

Amal

DOSSIER OF THE SHOW



La Baldufa

PREMIO NACIONAL DE ARTES ESCÉNICAS
PARA LA INFANCIA Y LA JUVENTUD 2020



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As a theatre company, we strongly believe in our responsibility towards the reality that surrounds us. We believe that theatre should be a critical reflection of society, a space from which to question established norms, and a pretext to contribute to the construction of a more just and empathic world.

To do so, we try to listen, stay open and live our day-to-day issues in a conscious way. For this new spectacle, we have directed our attention to the stories and emotions that touches and challenges us the most. Those that come from La Mariola, the neighbourhood where we have our headquarter. It's a historically stigmatized district, marked by deep social inequalities but at the same time, one that has - on many occasions - proved it's resilience and strength. Over the years, we have been able to get to know its stories, realities, and enormous potential. This relationship with the community that surrounds us is what has inspired us to tell the story of Amal, who, like many inhabitants of this neighbourhood, has had to leave her land in search of a better life.

Amal's story is universal. One that all of us can relate to, regardless of our origins, background, or life experience. At a time when the performing arts face significant challenges in attracting new audiences, choosing different narratives that give voice to new protagonists allows diverse audiences to attend theatres and identify with the stories being told.

All of this presented in a completely innovative format for us! We've merged top-level circus, led by Laia Gómez and Ona Vives, with the characteristic style and unique universe of La Baldufa, which has been our distinctive hallmark for more than twenty-seven years.

Compania de Comediants La Baldufa

SYNOPSIS

September 6th. I start my journey to Europe.

September 8th. The night is dark. The sea is angry.

September 10th. I made it. I've crossed the Mediterranean.

On the outskirts of a city, in an old courtyard, Amal hides as she escapes. She is a young woman who, after experiencing the horrors of war, has had to leave her country in search of refuge in Europe. She cannot imagine that in the very same place, another girl has also sought refuge to escape her own anxieties and concerns. Perhaps they will discover that they share more than they could have imagined...

"**Amal**" means hope in Arabic. And that is what we want this story to be: **a tale about people, life, and the hope of creating a better world.** In a complex and challenging time we believe that artists must take part, get involved, and engage with the society we live in. This also means telling stories that are thought-provoking, proposing ideas that challenges the audience and stir things up. That reinforces the role of culture as a bastion of freedom from which we forge a necessary critical spirit to reinvent the world we inhabit. In short, to contribute to creating a more just society.







THE PROJECT

A theater and circus show, with the *Baldufa* signature.

Our intention has been to create a **show that merges theater with circus**, a discipline we hadn't explored previously as creators, while **maintaining the characteristic style and visual universe** of the company.

The Circus World has always inspired and intrigued us. It's a discipline that has been very present in our professional history: we have shared stages with high-level circus projects and artists, observed how these have increasingly gained prominence in theater and festival programs, and witnessed the emergence of increasingly diverse and eclectic circus proposals.

Now, at this moment of our journey, we believed that we have reached the creative and professional maturity necessary to undertake this new adventure and make our own contribution to this discipline.

To do so, we sought out the collaboration of two high-level circus artists, **Ona Vives and Laia Gómez (Laiaiona)**, a duo specializing in Icarian Games and Hand to Hand. They are the ones who, for the first time in a Baldufa show, take to the stage and carry out the interpretative part.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Theater and circus show

Recommended audience: **All audiences**

Recommended audience age for school performances: **8 years and upwards**

Performance running time: **48'**

Performers: **2**

Technicians: **1**

People on tour: **3**

Indoor and outdoor show

Approximate assembly time: **4/5h**

Approximate disassembly time: **1h**

No text

Audio (available in any language)

Minimum stage measures:

8m width x 6m depth x 4,70m height

Optimal stage measures:

10m width x 8m depth x 6m height

Premiere:

13/07/2023, Festival Esbaiola't

08/09/2023, FiraTàrrega



ARTISTIC SHEET

Authorship: **La Baldufa**: Enric Blasi, Emiliano Pardo, Carles Pijuan & Dúo

Laiaiona: Laia Gómez, Ona Vives

Direction: **La Baldufa**

Musical composition: **Òscar Roig**

Lighting design: **Anjos Fernández**

Set design: **Carles Pijuan**

Costume design and dressmaking: **Olga Cuito**

Set construction: **Juan Manuel Recio, Carles Pijuan, Jaume Serrat**

Performers: **Ona Vives, Laia Gómez**

Technician: **Anjos Fernández**

Voiceovers in Catalan and Spanish: **Begonya Ferrer**

Production: **Pilar Pàmpols, Maria Carles, Enric Blasi**

Distribution: **Pilar Pàmpols**

Office: **Ester Vicente, Pilar Pàmpols**

Communication and social media: **Maria Carles**

Photography for graphic material: **David del Val**

Promotional video: **Laia Navarra**

Coproduction:

FiraTàrrega - Suport a la Creació (Support for Creation)

With the support of:

- IntercettAzioni - Centro di Residenza Artistica della Lombardia/Circuito CLAPS
- Generalitat de Catalunya - Departament de Cultura - ICEC
- Gobierno de España – Ministerio de Cultura y Deporte – INAEM
- Institut Ramon Llull



TECHNICAL SHEET. **INDOOR**

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT

- **Minimum** stage measures:
8m width x 6m depth x 4,70m height.
- **Optimal** del espacio de actuación:
10m width x 8m depth x 6m height.
- Black box with regular (wide) wings to ensure its absolute capacity.
- If the stage is tilted or has any inclination please take it up with the company.
- During the show, a smoke machine is used (provided by the company).
- Approximate assembly time: **5h**
- Approximate disassembly time: **1h**

SOUND

- Suitable speaker system for the characteristics of the room and its capacity.
- Soundboard (only one stereo channel is used).
- 2 Monitors sidefills.

LIGHTING

Spotlights:

- 10 led par.
- 17 profile (8 15°-30° | 9 25°-50°).
- 18 pc's 1kW.
- The company travels with its own Lighting Control Desks.

Otros:

- Provision of ground-laid power cables, regulated and direct ground, as shown on the attached lighting plan.
- 6 stage-wings structures (columns) to install lightning on different levels.
- Dimmer lighting for the hall, where possible controlled via the lighting console.
- Sufficient power to supply ALL spotlights in the attached lighting plan as well as the ground cables.

Note: The layout of the equipment must be done according to the attached lighting plan.o.

STAFF

The personnel required will be:

- 2 loading and unloading personnel.
- 2 machinists (1 minimum).
- 1 lighting technician.
- 1 sound technician.

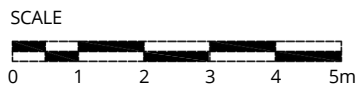
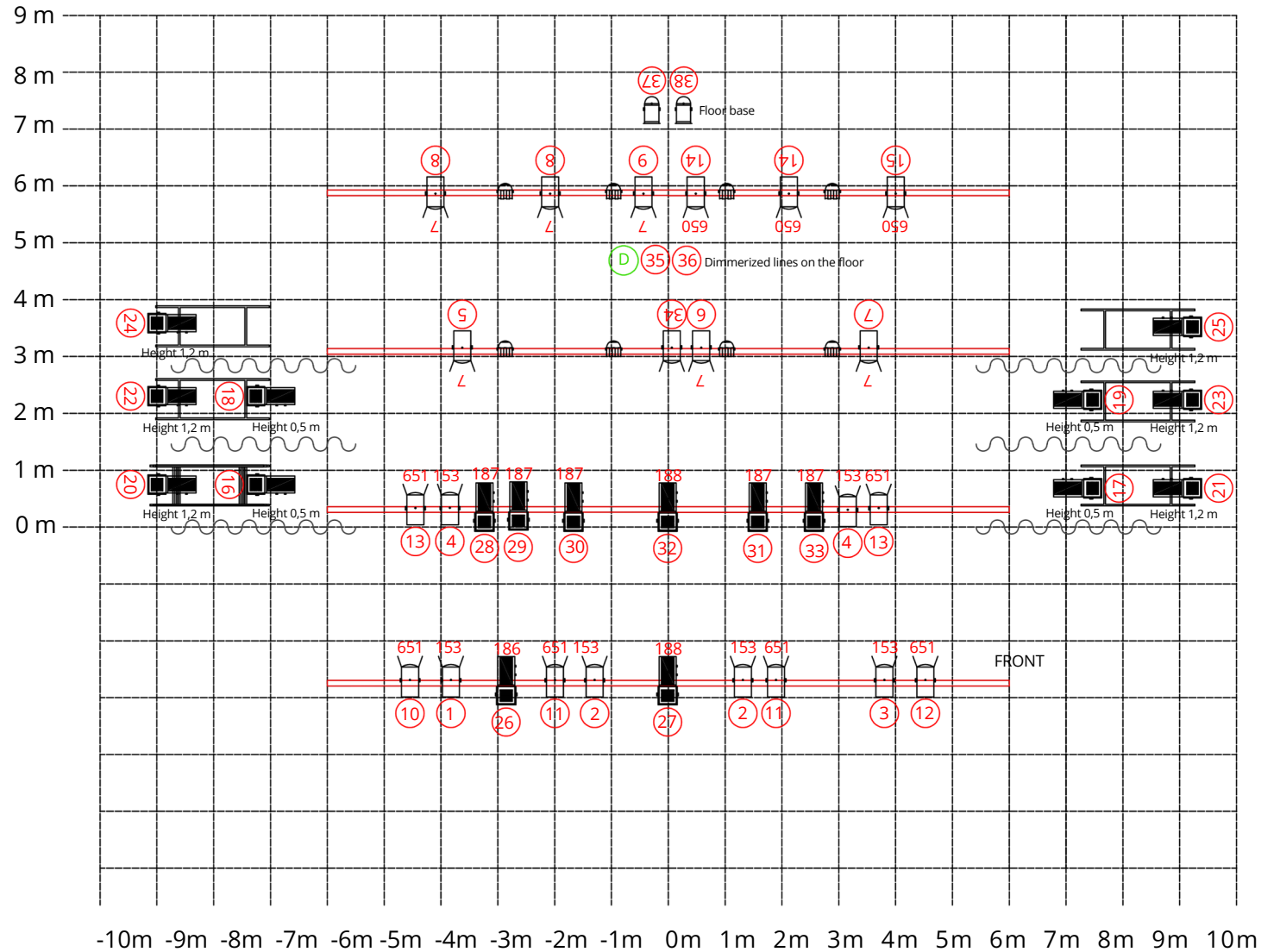
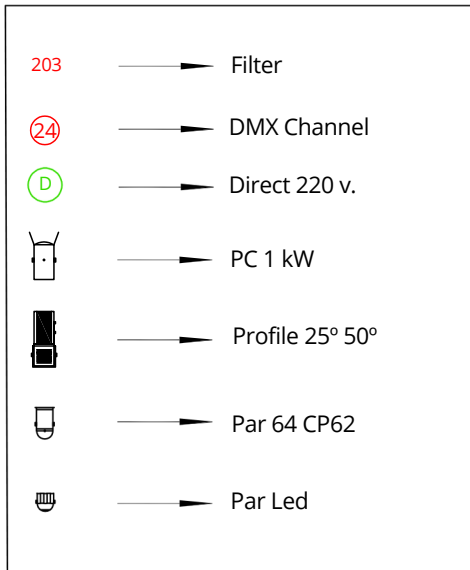
They must have a perfect knowledge of the theater equipment.

DRESSING ROOMS AND OTHERS

- 1 dressing room equipped with W.C., chairs, clothes hooks, hot showers, at least one mirror.
- Sufficient mineral water for the setup, performance and dismantling.

TECHNICAL COORDINATION: Anjos Fernández | +34 659 050 451 | anjos@vtecnicos.com

LIGHTING PLOT



TECHNICAL SHEET. OUTDOOR

SPACE AND EQUIPMENT

- **Minimum** stage measures:
8m width x 6m depth x 4,70m height.
- **Optimal** del espacio de actuación:
10m width x 8m depth x 6m height.
- Flat and leveled ground.
- Minimum stage size of 8m x 6m (Length x Width). Plateaux Height between 0.60 m and 1.20m (NOT provided by the company).
- 1 Schuko-type socket of 16 amps at the back of the stage.
- The audience should be positioned frontally.
- Approximate assembly time: **4h**
- Approximate disassembly time: **1h**

SOUND

- Suitable speaker system for the characteristics of the room and it's capacity.
- Soundboard (only one stereo channel is used).
- 2 Monitors sidefills.

LIGHTING

In case the performance is scheduled at night, please consult with the company

DRESSING ROOMS AND OTHERS

- 1 dressing room equipped with W.C., chairs, clothes hooks, hot showers, at least one mirror.
- Sufficient mineral water for the setup, performance and dismantling.

STAFF

ESSENTIAL: Minimum 2 pers. for loading, unloading and assembly assistance .



TECHNICAL COORDINATION: Anjos Fernández | +34 659 050 451 | anjos@vtecnicos.com



REVIEWS

“The merit of this production is that a highly emotional story is told through scenes of acrobatics, whether swinging, descending the Chinese pole (converted into a street lamp), or performing hand-to-hand balances between the two members or acrobatic jumps.”

Jordi Bordes, Recomana.cat

“Everything fits in 45 minutes and no matter how many stories you know like this one your blood chills when you see Amal’s, whose idea of the promised land has led her to cross the Mediterranean like so many others, and whose expectations of what she dreamed of living are initially frustrated. (...) And yes, Amal is a play about war, with tragic-comic touches, that fills you with reflections, and without finding a fault or a but, you end up with the feeling of having seen a simply wonderful piece.”

Elisa Díez, Recomana.cat / Butaques i Somnis

“La Baldufa never gives in. New disciplines, new stories, new people. Enric Blasi, Carles Pijuan, and Emiliano Pardo (the Baldufos) sought out Duo Laiaiona (Laia Gómez and Ona Vives) to merge their creative universe with the world of circus. The fusion captivates the audience. (...) With honesty, few words and great circus technique. The talent of Laia Gómez and Ona Vives is a great discovery, as they not only perform with great skill but also perfectly transmit emotions, from complicit humour to the memory of tragedy.”

Martí Rosell, Novaveu

“While the plot presented to us is known to the adult audience, the success of the play, I believe, lies in its ability to link and transmit a story through acrobatics (...). Also enhanced by the set design (created by Carles Pijuan) a structure that allowed the characters to jump, hide, get lost, find each other, play or argue- creating different atmospheres in the same mutable space. On the other hand, the scenic and interpretive approach allowed a clear illustration of non-intuitive concepts of the 'adult world,' such as private property, borders, or the fact that a person can be “illega”...”

Júlia Vernet, Núvol

“A textless, gestural work, delicate, full of endearing moments and combined with proposals of circus balancing on a platform that adapts and transforms into a house, then a ship, and then a playground.”

Xavier Santesmasses, diari Segre

“All in all, a work that directly engages the audience through a thought-provoking story and encourages critical thinking with the aim of contributing to creating a more just society”.

Anna Berga, ACN



BRIEF BIOGRAPHY **LA BALDUFA**

Premio Nacional de Artes Escénicas para la Infancia y la Juventud 2020 (National Prize for Performing Arts for Children and Youth)

Companyia de Comediants La Baldufa was founded in Lleida in 1996. Over the past 25 years, we have been committed to creating **high-quality and innovative performing arts shows**, aimed at all audiences, but primarily focusing on families. One defining aspect of La Baldufa's identity is that our entire creation, even the company's day-to-day activities, has a background of **commitment to social causes**, which has accompanied us throughout our existence.

When creating, we mix this social commitment with our distinctive visual world: "**the Baldufa aesthetic**", which we **put at the service of dramaturgy**. **Clown and gestural theater** are the styles in which we feel most comfortable, but we also enjoy artistic crossbreeding and **mixing different disciplines**. Our **creative process is extensive and global**. We slow-cook our performances, and during the production process, we try to engage in **residencies and stays in theaters** to fully immerse ourselves in creation and build connections with the welcoming territory. All this, always surrounded by a first-class team, both in management and artistic roles, which allows us to grow day by day as a company.

Undoubtedly, **we advocate for theater for all audiences** and strongly believe in the value that children hold in society. It is during childhood that individuals form their artistic and cultural concepts; thus, creation for children and families should be of high quality, rigorous, and contemporary, at the same level as those aimed at adults. For these reasons and because we also believe in defending cultural rights, we are members of the associations **CIATRE**, **TTP** and **ASSITEJ**.

In 2020, we had the immense honor of receiving the **Premio Nacional de Artes Escénicas para la Infancia y la Juventud 2020** (National Prize for Performing Arts for Children and Youth) granted by the Ministry of Culture and Sport of the Government of Spain. This award recognizes the company's trajectory, highlighting the "conception of the viewer as a capable, critical, and reflective being regardless of age" and the ability to create visually rich poetic universes. Furthermore the company has received several awards with its shows, including the **RECOMMENDED** Seal assigned by Red Española de Teatros, Auditorios y Festivales de Titularidad Pública through its artistic commissions, for most of the company's shows.

Throughout these years, we have been able to perform in many national stages and festivals, such as the **Teatre Nacional de Catalunya**, the **Teatro Español**, the **Gran Teatre del Liceu**, **La Fira del Teatre al Carrer de Tàrraga**, the **Festival Grec de Barcelona** or **la Fira de Titelles de Lleida**, as well as in many **European and international festivals**. We have also carried out several international creative residencies and have been present in most of the Catalan and Spanish **theatrical circuits and networks**.

As a result of the social concern that drives us, for several years now, **we have been carrying out small social and cultural actions in our neighborhood**, an area characterized by a high level of segregation, migration, poverty, and social exclusion. Since the year 2022, we have also been organizing in this area the **Enre9 Live Arts Festival**, with the aim of empowering and revitalizing the area and its inhabitants. Since 2008 and until 2023, we have also organized the **Festival Esbaiola't in Esterri d'Àneu** with the aim of offering quality culture for children and families in the Valls d'Àneu, in the Catalan Pyrenees.



BRIEF BIOGRAPHY: DUO LAIAIONA

Laia Gómez and Ona Vives

Ona and Laia are both born in Catalonia. They met at Roglio Rivel circus school in 2016 where they started '**Laiaiona project**'. Since then they have been developing as performers within the disciplines of **Icarian Games** and **Hand to Hand**.

They graduated from Codarts Circus Arts in 2021 and since then they have been working in different companies. At the moment they are performing "NUYE" with Circo Eia, "AMAL" with La Baldufa and "AMBDUES", their own short piece.

One of the characteristics of their work has been the mix of these two disciplines, always from a playful and humoristic approach; one of the inspirations they have is the relationship with others and with the environment.







Companyia de Comediants La Baldufa, SCCL

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COPRODUCTION



WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

 Generalitat de Catalunya
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CENTRO DI RESIDENZA ARTISTICA DELLA LOMBARDIA
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