



Veles e vents



by

Xarxa Teatre



A few words

Created in 1994 to mark the opening of the Channel Tunnel, **Xarxa Teatre** took the idea from the work of Valencian poet Ausiàs March, bringing to its audiences an idyllic but at the same time apocalyptic sea; a sea that is the source of life and the space connecting cultures, but also a sea that is being destroyed, turned into a nuclear graveyard and constantly on fire as a result of oil tanker catastrophes. The environmental message is more evident today than ever before, as is the dramatic staging. Pyrotechnics and moving components accompany the vessel in its crossing, an idyllic sailing ship that in a matter of seconds is transformed into an oil tanker.

Performed in

International Arts Festival in San José (Costa Rica) / Bicentenary Expo in Guanajuato (Mexico) / London Cultural Olympics 2012 in Dorset (England) / Northfolk & Norwich Festival (England) / Sibiu International Theatre Festival (Romania) / Life Festival in Vilnius (Lithuania) / La Strada Festival in Graz (Austria) / Copenhagen International Theatre Festival (Denmark) / Cardiff International Festival (Great Britain) / International Festival of Street and Open-Air Theatre in Gdansk (Poland)...

A little history

The production *Veles e Vents* (Sails and Winds) was originally conceived for the finale of the opening ceremony of the Channel Tunnel. The Scène Nationale de Calais requested the show for the opening of the greatest feat of engineering realised in the twentieth century. *Veles e Vents* has been repeatedly praised, and has been awarded prizes, in many of the different countries where it has since been performed. Josep Lluís Sirera, the professor of theatre at Valencia University, described this production in the following way:

The lands which surround the Mediterranean are, as it is well known, particularly apt for the development of a sociability that holds a privileged space for expression in the street.

Therefore we should not be surprised by the great abundance of groups who define themselves as street theatre groups, after all, they are only prolonging a very rich tradition of cultural and venerated cult manifestations (obviously we should not forget the processions) which are lost in the night of time. **Xarxa Teatre** has understood from the very moment of its creation how to draw from the rich cultural traditions of the Valencian countryside so as to articulate a sensitivity, feeling and perceptibility based on fire, a sealed document which unfolds live, master of a thousand forms of pyrotechnics of those that form an integral part of our very being. Could it, therefore, seem strange to us that **Xarxa** is now making the sea the basic theme of its spectacle?

Many centuries ago when the Catalan language was still young, our poets dedicated themselves to searching for metaphors to express their desires and thoughts. Thus, the Valencian Ausias March, one of the best poets who lived in the middle ages, made the sea central core of many of his poems. And from the beginning of one of these poems -the XLVI- **Xarxa** has taken the title of its spectacle: *Veles e Vents*. This impressive poem has been more than a simple culturist concession. It is true that a love story, such as the one the poet describes, does not exist in the play; the group, nevertheless, have known how to bring out another story even more prolific, which perhaps remains a little unnoticed under the personal anecdote of the poet. I speak about the love to the sea itself; a sea sometimes benevolent and kind and other times impressing and frightening. And it is this which *Veles e Vents* knows how to transmit to us. And it knows how to do it from aesthetics decidedly contemporary, perfectly intelligible for all of those who, at some time, feel part of our sea (be it the Mediterranean or... why not? any other sea). A fascinating display where fire, (and this is no paradox) is converted into water.



Press tweets

"Festival sails off on the crest of a wave...They thrilled the crowd...Warm applause proved this was a show well worth braving the cold and rainclouds for. Its mystery and power took Veles e vents beyond a pretty entertainment and into an unforgettable festival triumph."

The Guardian
(Great Britain)

" Xarxa Theatre are able to turn a cool evening into a mystical adventure. The actors are masters in handling fireworks and they are able to join the fireworks with the narration of a specific story."

Stadt Leonberg - Kreis Böblingen,
(Germany)

One of the undoubted highlights of this year's Streets Ahead festivities must be this extraordinary and spectacular show... Weird, wild, really quite wonderful and marvellous fun"

Manchester Evening News
(Great Britain)

"Sold-out to see the spectacular pyrotechnic wizardry of the Xarxa Theatre company. Six thousand people packed into the Cardiff Castle to witness the spectacular success of the Spaniards."

South Wales Echo
(Great Britain)

"Happiness is short, like the shows of Xarxa Theatre. Thank you Xarxa for bringing Veles e vents to Vilnius."

Lietuvos Rytas
(Lithuania)

"10.000 spectators more or less. A magnificent portion of dream. "

Ouest France
(France)



Veles e vents

30 years of innovation

Xarxa Teatre was formed in 1983 in Vila-real (Castellón) and has not stopped growing since. Because there was no stable theatrical infrastructure in the País Valencià, in the early days the directors of **Xarxa Teatre** opted to use the street as the venue for their shows. In all these years the company's directors, Manuel V. Vilanova and Leandre Ll. Escamilla, have never turned their backs on their roots and **Xarxa Teatre** has become one of the most individual large format street theatre companies in the world.



- Tradition. The main themes of the company's works take their inspiration from Valencian and Mediterranean popular culture. **Xarxa** has successfully immersed itself in these traditions, brought them into today's context and made them universal. Audiences respond enthusiastically to the shows because they recognise the reality and the particular way of life represented in them.

- Festival theatre. **Xarxa's** performances stimulate the audience, penetrating all five senses (the smell of the fireworks, the visual force of the images, the rhythm of the music...). Every experience is unique; each spectator enjoys the show in his or her own particular way.



- Universal language. The company is committed to forging its own language, in which gesture is accompanied by other elements like music, pyrotechnics and lighting effects... This philosophy frees the show from spoken text and means that **Xarxa's** work can be staged anywhere in the world, and makes it ideal for large audiences.

- Staged pyrotechnics. Pyrotechnics is more than just part of the show's visual excitement; it helps narrate the story, whether it plunges the viewer into a traditional Valencian fiesta or enacts a storm on the high seas. The press have recognised **Xarxa** as sculptors of fire – and with good reason.



- Multimedia theatre. **Xarxa** has successfully brought new technologies into its shows. All the technical advantages of today's theatre (large format projections, cranes and large scale structures, etc.,) mean the company can now rise to every artistic challenge.

Large scale shows

PROSÉRPINA



Xarxa Teatre delves into the theatre of masks without giving up any of its own personality. *Prosérpina* represents a major step forward for the company. Large format projections, and in particular the contemporary use of masks designed by artist Juan Ripollés, are added to **Xarxa's** regular theatrical resources. A classic drama with all the ingredients and characteristics of the Xarxa Teatre hallmark

Performed in:

Festival Les Année Joué de Joué Les Tours (France) / Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro de Cádiz (Spain) / Festival Al Carrer de Viladecans (Spain) / Festival de Teatro de Mérida (Spain) / Inicio campaña de Navidad en Castellón (Spain)

LES RATES MORTES



With *Les rates mortes*, **Xarxa Teatre** foresees the economic crisis that began in 2008, and that has now reached its most brutal moments. Combining a carnivalesque aesthetic with the company's unique hallmark, **Xarxa Teatre** offers an itinerant, satirical performance that challenges the politics of the dominant powers that be. The only performance where you can see an effigy of a banker go up in flames

Spectacle représenté à:

Feta Festival in Gdansk (Poland) Festival Leuven in Scene (Belgium) / Durham International Brass Festival (England) / 150 aniversario del nacimiento de James Ensor en Oostende (Belgium) / Festival of Light de Huddersfield (England) / Movimentos Festival de Wolfsburg (Germany) / Chalon dans la Rue (France) / Festival Les Anées Joué de Joué Les Tours (France) / FIT de Cádiz (Spain)/ Fira Mediterrània de Manresa (Spain)...

EL FOC DEL MAR



What was **Xarxa Teatre's** first international production is now enjoying its second youth. Adapted to any pyrotechnic regulations, whether static or moving through the venue, *El foc del mar* has recently been performed in some of the most prestigious festivals of America, Asia and Europe. The use of fire, aesthetics inspired by the work of Catalan artist Joan Miró and the music of the dulzaina and tabor reflect the Mediterranean flavour of a show rooted in popular traditions and fiestas.

Spectacle représenté à:

Festival Santiago a Mil (Chile) / Taipei Arts Festival (Taiwan) / Festival d'été de Québec (Canada) / Festival Mirada en Santos (Brasil) / Festival Internacional de Teatre de Carrer de Vila-real (Spain) / Festival Internacional de Teatro de Sibiu (Romania) / Aruba Dance Festival (Aruba) / Water Festival de Estocolmo (Sweden) / Festival de Teatro de Santo Domingo (República Dominicana) / Stockton International Riverside Festival (England)...

NIT MÀGICA



Xarxa Teatre transports audiences to the popular fiestas of Valencia in which traditional pyrotechnics, music and firebulls are at centre stage. And all involving the audiences, who become actors in one of the most participative performances in contemporary street theatre. The devils and musicians invite spectators to dance under a shower of sparks in a cathartic ritual in which everyone participates in the same homage to the fiesta. A show that is experienced with all five senses.

Spectacle représenté à:

Hi Seoul Festival / Gwacheon Hanmadang Festival (South Korea) / Taipei Arts Festival (Taiwan) / Festival Mawazine de Rabat (Marruecos) / Festival internacional de las Naciones en Santiago de Chile (Chile) / Festival Watch This Space de Londres (England) / Festival Internacional de Teatro de Sibiu (Romania) / Festival de Teatro de Calle de Aurillac (France) / Festival de Teatro de Ljubljana (Slovenia) / Festival Internacional de Teatro de Animación de Sao Paulo (Brasil) / Waves Theatre Festival en Vordingborg (Denmark...)

Special Events



Any natural space, any urban or industrial setting is an artistic challenge to **Xarxa Teatre**, an opportunity to create a unique show. Over a career of almost thirty years, we have performed our shows in the most unlikely places, from the crater of a volcano to a river estuary, the surface of a lake, a ski run at the Albertville Winter Olympics, or an industrial port with all its cranes, containers and ships. Can you come up with a challenge for us?

Nit des epouvantails en Morges (Switzerland) / Magdalena Vítol en Castellón / Eurotunnel inauguration inn Calais (France) / Año Santo Lebaniego en Potes (Cantabria) / 75th anniversary of Club de Natación de Pamplona (Spain)/ Inauguración y clausura de los Juegos Europeos Special Olympics (Castellón) / Entrega de medallas en los Juegos Olímpicos de Invierno de Albertville (Francia) / Clausura del Año Europeo de las Personas con Discapacidad en Madrid / Conmemoración del 500 aniversario del nacimiento de Carlos V en Gante...



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