

## Dossier



PerpetuoMobileTeatro

**THE BALLAD OF THE**

**LITTLE MATCH GIRL**

## The Ballad of the Little Match Girl

Physical theatre with masks and live music

2010 Migros-Kulturprozent award for physical theatre to Brita Kleindienst.



### Notes

Loosely based on the famous fairy tale by H.C. Andersen, *the ballad of the little match girl* is a show we still consider as a work in progress. During the last three years we often came back to this theatrical ballad, looking at it with renovated eyes, and developing it thanks to what we discovered along the way.

This short play is for us a dance on a wire, a peculiar mixture of storytelling, acrobatics and mask theatre. Thanks to a series of acrobatic figures and a score of physical actions cared to the smallest details, the bodies of the two actors, deeply connected, create a stream of movement that marks the accents and support the images of the tale. Live music sketches the borders of the story and fills the space with echoes.

The little match girl tells us her story during her journey on his body, without ever touching the ground. He is bringing her to the old bridge. She will be judged soon. He is a grotesque master of ceremonies, remanding to the servants of Commedia dell'Arte. Most miserable among the gods, he heads this ineluctable ritual which is death, but nothing can do to change it. It's too late – he says – it has already happened.

### Reviews

*“A theatre which reminds us, in full harmony with the story, how much value the renunciation of splendor and spacial effects can give back to the communicative expression of the voice and the gesture.”*

[bmagazine.it](http://bmagazine.it)

*“The interpretation is excellent. Passion, physical preparation, rehearsal, brawn... circus acrobatics performed with apparent, natural simplicity”*

IL SANNIO

**Produced** with the support of Scuola Teatro Dimitri

**Directed and performed by:** Brita Kleindienst, Marco Cupellari

**Original live music:** Dario Miranda

**Mask creator:** Brita Kleindienst

**Light design:** Josef Busta

**English text version:** Saskia Ettlting

**Photos:** Sara Venuti, Alessandro Caporaso

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