

MARIONETASdoPORTO

Production Dossier

Mulher Luz (Woman of Light)

(Based on A House in the Darkness and The House, The Darkness, by José Luís Peixoto)



There is a house.

It is not merely a place... it is a body, a memory, a material shaped by shadow.

Inside it, a man searches for sight. He closes his eyes. And then something begins: a faint light, almost imperceptible, hesitating between appearing and disappearing. A presence. Perhaps a woman. Perhaps only the shape of a longing.

Mulher Luz (Woman of Light) is born within this in-between space—between what is seen and what is imagined, between the gesture and its failure. Freely inspired by the works of José Luís Peixoto, the performance unfolds as a sensory journey in which words fragment and the body itself becomes language. Puppets, video and materiality create an unstable landscape where figures emerge and dissolve, as though they never fully come into existence.

The house transforms itself. Darkness acquires substance. The world seeps in—at times violent, at times absurd—passing through bodies and leaving behind traces, absences and emptiness. At its centre lies the persistent attempt to touch that which continually escapes.

Yet some encounters can never be fulfilled.

Some presences exist only while they are being sought.

Mulher Luz (Woman of Light) is a performance about this persistence: the determination to give shape to the invisible, to inhabit what is missing, and to remain, even when the light no longer answers.

In the end, perhaps only the house remains.

Or that which, within it, continues searching.

Production Credits

Set and Puppet Construction
Filipe Azevedo, João Pedro Trindade

Lighting Design
Filipe Azevedo

Original Sound Design
Morgan Daguenet

Costume Design
Letícia dos Santos

Technical Direction, Lighting, Sound and Video Operation
Vitor Gomes

Criative Performers
Micaela Soares, Vítor Gomes, Filipe Azevedo

Performers
Micaela Soares and Filipe Azevedo

Production
Teatro de Marionetas do Porto

Production Photography
Susana Neves

Co-production
Teatro de Marionetas do Porto | Teatro Municipal
de Matosinhos Constantino Nery

*Concept & direction by Paulo Duarte,
based on A House in the Darkness
and The House and The Darkness ,
by José Luís Peixoto*

Recommended for audiences aged 16+

Note: This performance features pre-recorded spoken text, which can be translated into any language or presented with surtitles, making it suitable for international touring.



About Teatro de Marionetas do Porto

Teatro de Marionetas do Porto was founded in September 1988, a symbolic date that coincided with the company's presentation at the Festival Mondial des Théâtres de Marionnettes in Charleville-Mézières, France.

The company's artistic practice is distinguished by its unconventional approach to puppetry, embracing a constantly evolving concept of the puppet and exploring puppet theatre as a poetic and visual language that reflects contemporary realities. Its work seeks new ways of conceiving the puppet—often pushing it towards the realm of kinetic objects—while continuously expanding the expressive possibilities of this theatrical language. This exploration extends to performance and to the dialogue between puppetry and other artistic disciplines, including dance, visual arts, music and moving image.

In 2013, when celebrating its 25th anniversary, Teatro de Marionetas do Porto fulfilled the long-held dream of its founder, João Paulo Seara Cardoso (1956–2010), with the opening of the Museu das Marionetas do Porto (Porto Puppet Museum).

Alongside its stage productions, the company's core activity, Teatro de Marionetas do Porto develops a wide range of artistic and educational projects, including workshops, staged readings and exhibitions, fostering a strong relationship with both the local community and its audiences. These activities take place across the company's venues in Porto—the Teatro de Belomonte, the Porto Puppet Museum, and the Polo das Marionetas / Bonjóia—as well as through an extensive touring programme throughout Portugal and internationally.

About the Director – Paulo Duarte

Born by the ocean, Paulo Duarte grew up contemplating the horizon. Drawn to the sea, yet never learning to swim, he found his first challenge in drawing. During adolescence, his passion for art began to flourish, leading him to study at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Porto, where he discovered new forms of expression and artistic languages.

After a period working as a teacher within the Portuguese public education system, he sought new creative paths and eventually found them at the École Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette (ESNAM) in Charleville-Mézières, France.

He co-founded a theatre company with a friend, with whom he collaborated for several years before joining another artistic collective, expanding his network of creative collaborations. He later founded MECANIKA.

Through MECANIKA, Paulo Duarte explores the intersection of artistic disciplines, seeking dramaturgical forms capable of expressing his distinctive perception of reality.

Central to his work is the relationship between the manipulated body and the body of the puppeteer—an ongoing exploration of absence and appearance, of presence and disappearance,

of the “real” and the “unreal”, of matter and spectre. The distinctive dramaturgical architecture that emerges from these intersections is closely connected to the themes that recur throughout his work: the fragility of reality, the relativity of perception, and the expressive possibilities offered by different media and forms of imagery.

Whether through his own artistic creations, collaborations with other artists, or educational projects, Paulo Duarte's practice is rooted in a continuous reflection on the creative process itself. Each project seeks to establish a dynamic balance between its constituent elements, while each collaborative process is shaped by the dialogue between individual aspirations and shared expertise, fostering ever greater creative potential. The porous boundaries between artistic languages encourage a spirit of experimentation that embraces contemporary art, dance, theatre, circus, sound and new technologies.

STAGE

- Proscenium Width: 8 m (minimum)
- Stage Depth: 9 m (minimum)
- Stage Height: 6.5 m (minimum)
- Black box setup with black backdrop and Italian stage configuration (see attached stage plan)
- Black stage floor or black dance floor (black lino)

SOUND

- 2 × Stage monitors positioned offstage (stage left and stage right)
- PA system appropriate to the venue
- Focusrite 18i8 audio interface (provided by Teatro de Marionetas do Porto)
- MacBook Air M1 (provided by Teatro de Marionetas do Porto)

VIDEO

- 1 × Video projector with DMX shutter (provided by Teatro de Marionetas do Porto)
- 1 × Hollyland wireless video transmission system (provided by Teatro de Marionetas do Porto)

STAGE MACHINERY

- Two flying bars are required to suspend a pulley system used to move a 6 × 6 m voile fabric during the performance. The movements are controlled by the DMX kinetic motors.
- Fifteen DMX kinetic motors are used, each operating an independent scenic element. All movements are individually controlled via the lighting console.
- Chinchilla sand is used on stage during the performance.

LIGHTING

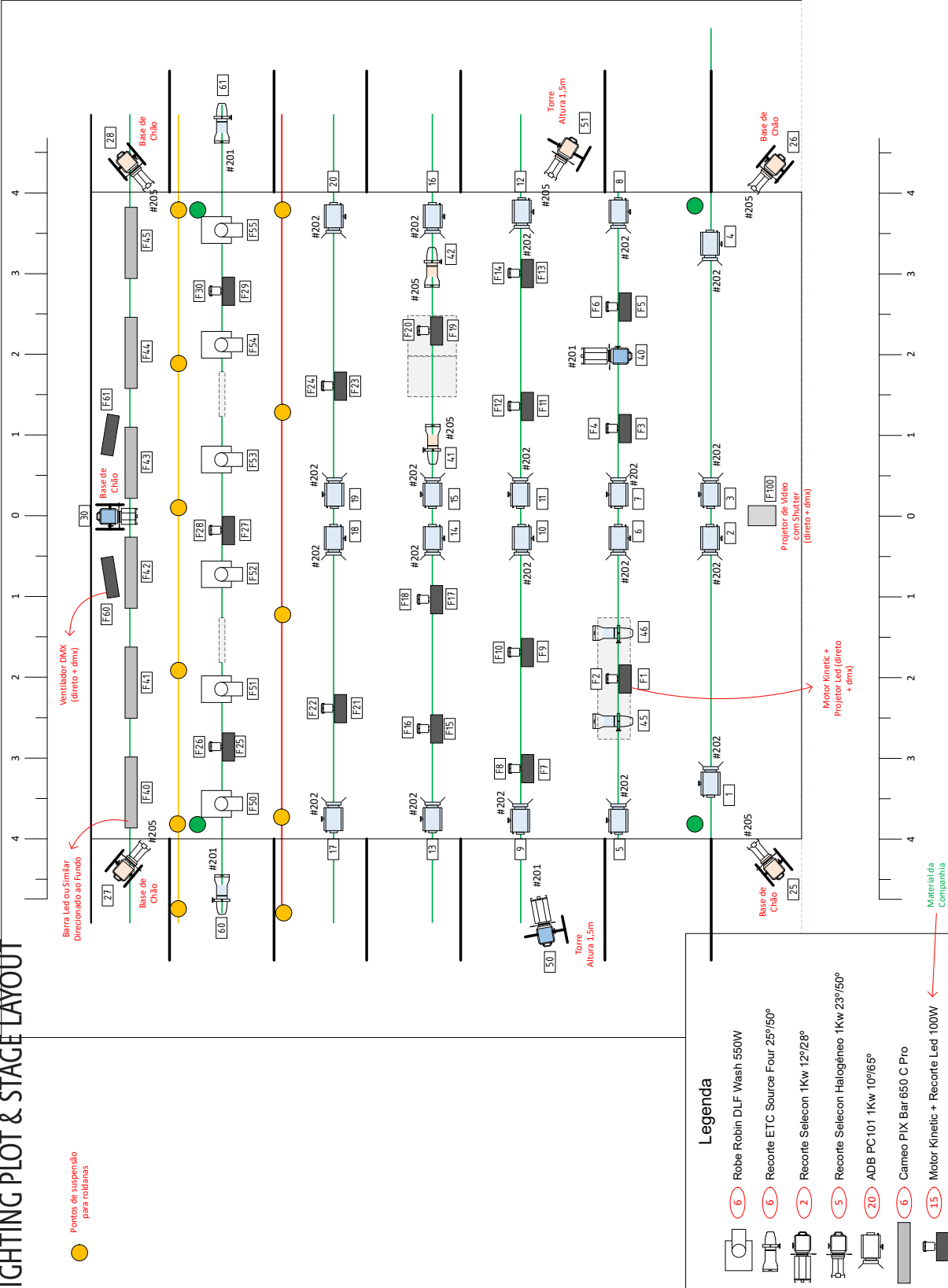
LIGHTING FIXTURES

- 20 × 1000 W PC Fresnel spotlights (with barndoors and colour frames)
- 13 × 1000 W Profile spotlights, 25°/50° (with shutters and colour frames)
- 6 × Robe Robin DLF Wash (or equivalent)
- 6 × Cameo PIX Bar 650 C Pro
- 1 × Haze machine (upstage left)
- 1 × 1000 W 90° Profile spotlight (provided by Teatro de Marionetas do Porto)
- 15 × DMX Kinetic Motors (provided by Teatro de Marionetas do Porto)
- 15 × 100 W RGBW LED Profile spotlights (provided by Teatro de Marionetas do Porto)

LIGHTING CONTROL

- 34-channel digital dimmer system
- DMX512 communication protocol
- grandMA2 Command Wing lighting console (provided by Teatro de Marionetas do Porto)
- Lighting bars (see attached stage plan)
- Colour filters (provided by Teatro de Marionetas do Porto)
- 2 × Lighting towers (1.5 m)
- 5 × Floor bases

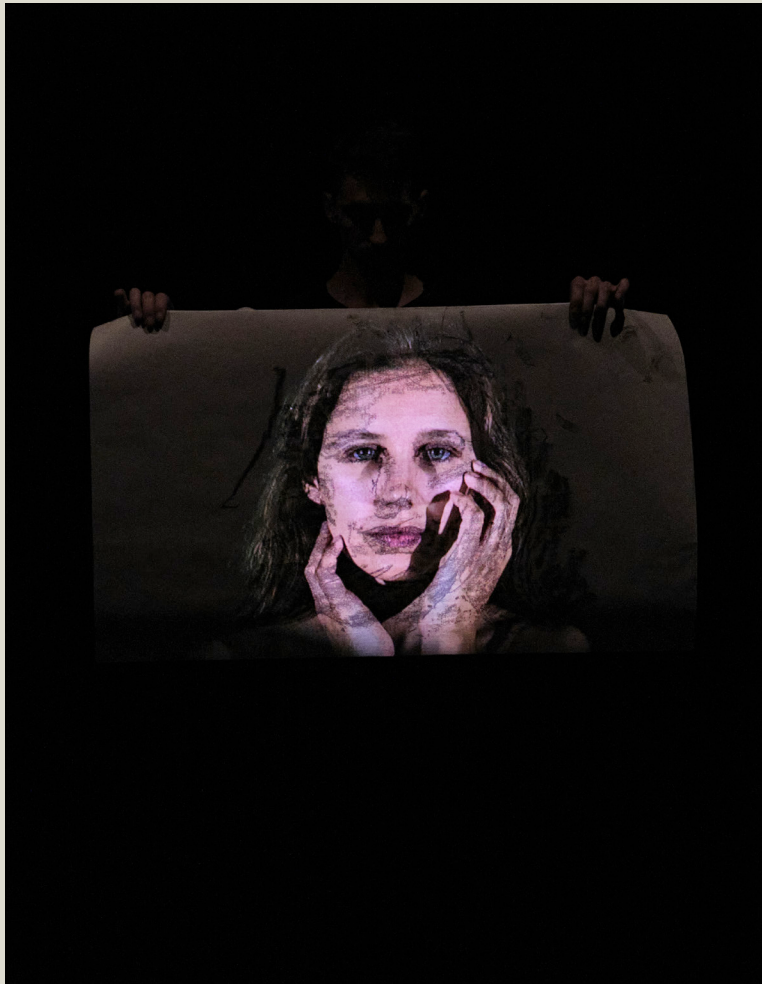
‘MULHER LUZ’ - Marionetas do Porto
Desenho de Luz e Implantação Geral
LIGHTING PLOT & STAGE LAYOUT











Contacts

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