

LA PICCOLA FIAMMIFERAIA



from H.C.Andersen

director **Maurizio Bercini**

text **Marina Allegri**

with **Olga Bercini, Francesca Bizzarri, Alberto Branca, Massimiliano Grazioli**

original soundtrack **Roberto Neulichedl**

set designers **Maurizio Bercini** and **Donatello Galloni**

constructions **Cà Luogo d'arte**

paintings **Serena De Gier**

costumes **Patrizia Caggiati**

lights **Christian Peuckert**

in coproduction with

THEATRE JEUNE PUBLIC

Centre Dramatique Nationale d'Alsace – Strasbourg

THEATRE NOUVELLE GENERATIONE-Lyon

LE RAYON VERT- Saint Valery en Caux

LABORATORIO NOVE

“ La piccola fiammiferaia” (the little match girl) by Andersen is not a simple story, as adults we know this. It forces us to confront topics such as poverty, denied love, death, that are hard even to mention. Instead we believe that they are important topics, ethically important and, children teach us this, not even too hard to deal with. When children play, so as in theatre, one dies and lives a thousand times, terrible wickedness gives way in no time to a sincere act of love, laughing until it hurts is as wonderful as crying desperately out of sadness or out of rage. All that counts is that the marvellous and incredible game of pretending must not be caged by adult hypocrisies such as “best not say that!”.

In our play we have decided to entrust to the very young actress, Olga Bercini, the typical carelessness of young age that allows children to tackle any situation by treating it as a game, to never be scandalized, to recognize hunger, thirst, the cold, to avenge love and the ability to find in ones imagination an escape from even the hardest and most terrible deprivations. The three adult actors have the task of dealing with reality, to measure themselves with a story that in the end is simple, very simple...

We invite the adult audience to observe the children watch the show, we wish, more than other in other occasions, for the show to be a moment to reflect on what you will see through their eyes, we hope that the experience will be for both children and adults a way to grow in doubt and certainty... More than in other occasions we wish for children to experience going to the theatre as a moment of wonder and bliss, and for adults, the occasion to reflect and ponder upon the vast topics of children's rights.

To emphasise also in space the research of the play on the different worlds of children and adults, we have chosen to receive the audience in a sort of night club readapted for children where the celebration of the New Year is about to begin. In this "Grownup" situation, a splendid opportunity is offered to "piccola Claire" (young Claire): to choose the tale to tell... Without hesitating and with a great deal of stubbornness she shall bring, obstinately, the tale of "La Piccola Fiammiferaia" to an end, opposing herself with serenity and decisiveness to adult doubtfulness. Using few and simple objects and a doll that looks just like her, without fear of sadness, of the cold and the woeful ending she tells the children the secret of a visionary flame that for the adults is just a small fire that will soon die...