



CIA. PEPA PLANA PRESENTS: “L’ATZAR”

From within the fascinating catalogue of human creatures, the clown is possibly the only one that does not know discouragement. See the clown’s serious attitude and wonderful perseverance when intensively attempting to find solutions to the problems that may arise. Watch how the clown’s neurones produce brilliant solutions. The problem though, is that every outcome is followed by a brand new problem, which will need, once more, different solutions that, in turn, will provoke new difficulties. The clown’s life may be hard, true. But luckily fate often intervenes with its repertoire of happy accidents, and so the clown ends up unexpectedly finding the unforeseen.



Mercedes Abad

DESCRIPTION

Following the company’s working method (that of improvisation) towards the creation of a self-managed production, we now attempt to play around concepts such as chance, the mistaken or successfully taken decisions and the magic. This is the starting point. Matters are increasingly getting tangled up when we dress up the outlined situations with the nose of a female clown.

The working team is very similar to that of the last two productions, which, at very least, facilitates the understanding of codes right from the start. This is the first production without text.



ARTISTIC “L’ATZAR”

Female Clown	Pepa Plana
Magic Advisor	Màgic Andreu
Music	Lluís Cartes
Costumes	Rosa Solé
Lighting	Jordi Llongueras
Photography	Joan Sánchez
Director	Cia Pepa Plana Pepa Plana
Production	Joan Busquets

TRAJECTORY COMPANY

Pepa Plana is an actress and clown, born in Valls, Tarragona, on May 2nd 1965. Her talent, the distinct characteristic of her shows, and her individual contribution to promote the world of female clowning has made her a Catalan icon that stands out as one of the European figures of her genre.

Pepa Plana started her career as a theatre actress. Soon after graduating from the Institut del Teatre of Barcelona in 1989 she co-founded Preterit Perfecte, a theatre company that produced and toured three different plays. In 1998 she created her own company with the explicit intention of producing clown theatre for grown-up audiences, marking a major shift and step forward in her career.

Since then Cia Pepa Plana has created and toured ten different productions: “De Pe a Pa” (1998), “Giulietta” (2000), “Hatzàrdia” (2004), ‘L’atzar” (2004), and “Penèlope” (2010). With “Èxode”(2011) she shares the stage for the first time with two other renowned clowns, Joan Montanyès ‘Monti’ and Joan Valentí ‘Nan’, producing a play that addresses the issue of mass migration and the hardships experienced by those that flee for political and economic reasons.

The next two years signify a new stage in Pepa Plana’s career when she moves to Quebec, Canada, to join the Cirque du Soleil for the creation and touring of the prestigious company’s new show ‘Amaluna” during 2012 and 2013.

In 2014 she moved back to Catalonia, and the year began with “Despistats”, a show specifically conceived for outdoor settings, street theatre as a way to open other windows to gaze over the world.

“Paradís Pintat (2016), premiered in that year’s Festival Grec of Barcelona, is the next solo production which insists on the daily drama of human mass migrations.



In 2017 she produced “Suite”, another venture into street theatre and summer festivals.

The latest production is “Veus que no veus”, a show that looks back at some of the classic clown gags. It was premiered in 2018 as a duo with Pepa Plana taking the role of the August clown and Noël Olivé as the White clown.

Her shows have also toured Europe and Latin America regularly. Along with public recognition she has also been awarded numerous prizes, such as the distinguished National Culture Award 2014 granted by the Generalitat de Catalunya.

Pepa Plana’s professional journey has made her the most renowned Catalan female clown, and her new projects are always awaited with anticipation. Her trajectory has also contributed to open new markets in the theatre scene of Spain.

Alongside to her performing career, Pepa Plana was also appointed the artistic director of the International Female Clown Festival of Andorra, a biennial benchmark of the genre from its first edition in 2001 until the last one in 2009. In May 2018 the festival returned as an annual event with a slimmed down format, and Pepa Plana was re-appointed artistic director with the aim to revive the festival and open it up to new challenges.

OTHER PRODUCTIONS

Since 2006 participates in the production of “La història del petit sastre” (The Valient Little Tailor) with the Granollers Chamber Orchestra. In this production Plana tells the Grimm Brothers story, with the accompaniment of the orchestra directed by Francesc Guillén, and the scenic direction by Pep Bou.

“Un Tramvia anomenat Desig” (A Streetcar Named Desire). This production by l'Escena Nacional d'Andorra 2008 (Andorra’s National Scene 2008) is a re-examination (o poster adaptation) of the Tennessee Williams’ classic with a different look into the character of “Blanche”, which Pepa interprets with all her female clown baggage. The play opened on the 14th of November 2008 at the Teatre Comunal d'Andorra la Vella, followed by a season at Sala Muntaner of Barcelona in January 2009, and currently preparing a tour for the 2009/2010 season.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **“Award Butaca 2020” for the show “Veus que no veus”**
- **“Award Zirkòlika” to the best clown show 2019, for “Veus que no Veus”**
- **“Award Cultura de l’Associació Periòdica de Premsa en Català” 2019 (APPEC)**
- **“Award” del “Público de la XXXV Mostra Internacional de Teatro Cómico e Festivo de Cangas” for “Paradís Pintat”**
- **Zirkolika Prize for the best Circus of Sala or Carpa show of 2017, for the show “Painted Paradise”**
- **National Award of Culture 2014 Of the National Council of Culture and the Arts**
- **“Clown of the Year” Award 2013 at the Fira del Clown in Vilanova de la Muga.**
- **Sabatot Alegre Award, 9a Setmana del Pallasso (9th Clown Week) Castellar del Vallès 2011**
- **The Audience Award at the Zirkolika Magazine Awards Gala 2010, for , by PENÉLOPE**
- **ARC Award 2004 in the Circus category for the show “Giulietta”**
- **Honorary Mention for the show “Giulietta” in the IX International Clown Festival of Cornellà.**
- **Aplaudiment FAD Award 1999 for the show “De Pe a Pa”.**





THE MEDIA HAS REVIEWED IT WITH COMMENTS SUCH AS

The endearing Pepa Plana

The clown Pepa Plana, has created a range of endearingly captivating characters. She delves into the stock figures of the feminine imaginary world, from the cleaning lady to the stock mother, all just right for turning into the subject-matter of her gags, which are often imbued with a finely-spun melancholic, poetic tone. **Pepa Plana** has here a good show with little touches of magic, and evincing great attention to detail, such as the costumes, no doubt as a reward for constancy and plain honest hard work – efforts which bear fruit in these stories.

Pep Martorell, El Punt, 13 setembre 2004.

Pepa Plana, a great clown

The Clown is perhaps the most accomplished personification of human existence. Pepa Plana has turned out a brilliant demonstration of this – an analysis of life through a direct language that is never recondite.

Joan Sala Vila, El Vallès, 8 d'abril 2005.

Solo

Pepa Plana is out on her own, making her way out onto the stage like a cleaning lady and then, through her ability to transform the most commonplace things into stage toys, succeeding in turning out a very intense show, with excellent staging and her constantly dazzling communicative power as a clown exhibiting wide-ranging abilities and captivating sensitivity.

Artez 100, Agosto 2005

Something to enjoy

Pepa Plana put on her clown's nose, went out on stage, and shone. She gave us an impeccable show. The show is full of fine moments – comic moments and touching ones too.

Joaquín Melguizo. Heraldo de Aragón. 13 octubre 2005.

A clown along more classic lines

Plana exhibits spectacular control over her body on stage – to the extent of looking like she's made of rubber – and carries on building up a clown who is touching, lyrical, full of herself (and very much so) and sexy, all backed up by incredible costume work. A clown that plays with everyone in the audience and wins them over unconditionally.

R. Porta, El Periòdic d'Andorra, 5 març 2006.



Like a glove

What Pepa Plana does on stage looks very simple, but it is in fact very complicated: it's difficult to go out on stage and win over the audience in two minutes flat, without any trickery or any text to catch the viewer's attention. She avails herself of the finest traditions of the clown's art, as well as her considerable accomplishment as an actress, thanks to which she is skilled at sensing the mood of the audience, at pacing each effect, and at making the most improbable things seem believable. There are art theoreticians who tell us that creativity is simply an exercise in affinities, and the fact is that Pepa Plana wears the stage like a glove.

Miquel Vigo, Diari d'Andorra, 5 març 2006.

Pepa Plana's tender and incisive humor

She appeared amongst the public that filled up the theatre. Humour has got a code, she suggested at the end. And she proved that she knows this code very well, because we couldn't stop laughing for a moment. She managed to bring out everyone's laughter even when she didn't move her blue and transparent eyes, with her extremely expressive face.

Maribel Nogué, L'Enllaç, 23 març 2006.

The nose as a shield

Pepa Plana's expressiveness runs through like a shivers from the first to the last row, managing to light up all the emotions. Wrapped by an audience filling the theatre, she tastefully joined together all the characters that wander through "L'atzar", a gallery of pitty souls with an eternal smile. Pepa Plana handles intelligently the dispensers of humor and melancholy, thus generating an immediate empathy which is, at the same time, long lasting.

Alfonso Arribas, El Norte de Castilla, 28 gener 2007.

