

Title of the show:

“The man in the wardrobe”

Summary Plot:

“Chinese shadows”, shadows made with the performer’s hands, are an old tradition with many variations and styles. In this show, a smartly dressed gentleman “disappears” in a small wardrobe, closing the opaque glass door behind him.

The door lights up and becomes the screen through which the audience discovers the mysteries of the wardrobe. Due to Gianluca’s dexterity in handling puppets, the original situations and with the potential offered by shadows, a series of little characters appears on the screen. These graceful shadows act out an old theatrical scenario which was recently found at the library of the Museo Nazionale del Cinema in Turin, Italy.

Hands are transformed into puppets who, like in a magic dream, tell a story of love and deadly encounters.

Love, betrayal, revenge ... the man who lives in the wardrobe says goodbye and goes back in the dark.

For 4 year and older audiences

Specifications:

Technique: hand shadows, actor

Size of the space: preferably 2 contiguous rooms with a communicating opening of at least 170x33 cm. (otherwise we can take different agreements before)

Power 220 v – 1 kw

Time for setting up: 3 hours

Time for disassembling the stage: 2 hours

Performance duration: 25 minutes.

Maximum of audience: 50/70 people

Complet darkness

Language: No Word -On music

Public: adult or mix (adult and children)

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Gianluca Di Matteo

The accurate handling, the strength of the body language and the compelling pace are at the heart of Gianluca Di Matteo's Punch, performing 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 Punch 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 specialised in Puppetry shows. He has brought his work in many Italian Cultural Centres and has carried out theoretical and hands-on seminars on the Art of Puppetry and Shadow Play. When is not on a tour with his puppets, Gianluca creates the scenography for his and other companies plays and works on theatre productions as sceneshifter.

Some of the puppets he has hand carved from wood are exposed 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.

