TEATRU



MALTA

YOUR NATIONAL DOC

GO FIGURE

/teatrumalta



Over 75% average audience attendance, over 20 productions so far, over **50** shows over the past two years, and **10K** followers on social media; 30 venues visited in 18 locations across Malta and Gozo with over 40 public and private partners; worked with over 21 schools, over 130 performers, and 110 production team and backstage crew members. ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

It's 2020 and this year we present you the perfect vision. I am joking. As a matter of fact. it seems many brands might market a perfect vision this year. It's a no brainer, albeit an incorrect gimmick. Vision 20/20 in fact speaks about visual acuity - sharpness of vision - which is only a part of a human being's ability to see. Basically visual acuity only defines how sharp you can see objects at twenty feet away. Plato pronounced vision as the noblest of the senses because of a lot more. Clearly, the vision we want to talk about here is not simply a plan, or a calendar. It is the ability to see beyond the tip of your nose, far beyond what meets the eye; it is the power to imagine beyond your wildest dreams; the prowess to shift the status quo. It is definitely not "perfect". WIlliam Turner was colour-blind, Da Vinci had intermittent exotropia, John Milton went blind before he wrote Paradise Lost. So we're just really happy to have a vision, and a dog.

The dog you see on the cover and the back of this programme is in fact a Pharaoh Hound, a *Kelb tal-Fenek*. It is the national dog of Malta, indigenous to the island. The breed is over 2,000 years old. It is the only dog in the world that blushes. Quite aptly, being a sighthound, the Pharaoh Hound has a keen sense of vision. Our trademark logo is based on a model paper mask of this dog.

Now, like all dogs, we generally want to be your friend and we want to go out with you a lot. That is why we are moving on to present our programme every four months of the year. That way we believe we can be more flexible, more urgent and our work can feel closer to our audiences. In these pages you will read of our plans for the first third of 2020. We will then be having regular events, complots and strategies for you to get to know what we're up to for the rest of the year. If you know us, you know that we always have your best interest in mind. Just like dogs. So check out the productions coming soon to a theatre near you (that sounds so much better when heard in a bass voice), but do check out the work that catalyses change and provokes discussion in the local theatre world like *XENI* and *Taħdita Teatru*. Like dogs, we need you to stay alert. Basically we're all dogs here.

This is only the fourth year of Teatru Malta's existence and it's our third year of programming. There is an old aphorism which reads that if you give a woodsman six hours to chop a tree, he would spend the first four sharpening the axe. Well, if we are to go by that, at Teatru Malta we are still sharpening. Truth be told, we actually want to keep sharpening and never chop the tree. Too many are being chopped or burnt already around the world right now.

The point is that this current programme is about continuously

sharpening our vision. We brought you quality work which is relevant, in all sorts of places. You could see and enjoy us anywhere, everywhere and where you least expected us; a Pigeon Homing club, the Xwejni Salt Pans, the Mdina ditch, the Rialto Cinema but even in more standard places like his highness, the Manoel Theatre. We wanted to create generous work which finds quality in the honesty of the process, like *Hax-Xjuħ* and *Trikki Trakki*. Collaborative work which pushes the boundaries of local story-telling like VII and the Panto in the Dark. Ambitious work that challenges young audiences like Larinġa Mekkanika and II-Qtates ta' max-Xatt. A lot of this work is being further developed amongst other new audacious work. But most of this is so 2019.

What about 2020? What is the vision? Ask the dog.

– Sean Buhagiar

XENI

10th JAN - 23rd FEB 2020

The theatre world is constantly evolving: new materials, new technologies, new ideas, all of which require the abilities of a capable set designer to see each artistic vision through from design to stage. The set plays a pivotal role in the narrative of any production, a role which calls for a collaborative relationship between set painters, set builders and light designers. **XENI** is a retrospective project curated by Italian set designer Romualdo Moretti who has worked with the most prominent theatre companies across Malta and Gozo. This project is produced by Teatru Malta in collaboration with Spazju Kreattiv with the intention of providing audiences with a rare backstage pass into the past decade of local scenography.

Workshops

As part of **XENI** a series of workshops will also be given by a select number of experienced tutors in tandem with an exhibition highlighting the works of the most prolific set designers and builders on the islands as well as two talks happening in conjunction with the same project.

VENUE

Spazju Kreattiv Spaces C1-C4

set painting & design workshop 17th−19th JAN 2020 / €20



EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Joe Galea, Pierre Portelli, Romulado Moretti, Claudio Apap, Matthew Pandolfino, Austin Camilleri, Ino Bonello, Ray Farrugia, Joseph Cauchi, Andrew Borg Wirth, Adrian Mamo, Carmelo Bezzina

WORKSHOP TUTORS

Joe Galea, Mario Paulantonio, William Iles



LIGHT DESIGN WORKSHOP 31st JAN - 2nd FEB 2020 / €20 **TAHDITA TEATRU** 31st JAN 2020 асм Lab 23rd JAN 2020

L-INTERROGAZZJONI 16+

7-10th, 12th, 14-16th FEB 2020

Lee-N Abela directs **L-Interrogazzjoni**, the transgressive new play by Maltese playwright **Alfred Buttigieg**. What does one do when police consider a case to be closed, and big guns turn a deaf ear to the facts? Part gender-defying crime thriller, part erotic battle of wits, the play delves into the life of couple Martina and Stephanie played by Clare Agius and Angele Galea whose past locks them in a bizarre game they seem condemned to play and replay, one which revolves around a horrific murder.

Speculative Stephanie has no intention of taking Martina's or any official explanation at face value. The survivors seem to have moved on, yet trauma permeates deep, perhaps as deep as the love they share. Martina and Stephanie's obsession with one another has reached it's boiling point and can only find an outlet through a deadly serious game of erotic hide-and-seek or more fittingly cops and robbers; a game in which each one of them either reveals just enough of herself to lure the other deeper into self exposure or further in her thrall.

Performed in a living room of a private residence, the audience will be served with tea or wine by the host after the show. Murder, eroticism, tea and wine. How's that for a night out?

VENUE Private Residence, Għargħur **тіме** 5рм / 8рм LANGUAGE Maltese **price** €18 / €15 DIRECTOR Lee-N Abela

starring Clare Agius & Angele Galea

WRITER Alfred Buttigieg

PRODUCTION DESIGNER Andrew Borg Wirth



TAHDITA TEATRU VALENTINE'S SPECIAL 14th FEB 2020 / €30

TRIKKI TRAKKI

2nd-8th MAR 2020

Trikki Trakki turns THREE! The popular festival will return to Blue Box for a second time and will see applying school students get the chance to work with leading theatre directors to produce brand new adaptations of popular theatre classics.

This unique festival for children by children offers students the opportunity to not only develop their creativity and talent but create theatre under the watchful eye and expertise of the very best tutors and directors in the business, allowing them to get a real taste of what it's like to work in the real world of theatre making. From costume design, makeup and lights to set dressing and props making, these children will get to do it all!

In collaboration with the Events Unit, the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Education and Employment, and the Drama Unit within the Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes.

VENUE

M-Space, Blue Box, Msida

тіме 5:30рм / 7рм (Sat) / 10ам, 11:30ам (Sun) PUBLIC SHOWS 7—8th MAR 2020 / €5 LANGUAGE English and Maltese

TRIKKI Trakki

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR Antonella Axisa

STAGE DIRECTORS

Simon Bartolo, Denise Mulholland, Nicole Cuschieri, Chris Gatt, Clive Piscopo, Isabelle Gatt

SCHOOLS

St Michael School, San Anton School, Handaq Middle School, St Theresa College Birkirkara Middle School, Saint Albert the Great College, MVPA (Malta Visual and Performing Arts School)

costume & props Isabel Warrington

A STROKE OF (BAD) LUCK 12+

17-19th, 24-26th APR 2020

A famous magician once said that "the only good luck many great men ever had was being born with the ability and determination to overcome bad luck", then Colin Willis is indeed a great man. After a sudden injury last year, Colin is back and ready to take the Club Room stage this April. Who is Colin? Well he was only the high commissioner of Australia in Malta. He came for work, fell in love, left his job and stayed on to continue his life passion, the theatre, where he became a mainstay in local theatre productions.

A Stroke of (Bad) Luck is a biographical piece based on the life of Colin, who suffered a stroke some years ago, after relocating to Malta. This is a personal and intimate portrait of a man and his partner, seasoned actress and director Nanette Brimmer as they come to grips with their new normal. The production also marks established theatre director and former Associate Director of the National Theatre of Scotland, Simon Sharkey's debut in Malta as co-writer to Nanette Brimmer and director of the show.

In collaboration with MADC and the British Council.

VENUE	
MADC Clubrooms, St Venera	

TIME

8PM

language English writers Simon Sharkey & Nanette Brimmer

DIRECTOR Simon Sharkey

PRODUCTION DESIGNER Francesca Mercieca

sound designer Mario Sammut



price €15 / €12 (concessions) **tahdita teatru** 17th APR 2020

XILALLU

25th JAN, 7th MAR, 25th APR 2020

If you thought you had seen the last of Xilallu during Notte Bianca last October, then guess again! The Xilallu trouble makers are fired up and ready to roll right on into 2020, so get ready because they're about to stop you dead in your tracks in the middle of Valletta. After being mentored by trained Italian circus artists from Flic Circus school last August, gymnasts, free-runners, performers and members of local group Maltese Motion under the directorship of rehearsal director Claudio Carta and in collaboration with Studio 18 have prepared a series of surprise street skits for your enjoyment.

This ongoing project is made up of a number of performances programmed throughout the year and will each combine acrobatics, movement, acting and parkouring to create a dialogue that will shed light on current social issues. With Agenzija Żagħżagħ as our main partner, the teenage community is our audience, and the streets are our stage.

Watch out, they're coming.

In collaboration with Aġenzija Żgħażagħ and Studio 18.

VENUE	PRICE	LANGUAGE
Somewhere in Valletta	Free	Maltese

XILALLU!

DRAMATURG Jean-Marc Cafà

REHEARSAL DIRECTOR Claudio Carta

TAĦDITA TEATRU

Teatru Malta and Spazju Kreattiv are teaming up for yet another exciting season of **TAHDITA TEATRU** and you're invited to be our guest for a new round of discussions and after show drinks.

The concept behind these talks was developed around and focused on the **Teatru Malta** season programme and the **Spazju Kreattiv** contemporary theatre programme; a series which aims to create a space for engagement and community discussion between creatives and the public.

We can't stress enough how important it is for creatives to actually sit down together and discuss what's happening in real time, because if work isn't being talked about, it ceases to exist. Good, bad or ugly, let's talk about it, over wine of course. SCHEDULE

- XENI Friday, 31st JAN 2020
- L-Interrogazzjoni (Valentine's Special)
 Friday, 14th FEB 2020
- A Stroke of (Bad) Luck Friday, 17th APR 2020

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RENT A COSTUME OR PROP!

TEATRU

Did you know that here at Teatru Malta we house a total of over **12,000 theatrical costumes and 141 props**, ranging from anything like masks, to platforms, set furniture, and puppets?

Do you have a shoot coming up? A project you might need to rent costumes or props for?

Then give us a call on **21220225** or send us an email on **contact@teatrumalta.org.mt** for more information on how to get your hands on our goods!

teatrumalta.org.mt



Age restrictions

Please refer to event descriptions for show-specific age recommendations.

Accessibility

Teatru Malta tries to be as accessible as possible at all times, and in all venues. Patrons with disability who buy tickets through our box office are kindly asked to inform staff at the time of purchase by calling or emailing the info points below. Teatru Malta requests that patrons in wheelchairs arrive at least 15 minutes early to be seated comfortably prior to the show. Upon request, Teatru Malta staff will meet theatre patrons outside the venue for further assistance, if required and informed in advance.

Special concessions

If you are a student, persons with disability, senior citizen or blood donor you are eligible for a concession discount for any one of our events. Necessary verification needs to be presented to our ushers to validate concession discount on the night of the event.

Want to know more?

For more information about tickets, follow us down the rabbit hole:

Visit us on teatrumalta.org.mt

Drop us a line on contact@teatrumalta.org.mt

Call us on 2122 0255

CREDITS

Programme

DESIGN BloomCreative

TRANSLATION & PROOFREADING Simon Bartolo

PRINTING Poultons Ltd.

Teatru Malta Team

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR Sean Buhagiar

PRODUCTION ADMINISTRATOR Mireille Estelle Camilleri

CLERICAL OFFICER Marlon Apap

PRODUCTION MANAGERS Nicole Blackman, Elaine Falzon

SPECIAL THANKS TO Albert Marshall, Etienne Bonello, Siobhan Vassallo, Antoine Pace, Conrad Schembri, Sarah Lee Zammit

2020 Campaign Photo Shoot

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MARKETING & BRAND EXECUTIVE Alessia Caruana

OFFICE FACILITIES ADMINISTRATOR Antoine Zammit

CONTENT EDITOR Simon Bartolo **Main partners**



Co-producers & collaborators

FESTIVALS MALTA



MALTA INTERNATIONAL ARTS FESTIVAL 18

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PRODUCTS OFFICE







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ZigU*L*a









