

La Mostra d'Igualada set to make audiences' imaginations soar at its 27th edition



The Catalan festival presents the image for its next edition, which will take place from 7 to April, and announces 13 of 55 shows in the programme

There is nothing better than a rocket to show us where the **27th edition of La Mostra d'Igualada - Children's and Youth Theatre Festival** looks to bring audiences this year. 3, 2, 1... The cogs have been set in motion and the countdown has started towards the festival, which will be held from **7 to 10 April**.

The festival's artistic director **Pep Farrés** says that the festival once again will be a meeting place for **the best productions in the performing arts sector for children and young people**, with a programme that has been selected from **over 430 applications from companies looking to participate in the 27th edition**.







He also highlighted the desire to open up the festival to the European market and share experiences and knowledge. For this reason, this year La Mostra is twinned with **two similar festivals**: **Au Bonheur des Mômes**, in the French Alps commune of **Le Grand-Bornand**; and, **Segni d'Infanza**, which is held in **Mantua**, in northern Italy.

An edition packed with premières

The 27th edition of La Mostra is a strategic point for the performing arts for children's and youth audiences sector and the reason why several companies have chosen the Catalan festival to debut their new productions. La Mostra will see the premiere of *Loops*, the new show from the Sabadell-based company **Engruna Teatre**, in which two actresses play with musical loops in a proposal for younger members that reflects on the passing of time. **Inspira Teatre** will also give its first performance of *Dibi Dubi Dubà*, the name of the three automatons that, tired of being forgotten and left behind in a warehouse, create their own fairground in a show that has been headed up by the staging director **Martí Torras** (*Rhum, Les Feliuettes, Ciara*).

Three other companies from the rest of Spain will present their new productions at Igualada. La Rous from Granada presents *Hilos* (Threads), in which they talk about the paths of life through a character who knits. Two Valencian companies have come to Igualada with their new creations under their arm: **El teatre de l'home dibuixat**, from Castellon, the company responsible for the acclaimed *Pedra a pedra* (Stone by Stone), which has been touring the world for 10 years, will present *Screen Man* where the leading character can be seen both on the screen and as a puppet at the same time; and **Bamabalina Teatre Practicable** from Valencia will offer a spectacle that changes at each performance, depending on how its cubes are distributed on the stage. In *Cubs* (Cubes), the stories can change like a 'choose your own adventure' book.

Touch Clown and **Accademia Perduta** are two Italian companies that have come to our shores to present their new creations. The former is a group made up of **12 clowns that play rugby** along the streets, interacting with the passers-by and the street furniture. The show, which has the same name as the company, will be







finalised at Igualada, where **its members will install a week before La Mostra starts as part of a residency**. **Accademia Perduta** will offer its new show H+G, the initials of the main characters in the Brothers Grimm's tale: Hansel and Gretel. A very special, moving version in which **all the actors appearing on the stage have a disability**, either physical or mental.

La Mostra Jove Space at L'Escorxador

This year, special emphasis has been placed on a section of La Mostra **for young people aged 12 to 18 years**. The age range has been extended this year, up from 16 years in the last edition, with a show that is dedicated to students at upper-secondary school level. Another new feature this year is **all proposals aimed at a youth audience will be concentrated in the L'Escorxador space**.

One of the productions young people can see at Igualada will be **Ragazzo** from **Teatre Tot Terreny**, the show featuring **Oriol Pla** that has pleased both audiences and critics alike during its brief stint at Teatre Eòlia, Barcelona. The company **Los Moñekos** will present its show **Amortal Combat**, a contemporary dance production laid bare and packed with humour.

Other proposals at the 27th edition of La Mostra

At La Mostra d'Igualada, audiences can also see **other more well-established shows** that look to continue their trajectory at the strategic marketplace. Such is the case of the circus production *Vincles* (Links) from the company **Bover**, a poetic proposal full of acrobatics that plays with a bamboo cane structure. There is also place for the acclaimed *Pelat* from Joan Català, a circus performance with emotional impact that has toured the world due to its simplicity and complicity with audiences. This year, **some of the circus performances will take place at Cal Font**, a larger space more suited to the format of the shows programmed, rather than Plaça Pius XII where proposals from this discipline were held last year.

Dance will also be present at La Mostra with **MONS Dansa** —formerly Nats-Nus's children's section— which brings to Igualada *Wabi-Sabi*, a production that will premiere in March. Finally, *Bag Lady* from **The Bag Lady Theatre** will present a







simple but fascinating show in which a woman combats her loneliness by creating several numbers from everyday items such as supermarket plastic bags.

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