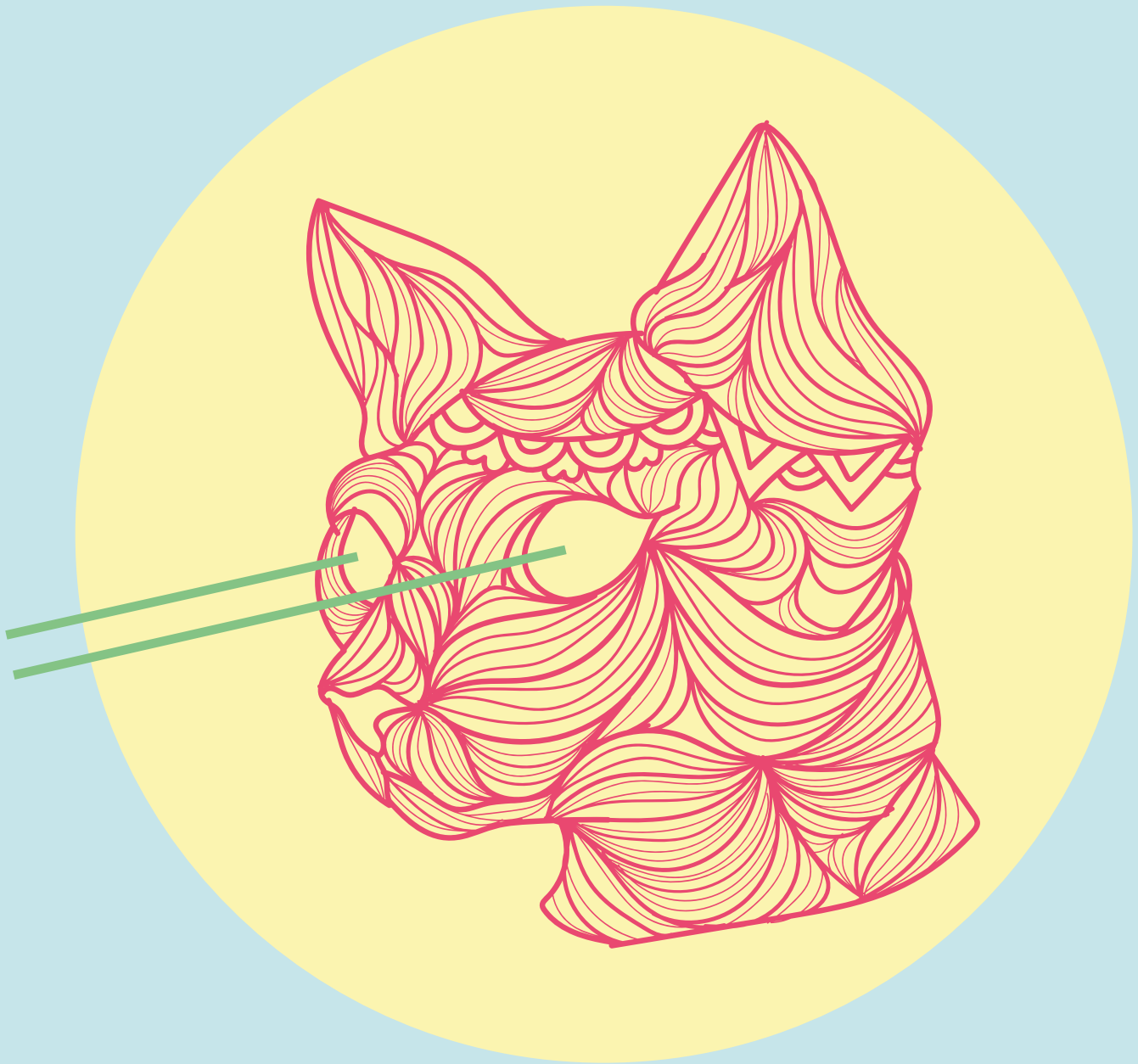


# The Cat who wanted to change her tale



Thomas Noone Dance



A new dance-puppet show  
for the whole family

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Based on a traditional Sanskrit story

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Fantasy figures, in a tale about  
friendship, trust and being human



## The story

*The Cat, the Owl, the Lizard and the Mouse* all live in the extensive roots of a Banyan tree - they are not friends, perhaps better said predator and prey, yet still they manage to coexist and cohabit the tree. Their delicate balance is interrupted when the cat is caught in a trap laid by the hunter and only saved when the mouse, on the promise that the cat will never eat her, manages to free her. After the incident the cat tries to befriend the mouse who never can bring himself to trust her, and as a result is finally caught and eaten by the owl. The story obviously deals with trust and loyalty set in contrast with the laws of nature.

This show features the four animal characters represented by puppets and each manipulated by a specific dancer and a modular set onto which the Banyan tree is video mapped. It plays out situations from the story such as the hierarchy between the animals, the encounter with the hunter and the salvation of the cat by the mouse accompanied by an Indian infused soundtrack.

In the spirit of the Indian tales, which pose questions about the morals and the reasoning of the characters within, this show proposes a new ending. As the Cat is nearly upon the Lizard, about to kill and eat him, she breaks out of the narrative and questions why she has been cast as the eternal "baddie". This then provokes a discussion amongst the puppets and we discover a Cat that questions the established roles and the path chosen for her, an Owl who is a stickler for the rules, the Lizard who does not want to make any effort to change anything and the mouse who is too scared to try.





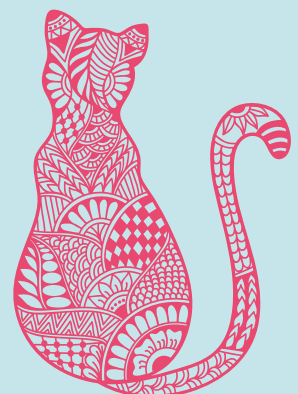
## Background

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In 2017 the Teatre Lliure and the Institut de Cultura de Barcelona commissioned TND to produce a show based on the award-winning book *Molsa* written by the Catalan author David Cirici.

This was the first time Thomas Noone worked with puppets, a desire fueled by a friendship with Duda Paiva, a Brazilian puppeteer-dancer based in Amsterdam. Duda is a recognized pioneer in cross puppetry and working with him initiated an exploration of the amazing possibilities that combining puppetry and dance permitted.

After *Molsa*, Thomas Noone created a dance-puppetry solo *After the Party* casting himself as manipulator and performer and targeting an adult audience. The puppet on this occasion was created by Andre Mello, a colleague of Duda Paiva, who creates puppets in Latex foam which permits a greater level of expression and mobility for dance. Andre Mello is the artist commissioned to create the animals for this production.



# Team

Thomas Noone

Choreographer  
and Director

Thomas Noone creates contemporary dance pieces with a signature physical and athletic style. He works with his own Barcelona based company founded in 2001 and resident at the SAT! theatre as well as working as a freelance guest choreographer internationally.

With Thomas Noone Dance he has created more than 30 productions over the last 18 years including collaborations with Barcelona institutions such as the Grec Festival, the Mercat de les Flors and the Teatre Lliure and these have toured across Spain, Europe, Latin America and beyond. As a guest choreographer he has created works for companies including Ballet Basel (Switzerland), Norrdans (Sweden), Ballet du Rhin (France), Company E (Washington), Ballet Nacional Chileno (Chile), Tanz Theater Munster (Germany), Kyo Integrated Dance Company (Japan) and Stopgap (U.K).

He has also been dance coordinator for the SAT theatre since 2006, both advising on the regular dance program and creating and coordinating other activities including the theatre's Aliansat project of local resident companies, international collaborations (Grec, Aerowaves), inclusive dance initiatives and actions focused on building audiences and outreach.

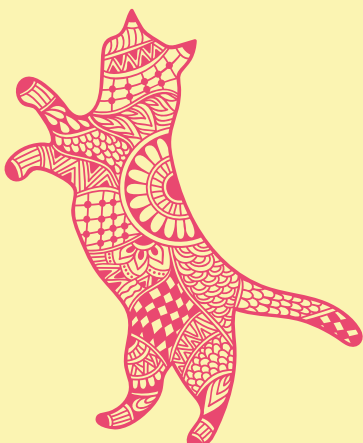
Other activities include work as a teacher imparting workshops and participation in various juries. In 2011 he was awarded Barcelona's city prize for Dance.

The family shows he has created to date are:

**Balbir el meu avi** - 2012, a work for six dancers inspired by the stories told to him by his Guyanese Grandfather, Balbir Ballgreen Nehaul. The show was co-produced by SAT! theatre in Barcelona. - *Video*

**Alicia** - 2014, a work for four dancers and a suitcase full of objects based on the book by Lewis Carroll work coinciding with the hundredth anniversary of its publication. A co-production with the TNT Festival and CAET in Terrassa. - *Video*

**Molsa** - 2017, based on the award winning book by Catalan author David Cirici, Molsa is a work for two dancers, one actor and five puppets. Produced entirely by the Teatre Lliure and the Festival Mon Llibre of Barcelona City's Institute for Culture. - *Video*



## Alba Barral

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### Assistant Choreographer

Having studied dance at Arlem Academy in Holland, Alba danced for Leine & Roebana, Susy Blok and Henrik Kaalund in Holland, and Senza Tempo, Camera Lucida and The Veronal in Barcelona. She has danced with TND since 2010 TND and in 2019 was awarded the Barcelona's Critic's prize for best female dancer in her role in Closer. She assisted Thomas Noone in the creations of After the Party and Five Manners to Kill Time and alongside Javier G.Arozena, Jeronimo Forteza and Eleonora Tirabassi, dancers of Thomas Noone Dance, created the solo Still on Thomas Noone in 2017.

Alba has also been a key developer in the company's body practice "Conscious Reduction" accompanying Thomas Noone in various workshops in Spain and abroad.

## Jim Pinchen

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### Music

A talented multi-instrumentalist and electronic composer, he is capable of creating modern and contemporary soundscapes while integrating both real instrumental sound and urban textures.

Jim combines his work as a composer with social cultural initiatives and is an active member of Musicians without Borders, with projects in Ciudad Juarez in Mexico and Santa Anna in El Salvador. Back in the U.K. he actively works with groups at risk of exclusion such as young offenders and refugees.

Since 2011 he has completed more than 12 collaborations with Thomas Noone, both for TND and other companies.

## André Melo

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### Puppet Construction

André Melo is a regular collaborator of Duda Paiva and is a sculptor who specialises in the creation of puppets. Andre created the puppet for Thomas Noone for the solo After the Party, and managed to make not only an incredible replica of Noone, but also a fantastically expressive and malleable puppet.

## Carme Gomila

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### Virtual set and videomapping

Having obtained her degree in Fine Arts from the Universitat de Barcelona and a Masters in Digital Arts from The Pompeu Fabra, she went on to specialise in applied audiovisual creation with a feminist perspective and the hybridisation of documentary and animation, as well as developing new collective creation practices in live visual arts. She has co-directed various short docu-animation films for which she has won numerous prizes including “Best Short” at London Feminist Film Festival (2018). Her work to date has included visual creations for artists such as Maria Arnal i Marcel Bagès, Clara Peya and Ariadna Peya and the dance company Abast Elàstic.

## Montse Puga

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### Dramaturg

Licensed in Dramatic Art, during her extensive career as an actress she has participated in many stage productions as well as specialising in film dubbing and voice work due to her singular and distinctive voice. Since 2004 she has formed part of the SAT programming team alongside Oscar Rodríguez, where she organises the activities for schools and young people in the theatre.

## Marc Lleixà

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### Light Design

After studying image and sound, and specialising in art design for film, he joined the lighting department of the Fundació Teatre Lliure de Barcelona in 2001, eventually becoming the Head of the department in 2013. As a light/audiovisual designer he has created designs for artists including Juan Carlos Llerida, Àlex Rigola, Xavier Albertí, Maria Arnal and Marcel Bagés, Julio Manrique and Juan Carlos Martel.

## Dancers

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### Berta Martí

After her initial dance studies in Barcelona in 2018 she entered the Otradanza's GoOD project under the directorship Asun Noales. She then danced for IT Dansa while maintaining a parallel relation with the puppet theatre company "Per Poc," directed by Santi Arnal. Currently she is working as a freelancer with Thomas Noone Dance, Cía. Per Poc, Jacob Gómez and Adrián Vega.

### Joel Mesa

A graduate of Barcelona's "Institut del Teatre" de Barcelona, Joel has danced in companies in the UK, Poland and Holland before returning to Barcelona where he regularly collaborates with TND as well as Taiat Dansa, Javier Guerrero, Jesús Rubio and Leftlovers. He is currently developing his own creative project "Cia Mutua" alongside Carlos Roncero.

### Hector Puigdomènech

Having studied a wide range of dance styles, including Jazz, Urban Dance, Contemporary and ballet, Hector then centred his professional career in Urban dance styles performing in the last five productions for Brodas Bros in Barcelona. He also collaborates with Ester Gutín and teaches at several centres in Catalonia.

### Eleonora Tirabassi

Having graduated from DAF (Dance Arts Faculty) in Roma, Eleonora Tirabassi came directly to TND in Barcelona in 2013. She has also danced for Sebastian Ferro and other freelance dance projects.





Choreography and Direction: Thomas Noone  
Assistant Director: Alba Barral Composer: Jim Pinchen  
Performers: Berta Martí, Joel Mesa, Eleonora Tirabassi, Hector Puigdomènech  
Puppet design and fabrication: Andre Melo Visuals: Carme Gomila  
Light Design: Marc Lleixà Dramaturg: Montse Puga  
Set Design: Carles Pujol Set Construction: Taller d'Escenografia de Sant Cugat  
Costumes: Goretti Puente, Photography: Luis San Andrés / Claudia Herrán  
Voice in Off: Alba Morena, Montse Puga, Thomas Noone  
Assistants to the creation of the puppets: Abmael Henrique, Fernando Soffiatti,  
Jefferson Keese, Tiago Lima, Ivan Bernardelli  
Production: Sara Esteller Graphic design: FreePaella.

Thanks also to Centre Cívic Zona Nord and Bia Ribeiro, Duda Paiva

Duration: 48 minutos

Recommended for ages 6 +  
Premiere 13th July 2022 at the SAT! Teatre as part of the Grec Festival 22

Produced by Thomas Noone Dance, The Grec Festival de Barcelona and ICEC-  
Departament de Cultura de la Generalitat de Catalunya with the collaboration  
of the SAT! Sant Andreu Teatre and the Taller de Músics.



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