



Contra.Natura

Agrupación Señor Serrano

A Agrupación Señor Serrano Production
In collaboration with Departament de Cultura i Mitjans de Comunicació
EADC Generalitat de Catalunya, Festival PNRM d'Olot, L'Estruch de Sabadell
With the support of III Encuentros Magalia
Premi de Projectes d'Arts Escèniques Lleida 2007

“Rough diamonds. Serrano and Palacios set out philosophical concepts through imaginative stories, which performers express combining diverse artistic disciplines –particularly dance, plastic theatre, and video-creation– with images of striking might.” Francesc Massip – Avui

“Alex Serrano makes our heads spin with a swarm of ideas, which mix languages and tongues with all ease.” Joaquim Noguero – Barcelona Metr polis

Introduction

Nature, the Whole, is imposing, unyielding, changing, indifferent; it does not act according to any plan, it simply develops as a balance of forces. We, an only and bastard product of that Whole, have built our identity as species through a constant opposition to these overwhelming forces by means of a resolute creative/cultural action. Thus, we try to overcome our anxiety in the face of the erasing power of Nature through a persistent fight against oblivion, against extinction. And we label, classify, mummify, can. But all efforts are pointless –we know–, the battle is lost –we know–, because one day there will be nothing left of us. We will again be a speck of dust in a cosmos that overwhelms us. And that pisses us off. That we cannot stand it. Something must be done against that. Even if it is kicking the shit out of Nature, giving that swine what it serves it right, giving it the wallop out of helplessness; even if it is just to let off steam.

Explanation

The stage project *Contra.Natura* brings up a reflection on the dramatic essence of the connection between the cultural creation –ephemeral, fleeting, fragile– and the action of nature –infinite, perennial, omnipresent–; between the vulnerable and futile quality of the human condition and the ubiquity of nature taken as a whole.

Performed by an actor and a dancer, *Contra.Natura* is a multidisciplinary play that, taking as a basis the language of the physical and the visual theatre, integrates elements from other art disciplines, such as dance, performance, and art installation. Using real-time video and audio effects, and giving prominence to the interaction of the performers and the stage through multimedia applications, *Contra.Natura* articulates a dramaturgic structure of powerful conceptual content and intense poetic force.

Credits

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Direction: Alex Serrano

Dramaturgy: Pau Palacios and Alex Serrano

Performers and Creation Collaborators: Ester Forment and Diego Anido

Choreography: Ester Forment

Assistant Director - Production: Barbara Bloin

Lighting Design - Costumes: Isabel Franco

Interactive Video Application: Martí Sánchez Fibla

Videos: Josep Maria Marimon

Music: Sebastian García Ferro

Project Consultants: Victor Molina and Roberto Fratini

Curriculum Agrupación Señor Serrano / Àlex Serrano Tarragó

Àlex Serrano Tarragó has got a degree in Industrial Design by the ESDI and another one in Theater Direction by the Institut del Teatre (Barcelona). In 1998 established Tangent Audiovisual, a supplier company of audiovisual and multimedia contents. From the structure of that company and in order to fulfill his artistic interests, in 2002 he created Areatangent, a contemporary creation platform that launched many projects, initiatives and personalities in different artistic areas. In 2006, he took some decisions -leaving the company and giving independence to Areatangent- to establish the Agrupación Señor Serrano, a fickle creative structure that allows him to face personal multidisciplinary projects.

Agrupación Señor Serrano is a performing arts company that reckons on innovation in all its productions. In its works, dancing, visual theater, video means and interactive tools appear regularly, gathered around dramaturgies created through experimentation, research and the mixture of languages.

2009 **Immut** 12.09 Adriatic Barcelona.

Nada* 10.09 Escena Poblenou Festival Barcelona.

2008 **Contra.Natura** 11.08 Estruch Sabadell / Teatre Escorxador Lleida.

Artefacto 06.08 Festival PNRM Olot.

2007 **Europa** (Autopsia 3rd part): Work In Progress 07.07 Grec Festival BCN / 12.07 Temporada Alta Festival Girona.

2006 **Mil Tristes Tigres** (Autopsia 2nd part), Work In Progress 10.06 PNRM Festival Olot / 11.07 Neo Festival Barcelona.

Back* 11.06 Certamen Coreográfico Madrid.

Autopsia 1st Part 03.06 Naumón, La fura dels Baus.

2004 **RUN.** 09.04 Festival PNRM Olot / Festival Internacional de Teatre Visual y de Titelles de Barcelona.

* Text and direction by Àlex Serrano for Un POCO Animal Company.

Last Shows

Immut



Premiere Adriatic Barcelona December 2009

IMMUT is a dance performance with live music that explores the different possibilities of interpretation of a certain memory when it is separated from the Memory that created it.

Our memories are made of a fickle matter, in constant change. We amass images with pretention of immutability, but they change constantly: they are contaminated by new experiences, distorted by similar memories, combed by time and oblivion. And though, to fight against this constant alteration and against the inexorable expiry of memories is something that defines ourselves as species. Even if we know that this fight is, by nature, futile and doomed to failure.

IMMUT reflects on that fight to keep immutable the memories through a choreographic piece that expresses itself censoring change and movement in favor of what remains, but that, at the end, anyway vanishes.

IMMUT is the first fruit of *M*, a creative process that has to produce, also, a theater piece (*MEMO*, April 2010) and an interactive installation (in 2010).

Contra.Natura



Premiere Estruch Sabadell November 2008 // Temporada Alta Festival 2009

Performed by an actor and a dancer, *Contra.Natura* is a multidisciplinary play that, taking as a basis the language of the physical and the visual theatre, integrates elements from other art disciplines, such as dance, performance, and art installation.

Nature is imposing, unyielding, changing, indifferent; it does not act according to any plan, it simply develops as a balance of forces. We have built our identity as species through a constant opposition to these overwhelming forces by means of a resolute creative/cultural action. Thus, we try to overcome our anxiety in the face of the erasing power of Nature through a persistent fight against oblivion, against extinction. But all efforts are pointless – we know–, the battle is lost –we know–, because one day there will be nothing left of us.

Therefore, let's imagine the end. The last two human beings, a woman and a man. Steriles. Surrounded for all the human creation, our objects, our ideas. And obsessed for one only thing: to pass on to someone all this creation in order to save humanity from Cosmos silent oblivion. Pass it on. Yes. But... to whom?

Artefacto



Premiere Escena Contemporánea Madrid February 2009 // Teatre Lliure 2010

The landscape does not exist out there. Out there, what lies is Nature. It is only our presence what transforms Nature into landscape. It is only our eye what creates the landscape. Therefore, if we do not exist, there will be no landscape, there will be only Nature. Thus, one day, the world that will no longer be will be crossed with corpses of signs, and deer will roam around in the leafy avenues, and in the busted sewers wolfs will dwell. And our signs will be no more. Meanwhile however, what do we have? We have got a man who is pissed off because he is cold and sweats. We have got an indifferent environment that follows its course unmoved. We have got a haughty man that cannot stand that what surrounds him is not there for him. We are frightened and we are angry

In *Artefacto*, the usual division between stage and stalls vanishes to give rise to a hybrid space, halfway between the art installation and the chill out.

Europa (Autopsia 3rd part)



Work in Progress Grec Festival July 2007. Temporada Alta December 2007

Europa (Autopsy 3rd part) is a piece of the so-called "Visual Theatre". Physical theatre languages, dance, audiovisual media and computer controlled interacting influence the play. All these possibilities are introduced in a dramaturgy that unifies the whole of them in scene, in despite of the fragmentation. In this third part of the trilogy, we try to look for the meaning of the Resurrection:

In *Europa*, three actors-performers interact between themselves and the space, creating a succession of images and scenic situations where the main topic resurrection (along with the concept of eternal recurrence). During approximately one hour, *Europa* recreates an atmosphere of poetry and brutality, in which the actors-performers appeal directly to the audience.

Awards and Mentions

2009 **Contra.Natura** Selected for the Circuito 2009 de la Red de Salas Alternativas (2008 Independent Theatres Network Circuit)

2008 **Contra.Natura**. Selected for the III Encuentros Magalia (3rd Magalia Meetings)
Europa. Selected for the Circuito 2008 de la Red de Salas Alternativas (2008 Independent Theatres Network Circuit)
Mil Tristes Tigres. Award for Espectáculo Más Innovador en Gira, Feria Internacional de Teatro y Danza, Huesca (More Innovative Show on Tour, International Dance and Theatre Fair from Huesca)

2007 **Contra.Natura**. Premi Projectes d'Arts Escèniques Lleida 2007 Award (Stage Art Projects Lleida Award 2007)
Back. 1st. prize in the Certamen Coreogràfic de Masdanza, Canarias (Masdanza Choreographic Contest, in the Canary Islands)
Mil Tristes Tigres. Award for Propuesta Más Innovadora, Feria Internacional de Teatro y Danza, Huesca (More Innovative Design, International Dance and Theatre Fair from Huesca)
Mil Tristes Tigres. Selected for the Circuito 2007 de la Red de Salas Alternativas (2007 Independent Theatres Network Circuit)

2006 **Back**. 2nd. prize in the Certamen Coreogràfic de Madrid (Choreographic Contest from Madrid).

2003 **Run**. "Incubadora" Scholarship, Festival PNRM, Olot (PNRM Festival from Olot).

Pictures

High resolution pictures in www.srserrano/prj/contranatura.htm (download zone)





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