

# BLEU!



BLEU!

## **BLEU!**

compagnia TPO in co-production with  
Teatro Metastasio di Prato  
Théâtre Joliette Minoterie  
Marseille-Provence 2013, Capitale européenne de la culture

**artistic direction** Davide Venturini, Francesco Gandi  
**choreography** Anna Balducci  
**dance** for two performers  
**visual design** Elsa Mersi  
**computer engineering** Rossano Monti  
**sound design** Spartaco Cortesi  
**costumes** Fiamma Ciotti Farulli  
**props** Livia Cortesi

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## THE PROJECT

**Bleu!** is the production that TPO Company has conceived for 'Marseille: European Capital of Culture' and it is the fruit of collaboration with the Teatro Metastasio Stabile della Toscana.

The show is devoted to the sea, especially to the Mediterranean since it is considered a cradle of civilizations and myths, an environment where Nature and Beauty encounter Art.

With Bleu! the TPO Company continues its investigation in a theatrical context of the potentialities offered by interactive dynamics; this research overcomes language barriers, allowing a heterogeneous audience of children to be directly involved in the action onstage.

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**NOTES**

running time: 50'

limited capacity

age level: from ages 4 - 8

## THE SHOW

Borrowing from classical mythology and from stories that compose the very Mediterranean area itself, Bleu! narrates the meeting of two characters: a Sailor and a magical and mysterious being who is a Sea Nymph. It all starts when 'She' drops a pearl into the sea so that 'He' can find it. The sailor will have to undertake an adventurous journey, plowing the sea waters and diving to the lowest abysses, transforming the story into an active discovery and search for knowledge.

Stars are the guiding presence in Bleu! and they serve to transversely unite one stage scene to another, giving viewers firm reference points in the story. Indeed by following the paths of the stars, we will face stormy waters and howling winds; we will meet some sea dwellers; we will dance, play music, and create moments of play for a small, close-knit crew.

In Bleu! the natural elements of the marine environment become the setting of a virtual journey undertaken by actors and audience alike. The centrally situated stage is floored with a large dance carpet; on this surface are projected images evoking a beach where small treasures have washed ashore and are ready for the taking. Above the stage hangs a large and mobile spiral structure made of tulle fabric; in constant and slow transformation, its surfaces become the screen for projections which allow images to float in mid-air, making the space an even more totally immersive experience.

In this setting small groups of children will interact with the two dancers and the 'found' objects, as well as with the play's images and sounds, in a process of unveiling the secret life of the marine environment.

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## PRESS REVIEWS

"...Les danseurs évoluent dans une douce pénombre, sur des mélodies électroniques et façonne un univers feutre. Le décor est mobile, les corps souples comme des algues, le son scintillants..."

- *Gwenola Gabellec, La Provence, Marseille*

"Dignes de nombreux prix, son utilisation de l'interaction transforme leur spectacles dans un environnement sensible qui fait expérimenter le limite subtil entre art et jeu."

- *<http://www.festamajor.biz>*

"Le nouvelles technologies ont amené les enfants à participer au spectacle... Au-delà de l'aspect interactif présent dans "Bleu!", c'est avant tout un rapport humain qui s'instaure dans ce divertissement."

- *Audrey Raffarin, Le dauphiné libéré, Albertville*



# BLEU!



## TPO AND INTERACTIVE THEATER

Visual, emotional and immersive theatre. Space is the protagonist in TPO's shows with its images, colours and sounds. Thanks to the use of interactive technologies every show is transformed into a 'sensitive' environment where the thin border between art and play can be experienced. Dancers, performers and the audience itself interact with each other exploring new expressive forms that go beyond language and cultural barriers.

The work of TPO is a collaborative effort of a multi-talented and close-knit team of authors from various disciplines of the visual and performing arts. The shows are characterized by the use of large-format projections, the creation of immersive theater environments and the use of interactive technologies some of which are specifically developed by the company for their shows.

The stage space is conceived as a dynamic and reactive environment that can involve the public in individual or group actions: in fact it is set up with sensors (videocameras and microphones) that allow both the performer and the public to modulate sounds or interact with images through movement or voice. These technologies allow the creation of 'sensitive' theatrical environments where children can explore the stage space, discovering that it responds to their actions in a certain way. Thus an active relationship ensues between the young people and their environment, a kind of dialogue - with space, forms, and sounds - which becomes artistic experience.

In the TPO's shows even the performers' role is imbued with special meaning: the dancers 'paint' and 'play' on stage, using the body and movement thanks to the interactive effects but, especially, they invite the children to explore the space with a theatrical approach that emphasizes the use of the body and the gaze.

### **Awards:**

- China SPAF-Shanghai Performance Arts Festival | 'Going to the world' Award | 'Panda's Home' | Shanghai (CHINA) | 2017
- Festiwalu Teatralna Karuzela - Teatr Pinokio | 'Farfalle' | Włochy (PL) | 2016
- XXI Międzynarodowego Festiwalu Teatrów Lalek SPOTKANIA | 'Il Giardino Dipinto' | Torun (PL) | 2014
- World Congress Assitej | Award for Artistic Excellence | Warsaw (PL) | 2014
- Feten 2010 | Premio especial del jurado a las nuevas propuestas escénicas | Gjon (ES) | 2010
- New England Foundation for the Arts, National Dance Project, US Tour | Compagnia TPO | Boston, MA (USA) | 2010
- Teatri di Vita | Premio della giuria dei ragazzi 'Il Giardino Dipinto' | Porto Sant'Elpidio (IT) | 2007
- ADE (Art Digital Era) | Compagnia TPO | Polverigi (IT) | 2004
- ETI Stregagatto | 'Storie ZIP' | Roma (IT) | 1999
- ETI Stregagatto | 'Riflessioni' | Roma (IT) | 1983



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