



SALTBUSH

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compagnia TPO | INSITE ARTST

co-artistic directors Davide Venturini (Italy), Jason Cross (Australia)

dramatist Sasha Zahra (Australia)

composer | musician Lou Bennett (Australia) Yorta Yorta | Dja Dja Wurrung

choreographer Deon Hastie (Australia - Tjapukai) Anna Balducci (Italy)

dancer Rosealee Pearson (Australia - Yolngu) Sani Townson (Australia - Saibai Koedal)

narrator | performer Jada Alberts (Australia - Larrakia)

visual artist | designer Delwyn Mannix (Australia - Wangkangurru)

visual designer Elsa Mersi (Italy)

sound designer Spartaco Cortesi (Italy)

computer engineer Rossano Monti (Italy)

tour creative producer Insite Arts Lee Cumberlidge, Jason Cross (Australia)

SALIBUSH



THE SHOW

Saltbush is a plant that can be found throughout Australia in almost all Aboriginal lands, and so it represents a common thread between all the different nations of Australian indigenous peoples. This shared idea acted as a point of inspiration for the narrative, contemporary painting, dance and instrumental music that were created by the Aboriginal artists in this production. These artistic forms were used as a means of interpreting the natural features of the landscape in an indigenous mythological context. Through its sensor and infrared cameras, allows the children to interact, play and perform in the production and provides an immersive experience of the artwork. This also provides a unique experience for parents and teachers as they watch the children become involved.

The narrative centres on the journey of two friends and their spiritual guide on foot as they cross Australian landscapes - river country, an urban landscape, desert and the sea. The journey is one of discovering the land, growing an understanding and acknowledging how it challenges or provokes personal journeys.

TPO's award winning artistry in multi-media theatre for young people is combined with the work of acclaimed professional Aboriginal artists Lou Bennett (music), Delwyn Mannix (visual art), Deon Hastie and Anna Balducci (choreography), Sasha Zahra (dramaturgy) under the artistic direction of Come Out director Jason Cross and TPO director Davide Venturini.





NOTES

duration: 50'

limited capacity

aged: from 5 years old

CCC [CHILDREN'S CHEERING CARPET]

Through its sensor the TPO's Children's Cheering Carpet concept allows the children to interact, play and perform in the production and provides an immersive experience of the artwork. This also provides a unique experience for parents and teachers as they watch the children become involved.

This production has served as a true opportunity for cultural exchange between artists who are from very different traditions but are all interested in the development of Aboriginal cultural and artistic practice.

The project is the result of collaboration between acclaimed Italian theatre company TPO and Australian Aboriginal artists. The work was a coproduction with Teatro Metastasio Stabile della Toscana in Prato and was commissioned by the Australian Festival for Young People (Come Out 2009) in Adelaide with the assistance of the City of Melbourne's ArtPlay and produced by Insite Arts.



STABLES



PRESS REVIEWS

'Saltbush has that wonderful combination, using state of the art technology with movement and art to create a truly memorable and moving performance.'

Tony Reekie Imagine Festival Director, Edinburgh

'Children's theatre doesn't get any better than this... the perfect fusion of dance, art and breathtaking digital design.'

The Sunday Mail, Australia

'... involving, engaging, theatrical magic that could and should play any theatre in the world.'

'Children's theatre doesn't get any better than this. This inspired array of Italian and Aboriginal artists is the perfect fusion of dance, art and breath taking digital design.'

Sunday Mail, Adelaide

'... enchanting and completely captivating for four-to-eight year olds and everyone else as well.'

The Advertiser, Adelaide

'E allora il fiume, i serpenti e gli uccelli, il boomerang e la notte stellata sono i protagonisti di uno spettacolo che, grazie all'interazione, diventa punto d'incontro fra i riti ancestrali degli aborigeni australiani (sottolineati dai racconti e dai canti di Lou Bennet) e il rito di un teatro inteso come festa (in questo caso per bambini), gioco, espiazione, magia (con video che interagiscono direttamente con lo stupore dei più piccoli). A questa miscela di video-arte, danza e canto, si aggiunge un notevole stile figurativo e cromatico, volto a stimolare il cervello e la sensibilità del pubblico bambino.'

Simone Pacini, Krapp's Last Post

SALTBUSH



SALTBUSH IS THE STORY OF AUSTRALIA

Saltbush is the story of Australia, told through the magic of the Dreaming, replete with a sorry, necessary twist. Our polluting, city ways have encroached irreparably onto Indigenous culture and the untouched wonder of our land.

Presented as theatre in traverse, the piece accommodates a dual front row of eager four to eight year olds. The 'Carpet' itself is a large, rectangular, white floor covering. Audience members are strongly encouraged to remove their shoes before entering the theatre. This is a precursor to the interaction that follows.

Narrator Jada Alberts charms the house from the get-go. Her lyrical prose is seamlessly interspersed with song, and she effortlessly carries the show; acting as a conduit between the silent dancer-performers and the restless, under-aged viewing public. Alberts' has a fine set of lungs and an ethereal singing voice.

Most of the time, Saltbush had me transfixed. Here is a deceptively straightforward scenario, brilliantly told. Compagnia TPO and Insite Arts have developed a method of using infra-red movement-sensor technology, sound, and projected images of the Dreaming, to bring the outside, inside.

Their success is evidenced by depictions of the Australian landscape, constructed in such a way as to act as additional characters within the story's vignettes.

The sensors allow projected images to follow the action, syncing the dancer's movements with transitions in the Carpet's journey beneath them. Along the way, kids are encouraged to join Alberts and the dancers, engaging with the colour and fun of the imagery.

Emma Bedford - editor@artshub.com.au

SALTBUSH

HSB



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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