

LA JORDANA
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NEBBIA

By Olga Harmony / Section: Cultural / La Jornada

Since he brought his unforgettable *Icaro* to Mexico, where he has made several close friends, Daniele Finzi Pasca has been seen by us in some of the shows from his Sunil Theatre, with a skill that has rightly been called "theatre of caress", due to the tenderness that overflows on the set and reaches the audience. Beyond the special clownery that he has always made into a gala, Finzi Pasca is a story-teller, playwright, choreographer and director. He also writes and directs for scenic circuses, such as the Cirque du Soleil, and with the Cirque Eloize, for which he composed a trilogy about heaven, of which we know the last part called *Nebbia*, which in Spanish would be *Niebla*. In the show, the fog falls upon the scene and its remnants are reminders of the neighbourhood and moreover of the repeatedly mentioned grandmother, whose presence passes through the stage on a number of occasions, in the form of a beautiful wire mannequin with the expressive forms of an old woman. This is until the end, when she appears with a winter carnival, where, as the woman wished, everyone is dressed in tutus to celebrate. From memory to memory, unusual Circensian acts occur that may or may not be part of the memory, but which poetry does not clash with what is being put forward by the author and director. It is as if the fog takes on beautiful and delicious figures in a dream-filled summary of longings and desires.

The scenery is laid out by a clownish narrator, whose clothes give off cloudy tears at every movement, with the curtain closed while a new circus act is being prepared. He is always amazing, and always shows great perfection in his performance. The members of the Cirque Eloize have come - as usually in any circus - from different regions. Its eleven members are acrobats, musicians and dancers that are able to create a coherent show much like the theatre, in that very funny moments occur, such as the training in martial arts, and of course those moments from the narrator - sometimes a magician, sometimes an unjust athlete trainer - and his inept helper with the light. There are sequences of great acrobatic skill, which are almost always connected by the fact that, those who have participated in a prior sequence become part of the next, sometimes comically, sometimes as silent observers of past times, who watch the performance of their fellow crew members.

We were able to see something as distant as the melody played on a saw, which for some of us took us back to our childhood. There was also the contortionist submerged into a small container in the scene of the unsuccessful magician-narrator and scenes that have a story behind them. Such is the case with the scene of the butcher's shop and the forest, by not speaking of the finale where the story

of the grandmother is ended. All of them are a beginning or end of one of the acrobatic acts, in which the thread of nostalgia of the neighbourhood's memories - present, perhaps also at the moment of the trapeze artists being dressed like children - manifests itself with greater force. The original music of Maria Bonzanigo, also a choreographer, is played on the scene with instruments, as well as the music recorded for the acrobatic acts, and is sung by the members of the crew. Some of them, such as Andre-Anne Gingras Roy and Nicola Marinoni are not acrobats or clowns, like their fellow crew members Evelyn Allard, Jean-Philippe Cuerrier, Stéphane Gentilini, Catherine Girard, Evelyne Laforest, Gustavo Lobo Alves da Fonte, Gonzalo Munoz Ferrer, Joseph Pinzon and Felix Salas.

The beauty of each act, which takes us from the luminosity of the beginning to the winter snow, would not be possible without the stage design of Hugo Gargiulo with his splendid acrobatic apparatus, such as the spinning star, the forest of posts on which the plates spin, or the atmosphere of the butcher's shop and the carnival fair at the end, with their changes in light and tones. The dress created by Linda Brunelle also contributes to the merry set in the enchanting show that will hopefully come again to Mexico.

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Written and Directed by DANIELE FINZI PASCA