



MARIONETAS DO PORTO

JARDINEIRO IMAGINÁRIO
(Imaginary Gardener)

Jardineiro Imaginário (Imaginary Gardener)

Jardineiro imaginário is a creation by Marionetas do Porto, dedicated to adults, aiming to transport them to diverse territories where restlessness, thoughts, scattered matters, and fragments of life can resonate—forming a kind of circular crown.

Two actors engage in a meeting between puppets, objects, words, movements, unnamable particles, light, music, and many other elements, provoking compositions and imagistic journeys.

A non-linear place is created, detached from the world. Disconcerting, delirious, without known laws. A kind of living painting.

Drawing from a literary universe—particularly some poems from *Definitive Dreamer* and *Perpetual Insomnia*, an anthology of surrealist poems written in French and translated by Regina Guimarães—and from extensive experimentation with materials, the piece takes flight into the realm of dreams, navigating a subterranean world that escapes reality.

In *jardineiro imaginário*, there is a return to that continent of imagination, creating images that emerge automatically, transporting each body to another place. An inner and intimate theatre, persistent and endless, inhabited by an *jardineiro imaginário*, brought to life through the artistic complicity of a multidisciplinary team.

Isabel Barros

“Dear imagination, what I love most about you is that you do not forgive.”

André Breton

Creative and Technical Team

concept and direction **Isabel Barros**

puppets **Ricardo Leite**

music **Carlos Guedes**

original text and translation **Regina Guimarães**

poems by **Jean Arp, Robert Desnos, Camille Coemans, Paul Nougé**

lighting design **Filipe Azevedo**

set design **Coletivo**

costumes **Cláudia Ribeiro**

performed by **Micaela Soares e Vítor Gomes**

production **Sofia Carvalho**

graphic design **Rita Sá Couto**

lighting and sound operation **Filipe Azevedo**

puppet construction **João Pedro Trindade, Catarina Falcão**

costume making **Alexandra Barbosa**

stage photography **Paulo Pimenta**

Performance for ages 12 and up

Technical Rider

Stage:

- 6 m - Minimum Proscenium Width
- 6 m - Minimum Stage Depth
- 4 m - Minimum Height
- Black Box Setting - 1 black backdrop, Italian-style stage (see attached plan)
- Black floor or black linoleum

Lighting:

- Digital Dimmers - 43 Circuits - DMX 512 Communication Protocol
- Lighting Console - grandMA2 Command Wing (company equipment)
- Lighting Bars (see attached plan)
- Lighting Gels (company equipment)

Fixtures:

- 4x PC 1Kw (with barn doors and gel frames)
- 3x Mini PAR 16 50W (with barn doors and gel frames) (company equipment)
- 4x PAR 64 1Kw (4x CP62) (with gel frames)
- 22x Profile Spots 1Kw 23°/50° (with shutters and gel frames)
- 1x Smoke Machine (company equipment)

Sound:

- 2x Stage Monitors (Left and Right)
- PA System suitable for the venue
- 2x Headset Microphones (company equipment)
- 1x MacBook for Sound Operation (company equipment)

Backstage: 2 individual dressing rooms or 1 shared dressing room

Setup Time: 12 hours (3 shifts of 4 hours each)

Strike and Load-out: 2 hours

Staff Required:

- 2 loaders for load-in and load-out
- 1 lighting technician
- 1 sound technician

NOTES:

- Stage and fly system must be clean and clear of any equipment before setup begins
- Smoke is used during the performance

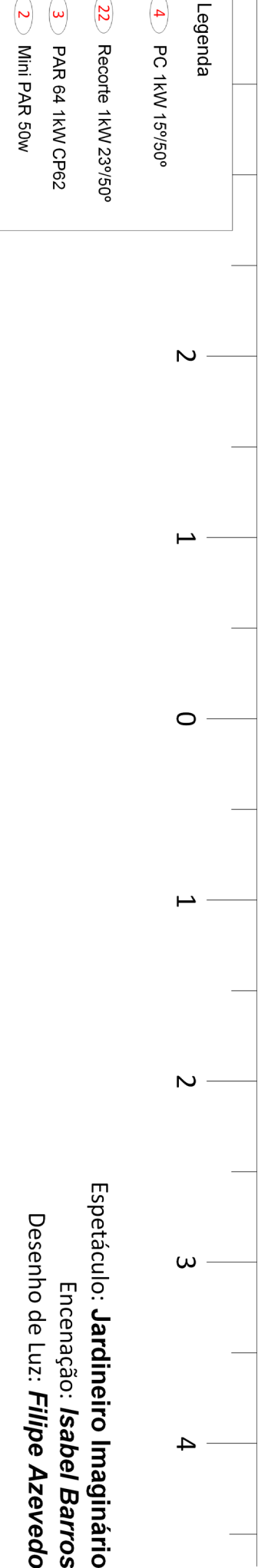
Show Duration: 45 minutes

Age Rating: 12 and up

Mandatory Credits on All Promotional Material:

This production is funded by the Portuguese Republic / Ministry of Culture and DGArtes (logos must be included)

Espetáculo - Jardineiro Imaginário
Planta Geral Itinerância



Press Dossier

Press Release 2022 – Marionetas do Porto

The Frenzy Is Back at Teatro de Belomonte...

Marionetas do Porto Premiere Imaginary Gardener on March 31

The return of Marionetas do Porto to the stage of Teatro de Belomonte is marked by a dialogue between the real and the imaginary (or vice versa). Thus, on Thursday, March 31, the company's new creation will premiere, this time aimed at an adult audience. Imaginary Gardener stands as the collective theatre's latest work and immediately evokes a range of reflections through its poetic density.

Isabel Barros, the company's artistic director, who conceived and directed Imaginary Gardener, dedicates this scenic-dramaturgical attention to the older age group through an evocative approach: "It is dedicated to adults in an attempt to transport them to diverse territories where restlessness, thoughts, scattered matters, and fragments of life may resonate in a sort of circular crown."

Therefore, what the audience will be able to enjoy — during a run extending until April 16 — also results from an introspective exercise that Isabel Barros initiated at the project's core, as the pandemic context made social isolation imperative. Beyond this 'creative seclusion,' the piece incorporates contributions from poems belonging to the literary universe closest to the French surrealist movement, featured in the anthology *The Definitive Dreamer and Perpetual Insomnia*, translated by Regina Guimarães, who also authored the original texts for Imaginary Gardener. Among the surrealist poetic voices are Jean Arp, Robert Desnos, Camille Coemans, and Paul Nougé.

On stage will be performers Micaela Soares and Vítor Gomes, in a metaphorical inclined set, using puppets and scenic devices that suggest places and presences through reused materials. Evidence of this is the reuse of paper from the artistic work that preceded Imaginary Gardener, thus adding a sustainability aspect to the project's staging. The piece offers oneiric journeys, and a gardener who, among many things he does, leads us to imaginary places and is willing to sow stars, chase shadows, and tend to plants that exist only in the realm of fantasy.

Imaginary Gardener presents us with a hybrid being, emerging from a fusion of vegetal, animal, and mineral universes — essentially a being that is the sum of this vertex of characteristics. The piece is an intense inner journey whose driving idea is an excavation of ourselves without ever disconnecting from the relationship we establish with the surrounding world.

At its core, the play is also an organic and structural puzzle, the product of a dynamic and creative collective. It counts on the entire company team: actors Micaela Soares and Vítor Gomes, lighting designer Filipe Azevedo, puppet makers João Pedro Trindade and Catarina Falcão, and producer Sofia Carvalho. It also features invited collaborators: Ricardo Leite, puppet author; Regina Guimarães, text author; and Carlos Guedes, composer, who has worked with Isabel Barros for twenty-five years and who traveled expressly from Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where he resides, to participate in this artistic work.

Rádio Renascença (portuguese radio station)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF MARIONETAS DO PORTO

Isabel Barros: "Puppets Are Not Just for Children"

March 31, 2022 – 12:30 • Núria Melo

Imaginary Gardener is the new creation by Marionetas do Porto. It is a surrealist poem by Regina Guimarães and premieres on March 31 at Teatro de Belomonte.

The stage of Teatro de Belomonte opens its curtains once again to welcome the new creation by Marionetas do Porto.

Two actors on stage, puppets, objects, words, and lots of movement. Renascença spoke with the artistic director of Marionetas do Porto, Isabel Barros, who says, "This play is for audiences aged 12 and up, but intended for an adult audience."

The show is based on surrealist poems by Regina Guimarães, in which all elements are summoned "from the light, the text, the music, the puppets, to the actors." "It is strongly visual," says Isabel Barros.

Imaginary Gardener aims to make the audience travel. "The gardener is imaginary because he doesn't exist, or he may exist in the imagination of the audience," adds the artistic director.

Using recycled materials from other creations, the entire show is sustainable, a characteristic that aligns with the positioning of Marionetas do Porto.

The creator explains what the audience can expect when entering the theatre: "It is a set that takes us to a 'non-place', a desert, a landscape, puppets that seem to be part of the very material of the scenery."

The gardener, the central character—although not physically present throughout the whole piece—"is somewhere between the mineral and the vegetal."

Isabel Barros describes it as a "fantasy place," "a universe of dreams," where the idea is to create an echo in the audience.

Questions, restlessness, and desires are raised.

The director explains to Renascença that before the pandemic, she wanted to create a play without text, where the theme would be the rush of everyday life. With the pandemic measures, Isabel Barros and the cultural sector in Portugal were forced to stop and calm down.

"The matter I was going to explore was about the accelerated speed at which people were living, and suddenly we stopped," she explains.

"When we resumed, I no longer wanted to do that idea, and this show appeared, this time with text." Isabel Barros hopes that this gardener will provoke reflection on solitude, withdrawal, returning to the earth, and to the essence.

Imaginary Gardener, the new creation by Marionetas do Porto, premieres on March 31 at Teatro de Belomonte, where it will run until April 16.

Jornal de Notícias (portuguese daily newspaper)

Theatre

Marionetas do Porto Reveal a "Magical Gardener"

Margarida Cerqueira

March 31, 2022, 3:19 PM

The company returns this Thursday to the stage of Teatro de Belomonte, in a dialogue between the real and the imaginary.

The new creation by Marionetas do Porto, Imaginary Gardener, is intended for an adult audience and assumes a strong poetic density through a series of reflections.

The company's artistic director and the mind behind the concept of the play, Isabel Barros, stated in a press release that she dedicates this scenic-dramaturgical attention to the older age group through an evocative resource: "It is dedicated to adults in an attempt to transport them to diverse territories where restlessness, thoughts, scattered matters, and fragments of life may resonate in a kind of circular crown."

Imaginary Gardener presents the intense inner journey of a hybrid being—unclear whether adult or child—resulting from a fusion of vegetal, animal, and mineral universes. According to Isabel Barros, "there is no message to convey, but rather a challenge." This challenge asks the audience to dig within themselves, never dissociating from the relationship they establish with the world around them.

Performers Micaela Soares and Vítor Gomes take the stage in an inclined set, making use of puppets and other scenic elements that suggest places and presences through reused materials from a previous piece, mostly paper. The music is original and composed by Carlos Guedes, who traveled from Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, where he resides, to participate in this project.

Imaginary Gardener will be on show at Teatro de Belomonte, in Porto, until April 16.

viveroportocom (website about living in Porto)

Marionetas do Porto and Imaginary Gardener | A Small Poem Not to Be Missed in the City

So beautiful is this Imaginary Gardener brought to the stage by Teatro das Marionetas do Porto!

A show that can be seen as a metaphor, an invitation to travel through our inner selves, a personal challenge...

Or simply, a beautiful poem wrapped in surrealism that leads us to deepen our relationship between earth and dream.

Directed by Isabel Barros,

Text and translation by Regina Guimarães,

Original music by Carlos Guedes,

Poems by Jean Arp, Aimé Césaire, Robert Desnos, Camille Coemans, Paul Nougé,

Performed by Micaela Soares and Vítor Gomes.

A performance for ages 12 and up, premiering on March 31 at Teatro de Belomonte (Teatro das Marionetas do Porto) running until April 16.

Don't miss it!

"In Imaginary Gardener, there is a return to that continent of imagination, in the creation of images that emerge automatically, transporting each body to another place. The inner and intimate theatre, persistent and endless, inhabited by an imaginary gardener, created with the artistic complicity of a multidisciplinary team."

Isabel Barros

(Director and playwright of Teatro das Marionetas do Porto)

"Gardening is an act of love, care, respect, sowing, and waiting."

Micaela Soares

"Within each of us, there is a space to grow, whether as an individual or as a community. It is an invitation to change, to reinvent."

Vítor Gomes

“To Garden and to Desire”

I found myself at about 1200 or 1300 meters of altitude, at the time I began my long journey in that widely uninhabited, bare, and monotonous land, where only wild lavender bloomed.
— Jean Giono, *The Man Who Planted Trees*

The word “imagination,” derived from the Latin *imaginatio*, replaces the Greek word *phantasia*. It is on this that Aristotle expounds in his *Treatise on the Soul* (*De Anima* 433a), where imagination is the primary principle of the soul, the place where the desirable is set in motion. The show *Imaginary Gardener* is an invitation to that place of desire and fantasy, as a creative force and construction of the unconscious. It is also an invitation to linger, which is essential both for gardening and for desiring. To linger in order to notice the landscapes in transformation, generated by poetic materials and by the puppetry gesture. To linger also means to generate beauty from ruins, to notice the stones that trust time.

The gardener Severino reminds us that “Reciprocity is a prickly thing. In love as in other disciplines.” He also speaks of a mason who did not finish the roof of a house, so that he could gather stars and clouds. If the mission of puppet theatre is ancestrally to listen to ghosts and reanimate the inert, it oscillates in this arc of poetry and restlessness, where matter always blooms in a place of ruins—enchanted and haunted, wandering and building.

In that garden of eroding stones, landscapes in metamorphosis transform words and images: cliff and desert, ravine and garden, ruins and arena, stone and bird. Gardening and imagining here are places to listen to inner voices long silenced, to sow desires that do not fit in the fast-paced everyday, to risk the slope and vertigo in order to enjoy the flight.

Catarina Firmo

Photographs by Paulo Pimenta



