

Reggio Parma Festival 2023 - DANCE

MAGUY MARIN

La Passione dei Possibili

Parma | Reggio Emilia

May - December 2023

Dedicated to Maguy Marin, the French choreographer winner of the Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale, the project **Maguy Marin - La Passione dei Possibili** (The Passion of Possible) created by the Reggio Parma Festival runs from May to December 2023 at the Teatro Regio and the Teatro Due in Parma, and at the Teatro Municipale Valli, Teatro Ariosto and Teatro Cavallerizza in Reggio Emilia. With the patronage of the French Embassy in Italy, this programme of performances and initiatives introduces to large audiences the works of one of the most eclectic and brave choreographers and artists on the international scene, interpreter of the complexity of contemporary human beings and their contradictions through dance, the body and space.

The daughter of Spanish immigrants fleeing Franco's dictatorship, Maguy Marin has been active since 1976 and chameleon-like in her research of movement. The artist has defined her own original stylistic signature: in her creations, dance is imbued with a marked theatricality. If the scenes or characters are often comical, the general tone is apocalyptic and the spectator is always caught between a smile, amazement and apprehension. Audacious and combative, the choreographer has been able to follow and artistically translate the upheavals of our time without holding back joyful and furious punches on the face of barbarity. Maguy Marin has inserted inside her creations a renewal of 'this something that is dance', while always keeping before her all the possibilities that dance itself has at its disposal.

The project stems from the will of the **Reggio Parma Festival and all its members** - the Municipality of Parma, the Municipality of Reggio Emilia, the I Teatri Foundation of Reggio Emilia, the Teatro Due Foundation and the Teatro Regio Foundation of Parma - to work together for the creation of an ambitious project in 2023. A programme ranging from dance to music to theatre, and where Maguy Marin is one of the first and main protagonists. Indeed, the Reggio Parma Festival is co-producer of her new performance and pays an important tribute throughout the year to her and her production.

A journey loaded with emotions that kicks off at the Teatro Regio in Parma on 31 May with a performance of **May B**, Maguy Marin's timeless masterpiece with over 750 performances on five continents. A work conceived in 1981, part of the company's repertoire for over 40 years, and inspired by the tragicomic world and salvific cynicism of Irish playwright Samuel Beckett. On its debut, it shattered all thoughts about dance, it was an explosion that has not stopped resonating. Ahead of the performance, the documentary **Maguy Marin - L'urgence d'agir** by director David Mambouch will be screened (30 May at 6 p.m. - Sala degli Specchi, Teatro Municipale Valli, Reggio Emilia). It centred on the story of the play "May B" and the experience of the protagonists who interpreted it. A meeting with the choreographer will follow.



Le attività sono realizzate grazie al contributo concesso dalla Direzione generale Educazione, ricerca e istituti culturali del Ministero della cultura



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In the fall, the project will take off with a programme full of cult shows and the Italian debut of the French artist's latest work.

Singspiele (14 e 15 November, Teatro Due, Parma) is a 2014 performance, interpreted by David Mambouch with set design by Benjamin Lebreton. With the many uses of the body and gesture research, this performance expresses the French choreographer's highest experimental essence and goes beyond the boundaries of dance itself. Focusing on faces, either anonymous or recognisable, that attract our gaze, **Singspiele** is a listening piece of what the people tell us about their absent bodies. The story that we can read on their mute faces shall always escape us because comprehensible in the immediate present.

The Italian debut of the **new creation**, whose title will be revealed shortly, is scheduled for 18 and 19 November at the Teatro Cavallerizza of Reggio Emilia, during the Festival Aperto. In this performance, co-produced by the Reggio Parma Festival, Maguy Marin wonders about current issues, with the ironic and powerful frame of mind that distinguishes her. Our bodies have become objects to be monitored, which can be filmed and recorded; our choices, apparently free, reveal our inclination to follow the majority opinion, to opt for what is manufactured by advertising, to accept the colonisation of our minds by the media or influencers.

Two of Maguy Marin's most representative works will be performed in Parma: **Nocturnes** (25 and 26 November, Teatro Due), where the choreographer challenges and charms the spectator with extreme solutions and a creative fantasy composed of small, polite and ironic sketches. A bare stage set is the backdrop for unfinished encounters, seemingly inexplicable gestures, appearances and disappearances of mysterious characters. And **Umwelt** (15 December, Teatro Regio), a 2004 performance that was thrilling and controversial, a "dance without the dance" to narrate the frenzy of life. The performers appear and disappear through the gaps between the panels and mirrors arranged in a row on the stage and, obstructed by a strong wind, narrate, often frantically, the everydayness of living.

On 16 December, the project will end at the Ariosto Theatre in Reggio Emilia with two performances by the **MM Contemporary Dance Company** directed by choreographer Michele Merola. In **Duo d'Eden**, two dancers play a man and a woman, flesh-coloured jumpsuits highlight their nudity, and she wears a very long hair wig. They represent Adam and Eve immersed in a journey of sensuality, libido, defence, attack, in a world not so peaceful, safe and idyllic. The national preview of **Grosse Fugue**, featuring four women and an extraordinary piece of music as *Die Grosse Fuge* by Ludwig van Beethoven is eagerly awaited. Created in 2001 for the Maguy Marin Company, the national preview will be presented at the Reggio Parma Festival, interpreted by four dancers of the MM Contemporary Dance Company accompanied by the live music of the soloists of the Haydn Orchestra of Bolzano and Trento, in the string quartet version. The national premiere of the piece is scheduled for July 2024 at the Bolzano Dance Festival.



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The film **UMWELT, de l'autre côté des miroirs**, directed by David Mambouch, will be screened in the Sala Verdi of the Ariosto Theatre at 4.30 p.m. on 16 December. The film interweaves the two sides of the play of the same name: the frontal plane seen from the theatre hall, and the other, invisible to spectators, on the other side of the mirrors.

The **Può sempre servire (It May Always be Useful)** workshop featuring Maguy Marin is a review of the fundamentals of the artist's presence on stage and it will raise many questions on the act of creation. It consists of two weeks of advanced training, exchanges, dialogue addressed to professional dance, theatre and music artists, aimed at setting in motion invention and composition skills with practical and concrete exercises (from 14 to 18 November, from 20 to 24 November 2023 at Teatro Due in Parma, free participation, max. 16 people selected through selection - information and bookings: f.gandini@teatrodue.org - Tel. 0521 282212). This is also the objective of the **round table** scheduled for 25 November in Parma which, with Maguy Marin, and the participation of numerous guests, including Olivier Neveux, professor of history and theatrical aesthetics at the *École normale supérieure* in Lyon.

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I am very pleased to see how the commitment of our members is renewed and strengthened in this new artistic project, on which they have worked together to devise and propose a programme of the highest level. Enhancing the production abilities that are the most precious heritage of the three prominent theatre institutions active in the Emilia region is the primary objective for the Reggio Parma Festival. This is why we have chosen to dedicate to Maguy Marin, one of the major figures on the contemporary dance scene, a long trajectory of engagements that, between May and December of this year, will unite again in an extraordinary common experience the Festival Aperto of I Teatri of Reggio Emilia, the Festival Verdi of the Teatro Regio of Parma and the Teatro Festival of the Teatro Due. **Luigi Ferrari, President Reggio Parma Festival**

This project is both a portrait and a tribute to an extraordinary artist, leader of the French *nouvelle danse* and 'radical and visionary' choreographer, who has always questioned the political sense of her own actions and of her being in the world. This is at the same time a unique opportunity of encounter and dialogue within our territory, to pass on knowledge and build horizons for the new generations, to cultivate buds and grow them. A multifarious journey, which will unfold through the staging of unforgettable masterpieces, new choreographies, film-documentaries, meetings, round tables and intense workshops. All these made possible by the Reggio Parma Festival and the co-design project work with I Teatri Reggio Emilia, Teatro Due and Teatro Regio of Parma. As we experienced in 2022 with a multimedia artist like Yuval Avital, this is an osmotic project, in which all the actors involved experience being in a synergetic network and the collaboration between institutions and cities. To be challenged, to be comprehensible by the contemporary world, to bring out professionalism and potential. A different way of planning and making something together that we could not have imagined alone.



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A unique opportunity for the city, the theatres, the artists, the community. **Paolo Cantù, Director of the Fondazione I Teatri Reggio Emilia**

The "passione dei possibili" (*Passion of Possible*) arises in the same time as desire and wish, as need for transmission, as participation to shared sensibility, as soil to be ploughed before planting the shoots of creation and caring for them individually and collectively. With her work, Maguy Marin tries to "throw something into the public space, like a bottle thrown into the sea, so that others can take it and throw it back, as an attempt to understand what is happening in the world. It is something one has to share, discuss, and perhaps even be upset about, the opposite of consensus agreement. It is an attempt to look for poetic forms that speak of the world we live in, but cause us a displacement; that can give us a good dose of energy to come out stronger, even with anger, and that release our ability to act, not that of being outraged. A new 'Urgence d'agir'.

Paola Donati, Director Teatro Due Foundation Parma

The Reggio Parma Festival is a necessary and urgent project offered to us here and to the entire country. It places at centre stage "this something that is dance", a Maguy Marin's absolute and extremely theatrical essential feature. A project that I was delighted to find and proud to embrace upon my recent appointment at the Teatro Regio of Parma. A journey beyond the mirror to be experienced and go deep into, to always find new questions and new stimuli within us and to give renewed meaning to our lives. **Superintendent of the Teatro Regio of Parma**

The Ambassador of France in Italy, Christian Masset, greets 'with enthusiasm the choice of the Reggio Parma Festival 2023 to dedicate a multi-faceted programme to the figure of Maguy Marin, such a symbolic and watershed artist in the panorama of French recent and future dance. The programme that pays tribute and shines a spotlight on her from spring this year until autumn, will make her even better known to an audience of fans, professionals and young people. This is an opportunity for a page of our country's dance history to be shared with all. So many Italian and French dancers work in both Italy and France. I am delighted that dance is an additional opportunity for our cultures, so closely linked already, to stand side by side.'

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