

# P E N È L O P E

---

*CIA PEPA PLANA*

*DIRECTION: NOLA RAE*



C I A P E P A P L A N A P R E S E N T S

*PENÈLOPE*

Take a female clown, named Pepa Plana, and then put her to await the return of a husband who has just left the conjugal home to go to war. Give to her, by way of distraction, a sewing machine and enough thread so that her needlework helps her to forget her woes and makes us to forget ours at the same time. Well, the result is a playful and humorous remake of the Trojan War, with their ships, their citadels, their heroic warriors and, of course, the far-famed horse which brought victory to Ulysses troops.

**MERCEDES ABAD**



## ARTISTIC TEAM

---

*PENÈLOPE*

**CLOWN:**

Pepa Plana

**CONJURING ADVISER:**

Mag Lari

**ORIGINAL MUSIC :**

Lluís Cartes

**COSTUMES :**

Rosa Solé

**LIGHTING:**

Jordi LLongueras

**ATRETTZO:**

Oriol Blanchar, Xavier Garcia

**PHOTOGRAPHY :**

Joan Sánchez

**DIRECTOR ASSISTANT**

Aina Tur

**FEMALE CLOWN ADAPTATION:**

Joan Busquets

**ORIGINAL IDEA:**

Pepa Plana

**DIRECTOR :**

NOLA RAE

The connecting theme that takes us through the different situations of the Greek myth is a red thread. This thread allows us to weave and tear apart a tapestry, where the protagonist, this Pepa/Penèlope clown that awaits for the return of Ramón/ Ulysses, enjoys sharing with us the most tender and poetic situations of her wait, as well as the most absurd and comic ones.

This is the fifth production of the company, and this time we set off with the myth of Penèlope in order to develop another show aimed for adult audiences that continues with the company's approach to self-creation, and where we have Pepa clown, alone on the stage, playing with a nonverbal code.

The production's team is almost the same as in the last productions, but this time we count with the important addition of the renowned doyenne of female clowns Nola Rae, Australian national living in England.

# A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PARTICIPATING COMPANIES

---

## *CIA PEPA PLANA*

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'.

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 continue with "Despistats" (2014), "Paradís Pintat" (2016), "Suite" (2016), "Veus que no veus" (2018), where for the first time they form a woman clown duo, and "Si tu te'n vas" (2022) which is already a trio.

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., and the 2022 National Circus Award awarded by the Ministry of Culture of the Spain.

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 the Spain.

Alongside to her performing career, Pepa Plana was also appointed the artistic director of the International Female Clown Festival of Andorra, a benchmark of the genre.

HAS RECEIVED THESE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Nas d'Or 2024 Award by Festival Internacional de Pallassos de Cornellà
- Ángeles Rubio Argüelles Award 2024
- National Circus Award 2022 by the Spanish Ministry of Culture.
- Audience Award of the 39th Mostra Internacional de Teatro Cómico e Festivo de Cangas” for the show ‘Voces que no ves’.
- Butaca 2020 Award for the show “Veus que no veus”.
- Zirkòlika Award to the best clown show 2019 for “Veus que no veus”.
- Culture Award of l'Associació Periòdica de Premsa en Català 2019 (APPEC).
- Audience Award of the XXXV Mostra Internacional de Teatro Cómico e Festivo de Cangas for “Paraíso Pintado”.
- Zirkolika Prize for the best Circus of Sala or Carpa show of 2017 for Paradís Pintat
- 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 PENÈLOPE
- 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”.





Nola Rae's stature and career speak for itself. Born in Australia she has been living in England for the last 44 years. She was formed as a classical dancer at the Royal Ballet of London, moving on to a professional career at the Malmö Stadsteater and Tivoli Pantomime Theatre in Copenhagen. She also studied mime with Marcel Marceau in Paris, and later on she founded the prestigious London Mime Theatre in 1974. She has a trail of 40 years performing on the stages, which undoubtedly makes her the doyenne of female clowns in active. She has presented her characteristic nonverbal productions in more than 65 countries around the world.

She has been presented with a multitude of prizes and awards over the years, and in 2008 she was granted with a M.B.E. by the Queen in her New Year's Honours List "Member of The Most Excellent Order of The British Empire" for her contribution to the arts of Drama and Mime

Here there is Pepa Plana, and although we can't see her yet, the female clown of purple heart and big shoes starts to win us over, even before the light goes on, with a single sigh. And yes, it is impossible not to be won round by her, not to be absolutely devoted to her enormous communicative power, we are faced with her brilliant ability to measure the timing of her gags, and her capacity to listen the audience's heartbeat so to make the show breath at the same rhythm. Marvellous.

**Joaquín Melguizo, Heraldo de Aragón, 5th December 2009.**

If the All Blacks coach could see Pepa Plana in action he would sign her up ipso facto. Known for her ability to transform into different characters by simply changing the gesture, the actress takes this chameleonic ability to an extrem with Penèlope. Pepa is the small and coquette clown, but she is also Penelope that rebels against the destiny assigned to her by Homer.

**Gemma Tramullas, El Periódico 30/04/2010**

In this show there are a lot of brilliant ideas, original and apparently simple, but there is also a lot of work and, above all, there is Pepa Plana's talent, a tender and playful clown that offers us the funniest version of Ulysses travels ever made, as well as of Penelope's wait. A great Pepa Plana.

**Dani Chicano, El Punt, 13/04/201**

In addition to have been a pioneer in Spain, we must now recognise Pepa Plana's efficient character empathy, as well as her artistic courage shown with her solo challenges De Pe a Pa, Giulietta, Hatzàrdia, and now this intelligent review of the the Homeric epic. In Penèlope the clown plays with space and time, and with the symbolism and counter-symbolism of the contents. Plana has a magnificent tract to cover and her versatile character only predicts the very best.

**Jordi Jané, Avui, 30/04/2010**

If Penelope, the wife of Ulysses, has always been overshadowed by the fame of her husband, in Penèlope she is the great heroine, the woman who moves - literally - the threads of the Trojan War, and the lucid strategist that suggests the construction of a wooden horse to bring down the legendary city. Her skilful play with the audience, or scenes such as the battle behind the walls of the besieged city certifies Plana's charisma and the undeniable interest of the offer. Pepa Plana indulges in the detail.

**Came Tierz, Time Out, 06/05/2010**

Penèlope is a marvel of delicate and sarcastic mime, of complicity with the audience and of introspection of the artist with her creative work, of realism - the physical life of objects and utensils - and of fantasy - the few and very effective conjuring tricks. With her clown red nose, Pepa Plana reclaims an intelligent sense of humour in which every smile is accompanied by a reflection.

**Antonio J. Navarro, Guia del Ocio, 07/05/2010**



WWW.PEPAPLANA.COM

