



# 36.º Festival de Almada

Organização: Câmara Municipal de Almada | Companhia de Teatro de Almada

04-18 de Julho // 2019

## THE ALMADA THEATRE FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES ITS 2019 PROGRAMME

### From Bob Wilson and Isabelle Huppert to Xarxa Teatre's street theatre

The Almada Theatre Festival, taking place between Thursday, July 4 and July 18, is pleased to announce a programme showcasing artists from all over Europe, as well as Latin American and African artists. 38 different shows, including theatre, dance and music, will be held at 14 venues (11 in Almada, 3 in Lisbon and 1 in Cascais).

The Festival's 36<sup>th</sup> edition, this year, is deliberately eclectic. Our programme echoes experiences and concerns of the 20th century which have persisted, and even worsened, into the 21<sup>st</sup>, and offers diverse perspectives on contemporary issues: social disruption, inequality, immigration, exile, gender, indifference, fear, and the rise of authoritarian politics.

### SHOWS

#### Bob Wilson and Isabelle Huppert at the Festival

*Mary Said What She Said*, with text by Darryl Pinckney and music by **Ludovico Einaudi**, directed by **Robert Wilson** and starring the great **Isabelle Huppert**, is one of this year's stand-out shows. *Mary Said What She Said* premiered on May 22 at the Cardin Space, in Paris, in a Théâtre de La Ville production. After showing at the Vienna Festival (Austria), it returned to Paris through July 6, and will soon be showing at the Almada Theatre Festival, on July 12 and 13.

#### Some firsts – and some returning artists

There are other firsts this year: the Portuguese debut of the **Sardegna Teatro** with **Macbettu**, a Sardinian language Macbeth that was named Performance of the Year in 2017 by the Italian National Association of Theatre Critics and won the prestigious Ubu Awards; the French director **Célie Pauthe**, directing two actresses with broad curricula: **Bulle Ogier** and **Maria de Medeiros**; the show-ritual by **Phia Ménard** and **Jean-Luc Beaujault** (*Saison Sèche*); another choreographic offering, by the Congolese **Andréya Ouamba**, staged by the French director **Catherine Boskowitz**; and a theatrical celebration of the art of flamenco, choreographed and performed by the great Spanish dancer **Fran Spinosa**.

From Argentina, we bring you ***Un poyo rojo*** (*A cock fight*), a physical theatre show, on the edge of dance, and ***País clandestino***, a transnational production involving creators from Argentina as well as Uruguay, Brazil, Spain and France.

Foreign productions present at this year's festival also feature returning companies and artists, such as Germany's **Familie Flöz** (with **Dr. Nest**, by special invitation this year as winner of the audience vote in last year's edition of the Festival) or **Rafael Alvarez "El Brujo"'s Company**. The actresses **Juni Dahr** (from Norway) and **Viviane De Muynck** (from Belgium) also return to Almada's celebration of theatre this year

### Premieres and Portuguese artists at the Festival

**The Companhia de Teatro de Almada** premieres ***Se isto é um homem***, directed by **Rogério de Carvalho**, an adaptation of *If This is a Man*, one of the most moving testimonies by a Holocaust survivor: **Primo Levi**. Other premieres include the **Teatro Experimental de Cascais's** production of Strindberg's *O Sonho* (*The Dream*), in a co-production with the Professional School of Theatre of Cascais, directed by Carlos Avilez; and also *As três sozinhas*, created by Anabela Almeida, Cláudia Gaiolas and Sílvia Filipe.

Furthering the Portuguese presence at the Festival, we'll be hosting two brand new theatre companies, **Teatro da Cidade** and **Sul – Associação Cultural**, the latter staging *A Boda* (*A Respectable Wedding*) by Bertolt Brecht. Brecht also authored the play directed by António Pires, *Terror e Miséria* (*Fear and Misery*), with **Teatro do Bairro**. Marco Martins conceived and staged *Provisional Figures*, a community theatre piece created in collaboration with Portuguese immigrants on the East coast of England.

The Festival will also feature the **Teatro dos Aloés** (with *Lovers - Vencedores*, by the great Irish playwright Brian Friel) and the **Teatro Meridional** (with Mario Botequilha's *Feira Dell'Arte*, which will bring the Festival to a close).

In the final two days of the festival, the **National Ballet Company** will be performing works choreographed by João Penalva and Rui Lopes Graça.

### Great street theatre productions

Right in the heart of Almada, in São João Baptista square, the public will be able to see two different street shows, both from Spain: ***La Partida*** (by the Catalan performer Vero Cendoya) and ***Fahrenheit Ara Pacis***, a grand production by the **Xarxa Teatre** company.

### Children's Night: "I'm going to the Festival too!"

We extend an invitation to our audience to bring their children and grandchildren along for a fun evening at the Almada Theatre Festival. For the entertainment of both children and adults, our programme features an interactive musical show by **Nuno Cintrão**, *Porque voa o tempo?*

## SIDE PROGRAMMING

### Reflection, debate, exhibits, socializing and entertainment

In what's become a tradition at the Almada Festival, our side programming offers a diverse series of events that serve to reflect upon and interrogate what's happening on stage.

In a series we call the Primo Levi Cycle (celebrating the 100 years of his birth this year), and accompanying the premiere of *Se isto é um homem* (*If this is a man*), the **Encontros da Cerca** will discuss the legacy of the Italian writer's testimony. These conferences, sponsored by the Italian Cultural Institute, will feature speakers like Esther Mucznik, Martina Mengoni, Giovanni Tesio, António Martins and Ricardo Presumido, specialists on the memory of the Holocaust, with the support of Memoshoá. As part of this cycle, there will also be a film session at the Instituto Italiano de Cultura in Lisbon.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Meeting of Theatres of Latin America will also take place at **Casa da Cerca**, with participants from Brazil, Chile, Spain, Mexico and Portugal.

As usual, almost daily conferences with the artists taking part in the Festival (in collaboration with the Portuguese Association of Theatre Critics), will take place next door to the theatre, in an outdoors dining space at the D. António da Costa school. After the shows on the Main Stage, members of the audience are welcome to stay for dinner or simply to enjoy a series of outdoor musical shows: the well-known concerts at **Música na Esplanada**.

The Festival will host the book launch of "**O Teatro faz a festa: o Festival Internacional de Teatro de Almada (1984-2018)**," Rita Henriques's masters thesis, with a preface by Carlos Vargas, published by the **Companhia de Teatro de Almada**.

**O Sentido dos Mestres**, a masterclass workshop in its 6<sup>th</sup> edition this year, will be led by Hajo Schüler, of the German Company **Familie Flöz**, on the subject of performance with masks.

As always, a number of exhibitions will be showing alongside the Almada Theatre Festival. This year's honouree, Carlos Avilez, will be the subject of two separate shows. The Casa da Cerca will be showing **Zoo by Luís Lázaro Matos**, the artist responsible for the Festival's posters this year.

## HONOUREE

This year the Almada Theatre Festival honours **Carlos Avilez**, founder of the Teatro Experimental de Cascais and the Professional School of Theatre in Cascais, as well as former director of the Teatro Nacional D. Maria II, who began his career as an actor in the Rey Colaço-Robles Monteiro Company, under the direction of Francisco Ribeiro (or Ribeirinho).

## OTHER INFORMATION

### Partnerships

In this edition of the Almada Theatre Festival, shows outside Almada will be held at the D. Maria II National Theatre, Belém Cultural Centre and Italian Institute of Culture, in Lisbon, as well as the Teatro Municipal Mirita Casimiro, in Cascais.

### Venues in Almada

In Almada, shows and other events will take place at the Joaquim Benite Municipal Theater, D. António da Costa School, Casa da Cerca, Fórum Romeu Correia, Incrível Almadense, Teatro-Estúdio António Assunção, Seminário de São Paulo in Almada and São João Baptista square.

### Budget forecast

The Almada Theatre Festival forecasts a total budget of 534,000 euros for this year's edition, to be spent as follows: 21,000 euros on general expenses; 103.000 euros on production; 20,000 euros on promotion, design and publicity; 390,000 euros on artist's fees and logistics.

67% of our budgeted expenses will be covered by public funding (around 25% from the Directorate-General for the Arts and 42% from the Almada Municipal Council), while 33% will be covered by Festival revenue.

### Festival passes

This year's Festival passes, valid for all shows at the Festival, will be priced at 75 euros for the public and 60 euros for members of the Friends of the Joaquim Benite Municipal Theatre Club.

#### Ticket Sale Locations:

Teatro Municipal Joaquim Benite  
Fórum Romeu Correia  
Livraria Escriba  
Escola ACT  
Lojas FNAC

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