

the Gate

root creation



TARGET AUDIENCE :
M/12 YEARS
DURATION : 01H00





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the Gate

**a narrativa da descodificação
da solidão dos seres**

SYNOPSIS

One of the characters, whose name changes with every sentence, is constantly on the move. Pondering this need of his—whether it is a search, a quest, or an escape—questions remain unanswered regarding our inability to often stand still and devote time to reflection and the personal enjoyment of small, symbolic things happening around us that require tranquility, calm, and time to be savored. The second character lives in that place, by the sea, and has the task of opening a gate every morning, which she then closes daily in the afternoon before sunset. Thus, this character is confronted with the meaning of her role—closing off something that belongs to everyone—and the question of ownership over everything that surrounds us. The task of opening and closing the gate that prevents everyone from accessing this

enjoyment is a position of questioning or merely that of an executor.

This creation stems from a long-distance dialogue between the actress and a psychologist and writer. This original text, written in 2021, reflects on objectives, confronting ambitions and desires with the obligations and roles of human beings in the society that surrounds them. The production combines image with text, bringing together actors with figures rich in symbolism. The choice was to employ performance techniques that imbue the puppet with discursive capacity, creating the narrative through the accentuated figure of the object-actor. This production explores the interpretive capacity of objects and figures by uniting the actor with the puppeteer.

During the pandemic in Portugal, many written and telephone conversations emerged—philosophical dialogues that pondered human behavior, our ambitions, anxieties, and frustrations—and it became clear in the construction of this narrative that the stage would be the destination for this conversation to be shared with the audience. The process of creating monologues with puppets and objects involves great physical and mental effort because it entails a complete deconstruction of the symbolism they originally possess.

TEATRO E MARIONETAS DE MANDRÁGORA

Teatro e Marionetas de Mandrágora is a professional puppet theater company, founded on 2 April 2002, directed by **Clara Ribeiro** and **Filipa Mesquita** and **enVide neFelibata** as art direction.

- In the symbiosis of a symbolic language that combines heritage and traditional legacy with the contemporary society's thinking and dynamics, in a dialogue that's not always peaceful, a fundamental element emerges: the puppet — the tool used in our quest for our own cultural identity.
- Our goal is to discover the puppet's own aesthetic, visual, scenic, and dramatic potential, as well as in the relation between actor and puppet. In this experience, we intend to find our own identity-based dramaturgy: the one that explores culture, belief, and folklore combined with the urban area, the technological exploitation and the global village's fast pace.
- Throughout our artistic journey, we created a wide range of proposals, both in terms of audiences (adults, youngsters schoolchildren, families) and in terms of training (basic and specialized).
- One of our major commitments is touring our projects, through the country and abroad. We constantly concern on decentralization, community work, partnerships, social and inclusive enhancement.
- For over two decades, the Company firmly established itself as a contemporary artistic creation structure by putting on a wide range of shows. Some creations our own, others resulted from partnerships with national and foreign cultural structures and entities.
- Our team has always had space to freely create according to each other's

language and vision, converging to develop and enrich the puppet theater's art.

- Our Company focuses on social vulnerabilities but also traditions and heritage through different but converging sights. Dialogue with all different audiences, blend our creations with sites and spaces, intersect with partner entities and structures is essential for creating multidisciplinary projects that prioritize communication with spectators.
- We would like to highlight our collaboration with numerous educational service teams while implementing our education activities program in institutions such as monuments, museums, and landmark buildings.
- *Teatro e Marionetas de Mandrágora is supported by Portuguese Republic – Culture, Youth, and Sports / Directorate-General for the Arts, Espinho Municipality / Espinho City Council, and Gondomar Municipality. The structure is based at FACE - Espinho Art and Culture Forum and headquartered in Gondomar.*

THE GATE

target audience : M/12 years

duration : 01h00

production : 64^a

group : root creation

language : portuguese

premiere date : 20 October 2023 (Friday)

premiere location : Teatro Municipal de Vila do Conde x Vila do Conde x Porto



PRESENTATION

“The Gate” is a work born from the dialogue between an actress and a writer, separated physically and psychologically by the confines of forced isolation. A work that explores the narrative of deciphering human loneliness.

Two beings in a seaside location speak to one another, in an undefined space and time. A challenge to the power of interpreting objects, in a relationship that pits the actor-puppeteer against the dramatic power of manipulating the moving figure on stage.

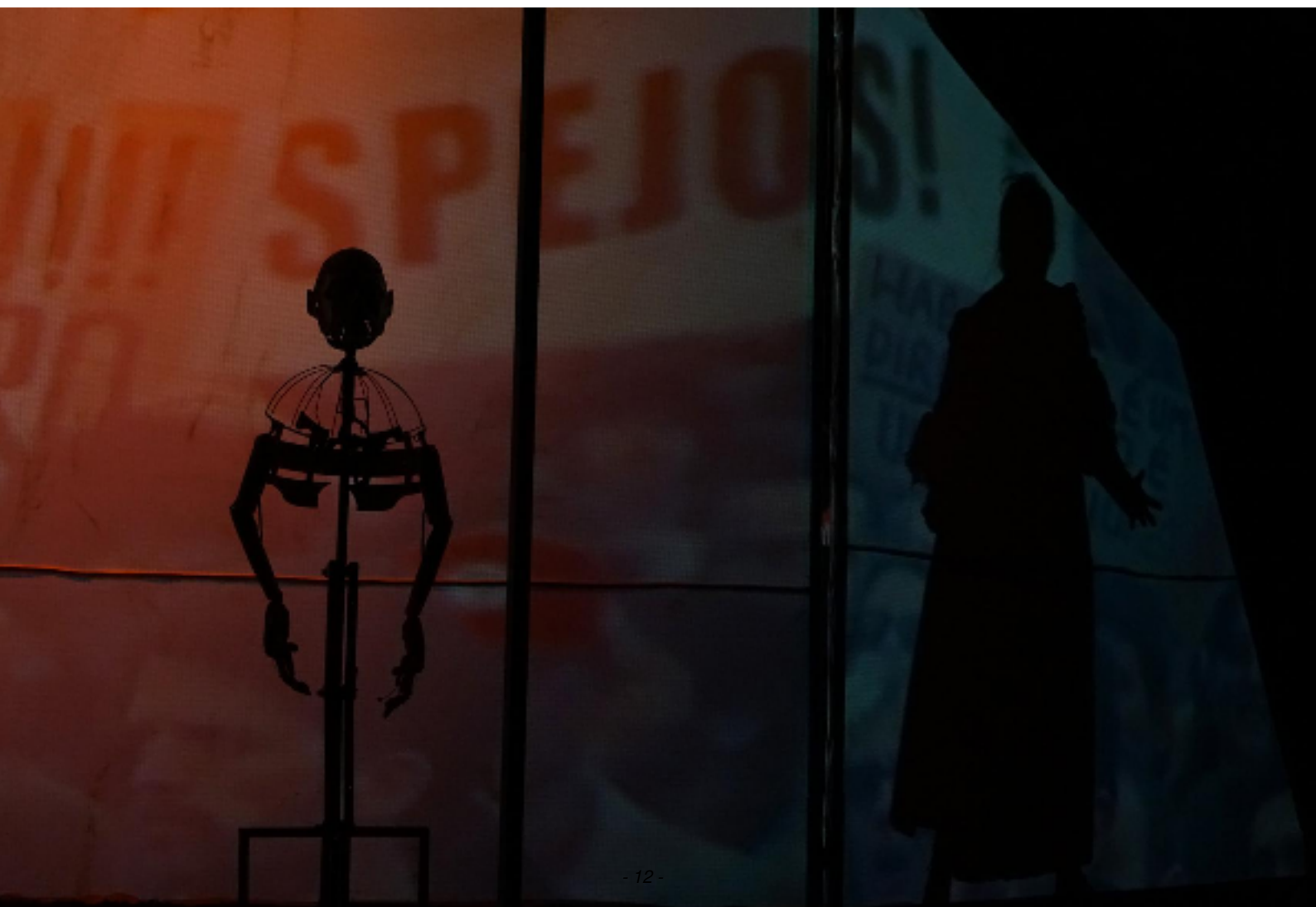


ROOT CREATION

Original projects that aim to promote a broad artistic language and creative freedom for creators to challenge themselves artistically and dramatically, as well as in the exploration of interpretation, puppetry, and object theater. These creations are a fundamental reflection of their creators' concerns.

We decided on this designation due to the genesis of the name that gives us rise — Mandrake (Mandrágora), a plant associated with a certain mysticism. That root is also the origin point of our structure, which, in a very many-skilled way, branches out in diverse paths. We're a creative team that considers and analyzes each other's personal concerns and also challenges itself that lead to discoveries which affirm the art of theater and, more specifically, of puppetry.

More than two decades later, this form and figure emerged in a long process of discovery. We went through collective creations, invited directors, and gave voice to the artists who make up the creative core of the structure. Therefore, we believe we've achieved a clearer way of indicating the potential paths and trajectories of a collective composed by individual choices.







TESTIMONIALS

— Paulo Carmo × 23 October 2023



TOUR

DATA	LOCAL
20 OCT 2023 . FRIDAY	Teatro Municipal de Vila do Conde, Vila do Conde, Porto
21 OCT 2023 . SATURDAY . 21h30	Teatro Municipal de Vila do Conde, Vila do Conde, Porto

TOTAL : 2

HISTORY

"the Gate", premiered at "Teatro Municipal de Vila do Conde × Vila do Conde × Porto" on 20 October 2023 (Friday). To date, it has performed in 1 venue, 1 city, 1 district, 1 country (Portugal) and participated in 0 festivals and 0 meetings and 0 internationals.

Its history includes 2 shows for an audience of 230 spectators.

"the Gate" has been touring for 2 anos, 6 meses e 9 dias at the time of creating this document.





TECHNICAL RIDER

For more information about technical requirements and other production-related needs, please refer to the **GENERAL CONDITIONS** section of this document.

Sessions

maximum audience : 200
language : portuguese
recommended spaces : conventional interior spaces

Team

PERFORMERS : 1
TECHNICAL TEAM : 2
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEAM MEMBERS AFFECTED : 3

Scheduled Setup And Takedown Times

UNLOAD MATERIAL : 00h30
SET DESIGN (SCENOGRAPHY) : 02h00
TECHNICAL SETUP : 02h00
TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS : 02h00
REHEARSALS : 01h00
TAKEDOWN : 02h00
TOTAL REQUIRED SETUP TIME : 07h30

rider atualizado : 2025-09-25 12:10:45

PROMOTIONAL DOCUMENTS AND OTHERS

Current Document

O PORTAO - DOSSIER - EN **2.3 MB**

https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/_/dwn/dossier/oportao - dossier - en.pdf

Other Documents

O PORTÃO - POSTAL **13 MB**

<https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/matter/prj/mtm/oportao/dwn/O Portão - postal.zip>

O PORTÃO - ROLL-UP **122.5 MB**

<https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/matter/prj/mtm/oportao/dwn/O Portão - roll-up.zip>

O PORTAO - CLASSIFICAÇÃO ETÁRIA -- PT **52.3 KB**

<https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/matter/prj/mtm/oportao/dwn/oportao - classificação etária -- pt.pdf>

O PORTAO - DESENHO DE LUZ -- PT **479.4 KB**

<https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/matter/prj/mtm/oportao/dwn/oportao - desenho de luz -- pt.pdf>

O PORTAO - RIDER TÉCNICO -- PT **20.9 KB**

<https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/matter/prj/mtm/oportao/dwn/oportao - rider técnico -- pt.odt>

O PORTAO - RIDER TÉCNICO -- PT **63.9 KB**

<https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/matter/prj/mtm/oportao/dwn/oportao - rider técnico -- pt.pdf>

Imagery Archive

IMAGERY ARCHIVE PROMO **179.6 MB**

https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/_/dwn/zip/prj_oportao.zip

IMAGERY ARCHIVE PHOTO SESSION **500.2 MB**

https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/_/dwn/zip/ses_oportao.zip

IMAGERY ARCHIVE DESIGN **33.8 KB**

https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/_/dwn/zip/des_oportao.zip

IMAGERY ARCHIVE DRAWINGS **3.9 MB**

https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/_dwn/zip/drw_oportao.zip

IMAGERY ARCHIVE PROTOTYPE **59.8 MB**

https://www.marionetasmandragora.pt/_dwn/zip/prt_oportao.zip

IMAGE AND COMMUNICATION

- Mandatory mentions in all promotional material:
- Production: Teatro e Marionetas de Mandrágora
- Support: Portuguese Republic – Culture, Youth, and Sports / Directorate-General for the Arts (with logos), Municipality of Espinho / City Council of Espinho, Municipality of Gondomar

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- Access and parking must be available for the company's vehicle (Class II or Class I).
- The promoter must provide a technician to assist during assembly, rehearsal, and performance.
- Before setup begins, the space must be clean and free of any equipment.
- Any proposed changes to the Technical Rider must be communicated in a timely manner so that, together with the technical team and the event production, the best solutions can be found to make the activity possible.
- Individual dressing rooms suitable for the performers must be provided, equipped with running water, a mirror, a chair, and a table.
- The promoter must provide bottles of water for all team.

BUDGET

- Consult budget and, if necessary, request specific conditions for two or more presentations on the same day, in the same location, and/or on consecutive days.
- The amounts are VAT exempt, under the terms of nº8 of Article 9º of the portuguese VAT Code.
- Travel expenses will be added, calculated from Espinho (price per km).
- Where applicable, the promoter shall provide accommodation and meals for the team. We will communicate the type of rooms (preferably singles) and dietary restrictions in advance.

CONTACTS

Direção Artística 914 514 756 Clara Ribeiro
Direção Artística 938 438 097 Filipa Mesquita
Direção Plástica 938 940 122 enVide neFelibata

[chamadas para rede móvel nacional]

geral@marionetasmandragora.pt
www.marionetasmandragora.pt
www.index.marionetasmandragora.pt
www.loja.marionetasmandragora.pt
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www.escoladamarioneta.com
www.facebook.com/marionetas.mandragora
www.instagram.com/marionetas_mandragora
www.youtube.com/@MarionetasMandragora
www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2-ig0Oamxo

RESIDÊNCIA DA COMPANHIA

Teatro e Marionetas de Mandrágora
FACE - Fórum de Arte e Cultura de Espinho
R. 41 / Av. João de Deus
4500-198 Espinho, Portugal

RESIDÊNCIA DA COMPANHIA

Estaleiro Marionetas Mandrágora
Rua do Golfe
4500-605 Espinho, Portugal

CASA EDUCATIVA DA MARIONETA

Teatro e Marionetas de Mandrágora
Casa Branca de Gramido
Tv. Convenção de Gramido 41
4420-416 Valbom, Gondomar, Portugal

PARA EFEITOS DE FATURAÇÃO

Teatro e Marionetas de Mandrágora
R. do Quinéu, 75
4510-122 Gondomar, Portugal

NIF / VAT PT 506 322 076

IBAN PT50 0035 2074 0000 5488 2304 9

BIC/SWIFT CGDIPTPL

*Associação Cultural e Recreativa Teatro e Marionetas Mito do Homem Plantado
(Marionetas de Mandrágora)
associação sem fins lucrativos (isenta de IVA ao abrigo do art. 9º do CIVA)*





REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA

CULTURA, JUVENTUDE
E DESPORTO

*dg*ARTES DIREÇÃO-GERAL
DAS ARTES



GONDOMAR
é D'ouro

MUNICÍPIO DE
ESPINHO



Teatro e Marionetas de Mandrágora
www.marionetasmandragora.pt
geral@marionetasmandragora.pt

www.marionetasmandragora.pt/oportao

oportao v.30.04.2026

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