ARACALADANZA

COMPAÑIA

Spanish National Theatre Award
for Children and Youth

www.aracaladanza.com

Va de Bach

Aracaladanza's new dream for five dancers and a gorilla

Recommended age: from 5 years old

Running time: 55 minutes

Coproduced by Real Teatro de Retiro and Comunidad de Madrid

Premiered: April 2024, Real Teatro de Retiro (Madrid)

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited and imagination encircles the world."

Albert Einstein

"Initially there was Bach... and then all the others."

Pau Casals

"Everything that can be imagined is real".

Pablo Ruiz Picasso

"You have to stand up to reality".

Johann Sebastian Bach

Aracaladanza explores the inspiration of Johann Sebastian Bach to question the limits of the stage in search of its magic. The true ambition is to free the imagination of spectators of all ages with the declared intention they enjoy the show in their own way.

With the collaboration of the same avant-garde artistic team that has shared inventiveness, creativity and aesthetic values for almost three decades, **Aracaladanza** unleashes a torrent of images that seeks to provoke sensations and, ultimately, to thrill with surprise those who sit in the stalls.

The Madrid-based company, recognized worldwide as a pioneer and standard-bearer of a rigorous, high-quality stage language for family and children's audiences, has experience in the re-construction of universes of plastic artists who have left their mark on the universal imagination. El Bosco ("*Little Paradises*"), Magritte ("*Clouds"),* Miró ("*Constellations")* and Leonardo ("*Flights*") have inspired large-scale shows that have been enjoyed by thousands of young spectators on five continents.

on Johann Sebastian Bach

Bach is more than creative beauty. More than technical perfection. More than intellectual depth. More than the foundation of music. Bach is spiritual purity and absolute imagination. It is intense emotion. And for all that, Revolution.

His work, miraculous and profoundly liberating, has given breath to generations of artists whom he has inspired. Revered before, now his imprint and his work is in films, paintings and even video games. And, of course, he makes his mark in dance.

Aracaladanza approaches Bach as an inspirer of a scenic work that seeks not so much to choreograph his music (in multiple facets, variations and versions) as to dive into a creative universe that allows those who open their eyes and tune their ears to imagine freely.

on *VA DE BACH*

Aracaladanza offers, in *VA DE BACH*, a contemporary dance show for audiences between one and one hundred years old, with a running time of fifty-five minutes.

VA DE BACH is a dream, and as such, it lacks a conventional narrative and plot structure. Its aim is to ignite the imagination of any spectator, regardless of age. It is a very free scenic construction that takes shape from rehearsals in which the scenographic elements become the protagonists.

These are questions we ask ourselves:

What if the backdrop is red velvet? What if the floor is golden? What if the stage is stripped bare?

What if, as an appetizer, instead of starting on the stage, we do it in the stalls?

What if we set up a giant hand like the one that could play a giant organ? What if there were tiny pianos?

What if some balloons end up singing? What if they were to get punctured?

What if we danced a collective malambo to the rhythm of Bach?

What if some allegedly baroque wigs give away meters of paper?

What if we had a coffee listening to what Bach composed precisely for a coffee?

What if we open some doors to see that on the other side, we are duplicates?

What if an immense gorilla is sad?

What if we interpret a badinerie with lyrics and again the badinerie without lyrics while some balloons become musical notes?

What if we go crazy, get excited and laugh with Bach, his music and his universe?

All these questions and many more, in ***Va de Bach***. And for everything else, Bach!

team

Concept and direction	Enrique Cabrera
Performers	Carolina Arija
	Lydia Martínez
	Jimena Trueba
	Aleix Rodríguez
	Jonatan de Luis
Cantata Actress	Carla Maró
Choreography assistant	Jonatan de Luis Mazagatos
Original music composition	Luis Miguel Cobo
Other music	J. S. Bach
	Sheila Blanco "Bach es Dios"
Musical advice	Jorge Piccardo
Stage set and costume design	Elisa Sanz (AAPEE)
Lighting design	Pedro Yagüe (AAI)
Stage video design	Álvaro Luna (AAI)
Props' design and crafting	Ricardo Vergne (AAPEE)
Costume's crafting	Gabriel Besa
	Pilar López Jurado
Stage set's crafting	Mambo decorados
	Gerriets España
Photography	Marcos G. Punto
Promotional video	Ana Verástegui
Executive production	Patricia Torrero
	Enrique Cabrera
Tour coordination	Itziar Jiménez
General production and press	Javier Torres Ochandiano
National distribution	Alberto Muyo
International distribution	Ana Sala – Ikebanah artes escénicas

Aracaladanza has always been devoted to bringing together a group of stage artists whose high-quality work seeks to unite all the languages of the stage.

Fidelity to this vision has achieved artistic recognition by theatre programmers from the five continents and, at the same time, rewarded with prizes and applause from the stalls.

The set designer and costume designer **Elisa Sanz**, the lighting designer **Pedro Yagüe**, the composer **Luis Miguel Cobo**, the video creator **Álvaro Luna** and the puppeteer and prop maker **Ricardo Vergne** are essential pillars in the creative development of each of the shows that **Aracaladanza** offers on stage thanks to dancers who have shared the emotion, the magic of a project that has always aimed to be stable.

Aracaladanza's fascinating universe

Since 1995 **Aracaladanza** has been sharing a fascinating universe with the audience, convinced that, through imagination and dance, magic and wonder transform reality.

Spanish National Theatre Award for Children and Young People 2010 for its "commitment" to this audience and its "aesthetic, artistic and technical demands".

repeatedly awarded at FETEN (European Children's Theatre Fair. Gijón. Spain); winner of several MAX awards; critically acclaimed; followed by a loyal legion of spectators and invited to national and international festivals, **Aracaladanza** stands out for its unusual way of working, projecting new scenic visions of the imagination and creating exquisite shows aimed at children and teenagers with simple stories that through costumes, music, light, rhythm and movement also know how to involve the adult spectator in a fantastic world that seeks to repeat itself in dreams

on Enrique Cabrera – director and choreographer

Spanish National Award Theatre for Children and Youth, **Aracaladanza** is the embodiment of the work of **Enrique Cabrera**, born in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 1960 and resident in Spain since 1989.

The choreographer is the driving force and true soul of **Aracaladanza**, a company he founded after winning with *Nigua*, the Outstanding Choreographer Award at the 8th Madrid Choreography Competition in 1994, which granted him a stay in the American Dance Festival (USA).

Convinced from the outset that the source of inspiration came from creating for the youngest audiences, he thus put all his talent into this task, imposing a single obligation on himself: to offer stage works of non-negotiable technical and artistic excellence.

His work with objects and scenographic elements has become his personal "trademark", perfectly identifiable as soon as the curtain rises.

He has succeeded in attracting the interest of various institutions. In Asia (Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and China) as well as in Latin America and in Europe, especially in the United Kingdom. Being his vocation focused on the development of new audiences for dance together with a particular creative approach, he has been invited by universities, theatres, dance companies and international festivals not only to show his work, but also to develop creative educational schemes and performances that have been enjoyed in unique venues such as the Royal Opera House in London or in the Edinburgh International Festival (EIF).

In Spain, his very special work also attracts the attention of two essential musical institutions in the cultural life of Barcelona. Both the **Palau de la Música** and the **Auditori de Barcelona** invite the choreographer to participate in the creation of concerts in which he breathes movement into the music of great universal composers.

The **Philharmonie de Paris**, through its pedagogical department and inspired by his previous work at the **Auditori de Barcelona**, commissions him to be the artistic director of a concert show with circus artists from the Parisian Fratellini Academy, an experience he shares with the conductor Jane Latron.

what critics say:

"For this reason, ***Va de Bach*** is a perfect production for everyone, beginners and neophytes, whether children, young people or adults. "It is a high-culture show that illuminates and excites spectators who come to it because of their passion for Bach or because they are lovers of choreographic art.

Cristina Marinero – Ópera World, 16/07/24

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"To make known the work and creativity of Johann Sebastian Bach, to bring contemporary dance closer to new audiences, to develop the imagination through the scenic exploration of diverse materials, these are some of the objectives of ***Va de Bach***".

RTVE - 17/04/2024

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"The ending is apotheosis: the velvety, puffy costumes of furious red seem to come to life and the scene is filled with paper, laughter and music. How can one not perceive classical music as pleasurable while contemplating scenes like this?"

Sara Barquillo Guerrero – El pequeño espectador, 31/08/24

VA DE BACH is an **Aracaladanza**´s production **in** co-production with **Real Teatro de Retiro, Fundación Teatro Real** and the **Comunidad de Madrid.**

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CONTACT

Distribution:

Ana Sala Montoro

+34 619 951 791

anasala@ikebanah.es | facebook.com/ikebanah.artesescenicas

www.ikebanah.es

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