



+ erba

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A FOREST IN THE CITY

compagnia TPO in coproduction with TEATRO METASTASIO di Prato
a co-commission of WHEELER OPERA HOUSE in collaboration
with ASPEN, CO - REGION ARTISTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

artistic direction Davide Venturini, Francesco Gandi

with Běla Dobiášová, Valentina Consoli

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visual design Elsa Mersi

music and engineering Francesco Fanciullacci, Federica Camiciola

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collaboration on the concept and pedagogical support Sandra Goos

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with the support of the
Embassy of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands



+Erba is an interactive show with two dancers who create together with children an imaginary city. The 'architect' dancer observes the landscape and draws the city with houses and streets. The other dancer loves the earth, the insects and draws grass and trees. The two characters move in an empty scene where projections on two large aligned screens evoke a room of wonder. Here their ideas, imagination and projects are drawn from movement and come to life. The architect creates houses full of color and light, the other dancer redesigns them by adding grass and trees. Slowly an imaginary city grows by combining their different sensitivities. The newborn city becomes a living environment and new characters and new events are added. The children come to color and populate the city. Insects appear, the seasons change and the city gets bigger, busier and more complex. Their dream of a green city is coming true. But there is also a factory that grows and grows, scaring away insects, birds, people and making greenery disappear. Together with the children, the dancers will design a new space where nature will grow and where a 'tree concert' can be expected.

From 4 years.

Maximum capacity 100 participating visitors active on stage.

In theaters and auditoriums, the capacity in the room can be agreed with the company. Ability to repeat the show up to 3 times a day.

Duration 50 minutes.



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'I saw a dancer who moved lightly, her body drew lines and the lines became trees and other parts of the city.'





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THE TPO COMPANY AND INTERACTIVE THEATER

The show is set in a centrally planned space represented as a large empty room. Projections with interactive images alternate on two large white screens.

Visual, emotional, tactile, immersive theatre. In the TPO shows, the protagonist is the stage space, the images, the sounds and the body. Thanks to the special use of digital design, the shows are transformed into 'sensitive environments' where you can experience the fine line between art and play. Dancers, performers and the audience themselves share the scene by exploring new forms of expression beyond barriers of language and culture. Each creation is born as a 'set': a stage machine designed to enter into dialogue with the moving actor, be it a dancer or a group of children. Images and sounds then come into contact with the body, transforming live gestures into interactive actions on the screen.

The work of the TPO Company is directed by Davide Venturini and Francesco Gandi. Together they work as art director of an eclectic team of engineers and artists of image and sound.

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Let's go to the theater

by Sandra Goos

We travel through the city. Safely. We will work together, pay attention and stay close to each other. We can look at the buildings, roads, people, parks, trees and small flowers and insects living in the grass. Let's go into the city to the theater. There we will meet Compagnia TPO. TPO is creating dance theatre in Prato Italy. TPO works in theater Fabbrichino. The theatre was an old textile factory. And when people did not want to use it anymore it was made into a theater that spins and weaves stories. A theater with a wild flower garden for children and everyone who was a child. The garden inspires the stories of TPO. Because children love their work so much TPO visits many cities and theaters in the world. What makes the experience so special is that you will be invited by the dancers to go with them on stage into the story.

We will see the performance called + Erba, una foresta in città ("More Grass", a forest in the City). It's the title of the experience that we will enjoy together.

Welcome in the theatre

Please take off your shoes and place them over there. It is important to take of your shoes because you will enter a dance space.

You can leave your jackets, bags and bottles.

Please sit and wait. We are almost ready to start.









A NEW CITY?

Valentina dreams to be an architect. She breaths softly. What is she doing? She is creating slowly. Concentrating. Thinking. Measuring. Playing with the energy of a windmill. Slowly making geometrical forms. Coloured houses appear. Small houses, big houses. More and more. A city grows. The girl feels satisfied. She is taking some distance. She thinks about how to make her city a happy place to live.

The second girl, Bela enters. Is she a gardner? Is she nature? Can she be a friend? Bela is watching. Her eyes meet the other girls eyes. When Valentina is ready with her houses. Bela steps in. She starts to erase the city. Houses disappear one by one. Only the beautiful blue sky and white clouds stay. Bela starts creating grass, flowers and trees in an emotional and energetic way.

To think

How you meet new children? How do you start to become friends?
How can two different ways of playing become one? Can different ways of playing exist next to each other?

To do

Draw a city together in pairs. Use one paper and one soft pencil.
How does it feel to draw one by one?
What happens when you draw together with two pencils?



A GARDEN?

Valentina creates new houses, she places them around and even on top of trees, she is happy. Bela covers the houses with green plants in a playful and positive way. Bela invites Valentina to cover the houses with vertical gardens.

To think

Bela and Valentina have special skills. What is yours? Do you know already what it is or are you figuring out what it is?

Do you like your city? Can you find nature in your city, garden, balcony, house?

Where do you like to go to enjoy nature?

To do

Cut out houses, trees, grass from the drawing you created together. Create separate pieces, make it loose parts. So you can place and play with them on a new paper and it makes it easy to create a new city. Find a way to make a city you both like. Do not glue the pieces.

Cover the city with real pieces of grass and flowers like daisies from a public lawn.



LOOK REALLY LOOK

Bela creates a big park in the city. Bela invites Valentina to take a closer look. Together they invite children to have a close look and see the details and small animals and insects, roots and seeds under the soil. They create details of nature by looking in children's eyes. Bela and Valentina play in a respectful and fun way. Will they become friends?

To think

What do you see, hear, smell, feel, taste in nature? And what do you see, smell, feel, taste in your house?

To do

Look in the eye of someone. How does it look? Imagine what they see. Draw one eye and what you see in it. Cut it out and add it to your city. Take your time. Use magnifying glasses or a phone and take a photo and zoom in. Go outside or look at plants inside and discover details more and more. Draw what you see. Cut it out and add this the drawings to your city.



CREATING A NEW GREEN CITY IS LIKE PLAYING TOGETHER

Valentina invites Bela to join her in drawing a new city.

The city becomes more and more colorful when they draw together and support each other.

To think

What season do you like the best?

To do

Cover your city with colors and patterns from magazines or paint small pieces of paper and use them as a sort of paint. Do not use any glue. Do you want to draw more houses? Who will live there? Do you want to change the colors in your city during different seasons?

Vuoi cambiare i colori della tua città durante le diverse stagioni?



CHILDREN BRING COLOR TO THE CITY

Valentina and Bela play, dance and walk a long time. Colors disappear. Is it night or winter coming? Children are invited to bring colors back into the city.

To think

What colors would you like in your own room and in your street? What do you feel with those colors?

To do

Creating colors from natural materials. Yellow from dandelions, red from roses etc.

Paint the houses with it and put fresh flowers and grass on your drawing.



THE CITY IS ALIVE AND MOVING

Valentina designs more and more roads. She invites children to drive bicycles and busses. The city is full and busy. And even upside down, we move on.

Bela creates a footpath near a river. Valentina is having fun creating signs for healthy exercises. Is there too much city energy?

To think

Did you like to do city exercises? Do you want to do them in school? In the streets also?

To do

Put all city loose parts together on a wallpaper. Put it on the ground in a space where you can play on it.

Create roads as loose parts so you can change them. Draw bicycles, motors, busses, cars and people for your street and add them all to your drawing. Make them as loose parts so they can move in your drawing. You can also use your toys like figures and cars.



INSECT ENERGY

Bela is listening to the wind. Grass is waving. Resilience. Bela discovers insects hiding in the grass. She is evoking energy of insects living in the city. Valentina likes to dance insect energy in a TikTok way. Bela dances wilder and wilder. Children can choose to follow Valentina in a TikTok insect that work dance or dance free and wild like Bela.

To think

How do insects move? What work do they do?

To do

Draw bees, insects and butterflies to live and work in your city.



THE NIGHT TELLS A STORY

The starry night tells a sad story of how trees and insects and trees suddenly disappeared. An old factory became so big that trees, insects and birds disappeared. There was no shade. The city became too hot. Fortunately there was one small tree.

To think

How can your city become a happy place to live?

To do

Put your words with the houses and nature on the big paper.



SEEDS CAN GROW INTO TREES

Bela and Valentina are very close friends now. They see that all nature, all trees, all plants are connected and communicate. And so is the city and the friendship of the girls. They put seeds in the ground so trees start to grow back.

To think

What do you need to grow? What do seeds and plants need to grow?

To do

You can create a garden with almost nothing. Inside, on a balcony, in your garden or do you want to take care of a piece of public garden? You can use recycled or lend materials. Take care of seeds you find and regrow the vegetables you eat at home. Do you like to create a cheap, healthy and eatable garden? Write your plans and wishes for your garden and put it in your city. If you want a garden do it yourself.



TREE CONCERT

Bela and Valentina build up tree energy. They have faith. The girls invite children to grow trees together. The trees grow big with the help of children's energy. Let's try to listen to a tree concert during windy days.

To think

Use your fantasy. How would a tree concert sound?

What will a tree tell you in its song?

To do

Your new city is ready for hours of play together. You can let it grow anyway you like. More city. More green. It is up to you and your friends to grow a green city.



End

At the end of the show we invite children to sit on the dance floor, breathe and think.
How can you make your city a happy place with more green, more grass?
Let's go to the atelier.

Atelier

Mirrors present natural materials in the foyer in their full beauty. Grass, flowers and seeds are presented in a way to make children and adults sensitive to an aesthetic feeling.

Is this the end of the show? Sure. Is this the end of the story? Certainly not. Here starts your story. A story about you and...more grass.

Let's start your story with seeds. To carry seeds more easy we make bracelets with scotch tape. With the sticky side on the outside. You can stick flowers and grass on your bracelet. It is your choice. Look, feel and smell what you like on your bracelet. And most important choose and stick seeds. You can show your bracelet to friends and family and tell them your plans. You will plant the whole bracelet. It's a special biodegradable tape. When you feel ready. Fold it, make it wet and put it in the earth. Find a place near the school, a public garden or your balcony. The seeds will grow into flowers that attract bees, insects and butterflies. Give it good care, feel the soil if it needs some water, whisper kind words to it and wait, wait and see.

Thank you for participating in the performance and hope to see you again. Bye!







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*The TPO works
with the support
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Tuscany Region for
the Entertainment
Sector*

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