



María Muñoz

With parents born in Chera (Guadalajara) and Panticosa (Aragonese Pyrennees), María grew up in Valencia, where she studied music and competed at athletics. She also began to dance there and later travelled to Amsterdam and Barcelona to continue her training. She had her first professional experience with a Japanese company resident in Holland, Shusaku & Dormu Dance Theater, appearing in the piece *Era* in 1982. In 1985 she set up the group La Dux with Maria Antònia Oliver, marking the beginning of her own career in performance creation. In 1988 she worked with Pep Ramis on the creation of the solo *Cuarto trastero* (*Junk Room*) and in 1989 they formed the group Mal Pelo, for which they have shared the work of creation and direction since then. Within the group she has developed a role as researcher and teacher of movement. She also edits and encourages the creation of performance texts. She is currently choreographer, dancer and co-director of the creation centre L'animal a l'esquena in Celrà, Gerona

Mal Pelo

In January 1989, María Muñoz and Pep Ramis founded the dance company Mal Pelo. From the start, the group has based its work on a constant search for different languages. This crossover of languages gave rise to ideas for the stage

rooted in a confluence of great depth, clarity and simplicity. In their early years the group combined many tours (of Europe, the US and Latin America) with periods of creativity in various different countries. These travels stimulated an exchange of ideas, techniques and working methods with other artists that strengthened the group's artistic search.

Since 1989 Mal Pelo has presented, among others, the pieces *Quarere* (1989), *Sur, Perros del Sur* (South, Dogs of the South, 1992), *Dol* (Grief, 1994), *La Calle Del Imaginero* (The Street of the Imagineer, 1996), *Orache* (1998), *El Alma del Bicho* (The Bug's Soul, 1999), *L'animal a l'esquena* (The Animal on our Back, 2001), *Atrás los ojos* (Behind the Eyes, 2002), *An el silenci* (An, Silence, 2003), *Bach* (2004), *Atlas* (2005), *Testimoni de llops* (Testimony of Wolves, 2006), *He vist caballos* (I've Seen Horses, 2008), *Todos los nombres* (All The Names, 2010), *Caín & Caín* (Cain & Cain, 2011) and *La esperanza de vida de una liebre* (Life Expectancy of a Hare, 2013), *The Fifth Winter* (2015), *7 Lunas* (7 Moons, 2015), *The Mountain, the Truth and the Paradise* (2017), *On Goldberg Variations / Variations* (2019), *Inventions* (2020).

In 2001 Pep Ramis and María Muñoz set up *L'animal a l'esquena*, a centre for creation and interdisciplinary exchange in a farm house on 19 hectares of land in Celrà (Gerona). This refuge encouraged experimentation and the exchange of ideas and experiences between stage directors, musicians, video artists, theorists and dancers, taking part in residencies, workshops and laboratories.

Awards

Mal Pelo has received, among others, the Premi Nacional de Dansa 2002 awarded by the Generalitat de Catalunya for the piece *L'animal a l'esquena* and for the initiative of the arts centre of the same name in Celrà.

They have also won the Premio Nacional de Danza 2009 in the creation category, awarded by INAEM - Ministerio de Cultura, in recognition of the company's track record in choreographic creation and in opening up new paths in contemporary dance. The piece *Bach* and the creation centre *L'animal a l'esquena* both earned special mentions. Since 2000 Mal Pelo has been company in residence at *L'animal a l'esquena*.

Premi Ciutat de Barcelona de Dansa 2017 for the generous and delicate way in which María Muñoz' piece *Bach* was handed on, and its brilliant, exceptional performance by Federica Porello, who sheds new light on the rich choreography.

Prize of the Professional Journalists, Barcelona 2018, for best performance to Bach of María Muñoz and Prize of the Critic to Federica Porrello like better feminine interpreter in dance by its interpretation of Bach.