



The Company

The *Compagnia Walter Brogginì*, founded in 1986, is composed of puppets, marionettes and a solo puppeteer. Walter Brogginì began his theatrical career in 1981 and until 1984 was a regular member of the *Teatro dei Burattini di Varese*, helping to create and put on group shows for both children and adults at a wide variety of festivals and fairs around Italy.

Brogginì began his solo career in September 1984. In the summer of 1985 he attended a course entitled "Specialisation in marionette construction" with Francis Jolit and Alain Roussel and one on "The puppeteer-actor and the animated object" with Philippe Genty, both of which were held at the Institut International de la Marionette in Charleville-Mézières (France).

Over the years the Company has followed its own original theatrical vision, pursuing an experimental dramaturgy in developing refined forms of expression in shows for adults and innovating on the stylistic elements of popular puppet theatre in its productions for audiences of all ages.

The creation of the shows follows the time-honoured artistic tradition of the puppet theatre, with every stage of the preparations being performed in-house: from writing the texts to the construction of the materials (puppets, sets, booths, etc.) and directing the shows. A major contribution to the theatrical creation comes from exchanges and collaboration with artists from other disciplines.

The *Compagnia Walter Brogginì* has participated in all the major Italian puppet festivals and has also been invited to perform in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Israel, Slovenia and Switzerland.

The Company's artistic repertoire has received a number of prestigious awards: in 1988, it was awarded the Jury Prize of the 21st International Festival of the Marionette in Zagabria (Croatia) for its "research into the art of the marionette" with the show entitled "Solo"; in 1991 it received the Silver Faun and in 1992 the Golden Faun at the Premio Nazionale Silvano D'Orba for the shows "Pirù, Pirù" and "Pirù, Demoni e Denari", respectively.

Since 1993 the Company has organised the festival "Arrivano i burattini" (The puppets are coming!) at Albizzate, with a varied programme of shows, exhibitions and classes; since 1995 Walter Brogginì has also been artistic director for "Assoli", an annual puppetry festival for adults held in Viguzzolo.

The protagonist in the Company's shows based on the popular puppetry repertoire is Pirù, an original character created by Brogginì, drawing on the traits and forms of the leading "masks" in the European puppet tradition: Pulcinella, Punch, Polichinelle, Petruska and Kaspar, figures that embody puppetry's direct link with the theatrical tradition of the *commedia dell'arte*.



“Pirù, Pirù”

“*Pirù, Pirù*” is a show for hand puppets in a booth, inspired by the popular puppet theatre repertoire, a form of entertainment intended for an audience of all ages that narrates events and stories with simple, essential themes related to the vicissitudes of daily life and the primitive struggle between Good and Evil. The usual characters in these stories were the “masks” derived from the *commedia dell’arte*.

“*Pirù, Pirù*” pays homage to this tradition, and its protagonist, Pirù, incorporates the fundamental traits shared by the principal “masks” of European puppet theatre: Pulcinella, Punch, Polichinelle, Petruska, Kaspar: characters that embody the sensibility, irony, guile, sharp wit and detached cynicism of simple folk when faced with the problems of existence.

The show begins with Pirù at home. He receives a visit from Death, who tries to take Pirù away with him. Pirù manages to get away, but through a series of unfortunate and comic coincidences, Death kidnaps Pirù’s wife, Elvira, instead. Pirù is unjustly accused of the disappearance of his wife, arrested and condemned, but he is able to escape thanks to a pact made with Death himself. When Death returns to demand that Pirù keep his promise, the latter refuses and a ferocious battle between the two ensues, ending with the victory of Pirù and the liberation of Elvira.

“Pirù, Pirù”

The show won the Silver Faun award at the Silvano d’Orba festival in 1991 and has been performed at many events in Italy and on the Company’s foreign tours in Belgium, Croatia, Germany, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Creation, production and manipulation: Walter Broggin
Puppets: Walter Broggin
Costumes: Elide Bolognini
Booth, sets and props: Attilio Broggin

Technical details

Audience: suitable for an audience of all ages (3 years and up)
Duration: 1 hour
Locale: the show can be staged either in darkened indoor spaces (theatres, halls, gyms, etc.) or outdoors
Space required for booth: width 3.5 m, depth 3 m, height 2.8 m
Power supply: one 220V, 3Kw electric socket
Assembly: 2 hours
Disassembly: 1.5 hours



“Pirù, Demoni e Denari”

“*Pirù, Demoni e Denari*” is a show for hand puppets in a booth.

In “*Pirù, Demoni e Denari*” the Company continues the pursuit of its original aim of recreating the classic stylistic elements of puppet theatre, an effort that unites the authentic popular roots of street theatre with a radical innovation in the dramatic structure of traditional theatre.

The show offers an urgent, fast-paced narrative rhythm, with comic timing provided by the “symbolic” and “simple” gestures of the puppets, which provide the basis for improvisation, conversing with and involving the audience in the show itself, adding quips and gags according to the situation.

The show’s protagonist is Pirù, who finds himself dragged into a complicated situation, essentially a free re-elaboration of the myth of Orpheus.

Pirù finds himself having to descend into the Underworld to free the beautiful and rich Countess Euridice, who had been sent there by the curse of her perfidious consort, Count Orfeo. With the help of Osvaldo, the Countess’s faithful servant, Pirù not only has to watch out for Belzebù (the Devil), and his comical assistant, Ezechiele, he also has to avoid the traps set by the subtle Orfeo. After a series of pitfalls, mishaps and spirited battles, the story concludes with the victory of our hero and the triumph of Good over Evil.

“Pirù, Demoni e Denari” The show won the Golden Faun award at the Silvano d’Orba festival in 1992 and has been performed at many events in Italy and abroad.

Creation, production and manipulation: Walter Brogginì
Puppets: Walter Brogginì
Costumes: Elide Bolognini
Booth, sets and props: Attilio Brogginì

Technical details Audience: suitable for an audience of all ages (6 years and up).
Duration: 1 hour
Locale: the show can be staged either in darkened indoor spaces (theatres, halls, gyms, etc.) or outdoors
Space required for booth: width 3.5 m, depth 3 m, height 2.8 m
Power supply: one 220V, 3Kw electric socket
Assembly: 2 hours
Disassembly: 1.5 hours



“Solo”

“Black comedy is the mortal enemy of that eternally hunted sentimentalism - that easy sentimentalism - and a certain narrow imagination that too often passes itself off as poetry ...”

A. Bréton

“Solo” is a black comedy for an adult audience, a sophisticated and sardonic reflection on death. The show is composed of a number of sketches of varying length that narrate the adventures and experiences of characters forced to face the ineluctable destiny of human kind, attempting to put up a stubborn but futile struggle.

The show treads a narrow path between the macabre and the ironic, and is presented solely through the gestures of the puppets, with no verbal language.

It is a sort of pantomime, where the puppeteer silently moves the marionettes in full view, interacting with them and becoming part of the story itself. In this original marionette show, the art of puppet theatre is expressed with refined and evocative techniques and forms.

The marionettes are full-body puppets and manipulated directly, in a derivation of the oriental technique of Bunraku.

“Solo”

The show has been performed on the Company’s foreign tours in Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Israel, Slovenia and Switzerland and was cited for its “research into the art of the marionette” by the jury at the 21st International Festival of the Marionette in Zagabria (Croatia).

Creation, production and manipulation: Walter Broggin

Puppets: Walter Broggin and Elide Bolognini

Props: Attilio Broggin

Technical details

Locale: the show can be staged either indoors (theatres, halls, gyms, etc.) or outdoors, but the space must be enclosed. Complete darkness is essential.

Audience: Adults

Space required for booth: width 4.5 m, depth 3.5 m, height 3.5 m

(if the show is staged on the same level as the audience, a platform between 40 and 60 cm high is required).

Power supply: one 220V, 3Kw electric socket

Assembly: 3 hours

Disassembly: 1.5 hours

Duration: 1 hour



“Pirù and the Knight of Mezzotacco”

Pirù and the Knight of Mezzotacco is a show for hand puppets in a booth. It is the third episode of the Company's trilogy inspired by the popular traditions of Italian puppet theatre.

With this show, the *Compagnia Walter Broggin* continues its original experimentation and innovation with the forms and content of traditional puppet theatre in productions for audiences of all ages, stories with simple, but essential themes nearly always dealing with the dichotomy and struggle between Good and Evil and the joy, suffering and values of daily life. The stories are always handled with humour, within a framework of the comic and comedy in playful interaction with the audience.

All of the elements of the show are performed live, using hand puppets with heads and hands carved from wood.

Pirù, the original character created by the Company, is also the protagonist of this episode of the saga devoted to him. As in his other adventures, he has to overcome challenges, face dangers and battle with evil antagonists before emerging victorious in a triumph for positive values.

The plot

The ambitious and evil Sir Teodoro wants to become king of the country of Mezzotacco at all costs. To achieve his aim, the knight is willing to do anything, resorting to hidden manoeuvring and dark intrigue, but finds himself opposed by the old and wise Basilio. In order to overcome the resistance of the old man, Teodoro orders the head of his guard, Capitano Bobò, to kidnap Basilio's daughter, Isabella. The final obstacle to his ambitions now removed, Teodoro is crowned King of Mezzotacco. At this point, however, Pirù enters the action. Moved by the tears of Basilio, he promises to discover Isabella's prison and free her. To keep his promise, he will not only have to challenge Capitano Bobò, but also Verdino, the terrifying serpent guarding the secret prison. Obviously, after a series of surprises and plot twists, the story ends with the victory of Pirù and just punishment for the evil plotters, with freedom being restored to the kingdom of Mezzotacco.

Creation, production and manipulation: Walter Broggin

Puppets: Walter Broggin

Costumes: Elide Bolognini

Booth: Eugenio Tiziani

Technical details

Audience: suitable for an audience of all ages (5 years and up).

Duration: about 1 hour

Locale: the show can be staged either in darkened indoor spaces (theatres, halls, gyms, etc.) or outdoors

Space required for booth: width 4.0 m, depth 2.5 m, height 2.8 m

Power supply: one 220V, 3Kw electric socket

Assembly: 2 hours

Disassembly: 1.5 hours