

Teatro del Silencio



EMMA DARWIN

A French Chilean coproduction

EMMA DARWIN

THE SHOW

This brand new production Emma Darwin is inspired by the life and work of Charles Darwin, see through the eyes of his wife Emma. It's an occult poem, a visual exploration of the great thinker's life, whose discoveries have shattered science, philosophy, religion and mankind... and continue to do so until today. A voyage that will take you to the very wild heart of Patagonia



THE TEATRO DEL SILENCIO COMPANY



Since 1990, the french-chilean company Teatro del Silencio under the direction of Mauricio Celedon has been creating unclassifiable shows exploring the twists and turns of our common past and future. Through mime art, dance, theatre, circus, music, visual arts, etc. they invent a total theatre of bodies and minds, performed in public space or in theatres, taking you on a journey from which you'll never come out quite the same.

EMMA DARWIN

DISTRIBUTION

Conception and artistic direction: Mauricio CELEDON, Drama : Eugène DURIF and Mauricio CELEDON, Choreographies : Lhacen HAMED BEN BELLA and Mauricio CELEDON , Video creation : Tito GONZALEZ, Scenography : Marcelo PIZARRO and Miguel VERA VAUCCLIN, Costumes : Claudia VERDEJO, Original Music : SEIDU, Jean Michel RAUSSOU, Favio VILLARROEL, Light creation : Christophe SCHAEFFER, Actors : Carla ECHEVERRIA, Claire JOINET, Julie JOURDES, Yasmin LEPE, Karelle PRUGNAUD, Mauricio CELEDON, Lhacen , HAMED BEN BELLA, Luis HORMAZABAL, Sound technician : Francisco ARAYA, Lighting technician : Christophe SCHAEFFER and / o David BOOTS, Theater stage technician : Nelson ESTIBILL, Photographers : Daniel AIMÉ, Thierry OLS

GENERAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION

INDOORS OR OUTDOORS (BUT ONLY AT NIGHT)

Duration : 65 mn without break

Touring team: 14 persons

Arrival Company: DAY-2, in the end of afternoon.

Departure Company: DAY+1 , in the beginning of the afternoon

Transport Scenografy : 1 truck 20m³ rented.

Set up :

Outdoors and indoors : 1 day : the day before the first performance

Dismantling :

Indoors : 6 hours: after the last representation

outdoors : 4 hours, in the evening of the last representation + 4 hours, the next day

SCENIC SPACE REQUIRED OUTDOORS:

Only at night, two representations minimum in the same space.

Opening: 20 m Depth: 20 m Height: 7 m

Situation of the public: in the front

Capacity: from 200 to 1000 persons or more according to choice of the organizer.

Installation of a tier required

SCENIC SPACE REQUIRED INDOORS

Dimension of the stage :

Opening: 14 m Wings 4 m Depth: 20 m Height: 7 m

UNLESS 20 m of depth of stage, plan the rent of video projectors more powerful than those whom possesses

Situation of the public: in the front

EMMA DARWIN

THE PARTNERS

CO-PRODUCERS – RESIDENCE OF CREATION :

Regard et Mouvements –Pontempeyrat, Les Ateliers Frappaz-Villeurbanne, Espace Jacques Prévert-Théâtre d'Aulnay-sous-Bois, Le Parapluie-Centre International de Création Artistique-Aurillac, Le Fourneau-Brest, Le Moulin Fondu-Noisy-le-Sec, Résidence En CourS / Cie KompleXKapharnaüm – Villeurbanne, La Parole Errante , Centre international de création artistique-Montreuil, Centro Cultural Matucana 100-Santiago du Chili

SUPPORT

Gouvernement français : Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication - DRAC AUVERGNE et DMDTS - Aide à la résidence de production. 2009 : Arts de la rue. Gobierno de Chile : DIRAC : Programme d'aide au projet et activités culturelles à l'étranger 2010

LE TEATRO DEL SILENCIO EST SUBVENTIONNE PAR LE MINISTÈRE DE LA CULTURE ET DE LA COMMUNICATION / DRAC AUVERGNE

SPECIAL THANKS

Tarvel biomasse - Plateforme Ecopôle Tarvel à Décines, Espace Culturel « Les 26 Couleurs »-Ville de Saint Fargeau Ponthierry, Museo Nacional de Historia Natural-Santiago du chili. Jean-Louis LACARRA, Hugo LECANU, Alejandro VASQUEZ, Victor BARRERA, BERNARD l'Hippocampe et ses lapins, Le club aurillacois Canaries et Exotiques, La Chorale de Saint Martin Valmeroux, MAX, RITA, Montserrat CASANOVA, Guillou and Flo, Daniel AIMÉ, Thierry OLS and all those who closely or by far supported us in this creation.



EMMA DARWIN

TRANSLATED EXTRACTS FROM THE FRENCH PRESS 2010

LA MONTAGNE / 20 august 2010 / Comment taken in by Richard BENGUIGUI

TITLE: MITTERRAND CONVERTED TO THE STREET THEATER₁

First visit for Minister of Culture to the Festival.

Mitterrand says himself impressed by the atmosphere and the quality of the programming.

« You also seen Emma DARWIN's representation by the Teatro del Silencio in the Parapluie ... »

« **The quality of the show was really remarkable.**

It was very surprising and very beautiful. I knew what took place in Chile but it was of a surprising strength, in this place which was created with a lot of intelligence. »

THÉÂTRE DU BLOG / 20 august 2010 / By Barbara Petit

TITLE : EMMA DARWIN BY TEATRO DEL SILENCIO

Little scenes that appear one after the other at a fast pace. The scenography is perfect: videos, dream-like costumes and set (such as this grand piano turned into a boat), music from Chopin... Everything converges to create a total immersion into scientific 19th century.

The images of that silent show are sublime: an old man dragging rabbits in a glassbox ; women wearing english lace dancing and then chased like does and dismembered ; a chained-up black man in the nude coming out of a cage like a reminiscence of indigenous people in human zoos... Tribal rituals, stuffed monkeys, bride in a cage with doves like vanitas... It all shows an harmonious artistic research, as visual as it's musical. The actors are admirable: their play, impeccable and very meaning, lets well filter the feelings in the work: fear, pleasure, anger or pain ... The interpreters are admirable: their performance is impeccable and very expressive, reflects the feelings of the show : fear, pleasure, rage or pain

EMMA DARWIN

LA MONTAGNE / 17 august 2010 / By Julien Bachellerie

**TITLE: EMMA DARWIN: A PRIMITIVE DANCE AT THE ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES
ECSTATIC TRANCE YESTERDAY AT LE PARAPLUIE FOR THE FIRST PERFORMANCE IN AURILLAC OF
"EMMA DARWIN", TEATRO DEL SILENCIO'S NEW PRODUCTION.**

Inspired by the illustrious figure of Charles Darwin and essentially guided by his wife Emma, the show has a baroque, plural and colourful aesthetic: omnipresent choreography, set made of videos and mime art as a global language.

which lead us towards the Patagonia,

An odyssey which lead us towards distant landscapes of Patagonia where we cross the Yaman and Selk' nam peoples with their multicoloured faces, hung on the earth as the breath is necessary for the life. Of this trip in the stoneware of winds, placed between soft roll and storms, scenes go back in time until the ancestral period of the origins of the humanity. As the period of the origine species, asking with Darwin, the central question of the evolution.

From that philosophical revolution, Teatro del Silencio weaves a solid and coherent visual fresco, mixing mankind and animality in one long primal dance



EMMA DARWIN

FICTITIOUS MARKS

Emma Darwin (1808-1896), been born Emma Wedgwood. She married her cousin Charles Darwin in 1839. She was of confession unitarian (rather liberal) and at the same time very pious. Just before dying between her arms, Charles Darwin thanked her for having been for him a good wife.

They had ten of the children among whom three died, very young two and third Annie, particularly loved by his father, who disappeared at the age of ten after a testing disease.

SOME IMMEDIATE

1.- Burial of Darwin, in April, 1882, at the age of 73. He had wished to be buried in the small cemetery of Down in Kent, (where he had lived a big part of his life) but he knew official burial and was interred in the abbey of Westminster, right by Newton's grave. We say that after the publication of " The Origin of the Species " in 1859, he was obsessed by the incredible malpractice which represented this questioning of the Bible, and thought that it amounted to the confession of a murder.



2.-At first tempted to go into the religious orders, the young man likes the natural history and the geology. He receive a proposition in 1831 - he is 22 years old - to leave for a journey of two years aboard the HMS Beagle together with Robert FitzRoy, cartographer, meteorologist and major of the ship. His father opposes to this journeythis journey but finally agrees it, listening to the advice of his brother-in-law Josiah Wedgwood. The journey of the naturalist is going to last finally five years, a world tour where it collects fossils and specimens, point of departure of a research which is going to bring him to conceive its theory of evolution of the species.

3.-Born in a unitarian family, (his maternal grandfather, who was also the one of Emma, was an anti-slave activist), Charles Darwin, even if he shared certain prejudices of his time, was very hostile to the slavery. When Beagle accosted in April, 1832 in Rio de Janeiro, he discovered that this phenomenon could have of terrible , which seemed natural to his companions) in particular to Fitzroy: In his logbook, hereports, for example, a meeting with a black slave :



" to manage to make me understand, I spoke in a loud voice and I made him signs; making it, one of my hands passed near his face. He believed, I think, that I was angry and that I was going to strike him, because he lowered at once hands and closed half eyes by giving at me a shy look. I shall never forget the feelings of surprise, disgust and shame which seized me in the view of this man frightened at the idea of adorning a blow which he considered managed against his face. We had brought this man to a degradation bigger than that of the tiniest of our pets. "



4.-**Fantasmagory of Emma:** she imagines that can be the life in Tierra del Fuego through the descriptions that Charles was able to make it. The harshness of the climate, the rites, the nudity which he discovered with surprise.

Throughout XIX the Chilean and European breeders who come in Tierra del Fuego are going to massacre these populations to be able to raise quietly sheeps. The survivors taken in by missionaries are often going to disappear victims of the diseases whom they pass on to them.

5.-Emma, in London, takes classes of piano with Chopin. All her life, she will practise this instrument, and when Charles will sick, she will cross evenings playing for him...



6.-What perceives Emma of the universe of her husband (that she respects but who worries her) reaches her in the form of a little bit terrible images. In a birdcage, this woman who loves the theater and the pantomime, becomes an Ophélie who would play with Hamlet's skull...



7.-Flash back in the journey. Emma receives Charles's letter which is still only her cousin and which is very sick in Valparaiso (Chile) and which remained confined to bed during six weeks. There is at the same moment a terrible earthquake and Charles Darwin will make here the observation that we can see benches of mussels over the level of high seas, what proves that the level of the earth was recently more raised.

8.-Imaginative and intelligent, Annie was a child particularly loved by her parents. She was the favourite child of his father. In 1849, she caught the scarlet fever, then was reached by the tuberculosis. His father took her in two thermal spas, hoping that she would cure. But she died at the age of 10...





9.-Emma was rather worried about researches undertaken by Darwin and about conclusions that he could pull as regards the creation. He had gone away from the religion, "agnostic is the term would reflect my state of mind ", he declared. Emma sees itself suddenly old in a kind of nightmare where we do not know any more what is of the human being or the animal...

She is brought on stage as an animal or as one of these natives who, later, will be shown in the " human zoos " of the European capitals.

10.-1865: Socratic suicide of captain Fitzroy, which drinks the cigüe and dies in the arms of his black servant. In 1839, Fitzroy had published a narrative of the journey of Beagle which was appeared at the same time as that of Darwin (and had not absolutely known the same success).

11.-Return in Tierra del Fuego and also to the animals which take more place and importance than the men whom we remove... Those of the Indian tribes whom we so much caricatured including Darwin who speaks about anthropophagy to their subject and evokes their languages as being very poor.... Now, here is what writes on this matter Lucas E.Brige, son of Thomas brfidge who compiled more than 32000 yagan words (one of these Indian tribes).

Yagans had at least five words for the word 'snow'; for 'beach' even more; the choice of the adequate word depended on several factors for example the localization of the beach with regard to the one who speaks, or if there are lands or the sea between this beach and him, or still his orientation.



The same words changed sense following the place where from we pronounced it; so, an used word while we were in a boat did not mean the same thing as when the person was on the ground. [Ahshuk, shingle beach, **duan**, rocky beach, **lahpicun**, muddy beach, **asetan**, sandy beach, **wahan**, beach at which we can pull boats in the dry, ...]. To express the relations of family, yagans had at least fifty words, each specifying a peculiarity.

Women's archaic images hung as skinned rabbits also send back to the violence of the one who has to experiment, dissect, kill these animals, what provokes a conflict between Charles and Emma...



12.-Emma still remembers what Charles was able to tell her about Tierra del

Fuego. It is not more henceforth than the flesh and the wool of sheeps. And this earth of which the first inhabitants were killed is transformed into a gigantic field of breeding, an industry of which the mattress (and its wool) becomes the symbolic figure.



13.-The boat as a return at the beginning of the journey...

CONTACT



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