Barcelona. In 2000 she presents her new play “Giulietta” in the IX Clown Festival of Cornellà, followed with a return to the Sala Muntaner for a season run. These two productions have not only achieved critical acclaim but also have been awarded several prizes. In the Fira de Tàrrrega 2004 she presents her third production, “Hatzàrdia”, premiered in the Teatre Fortuny of Reus as part of the Fira de Circ-Trapezi 04. This is the first time that she plays with a nonverbal code.

“L’atzar”, premiered at the Teatre Tantarantana BCN in 2004, it is a show inspired by the previous production “Hatzàrdia”. Technically smaller in format, it is designed to be able to travel and tour it more easily, as well as perform it in informal and cosier spaces.

In January 2010 she premieres “Penèlope” in the Pallassodrom Festival of Vila-seca. Also a play also without text that tours extensively before doing another run at the season’s theatre of the Sala Muntaner of Barcelona in April and May 2010. The company is still performing all these shows nationally and internationally. With the play “Èxode”(2011) it is the first time that she shares stage with two other famous clowns, Joan Montanyès ‘Monti’ and Joan Valentí ‘Nan’, in order to interpret the harshness of the great migrations caused by political and economic reasons.

Along with the recognition of the public she has also been presented with numerous awards, and in 2012 she begins a new phase in her career working with the Cirque du Soleil, participating in the creation of the new show of the prestigious company from Quebec “Amaluna”.

All of this has made Pepa Plana the most recognised female clown from Catalonia. Her career has not only helped in opening up new markets in the theatrical scene throughout Spain, but each of her new projects also eagerly awaited by the public and critics alike.

Pepa Plana has also been the artistic director of the biannual International Female Clown Festival of Andorra, an absolute international benchmark of the genre, since its first edition in 2001 to the last in 2009.

### *Other productions in which she has participated include*

“La història del petit sastre” of the Chamber Orchestra of Granollers, where Pepa Plana tells the original tale “The story of the little tailor” by Brothers Grimm with the accompaniment of the orchestra under the direction of Francesc Guillén. With the stage direction by Pep Bou, it is the first time that she takes part in a show specifically designed for family audiences.



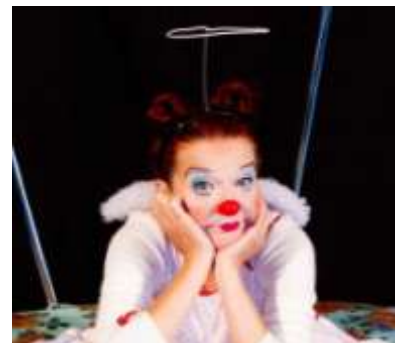
“Un Tramvia anomenat Desig”. A production of the Escena Nacional d’Andorra, is a revision of Tennessee Williams’ classic “A Streetcar Named Desire” with a new look into the character of “Blanche” that Pepa Plana plays with all her baggage as a clown.

Premiered at the Teatre Comunal of Andorra la Vella on 14 and 15 November 2008, it then moves on to a month long run in the Sala Muntaner of Barcelona during January 2009 where it sold out every single performance.



## *Prizes and Awards*

- ✓ Zirkolika Prize for the best Circus of Sala or Carpa show of 2017
- ✓ **National Culture Award 2014**
- ✓ Title acknowledged of “Ajuntament de Valls”
- ✓ Audience Award at the Awards Gala of the Magazine Zirkolika, for “PENÈLOPE”
- ✓ Artistic Trajectory Award Sabatot Alegre, 9th Clown Week, Castellar del Vallès.
- ✓ Circus Award ARC 2004 for the production “GIULIETTA”
- ✓ Honorary Mention for "Giulietta" at the IX International Clowns Festival of Cornellà.
- ✓ Aplaudiment Award FAD 1999 for the production “DE PE A PA”



[www.pepaplana.cat](http://www.pepaplana.cat)

## *Lali Canosa,* Scenic Space

Multifaceted and visual artist, she works in the art and show area. She is graduated in Filosofia i Lletres of Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona and in Sculpture. In the world of the scenic arts, dance, theatre or cinema she worked with companies and directors in a more radically contemporary style : Los Rinos, La Fura dels Baus, Andrés Morte, Marcel•lí Antúnez, Els Joglars, Roger Bernat, Sol Picó, SenzaTempo, Calixte Bieito, Bigas Luna, Mireia Tejero, Mónica Muntaner, Tom Tykwer, Fernando Trueba, Áurea Martínez Fresno, ...

Her latest work: The design of a gastronomic / audio-visual experience with El Cellar d'en Roca in the Arts Santa Mónica of Barcelona, the programming of a performance art cycle in the Centre Cultural el Born, the dance/concert show Animalize.me in Munich, the movie Born, and some collaborations in publications, actions, audiovisual, ...

In these moments, coming back from La Habana, where she has presented her last work in the VII edition of the 'Bienal Internacional de Dramatúrgia La Escritura de la/siferencia/s', and working in different kind of exposition projects.

---

## *Nueveojos,* Video

Study of audiovisual creation

Nueveojos focus on audiovisual communication with a particular interest for the world of the culture. They conceive this work from an author's perspective, is for this reason, that each project constitutes a space opened of creation.

Since 2008 they give service to producers, agencies, public institutions, artists and all kind of creators.

They are a team formed by three producers experts in postproduction and art direction that collaborate with the best specialists and creative. They understand the production from a multidisciplinary and cooperative point of view is why each commission became a unique communicative piece.

<http://www.nueveojos.com>

Rosa Solé begins in the professional world in La Botiga dels Horrors in 1986. The following two years she makes works in the costume workshop of Toni Langa and makes collaboration with the old workshop of Teatre Lliure. From 1989 to 1998 she belongs to the company Comediants where she develops her creativity for different productions. She collaborates also with the scenery construction workshop of Germans Castells and she has made the construction of the costumes for numerous street theatre, dance and circus as Monti & Cia and designed works and confection for La Fura dels Baus, Circ Cric, Los Galindos, Els Gingers, Los 2Play, La Industrial Teatrera, the magician Sergi Buka, Escarlata Circus, Alain Vigneau, Cia. Pep Bou, Tricycle, Manolo Alcántara, Nats Nuts Dansa, Teatro Circo Price, Senza Tempo, the show Tranuites by Lluís Danés. She is required by many entities due her shows as Caixa Fòrum, L'obra social de la caixa and Cosmo Caixa, the Auditori de Música, among others. She makes collaborations with several artists as Carme Solé, Jaume Plensa, Lluç Castells, Xavi Erra, Xavier Mariscal and Maria Espluga among others.

Since 2002 she designs and makes the costumes of all the productions of Cia. Pepa Plana.

---

Yuri Plana is formed at CC. La Bòbila of L'Hospitalet del Llobregat in 2008, and is since that moment that he combines his works being light and sound technician for the Company Pepa Plana with several other professionals. In 2009 is the light and sound technician of the El Musical Més Petit II- R and J Veïns i Estrangers. He has also worked as sound technician for other recognized Catalan companies as Cia. Marta Carrasco in Dies Irae, in the Rèquiem de Mozart or Companyia Teatre al Detall for which in addition of being technician, he also makes light design for their shows. Yuri Plana works also usually with companies with a more recent career as Cia. Daromai and Cia. Alba Sarraute. He collaborates too with exhibitions spaces as Teatre Plaza of Castelldefels, Teatre Auditori of Salou, Sala Trono of Tarragona, where it's necessary to highlight his participation in the staging Red Pontiac in the same space. He is also the light technician in Festival Castell de Peralada (Girona) since 2009.

## CIA PEPA PLANA

[www.papaplana.com](http://www.papaplana.com)

<https://youtu.be/M9C3dmN4JDk>

<https://twitter.com/PepaPlana/>

<https://www.facebook.com/pepa.plana.9/>

## MANAGEMENT

Oriol Blanchar

Tel. +34 617 454 650

[oriol@papaplana.com](mailto:oriol@papaplana.com)

“PAINTED PARADISE “ IS A PRODUCTION OF:



With the support:

with de collaboration of:

special thanks to:



CARLO MÔ