

THOMAS **NOON**EDANCE

MOLSA

Based on the award winning book
by David Cirici

FRIENDSHIP OVERCOMES ALL OBSTACLES



a co-production

Tliure

BARCELONA
CULTURA

Junta de
Barcelona



Edebé Prize for
Literature 2012

edebé

Molsa is a show featuring dance, puppetry and animated video by the Thomas Noone Dance Company.

The work is inspired by a book of the same name written by David Cirici, which was awarded the 2013 Edebé Publishing prize in children's literature and the 2013 Strega Prize, from Italy, in the children's category. Cirici's book has been translated into many languages, including Italian, Chinese, German and Korean.



Synopsis

This is a tale of separation and reuniting between a young girl Janinka and her dog Molsa. War tears them apart, but their friendship overcomes all obstacles. After a string of adventures and misfortunes, they find each other again. The work evokes their experience at four stages of the journey. The young girl Janinka, the dogs Molsa and Menta, and other characters like Pavel the prisoner and Ratman the prison guard recount this lovely tale of friendship.



Molsa is not a traditional story.

Its themes are complex, but it uses accessible mechanisms to address them. It has a happy ending, but there are tragic parts too. It takes on some of today's most difficult issues and it does so intelligently. That's why it has provided attractive source material for the creation of a family-oriented children's show that proves far from conventional.

The puppets are the driving force in the dance scenes. They give added depth to the movements, creating a world of heightened suggestion. Because of the way the puppets are manipulated, it becomes hard to tell the puppets and the dancers apart. To connect the story with the dance and engage children in the abstract world on stage, the show adds an actor who narrates the story and uses text. In addition, a video projection with animation evokes the imaginary places in the tale and reinforces the sensation of travelling to them.

Artistic team

Based on **Molsa** by **David Cirici**

Director and choreographer **Thomas Noone**

Assistant director **Nuria Martínez**

Text **David Cirici**

Original music **Jim Pinchen**

Dancers **Joel Mesa** and **Paula Tato**
/ **Pierfrancesco Porrelli** and **Eleonora Tirabassi**

Actor **Blai Rodríguez**

Rehearsal director **Andrea de Vallescar**

Puppet design and construction **Martí Doy**

Lighting design **Horne Horneman**

Costumes **Marc Udina**

Video illustration and animation **Ana Aranda Rico** and
Marina Fernández Cáceres

Poster design **Eusebio López**

Photography **Yoana Miguel**

Production and communication for Thomas Noone Dance
Company **Sara Esteller**

Trainee assistant **Ana Teixeira**

Molsa is a co-production of **Teatre Lliure** and the **Culture
Institute of Barcelona**





MOLSA

THOMAS **NOON** DANCE



The Thomas Noone Dance Company

Thomas Noone (London, 1971) launched his own dance company in 2001 in Barcelona after performing with Itzik Galili, Djazzex, Reflex Dance, Charleroi Danses, Rami Levi and Gelabert-Azzopardi. Trained first in Geology at Oxford, Noone went on to study dance at the Rambert School in London. He has been the recipient of prizes at the Madrid Choreography Competition and the Ricard Moragas Competition, which attest to his unique creative stamp. He has a dynamic style that reflects a mastery of technique to bring off scenes of high dance content. It is a virtuoso style, yet agile and flowing.

The extreme use of dance in all its possibilities turns his creations into high-impact performances in which explosive movement combines with subtler moments of unhurried expressiveness.

Noone crafts his pieces with quality, rigour and a search for connection with the audience. They are laced with emotion and a fine sense of irony. To date, he has created 25 pieces for his own company and over a dozen for international companies such as the Ballet du Rhin, Chilean National Ballet, Münster Tanztheater, StopGap, Norrdans and Ballet de Asunción.

In 16 years of performing, the company has worked in a wide variety of formats, including ensemble pieces with 20 dancers (**Orpheus and Eurydice**, **Origen**), live collaborations with musicians (**Bound** with Felipe Perez Santiago, **Lugares extrañamente desastrosos** with Jim Pinchen), pieces for unique spaces, and family shows like **Balbir, el meu avi** (**My Granddad**, **Balbir**) and **Alicia**.

For many years, the company has also staged adaptations for young audiences (**Balles?** and **I tú, balles?**), created pieces with groups of secondary school students (**Dancing Bodies**) and put on inclusive works for performers with functional diversity (**Just a dancer I** and **Just a dancer II**).

In short, the company's performances have drawn on all the available resources of dance, expressive, relational and communicative.

Current projects include **Perverso**, created specifically for outdoor spaces, and **Closer**, which offers a view of dance in the round and adds expansive gestural techniques to the performance. **Closer** opens in May 2018.

Noone is also the choreographer of **Many**, a piece that is part of the National Dance Production sponsored by the Government of Catalonia. **Many** has toured Catalan theatres on a double bill with a piece by Roser López Espinosa.

Throughout his career, Noone has been the recipient of distinctions such as the **City of Barcelona Award in 2011**.

For video excerpts of their performances, go to the company's Vimeo channel: www.vimeo.com/thomasnoonedance



David Cirici

Cirici holds a degree in Catalan and is a member of the Catalan branch of PEN International and the Association of Catalan Language Writers. A keen traveller, he is a scriptwriter for radio and television, a publicist and a teacher of language and literature.

Cirici has written many works of literature for children and young adults and he has received several awards for them.

Molsa is the winner of prizes in children's literature: from the publishing firm Edebé in 2012, the Strega Prize (Italy) in 2013, the Cento i Premio Nazionale Prize 2016 and Audience Award at the Children's and Youth's Book Fair in Bologna 2017

Molsa has been translated into Chinese, German, Italian, Spanish and Turkish.

<http://davidcirici.blogspot.com.es>

Martí Doy

A renowned puppeteer, Doy has done set design and construction, puppets and costumes for numerous shows directed by Marc Hervàs.

Doy is the creator of the puppet Mic and his friends for TV3, where they appear as the main characters in the MIC3 parts of the children's programme Súper 3.

Doy designed and made the puppets for "Esther's First Story", a play by Salvador Espriu, which was directed by Oriol Broggi for the National Theatre of Catalonia, and for a version of Cinderella called "La Ventafocs, potser sí, potser no" by Josep M. Benet i Jornet, which was directed by Marc Hervàs, also for the National Theatre of Catalonia.

He was a founding member of L'Avexutxu Company, together with Rosa Pou and Xavier Duch, where he staged shows like "Contes de Limpopo", based on stories by Rudyard Kipling, and "El Sarpent Sapient", from a fable by Ramon Llull.



Blai Rodríguez

A versatile actor with an extensive professional career, Rodríguez will take on the role of Molsa to guide audiences through the story. With close ties to the world of dance, Rodríguez has worked with the Thomas Noone Dance Company in previous shows for children and young adults.





Ana Aranda Rico and Marina Fernández Cáceres

To create and edit the animated video, Marina Fernández Cáceres and Ana Aranda worked together as illustrator and animator, respectively. They have collaborated for years on projects all over Spain.

The animated video accompanies parts of the story in order to give additional information and provide context for what is happening on stage. The images blend fantasy and realism.

www.anaarandarico.com

Marc Udina

After studying production design at the Institut del Teatre, Udina worked as a production designer with the Enblanc and La Hydra Companies and with Jordi Ribot. His credits include working as customer designer for a number of shows, such as the musical Rent, Les Femmes savantes and Nits de musicals. He has also been a member of the wardrobe team for La Cubana's production of Gente bien and Dagoll Dagom's production of Scaramouche.



Jim Pinchen

Pinchen is a multi-instrumentalist, writer, composer and vocalist. From the very start of his first band, he has collaborated with other groups, musicians, choreographers, filmmakers and theatre directors in the United Kingdom, Europe and Mexico.

Pinchen has worked on several pieces with the Thomas Noone Dance Company: Lugares extrañamente desastrosos, Brutal Love Poems, Medea, Just a Dancer, Dancing Bodies, Breathless, Alicia and Perverso.

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