

ARACALADANZA  
COMPAÑIA

Spanish National Youth and Children's Theater Award 2010

# clouds

Directed by Enrique Cabrera



# clouds

a dance show for children four and up

# clouds

inspired by the world of René Magritte

# clouds

MAX Award Best Show for Children 2011

MAX Award Best Costume Design 2011

FETEN 2010 winner Best Show

Spanish National Youth and Children's Theater Award 2010

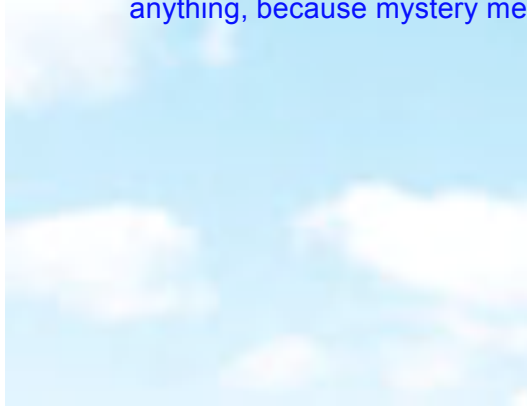
# clouds

produced by  
Aracaladanza

coproduced by  
Teatro Sadler's Wells, DanceEast, Jerwood Foundation, Comunidad de Madrid,  
Mercat de les Flors and Auditorio de Tenerife

in collaboration with  
Diputación de Albacete, Ayuntamiento de Alcobendas, Teatros del Canal and  
Teatro de la Abadía

“My painting is visible images which conceal nothing; they evoke mystery and indeed when one sees one of my pictures, one asks oneself this simple question “What does it mean?” It doesn’t mean anything, because mystery means nothing either, it’s unknowable.”



**René Magritte**

## about “clouds”

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Magritte. The Belgian painter we'll always remember for his black bowler. They say the bowler was invented for an English Earl two centuries ago.

His last name was Magritte (spelled with two **t**'s) and his first name was René (spelled with only one **n**). Those who know painting say he's one of the best examples of surrealism.

Surrealism was a mid-20th century artistic movement that used images to express emotions but not in the logical way we think of when we talk about logic.

Just one example: You see a cloud and turn it into a sheep. Well, in reality, all clouds are sheep. Or are all sheep clouds? It doesn't matter: You see a sheep and zap! It's a cloud.

If you say this out loud your family will tell you, “You're crazy!” But you know it's possible because your imagination allows you to see that and so much more. “Nonsense!”, they say .

It happens to all of us. We even do it on purpose for fun, excitement or play. We spend time looking at Magritte's paintings, the Belgian painter of the bowler. And we imagine things we wish to see. These are not things that we can see in his paintings; they're images that we come up with while looking at the paintings. We invite you to open a door, the one that's in your head and allows you to imagine whatever you want.

## **synopsis**

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We take to the sky with our feet on the ground.

A flight program in 11 parts for cloudy skies.

01. Piled up houses. The cloud escapes.

02. Up there, suspended. Floating!

03. Shooting tables that turn into.... clouds?

04. Shadows

04.a. Strange creatures.

04.b. One and many. Multiplication. Life of its own.

05. Cloud formations. And the green apple.

06. Doors.

06.a. Confusion

06.b. White and Black.

06.c. The herd.

06.d. Who is it...?

07. The visitors. No, the dancers. Crazy heads, I'm going out of my mind!

08. Little wings and little fins. Albinoni.

09. Ladder to go up. Ladder to go down.

10. It's cold. And, finally:

11. The cloud returns.

End of the flight! Feet on the ground!



## about the technical and artistic team

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Concept / Director of Choreography	Enrique Cabrera
Choreography	Aracaladanza
Performers	Carolina Arijá Gallardo Jonatan de Luis Mazagatos Jimena Trueba Toca Jorge Brea Salgueiro Olga Lladó Valls Raquel de la Plaza Húmera
Assistant	Natalí Camolez
Original music	Mariano Lozano P. Ramos
Additional music	Penguin Café Orchestra
Costume design	Elisa Sanz
Set design and props	Elisa Sanz / Ricardo Vergne
Lighting	Pedro Yagüe
Projection design	Álvaro Luna
Costumers	Cornejo / Gabriel Besa
Set construction	Mambo Decorados
Props and puppets	Ricardo Vergne
Graphic design	Circusmedia S. L.
Photography	Eduardo García
Executive producer	Arantza Izaguirre Fradua
International tour coordination	Marisa Bas Pardo
Sound and lighting tech	Lalo Gallego Blanco
Equipment tech	Yolanda Esteban Díaz
Production and press	Javier Torres Ochandiano
Distribution	Alberto Muyo García

## about the director and choreographer

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**Enrique Cabrera**, was born in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1960. He's been a resident of Spain since 1989. He is the creator and soul of **Aracaladanza**, the company he founded after winning the **Nigua**, the Outstanding Choreographers award from the **VIII Certamen Coreográfico de Madrid** in 1994. This award made it possible for him to travel to the American Dance Festival (USA).

Convinced from the beginning that the fountain of inspiration springs from creating work for a young audience, he focused his talent on offering the highest possible quality.

His work with objects and sets has become his trademark; it's instantly recognizable as soon as the curtain rises. For this he has gained wide popularity and critical acclaim.

Among his many awards is the **Premio Villa de Madrid de Danza "Antonio Ruiz Soler"** given to him by the Madrid City Council in 2005.

His unique approach to set design allows for other re-known artists to work as partners in the artistic process.

In his role as artistic director and choreographer of **Aracaladanza** since its inception, Enrique Cabrera has been asked to partner with various UK organizations.

He has given creativity workshops at The Place (London) and in Ipswich (England), where in 2006, he worked with a group of young, non-professional dancers to choreograph a piece called ***Dancing on the News***.

The popularity of his work in the English speaking world, where dance for family audiences was in its infancy, caught the attention of the British theatre company **Bare Bones** who invited them to develop their piece ***Anywhichway***. ***Anywhichway*** debuted at the Royal Opera House (London) in the winter of 2005.

And more, the dance agency DanceXchange, based in Birmingham (England) commissioned a piece about the senses. Titled ***DanceSense***, it premiered in April

2008 and was remounted in the Spring of 2010 to tour the UK. The piece is part of a broader educational initiative designed to teach the senses in British schools.

But if the creative process is important so is teaching and studying. Through his dance, improvisation and composition workshops, conducted in Spain, the UK and Argentina, Enrique has developed teaching methods for children of various ages, as well as adolescents and adults.

On numerous occasions Aracaladanza has been invited by the British dance agency DanceEast to give choreography workshops and create pieces for young non-professional dancers and dance instructors. Dundee College (Scotland), has invited the choreographer to give classes to professionals dedicated to working with young audiences.

The University of Nottingham has also worked with the choreographer, not only to give master classes, but to share with British professionals his passion for creating art for the youngest members of our society. Out of his years of giving workshops he has developed two projects: ***It's Mine*** and ***Sea of Clothes*** (touring now) and a three week residency with six British dancers and a repeat master at the Aracaladanza headquarters.

International support of his creative work meant an invitation from the London Contemporary Dance School (The Place) to star and direct a creative workshop under the auspices of the international dance festival The Catch (London)

Mr. Chabrera's teaching has included courses, seminars, dance workshops and master classes. A good example of this was the Dance Teaching course he gave to primary teachers in Castilla y León, co-financed by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture, Castilla y León Advisory Council, and the European Social Forum.

We shouldn't lose sight of the different early childhood education and cultural management courses he's done in the last few years. Among these was a course called "The Creation of Dance Shows for Young Audiences" organized by the Director of the Municipality of Madrid in 1994. In 2002 he assisted in an international seminar organized by the Instituto Computense de Ciencias Musicales that focused on Marketing Dance in Spain.



Enrique Cabrera was invited to the pre-selection jury works presented at the Madrid Coreography Competition in 1999 and 2008.

He was also an active collaborator on Transdanza, not only in auditions but also in the organization of the first edition and the creation of a piece for the 2010/11 program.

## about the company

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Fantasy, imagination and magic. These are the essential elements of **Aracaladanza**, a contemporary dance company known for their serious stagecraft, demanding, uncompromising and high quality.

His career; his aesthetic, artistic and technical discipline as well as his national and international projection (reputation) have been recognized (honored) with ***the National Youth and Children's Theater Award 2010***, given by the Spanish Ministry of Culture.

The pioneering work performed in Spain by the company directed by Enrique Cabrera has become a national and international reference for contemporary Spanish dance.

The UK has shown particular interest in developing the promising talent of **Aracaladanza** over the last 15 years of their existence (by supporting new works, fostering professional and artistic development, promoting new audiences; independent creation, craft and precision; developing artist teams). In fact, **Aracaladanza** collaborates closely with British dance agencies like DanceEast, DancexChange as well as with the University of Nottingham and their Lakeside Arts Centre.

In Spain, their work has gained both critical and public acclaim.

Their productions have won a number of important awards such as the *Villa de Madrid Best Choreography* for their 2005 show ***¡Nada...Nada!*** not to mention the many prizes they've received over the years from FETEN : *Best Dance Show, Best Soundtrack and Best Lighting Design* (1999) for ***Ana and the Rainbow***; *Best Costume Design* (2001) for ***Maletas*** (Suitcases); *Best Show* (2003) for ***Visto y no Visto*** (Sight Unseen); *Best Costume Design and Performance* (2005) for ***¡Nada...Nada***, *Best Show and Best Original Music*

(2007) for ***Pequeños Paraísos*** (Little Paradises) and *Best Show* (2010) for ***Nubes*** (Clouds).

**Aracaladanza**, was the first Spanish dance company and the first dedicated to young audiences and families to win ***three MAX awards*** in the same year.

This milestone was achieved in 2008 with ***Pequeños Paraísos*** (Little Paradises). It won *Best Young Audience Show*; *Best Costume Design* and *Best Scenery*.

The recognition that is most important to **Aracaladanza** is the privilege to fascinate audiences essential to the present and future of Spanish dance. In fact, they have, over their long history with: 3 short pieces; 10 mid-sized productions; 4 street shows or other unconventional venues; 1 show for babies; and 7 national or international choreography commissions.

In the last four years the company has raised the curtain more than 600 times; performed in international festivals in Africa, Europe and Asia; maintained close collaborations with Argentinean theatre and puppet companies; set foot on stages in Germany, Holland, France, Hong Kong, Morocco, the UK and Taiwan. They also premiered a version of ***Nubes*** (Clouds) on the most prestigious stage in the dance word: Sadder's Wells Theatre in London.

With the premier of ***Pequeños Paraísos*** (Little Paradises), at the end of 2006, **Aracaladanza** unveiled an ambitious project: A trilogy based on the paintings of master painters: Bosco, René Magritte, and Joan Miró.

***Nubes*** (Clouds), a show based in the surreal world of Belgian painter René Magritte, was also a challenge, its Madrid production was encouraged by such influential European theatrical institutions like Sadler's Wells Theatre in London and the British agency dance DanceEast. The Mercat de les Flor de Barcelona and the Auditorio de Tenerife enthusiastically signed on to the initial project.

Support was provided in the later stages by: Teatro de la Abadía de Madrid; el Teatro Auditorio Ciudad de Alcobendas; la Diputación de Albacete and the Jerwood Foundation, of the UK.

And all this would not have been possible without the support of the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Madrid, organizations that have provided uninterrupted financial support over the past 15 years.

## the fascinating world of Aracaladanza

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For 15 years **Aracaladanza** has shared a fascinating world with the public. From their vision and through their imagination and dance you can embellish and magically transform reality. And to do so you only have to say the name of the company that opens the doors to the treasure.

Multiple FETEN and Max winner; recognized by critics, followed by spectators; invited to national and international festivals, **Aracaladanza** is known for its unique way of working, planning new visions of scenic imagination and creating exquisite shows for children and adolescents. With simple stories and through costume, music, rhythm and movement, they lure adults into a fantasy world they'll want to revisit in their dreams. Always, of course, if you are willing to discover it!

## about the painting trilogy

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Look at a painting and let go. Step into a fantasy and travel to new universes. Dream!

Marveling for a moment creates powerful images, fixed on our retinas from childhood, chasing us since we opened our school books.

Especially, the paintings of three masters without apparent connexion: Bosco, Magritte and Miró.

Every time we saw small monsters passing around a table when we were six; when green apples, very green, were suspended in the air and the reds melted into the perfect blue, we got excited.

We didn't know but, the spark was already there.

One day, **Aracaladanza** felt an overwhelming need to go to a museum, the Prado. *The Garden of Earthly Delights* was calling us. And we saw it. And we watched it. And we analyzed it. And we studied it. And we got excited. And we decided: one day we would have to put everything that inspired us on stage.

Then we got distracted by other ideas. But the feeling was strong and the desire grew.

However, it wasn't just a single painting

We became obsessed: our minds stirred with the memories and magic of our favorite painters.

It was then we realized it was an absurd choice because with time and patience, we could honor all those who made us happy.

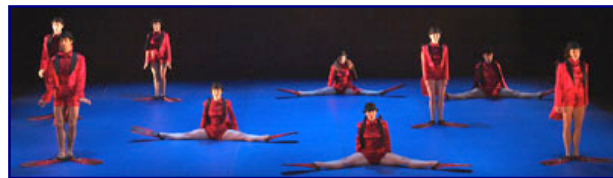
And that was when the trilogy was born.

The pieces began falling into place. First, El Bosco. Then, Magritte. Miró, a delicious dessert.

And so ***Little Paradise***. And ***Clouds***. And we'll see what follows ...

This is **Aracaladanza's** first trilogy, but we have the feeling that it won't be the last ...

Musicians always make our days happy!



**the critics said:**

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"Aracaladanza is one of the most prestigious Spanish companies that specializes in shows for young audiences."

**El País. Roger Salas.**  
**13/12/2009**

\* \* \*

"Poetry in motion"

"... A compliment to the senses. Successful programming by the Abadia. And a show that can compete with the performances of Moses Pendleton! "

**doctorbrigato.blogspot.com**  
**30/12/2009**

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"Magrittte would tip his hat"

"...for 50 minutes both children and adults were left speechless"

**La Tribuna de Albacete. Cristina Martinez de la Ossa.**  
**17/3/2010**

\* \* \*

".... be entertained by the six skilled performers of Aracaladanza in 50 minutes of light, witty and visually eye-catching fantasy."

"The packed theatre greatly appreciated it all, as did I, and the performers had to return many times for 'curtain' calls because of the sustained applause."

**Dance Australia. Margaret Mercer.**  
**16/2/2013**

“When Aracaladanza’s Clouds finishes its run at the Perth International Arts Festival, there will be hundreds of children who want to practice shadow puppets, play with balloon heads, and chase clouds that turn into sheep. And hopefully, hundreds more children who have fallen in love with the thrill that theatre can bring.”

**Australian Stage. Anna Locke.**  
**15/2/2013**

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“Clouds is a magical performance, one for the whole family to enjoy.”

“Clouds is an entertaining, engaging, unique piece of work that will enchant whether you are five or one hundred and five.”

**Aussie Theatre. Craig Dalglish.**  
**14/2/2013**

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“I would love one of our local companies to acquire this work, if Aracaladanza can be persuaded to share it. A season of only four performances was not long enough for it to be exposed to everyone who would enjoy it – and that, I think, would include almost the whole population of Perth. Of Australia. Of the world!. Viva Aracaladanza!”

**Arts Hub. Carol Flavell Neist.**  
**19/2/2013**



**Nubes** is an Aracaladanza production, co-produced with the Madrid Regional Government, Sadler`s Wells Theatre, DanceEast, the Jerwood Foundation, the Mercat de les Flors and the Auditorio de Tenerife; in collaboration with the Albacete Provincial Government, the Auditorio de Alcobendas, the Teatro del Canal and the Teatro de la Abadía.

**Nubes** has the support of the Ministry of Culture for their national tours.



[www.aracaladanza.com](http://www.aracaladanza.com)



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