

CIA PEPA PLANA

A CADA

PAS



DIRECTION ROGER JULIÀ

A C A D A P A S A T E V E R Y S T E P

S Y N O P S I S

With *At Every Step* is a poetic and absurdist journey through the rediscovery of the world. What would have happened if Winnie -the unforgettable protagonist of Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*, had been able to fly away and escape from her mound of sand? In this textless show, the clown embodies a free Winnie, although clinging to her quirks and her relentless optimism.

Step by step, Winnie faces the vertigo of the unknown: what lies beyond confinement? What remains of life when it is no longer limited by the sand that once engulfed her? With humour, tenderness, and the naïve gaze of a clown, the play transforms existential absurdity into a explorative journey of rediscovery, where each finding is a small miracle, and each fall, a new chance to take flight.

With *At Every Step* plays with fragility and resilience, with solitude and the beauty of the journey, taking the audience on a ride that is as comical as it is moving.

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AT EVERY STEP

ARTISTIC TEAM

Clown: Pepa Plana.

Director: Roger Julià.

Stage Design: Xavier Erra.

Lighting: Yuri Plana.

Original Music: Lluís Cartes.

Costumes: Rosa Solé and Imma Ebjol.

Voice Over: Txé Arana y Roger Julià.

Photography: David Ruano.

Production: Cia. Pepa Plana.

Authors: Pepa Plana y Roger Julià.



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 and Cross of Saint George 2024 granted by the Government of Catalonia, 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.

A W A R D S A N D R E C O G N I T I O N S

- **Creu de Sant Jordi (Saint George's Cross) from the Government of Catalonia, 2024.**
- **Nas d'Or Award 2024, from the International Clown Festival of Cornellà.**
- **Ángeles Rubio Argüelles Award 2024, Málaga.**
- **National Circus Award 2022, from the Spanish Ministry of Culture.**
- **Audience Award at the 39th Mostra Internacional de Teatro Cómico e Festivo de Cangas, 2022.**
- **Butaca Award 2020 for the show "Veus que no veus".**
- **Zirkòlika Award for Best Circus Show 2019 for "Veus que no veus".**
- **Cultural Award from the Catalan Periodical Press Association (APPEC), 2019.**
- **Audience Award at the 35th Mostra Internacional de Teatro Cómico e Festivo de Cangas for "Paraíso Pintado".**
- **Zirkòlika Award for Best Indoor or Tent Circus Show 2017 for "Paradís Pintat".**
- **National Culture Award 2014 from the Catalan National Council for Culture and the Arts. Government of Catalonia.**
- **Clown of the Year Award 2013 at the Clown Fair of Vilanova de la Muga.**
- **Sabatot Alegre Award, 9th Clown Week, Castellar del Vallès, 2011.**
- **Audience Award at the Zirkòlika Magazine Gala 2010 for "Penélope".**
- **ARC Award 2004 in the Circus category for the show "Giulietta".**
- **FAD Applause Award 1999 for the show "De Pe a Pa".**



A CADA PAS AT EVERY STEP

This is the twelfth and newest project of the company, and we're returning to the solo format, with Pepa alone on stage.

We're also going back to a show with very little text, where gesture and movement take on the full importance they deserve in clown work. This minimal text will be in Catalan, but with the ability to be translated in order to travel widely, as was the case with Penèlope and L'atzar, which have toured extensively throughout Europe and the Americas.

Adult audiences have always been our main focus, and that's how we like to continue. That said, children often attend as well, and since these shows have multiple layers of interpretation, it's never a problem. What matters is that the children in the audience don't become the majority. Because this is a clown show, we must clearly state that it is intended for adults — otherwise, the widespread assumption is that it's for children.

And in A cada pas ("At Every Step"), for the first time, we do away with the clown nose, which we have always embraced and which has become a distinctive feature of our company. This time, however, the piece has come out far more theatrical than circus-like. It's true that these genre labels feel increasingly outdated, as many shows freely mix different disciplines — but the fact remains that we are still asked to categorize them for institutions, programming networks, and festivals.



S U M M A R Y O F R E V I E W S

Wisdom of a Clown

Pepa Plana moves through this new poetic landscape with the wisdom of someone who masterfully controls the rhythm required by each dramatic arc she traverses, thanks to an unwavering optimism that allows her to play with props and drive actions from gesture to grimace, from random movement to choreography, while the audience feels part of an adventure that shakes them between bursts of laughter and the pulse of emotion.

Javier López Clemente, Heraldo de Aragón. 05.05.2025

Interstellar Pepa Plana

Pepa Plana has leapt into Beckett's despairing theatre of the absurd, playing Winnie. She is not in the middle of a desert, nor beneath the ruins of a city, but in a kind of non-space. Winnie has prepared herself for far too long not to be able to throw an all-out celebration. The clown's stage presence, with 30 years of experience behind her, is solid enough to tighten the reins and set the tone of the production exactly where she wanted it. The audience at the Fortuny theatre filled the amphitheater and celebrated the character's outbursts.

Jordi Bordes. Recomana. 19/05/2025

Dear Pepa Plana

I'm writing you a letter.

I want to always stay with you, with your universe, and your imagination. So often tender, so often demanding and piercing. Always with you, "A cada pas" (At every step). And please, may no hurricane ever sweep you away. How hard it is, what you do—creating a show with just yourself. With you and your incredible costumes, with you and that squawking laugh that makes us laugh so much, with you and your hopes and dreams. With you and the audience.

Carme Canet. Recomana. 29/05/25

A cada pas

What would happen if Winnie, the protagonist of *Happy Days* by Samuel Beckett, managed to fly away and escape her little mound? No one better to answer that question through the language of clowning than Pepa Plana. *A cada pas* is—pardon the redundancy—an important step in the career of the most renowned Catalan clown, and the best calling card to ensure her performance calendar fills up just as the Fortuny Theatre did to see her.

Ramon Bech. Zirkòlika. 19/05/25

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production

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