

CHAIKA

by Natacha Belova and Tita Iacobelli

Loosely inspired by The Seagull by Anton Chekhov



Distribution et Mentions

Staging **Natacha Belova** And **Tita Iacobelli**

Scenography **Natacha Belova**

Interpretation **Tita Iacobelli**

Outside view **Nicole Mossoux**

Assistant director **Edurne Rankin**

Dramaturgy assistant **Rodrigo Gijon**

Scenography assistant **Gabriela Gonzalez**

Light creation **Gabriela Gonzalez** And **Christian Halkin**

Set design **Guy Carbonnelle** And **Aurélie Borremans**

Sound creation **Gonzalo Aylwin** And **Simon Gonzalez**

Music **Simon Gonzalez** according to the song *The Poor Seagull* by Rafael Hernandez

Lighting and effects management **Gauthier Poirier**

Production **MARS - Mons Arts de la Scène - Bérengère Deroux** and **IFO Asbl**

Co-production **MARS - Mons Arts de la Scène, Théâtre des Martyrs, Atelier Jean Vilar**

Ifo Asbl production with the support of **Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Chile, the Federation Wallonie-Bruxelles**

Premiered on September 25, 2021 in Charleville-Mézières – World Puppet Theater Festival

Duration: 60 minutes

Public: from 12 years old

SYNOPSIS

Behind the scenes of a theater, an old actress in the twilight of her life no longer knows what she is doing there. Approaching her, a woman reminds her of the reason for her presence: to play the role of Arkadina in Chekhov's "The Seagull". This will be his last role. Her memory is failing and if she no longer knows completely who she is or her role, she intends to ensure representation. In his route, fiction and reality intersect. She tries to follow the plot of the play. Dialogues with her son follow, and the repeated abandonments of Trigorin, her lover, which plunge her back into her past. She reconnects with the young actress she was, with the role of Nina, the one she prefers, that of the young actress who continues no matter what. Here is Tchaïka fighting, regaining his footing, creating a new theater, another space for play and life.

As in *The Seagull*, Tchaïka is between past and future, between disillusionment and hope, and she continues on the road, despite the ruin. Told on the plot of a dream, this show for an actress and a puppet is the first by the Belgian-Chilean company Belova-Iacobelli.



GENESIS AND NOTE OF INTENT

Chaika is a one-man show for an actress and a puppet that touches on the theme of the violence of old age, the loss of memory, the loneliness of retirement, and the richness in human subjectivity through poetry from the imagination of an actress. Freely inspired by *The Seagull* by Anton Chekhov, this show is built in permanent tension between a masterpiece of classical theater, puppet theater and choreographed movement.

We have taken the liberty of treating the text of *The Seagull* through the deteriorated memory of the character of *Chaika*, an old actress who bids farewell to the theater with this show. She attempts to recreate the play, navigating between Chekhov's fiction and her own reality. Like the characters of *The Seagull*, she is at the point in her life where she must choose to continue or give up. The delirious dialogues with her son and the repeated abandonments of her lover revive the young actress she once was. *Chaika* makes the heroic and decadent attempt to keep his seagull flying until the end.

The Seagull

“In Russian, the word “chaïka” (the seagull) contains the verb “chaïat”, to vaguely hope. The seagull is illusion, disappointment, growth, disillusionment, being turned towards the future and waiting for the unreal, or looking towards the past and waiting for this past to discover something hope of seeing a possible reconciliation. »

Françoise Morvan and André Markowicz; Notes on “The Seagull”



It is a piece that describes young, impatient and radical artists but also the older generation who are content to keep their acquired positions. The whirlwinds of creation and love: “Comedy, three women's

roles, six men's roles, four acts, a landscape (view of a lake), numerous literary discussions, little action, a quintal of love”, writes Chekhov. But it also deals with mutual incomprehension, with the cruel troubles of destiny. Finally, it is a play about the search for “true meaning”, without which life is “only drudgery and horror”.

THE TCHAÏKA COMPANY

The Tchaïka Company was founded by Tita Iacobelli, Chilean actress and director, and Natacha Belova, Belgian-Russian puppeteer. Their collaboration began in 2015 in Santiago, where they created an experimental theater laboratory for contemporary puppet theater. In 2018, they presented their first production, Tchaïka, which will be followed a few years later by the show LOCO in 2021. The performance Sisypholia, in co-creation with Dorian Chavez, sees the light of day in 2022. In 2025, the Company offers a new creation entitled Une Traversée at the Théâtre de la Cité in Toulouse.

The Company has an international presence, having reached more than 55,000 spectators in more than 20 countries. In addition to its productions, the non-profit organization Tchaïka organizes training with nearly 50 workshops and 10 laboratories in 15 countries, and has trained more than 850 artists of 20 different nationalities.

Tchaïka is also involved in mobility programs for young artists, aimed at helping them gain experience and integrate more easily into the professional world, while developing international partnerships.

Natacha Belova, a historian by training, was born in Russia and has lived in Belgium since 1995. It was first of all as a costume designer and scenographer that she began her first collaborations within the Belgian and international performing arts network.

She then specialized in the art of puppetry. It was by leading numerous projects linked to theater but also to the field of dance, circus, cinema and opera that she gained a great deal of experience, thus giving her the desire and the need to create her own projects. Her first creations appeared in the form of exhibitions and installations. In

Tita Iacobelli began her artistic journey in 2001. In 2003 she won the prize for best actress in the festival of *New Directors*.

She has worked for the Company since 2005. *Viajeinmóvil* of Jaime Lorca as co-director, actress, puppeteer and teacher in puppet workshops. She has toured various stages in America and Europe, including the shows “Gulliver” (2006) and “Oteló” (2012).

Her close relationship with music has led her to direct several musical theater shows with the young public company *Occasion Theater*, as well as theatrical concerts with the Chilean group

November 2017, she signed her first production, *Passengers de la Cie The Boat of Fools au IF* — International Festival of Image and Figure Theater — Milan, Italy

fusion-jazz Congress and with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Chile at the Municipal Theater of Santiago.

HISTORICAL

2024

July 2: Pleven International Festival, Pleven (Bulgaria)
June 3: A.B.C. Dijon, Dijon (France)
June 1: The Comedy of Ferney, Ferney-Voltaire (France)
May 24: Antoine Vitez Theater, Ivry-sur-Seine (France)
21-22 May: Teatro di Roma Foundation – Teatro India, Rome (Italy)
April 20: SaperliPuppet Festival, La Chapelle-sur-Erdre (France)
April 19: Le Dôme Theater, Saumur (France)
April 17: QUAI 9, Lanester (France)
8 April: Franco Parenti Theater of Milan, Milan (Italy)
6 April: ITC Teatro di San Lazzaro / Teatro dell'Argine, Bologna (Italy)
March 19-24: Geneva Marionette Theater, Geneva (Switzerland)
February 15-16: La MaMa, New York (United States)
January 26-28: Chicago International Puppet Theater Festival, Chicago (United States)

2023

October 4-19: CorpArtes Theater, Santiago (Chile)
June 2-3: Perspectives Festival, Saarbrücken/Sarreguemines (Germany)
May 25-26: NuQ Treff Festival, Tallinn (Estonia)
23 today: TEST Festival, Timisoara (Roumanie)
16 today: Théâtre Pannon Castle Theatre, Veszprém (Hungary)
28 April: Pergine Theater (Italy)
April 26: Cultural House of Ath (Belgium)
April 4-5: Le Palace, Périgueux (France)
April 2: Olympe de Gouges Theater, Montauban (France)
March 31: Le Chai, Carcassonne (France)
March 21: MARTO Festival, Clamart (France)

14-15 March: Franco Parenti Theatre, Milan (Italy)
February 15: Cultural Center – Le Tremplin, Paroles d'Hommes Festival, Liège (Belgium)
February 10: L'Hectare – Le Minotaure, Vendôme (France)
February 9: L'Escale, Saint-Cyr-sur-Loire (France)
February 7: Center André Malraux, Hazebrouck (France)
February 3: Puppet Theater Festival Belfort (France)
January 31: L'Agora, Bonneville (France)
January 28: Bouzet Room, Cestas (France)
January 26: Théâtre de la tête noire, Sarran (France)
January 24: Espace Culturel Colmont, Gorrion (France)
January 19-20: Auditorium du Pont des Arts, Cesson-Sévigné (France)
January 17: Dinant Cultural Center (Belgium)

2022

24-25 November: Théâtre François Ponsart, Vienna (France)
November 22: La Mouche Théâtre, St-Genis-Laval (France)
November 19: Le Train-Théâtre, Portes-lès-Valence (France)
November 17: Théâtre des Collines, Annecy (France)
November 15: Saint-Gennis-Pouilly (France)
November 12: Center Cultural Neimenster (Luxembourg)
5 November : Cultural Center Old Slaughterhouse (Belgique)
October 25: Nebia, Biel/Bienne (Switzerland)
October 20-23: EPCC Theater, Bourg en Bresse (France)
October 15: La Courée – cultural center, Paris (France)
October 7: Le Cargo, Segré-en-Anjou-Bleu (France)
September 16-19: Katona Teatro, Budapest (Hungary)

July 21-22: Canary Islands (Spain)
 July 16: RéciDives Festival, Dives-sur-Mer (France)
 July 8-10: Théâtre de l'île, Nouméa (New Caledonia)
 23 May: Theater Banialuka, Bielsko-Biala (Pologne)
 May 18: Ciney Cultural Center (Belgium)
 May 13: Theater at La Coque, Hennebont (France)
 May 6: Sambreville Cultural Center (Belgium)
 April 23: Floreffe Cultural Center (Belgium)
 March 17-19: Kokolampoe Theater (Guyana)
 March 4: Bernay Cultural Center (France)
 February 24: Comines Warneton (Belgium)
 January 28-29: Santiago Off Festival, Santiago (Chile)
 January 16-23: Roaming of Maule schools (Chile)
 January 14-15: Maule Municipal Theater, Curicó (Chile)
 January 5-9 : Teatro Finis Terrae, Santiago (Chile)

2021

December 15: Maubeuge (France)
 December 11-12: Parma (Italy)
 November 30: L'Estive (France)
 November 27: Thuir Town Hall (France)
 November 25: Nîmes (France)
 November 9: Oloron-Sainte-Marie (France)
 October 12-16: FWB National Theater, Brussels (Belgium)
 September 8-9: Marni Theater, Brussels (Belgium)
 September 2-5: Titirimundi Festival, Segovia (Spain)
 August 31: Propulse, Brussels (Belgium)

2020

October 24: Titirimundi, Ourense (Spain)
 October 23: Titirimundi, Santander (Spain)
 October 21: Titirimundi, Badajoz (Spain)

October 14-15: Le Manège, Mons (Belgium)
 October 3-4 : Doll Festival, Ljubljana (Slovenia)
 September 26-27: J-365 Festival, Charleville-Mézières (France)
 September 23: Maison de la Culture de Tournai (Belgium)
 September 4: Pannopticum Festival (Austria)
 February 4-15: Jean Vilar Theater Workshop, Louvain la Neuve (Belgium)

2019

October 25: Identidades Festival, Antofagasta (Chile)
 October 3-20: Théâtre Des Martyrs, Brussels (Belgium)
 September 28: Marionnettissimo Festival, Toulouse (France)
 September 25-26: World Puppet Festival, Charleville-Mézières (France)
 September 8: Valparaíso Prison Cultural Center, Valparaíso (Chile)
 August 16-17: Teatro Sidarte, Santiago (Chile)
 August 7-8: Royal Spa Festival, Spa (Belgium)
 July 6-8: Mons performing arts/Festival at Carré Mons (Belgium)
 June 16-17: Festival La Rebellion of the Dolls, Santiago (Chile)
 22-25 May: Teatro Nacional, Santiago (Chile)
 17-18 May: Center Cultural Puente Alto (Chile)
 April 26-May 12: Finis Terrae Providencia University Theater (Chile)
 April 17: Municipal Theater of Curicó (Chile)
 April 4-5: BioBio Theater Festival, Concepción (Chile)
 January 12-15 : Festival Santiago a Mil, Santiago (Chile)

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