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HIGH ABOVE

云端

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心机美学

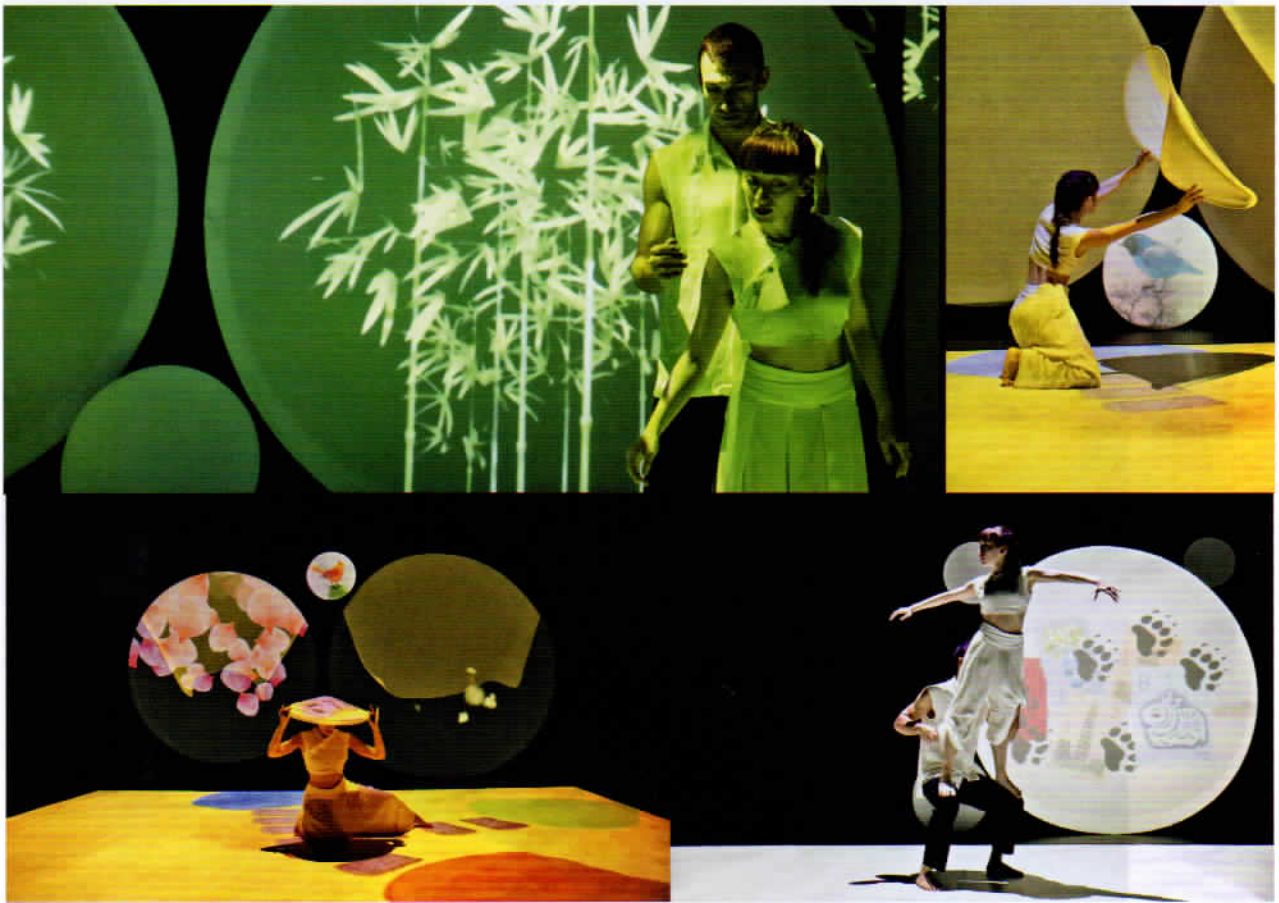


海南航空 HAINAN AIRLINES

Adapted by Jane Tian;
photos provided by TONG Production

Follow panda's footprints and enjoy the beauty of Chinese culture

This is a cultural adventure, with Chinese elements, for children of the world to experience the beauty of East meeting West.



A co-production by TPO Italy and TONG Production (China), this cultural adventure brings to life the unique beauty of Chinese traditions and offers an immersive experience for children of different ages and personalities.

When mentioning Chinese national treasures, the figure of a large animal immediately comes to mind. It has distinctive black patches around its eyes, over the ears and across its round body. Yes it is the giant panda! Its cuteness has long attracted many fans throughout the world.

Following the footprints of a giant panda, the performance "Panda's Home" guides people to the panda's home in China to start an imaginary journey in exploring the beauty of the natural landscape, the harmony of traditional music, the interactions and relations between things and phenomena, as well as the composition of nature, according to the theory of the five elements (wu xing).

Filled with colorful visuals and interactive sensory stage settings, two dancers will lead young audiences to experience a feast of Chinese culture and stories - from running in a bamboo forest, chasing "Nian monsters"¹ of folklore with firecrackers and weav-



Children play with the dancers on stage.



¹According to Chinese legend, Nian is a monster. It is said Nian go to nearby villages to kill people and eat their heads at the end of every year in Chinese calendar. Afterwards, the villagers know Nian afraid of firecracker and red color. Hence, they play firecrackers and hang Spring Festival scrolls on their doors (Spring Festival scroll is a couplet written on a red paper) to drive Nian away.



ing silk in the garden, to flying kites or dancing through a river of Chinese ink painting and calligraphy. Even Chinese children who grow up in China might not have the opportunity to experience these things. They can learn about their culture and about human nature more deeply.

Immersive experiences are always the highlight of TPO Italy. This type of experience breaks the border between

- 📅 March 23rd – April 2nd
- 👤 For ages 4 – 9 and their families
- ⌚ 50-60 minutes show +30 mins China traditional culture workshop

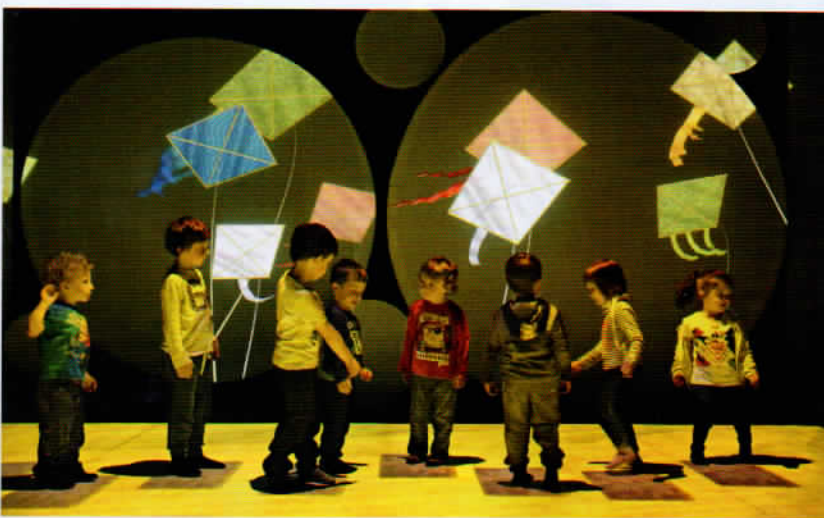
📍 China Millennium Monument Theatre, Haidian District, Beijing

art and games. It allows children to join the performance and it is like a communication of spaces, voices and form between children and the performers.

Although the works produced by TPO

Italy are famous for a combination of technology and childishness, the target is not to show off the various technologies. Technology is only used as a means of exploration, based on a child's understanding to create an immersive experience. For "Panda's Home", with the high-tech interactive installations, pleasant games will be played in a group with the dancers. Young spectators will come to understand how, in Chinese thought, circular movements are the simple and intuitive way.

Such an immersive process with great visual effects forms a happy and interactive show. Participants also realize the unique beauty of China. Children go on stage and interact with the dancers so that they appear to be personally on the scene. For Chinese children, they happily act with the dancers, while gaining a deep impression and comprehension of their own culture. Furthermore, this performance accelerates Chinese cultural diffusion and allows spectators in other countries experience the beauty of the East. 🐼



18 PERFORMANCE



Children are continuously encouraged to participate and play with TPO's interactive set. PHOTOS PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

Two dancers take on the role of explorers and navigate an interactive set where children are welcome to participate and play

By CHEN NAN
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Two Italian explorers follow the footprints left by a panda and venture into the culture and history of China. This is the story being told in *Panda's Home* by Italian visual theater group TPO.

The show, which premiered in Prato, Tuscany, in Italy in September 2016, where TPO is based, will be staged in Beijing from March 24 to April 2. In January and February this year, the show was staged in France and Sweden.

The show also has been booked by the New Victory Theater in New York for June 2018.

"The work was appreciated (by Western audiences) because of the devices we used in the show: dance, pictures, sound and obviously, our interactive and immersive theatrical environment. But for us the true premiere will be the one that we will present in Beijing. We look forward to confronting a Chinese audience," says Francesco Gandi, the artistic director of TPO, an award-winning children theater company founded in 1981 and which is devoted to creating works that are highly visual and multidisciplinary using music, dance, art, sculpture, digital media and sound.

Gandi, along with Davide Venturini, the co-director of *Panda's Home*, became the artistic directors of TPO in 1999.

Interactive set

The show leads audiences through a sensory journey into theatrical environments.

With two dancers, Luca Tomao and Martina Gregori, and Massimiliano Fierli and Francesco Taddei as engineers, the children are continuously encouraged to participate and play with TPO's interactive set.

"From a panda's point of view, we interpret this story using dance and visual effects. Through the journey, they encounter how the elements of nature are related to each other according to a circular movement," says Gandi, referring to the theory of the Five Elements where each element is transformed and generates the next one: wood, fire, earth, metal and water.

Like the two Italian explorers in the show, Gandi and his team also learned a lot about China through the process of producing it.

Their Chinese partner, Ren Lizhu, and Ren's company, TONG, brought TPO to China for the first time in 2015 with TPO's show, titled *The Painted Garden*.

According to Ren, TPO's works involve lots of interaction with children, and thus the performances are suitable for smaller venues, which have a capacity of around 80 to 150, or 30 to 50 families.

“*The Painted Garden* was staged for three weeks in Beijing with 28 shows. To our surprise, all the shows were sold out, which gave us confidence about doing more immersive theatrical productions,” says Ren.

Ren also says that after each show of *The Painted Garden*, the audiences were invited to participate in a workshop, which had children paint what they saw in the show.

“The workshop mirrored the children’s creativity. Some of them drew the big ocean they saw onstage, while some drew the two dancers in the show with detailed portrayals, such as their curly, long hair. One of the children even painted the spotlight over his head,” says Ren.

For *Panda’s Home*, workshops will be held after each performance.

Choreographical challenge

As for how *Panda’s Home* came about, it was Ren who proposed the idea of producing a show based on traditional Chinese culture to Gandi.

Explaining her idea, Ren, who is the mother of a 4-year-old boy, says: “Most Chinese parents teach their children English and Western instruments, such as the violin and the piano. However, Chinese culture is often ignored. We take it for granted that we know it because we are Chinese. But it is not true. Chinese culture is profound and has a long history, which deserves to be valued more.”

A Beijing native, Ren, 36, graduated with a master’s degree in marketing from the University of Leicester, and founded her company, TONG, in early 2015, meaning “children” in Chinese.

It also stands for “To Our Next Generation”, and is devoted to importing and producing children’s theater.

As for the proposal, Gandi did not reply Ren for three months because he spent that time researching and learning about Chinese culture, and when Ren flew to Italy to visit Gandi at TPO’s headquarters in October 2016, she was surprised to see that Gandi’s studio was filled of books and pictures about China.

As coproduction partner, Ren then helped develop the script for *Panda’s Home*.

Speaking about the project, Gandi, who brought another show, titled *Kindur*, to Beijing in 2016, says: “We then saw how interesting it would be to do a work as tribute to Chinese culture. So, we started to think of how we could do a project for the young and at the same time do interactive dance theater.”



The show *Panda’s Home* leads audiences through a sensory journey into theatrical environments.



China represents an incredible resource for European artists, especially those who are able to share experiences and practices.”

Francesco Gandi,
artistic director of Italian visual theater group TPO

For TPO, the main task with *Panda’s Home* is to fill the gap between the young audience, the contemporary world and Chinese traditions.

So they use the panda, the Great Wall, lanterns, bamboo, and kites in the show.

The music involves traditional Chinese instruments, such as the flute, the *guqin* (a plucked seven-string Chinese musical instrument) and the *bianzhong* (an ancient Chinese musical instrument consisting of a set of bronze bells).

“The choreography was a challenge because we belong to another culture. But Ren helped us a lot. Finally, we found a good balance,” says Gandi.

“Potentially, China represents an incredible resource for European artists, especially those who are able to share experiences and practices.”

EDIZIONE
PRATO

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Tournée del Tpo in Cina con "Panda's home"

Prato, il viaggio di "Panda's Home" partirà da Guangzhou per poi proseguire a Pechino dove debutterà al China Millennium Monument Premiere Theatre il 24 marzo

TEATRO **TPO**

Stampa

11 marzo 2017



La locandina di Panda's home

PRATO. Parte domenica 13 marzo la lunga tournée in Cina dello spettacolo **Panda's Home** della Compagnia Tpo di Prato. Dopo il debutto al Teatro Fabbrichino in coproduzione con la Fondazione Teatro Metastasio, ed un breve tour in alcuni teatri italiani e francesi, lo spettacolo arriverà in Cina, grazie partnership con Tong production Beijing e l'Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Pechino. Il viaggio di "Panda's Home" partirà da Guangzhou per poi proseguire a Pechino dove debutterà al China Millennium Monument Premiere Theatre il 24 marzo, per l'occasione è previsto un

Grand Opening di presentazione del progetto. Lo spettacolo proseguirà poi il suo viaggio verso Tianjin, Hangzhou, il Rushi Theatre di Qingdao, Shanghai, chiudendo il tour al Huaxia Art Center di Shenzhen.

NOTE SU "LA CASA DEL PANDA" . Un viaggio in Cina a passi di danza. Un viaggio che è il pretesto per avvicinarsi alla cultura, alle tradizioni e alle storie millenarie della grande Cina.

Trattare questi temi ci ha portato ad approfondire la complessità del pensiero tradizionale cinese ed acquisire un diverso modo di pensare e di considerare la realtà. Abbiamo capito che nel pensiero tradizionale cinese gli elementi della natura sono in stretta relazione tra di loro secondo un andamento circolare come infatti spiega la teoria dei cinque elementi o meglio "movimenti" che è una delle teorie fondamentali per il pensiero filosofico cinese. I Cinque Movimenti o Wu Xing o Elementi Dinamici, hanno un ruolo di assoluta importanza, sono la chiave di volta per la comprensione di tutto il pensiero filosofico cinese. La parola Wu Xing è composta dall'ideogramma Wu che indica il numero cinque e dalla parola Xing che significa muoversi, camminare. Nell'insieme la parola Wu Xing assume il significato di una trasformazione dinamica e permanente, con i Cinque Elementi che indicano ciascuno le

modalità in cui queste trasformazioni vengono espresse. Il Legno genera il Fuoco e bruciando forma delle ceneri che si decompongono in terra, il Fuoco diventa così elemento generatore della Terra. Dalla Terra si estraggono i metalli che disciolti diventano l'acqua che nutre le piante e gli alberi, secondo un'eterna e immutabile legge universale. Questo è il ciclo "sheng" o della "creazione", che viene chiamato nella medicina tradizionale orientale relazione "madre-figlio". Nella fase preparatoria dello spettacolo abbiamo seguito il più rigorosamente possibile questa teoria che, di fatto, è diventata la "linea guida" sulla quale abbiamo costruito i quadri visivi e le scene, le coreografie, le immagini e i paesaggi sonori. Seguendo questa traccia lo spettacolo è stato quindi articolato in cinque quadri principali corrispondenti, ciascuno, ad un elemento. All'interno di ogni quadro abbiamo creato il contesto per raccontare leggende o credenze proprie dell'immaginario bambino della tradizione culturale cinese. I quadri sono "Il Legno", "Il Fuoco", "La Terra", "Il Metallo", "L'Acqua" anticipati da un preludio che introduce: "il tema del viaggio". Questa introduzione è dedicata al panda, animale simbolo della Cina e nostro personaggio guida. Nel corso del viaggio il piccolo panda di volta in volta si trasformerà, in modo giocoso, in un "mezzo di trasporto", da prima auto, poi nave, treno, aereo e infine bicicletta e ci condurrà fino in Cina, proprio davanti alla Grande Muraglia. Da qui comincia il "movimento" attraverso i cinque elementi.

Francesco Gandi (regista)

Nel lavoro della compagnia TPO il protagonista è lo spazio scenico, le immagini, i suoni, il design. Grazie all'uso di sensori e tecnologie digitali ogni spettacolo si trasforma in un ambiente interattivo dove sperimentare il confine sottile tra arte e gioco. Danzatori, performer o il pubblico stesso interagiscono insieme esplorando nuove forme espressive oltre le barriere di lingua e cultura.

TOUR:

16-19 marzo: Guangzhou Grand Theatre Experimental Theatre
8-9 aprile: Tianjin Grand Theatre Studio Theatre
13-16 aprile: Qingdao So Book Little Theatre
29 aprile – 1 maggio: Shenzhen Huaxia Art Center Studio Theatre
9-11 giugno: Shanghai Children's Art Theatre
16-18 giugno: Shanghai International Dance Theatre

TEATRO TPO

11 marzo 2017

Il TPO vince il premio "Going to the world" al China Spaf 2017

Il TPO vince un prestigioso premio al China Spaf 2017 con "La casa del panda", coproduzione italo-cinese.

di redazione - 31 ottobre 2017



“Un’opera capace di introdurre il pubblico infantile nell’universo complesso della cultura cinese in modo originale e innovativo”.

Con questa motivazione lo spettacolo **'La casa del panda'** firmato dal **TPO** ha vinto il premio “Going to the world” durante il China Shanghai International Arts Festival 2017 (China Spaf) tenutosi a Shanghai il 21 e 22 ottobre. Riconoscimento che il Ministero

della Cultura Cinese attribuisce ai dieci migliori spettacoli cinesi dell’anno, sulla base della valutazione di una giuria internazionale presieduta per questa diciannovesima edizione dal canadese Antony Sargent CEO di Luminato Festival (Toronto).



Un momento della premiazione del TPO

“**La casa del Panda**”, realizzato in collaborazione con Teatro Metastasio e Tong Production (Beijing) “era in concorso come produzione italo-cinese ed era l’unico spettacolo, tra quelli selezionati, dedicato al pubblico dei ragazzi – si legge nella nota stampa – il lavoro sulla creatività e sull’innovazione ha aperto nuovi orizzonti e possibilità di lavoro per giovani artisti capaci di competere nel contesto globale, un nuovo percorso che durante il festival è stato definito come “**the new silk road of knowledge**”. Un riconoscimento prestigioso – spiega la nota – che apre le porte a nuove collaborazioni con festival e teatri cinesi. Inoltre, considerando le peculiarità del territorio pratese, questo premio diventa anche un stimolo e un incentivo a rivalutare in altre prospettive le relazioni tra la Cina e la nostra comunità”.

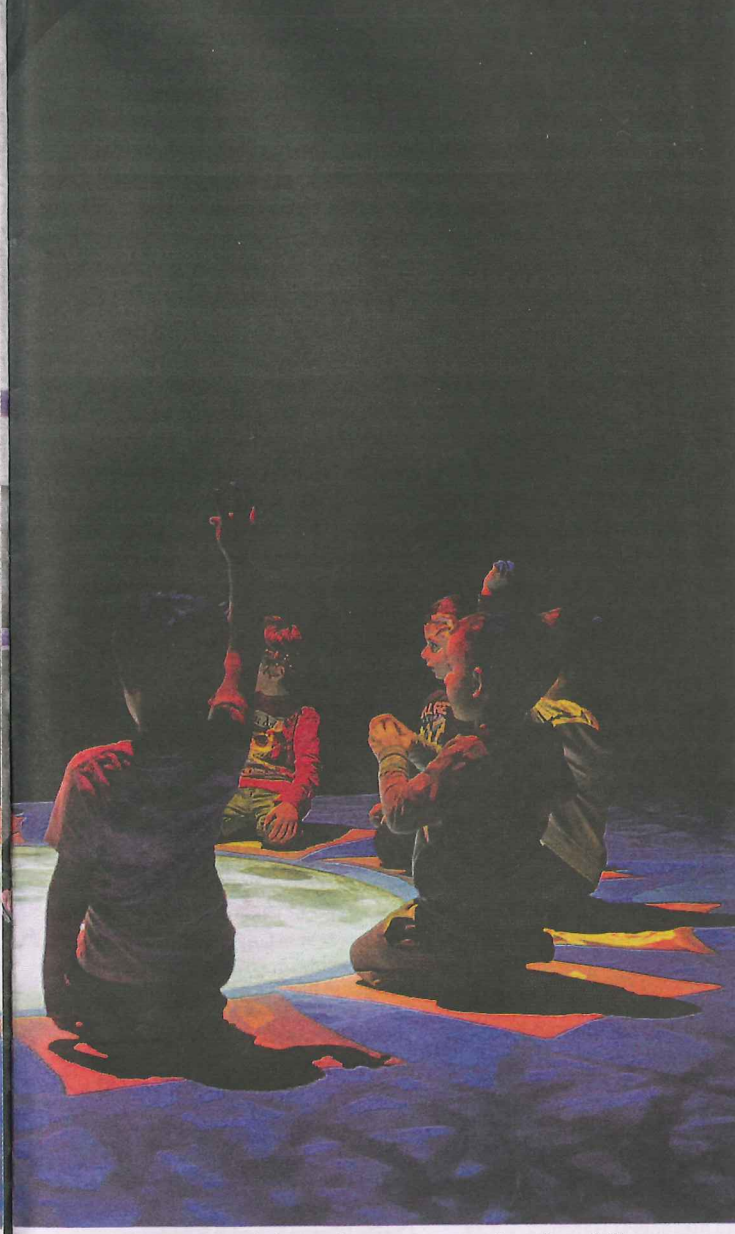
Durante la cerimonia di premiazione Davide Venturini e Liz Red (rispettivamente direttori artistici di TPO e Tong Production) sono stati invitati a presidiare una “Pitch session” alla quale, oltre alle altre compagnie premiate, hanno preso parte operatori culturali e direttori di festival provenienti da tutto il mondo.

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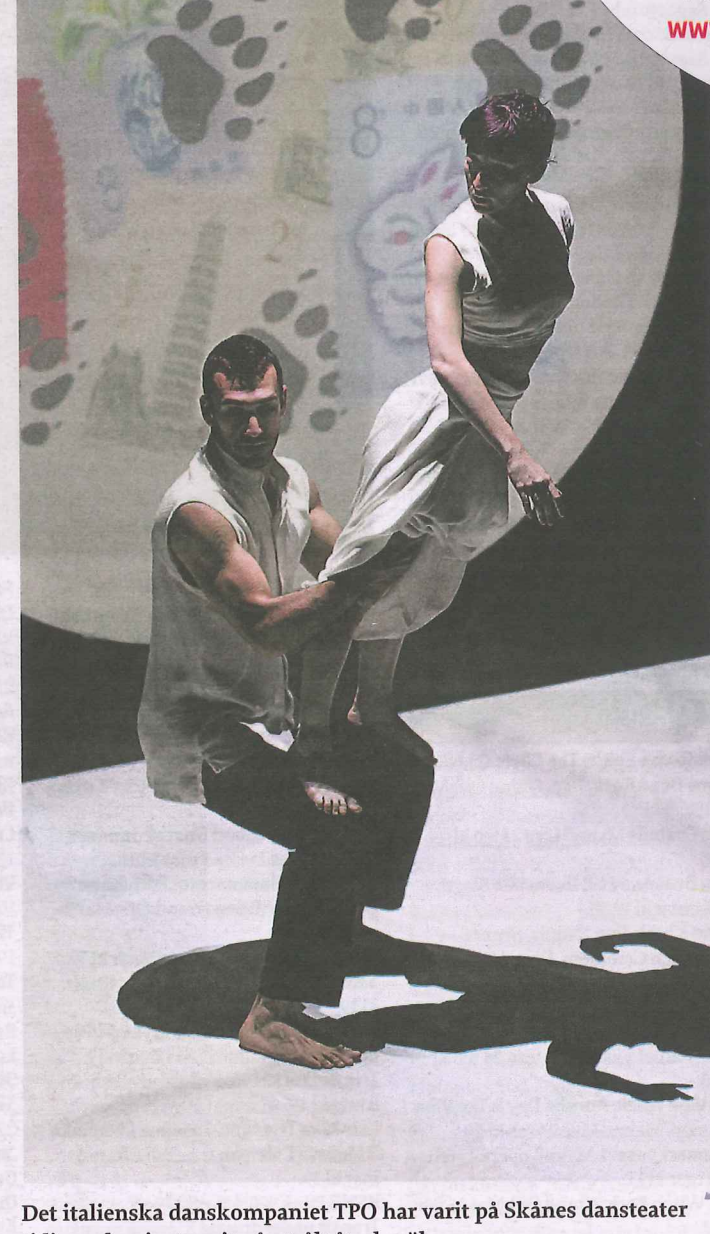
VAD | Familj/dansupplevelse
VAR | Skånes dansteater
NÄR | Nästa gång 5 mars



Barnen är i högsta grad delaktiga i föreställningen. Flera gånger bjuds de upp för att ge liv åt



berättelsen, först med viss tvekan, men snart är golvet fullt.



Det italienska danskompaniet TPO har varit på Skånes dansteater tidigare har just varit på utsålt återbesök.

> Föreställning där barnen är i rampljuset

text Camilla Westemar
foto Skånes dansteater

När Skånes dansteater har "Fika, titta, dansa" på programmet är det upplevelser utöver de vanliga som erbjuds stora och små – långt mer än en sittande föreställning med efterföljande applåder.

Dansarna från det italienska danskompaniet TPO får hjälp av den unga publiken som efter några tvekan steg plötsligt blir scenens huvudrollsinnehavare.

Några treåringar ser ut att värma upp små dansfötter i foajén. Mor- och farföräldrar har kommit med barnbarn och snart

öppnas dörren till den stora scenen för en utsåld föreställning. Alla bänkar sig, men inte för någon längre stunds sittande ska det snart visa sig.

Pandaresa till Kina

Historien kretsar kring en panda och tillsammans med de två dansarna tas vi med på en resa till Kina.

Med dans, musik, ljud och spektakulära ljusprojektioner följer vi pandans fotsteg genom bambuskogar och i strid med monster, genom silkesfjärilens trådar och plötsligt är vi mitt i ett fyrverkeri.

– Mamma det är jätteroligt,

men lite konstigt, ropar en pojke spontant från scengolvet.

En handfull gånger bjuds den unga delen av publiken upp på scenen, för att tillsammans med dansarna ge liv åt historien. Några skakar blygt på huvudet åt inviten, medan andra vågar sig upp flera gånger.

Mer än en föreställning

Liselotte Lindahl från Skånes dansteater berättar om tanken bakom det interaktiva programmet "Fika, titta, dansa".

– Vi ville gärna göra något som hela familjen har glädje av, men mer än att sitta på en föreställning och sedan åka direkt

hem. Nu kommer publiken ut, fylld med energi och glädje som man delar med varandra under en fika efteråt. Det har blivit otroligt uppskattat av både barn och vuxna.

"Häftigt och jättekul"

I foajén vilar en doft av nybakade kanelbullar. Vid ett av borden sitter tre generationer Sigmond som är mer än nöjda med dagen.

Åttaåriga Tyra-Lovisa Sigmond har varit uppe på scenen flera gånger och ger dagen gott betyg:

– Häftigt och jättekul, säger hon.

Farmor Marianne Sigmond är

på besök från Stockholm och ger också hon högt betyg åt arrangemanget.

– Det är roligt att de gör något som hela familjen uppskattar, både stora och små, säger hon och får medhåll av både Tyra-Lovisas faster Svea, pappa Christopher och lillasyster Felicia.

Vid ett bord intill sitter Erik

Fors med dottern Ester, sex år.

– En väldigt bra föreställning, riktigt häftigt. Särskilt kontrasterna mellan fyrverkeri och lugn gav intryck, barnen sögs verkligen in i berättelsen, säger Erik Fors.

– Det var roligt, men lite pirrigt i början, konstaterar Ester Fors.

Nästa tillfälle den 5 mars

"Fika, titta, dansa" återkommer 5-6 gånger per år, med olika dansgrupper varje gång och för varierande åldrar. Nästa tillfälle med "Fika, titta, dansa" är den 5 mars när dansarna i Malmö

gruppen Memory Wax tar med 3-6-åringar och deras vuxna på en resa mellan ljus och mörker.

Biljetter och program finns på

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