

H + G



di Rui Pina Coelho

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Compagnia Teatropersona and Accademia Arte Della Diversità / Teatro La Ribalta Direction, Set Design and Lightining: Alessandro Serra With: Lorenzo Friso, Maria Magdolna Johannes, Chiara Michelinì, Rodrigo Scaggiante, Michael Untertrifaller.

Not very often a theatre production can create such an impact on an audience. Crude, blatant, even cruel, sometimes, it is a disturbing piece. It's a gore version of Brother Grimm's Hansel and Gretel, where H+G are played by two professional disabled actors (from L'Accademia Arte della Diversità). There is also a narrator (often comic, often heart-breaking); and, of course, the old father and the young wife (the same actress will play the wicked-dragonball-kind-of-witch). The performance is ice cold. Everything on stage amplify this feeling: the acting is unperturbed; the materials used (metals, wood, plates, straw) are also cold. The clothes remind an imprecise time (that could be somewhere around the end of the 19th century or present days). In effect, this imprecision is what makes this performance absolutely vital. When watching this story of how two parents abandon their children in the dangerous forest because they don't have food or money to provide, one cannot forget that is what is exactly happening in southern Europe and in many parts of the world afflicted by economical crisis or war conflicts. Departing from the expectations that we have from Hansel and Gretel story, Alessandro Serra creates a anti-Disney, poetical, lyrical and potent allegory for modern times.