

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**

Coproduction **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**

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”.



Diffusion file - CHAÏKA

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 Sisyptholia, 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.



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