

# PLAYGROUND

presents

head in the clouds

a visual show

## **THE COMPANY**

**PLAYGROUND** is the name of the visual theatre company created by the actor Xavier Bobés in the year 2003.

**PLAYGROUND** is also a method of working and researching in the world of the object, giving it new meanings in surprising contexts which belong in the world of imagination.

**PLAYGROUND** emerged after five years of investigation in the manipulation of objects with the Catalan Theatre company “LaVuelta” (1999 to 2002). During this time all the puppets were used as a tool for the actors, developed for impact in the unfolding of the plays. In 2003, however, Xavier Bobés decided to expand the role of the puppet and it became the protagonist on the stage, enveloping ideas and symbolising a human, but more importantly reversing the role between the puppet and the actor/manipulator.

This method of working has always been a long process, intimate and solitary – in the initial stages – with the chosen object of manipulation. This process then moves onto a second phase, in the form of a creative dialogue with the rest of the artistic team who contributes a new fresh vision and comments on possible interpretations. This dialogue is indispensable. The objects are found in second hand markets, antique fairs and toystops. Many have also been found abandoned by their former owners.

El cap als núvols (Head in the Clouds) is the first creation of the company **PLAYGROUND**, it premiered in May 2004 in Barcelona, and since then has performed in a number of festivals and theatres.

Duet is the second visual show by the company and it premieres in the Festival Escena Abierta (Burgos, Spain) in January 2006.

El rei de la Soledat is the third production of the company and its premieres will be in 2007. A first open rehearsal will be shown in the Festival NEO of Barcelona, November 2006.

“El món a fora” is the name given to a process of research which has been carried out in 2005; it investigates the everyday object with the support of digital images, music, lighting and photography. The result of this process has been the presentation of improvised shows in different Theatrical spaces; one of the most successful among all these has been the creation of the short piece of visual theatre **Nen** (child)

**PLAYGROUND** collaborates with the association *Kulturprozent* in the show *Dianoia* by the creation and manipulation of both objects and shadows .

In February 2006 is been created the **STUDIO PLAYGROUND** in “el Poble Espanyol” of Barcelona, where the company continues the research in the world of the manipulation of objects.

**PLAYGROUND's** artistic team is made up of Xavier Bobés, Albert Coma, Julià Carboneras, Meritxell Martínez “la murga” and Eric de Sarria.

# **Head in the clouds (El cap als núvols)**

A visual show of **PLAYGROUND**

Creator / Performer **Xavier Bobés**

Acting director **Eric de Sarria**

Video **Albert Coma**

Music **Julià Carboneras**

Photography **la murga**

Costumes **Dulce M<sup>a</sup> Fernández**



**“When I grow up I want to be a cartoon”**

**Head in the clouds** (El cap als núvols) is a visual show that talks about adults through the soul of a child, reflected by objects which are related to children and are the protagonists of the performance: Toys.

The manipulation of toys represents a fictional story, a tale: the experiences of a young woman being abandoned by her lover at the start of the day. Losing her love. We see the complete process of her reaction, the solitude, the memories, the frustrated desires, the inconsolable grief, and finally her discovery of a new love.

**Head in the clouds** presents a mixture of fragmented short stories narrated through objects and audio visual projections. On stage reality and fantasy are equal, and they embark on this journey together.

In **Head in the clouds** we find the following artistic disciplines:  
Theatre of Objects, Chinese shadows, dance, digital images and music.

**Head in the clouds** is an original performance that defines the aim of the company:  
“To give small things new meanings in a creative way”

**“Head in the clouds” is a show for all ages**

Produced with the help of funding by KRTU (Generalitat de Catalunya)

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Show Duration: 50 minutes

Time to assemble the show: 6 hours

Time to disassemble the show: 2 hours

### SOUND

P.A and amplification according to the space.

1 cd player with mixing deck (2 channels).

### LIGHTING

8 PC x 1000 w (1,2,3,4)

3 profiles x 1000 w (5,6,7)

2 Par 36 x 50 w (8,9) (\*)

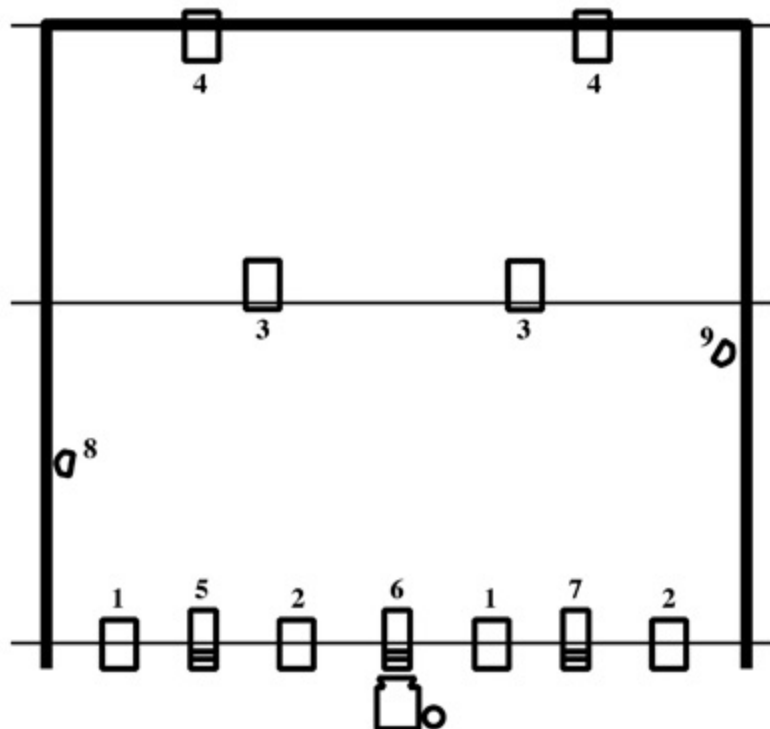
10 Dimmer channels

### VIDEO

1 video projector (V)(\*)

The video projector needs space to be set up on the stage border, a distance of 3 metres from the centre of the stage.

(\* material that can be provided by the company)



## **STAGE**

The stage should not be elevated.

The seating must be arranged so that the audience is higher than the stage, looking down on it.

It's a play of small dimensions, best performed in a closed intimate space of approximately: 4,5 metres wide, 5 metres deep and 3 metres high (minimum), this is adaptable.

The stage: the majority of objects used through out the performance are hanging from the ceiling (using fishing wire).

The floor and background must be black.

Audience maximum: 60 people.

Please note: the actor writes on the stage in white chalk and moves around the stage on an object with wheels.

One technician is required during the show.

## **CALENDAR OF PERFORMANCES**

### **2004:**

- May: El cap als núvols premiered in the theatre **Area Tangent** in Barcelona.  
July: International Puppet festival **Arrivano del Mare!** in Cervia, (Italy)  
October: **Festival Panorama** in Olot (Spain), 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October.  
November: **Festival visual i de titelles de Barcelona**, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of November.  
December: Programmed in the small theatre **ALMAZEN**, Barcelona. Fridays of the month of December: 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **2005:**

- January: Presentation of the play in the **Studio Philippe Genty** (París), 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January.  
March: Programmed in the theatre **L'Antic Teatre** in Barcelona, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of March.  
April: Programmed in **BARRI BROSSA 2005** the 4th and 5th in the Convent de Sant Agustí.  
May: Programmed in the festival "**I Giardini di Xpò**", Milan 15<sup>th</sup> - 16th May.  
September: **12th Edition of the Biennial of young artists from Europe and the Mediterranean**, Naples 23rd of September.  
October: Participation in the **6è. Premi de Projectes d'Arts Escèniques Lleida 2005**, 1st October at 19:00h. in the theatre Escorxador - Sala 2, Lleida.

### **2006:**

- January: Programmed in **Festival Escena Abierta**, Burgos 14th and 15th of January.  
February: Programmed in **Festival VEO**, Valencia 24th and 25th of February.  
May: **Festival Internacional de Teatro de Calle de Valladolid**: 24th and 25th of May.

Contact

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