

Title of the show:

“85. Souls in Purgatory”

Summary plot:

For many centuries, Neapolitans have associated people, objects and events (real or dreamt) to numbers. This association process is still used today and the numbers are used to play in the local lottery.

The number 85 is associated with the Souls of Purgatory.

These suffering and abandoned souls populate the catacombs and communal graves under the ground on which Naples is built.

They are still objects of reverence, although they are not recognised by the official religion.

In this show, Pulcinella accompanies his audience in an evocative, ironic and exoteric journey that becomes a reflection on the eternal cycle of life and death. With the cathartic laughter of the puppets and set against the impending outbreak of the Plague which hit Naples in 1656, a secret will be revealed, one of the many “Pulcinella’s secrets”, which are, in fact, well known to all.

In this new play that brings together the Devil and Death, the ghosts who watch over our dreams and the prayers inhabiting Naples subsoil, Pulcinella, as usual, will struggle, fight, laugh, run away, die... and be born again!

Come on Pulcinella! Wake up... wake up... WAKE UP!

For 10 year and older audiences

Specifications:

Tecnic: hands puppets and actor

Space on the stage: minimum mt 5 x 3

Power 220 v – 2 Kw

Time for setting up: 5 hours

Time for disassembling the stage: 3 hours

Performance duration : 50 minutes

Complet darkness

All from 10

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Gianluca Di Matteo

The accurate handling, the strength of the body language and a compelling pace are at the heart of Gianluca Di Matteo's Pulcinella, which he has performed since 2001 in his traditional Neapolitan puppetry shows: "Le Guarattelle di Pulcinella."

After his training at the School of Neapolitan Puppetry, Gianluca has staged many traditional Pulcinella plays, but also has created his own plays with a mix of puppets and shadows.

He often works abroad, as a guest of Puppetry Festivals and theatres specialising in Puppetry shows. He has brought his work to many Italian Cultural Centres and has delivered theoretical and hands-on seminars on the Art of Puppetry and Shadow Play. When he is not on a tour with his puppets, Gianluca creates the scenography for his and other companies' plays and he works on theatre productions as sceneshifter. Some of the puppets he has hand carved from wood are exhibited at the Center for Puppetry Arts of Atlanta.

His long experience has allowed him to work at the Défilé project for the Teatro Stabile di Torino.

His workshop is included in the program of the Ente Turismo Torino for "Tour the excellent" project.

