

# RAVENOUS WOLF

I'LL MUNCH THOSE 3 LITTLE PIGS!

## THE MELARANCIO THEATRE COMPANY

by **Gimmi Basilotta** e **Riccardo Canestrari**  
with **Jacopo Fantini** and **Luca Fantini**  
written and directed by **Gimmi Basilotta**

puppets and set **Riccardo Canestrari**  
costumes and tailoring **Clara Daniele**  
coeography **Tiziana Ferro**  
lights and sound **Luca Fantini**  
graphic design **Frank Priola**

administration **Marina Berro**



Have you ever seen a ravenous wolf? Could you ever imagine what he might be thinking? What are his secrets desires? What are his deepest fears?

Some say that the wolf is a bad beast; some say that hunger is a bad beast as well: so the ravenous wolf must really be a bad, bad beast.

Every part of him is wicked, every look, every move and every deed hides his one true desire: to satisfy his ravenous hunger!

It's always him: that fiendish devourer of innocent girls wearing red ridding hoods, that devilish gobbler of unaware, docile baby goats, who will now attempt his most daring feat: to knock down the indestructible houses

of those three tender, fat and succulent little pigs.

*Will he get what he wants?*

## THE PLOT

*Ravenous Wolf* tells the classic story of 'the three little pigs', in its original English version written by James Orchard Halliwell in 1843. But our performance shifts the focus from the three little pigs to the wolf and so the story is seen through the eyes, thoughts and actions of this humorous character, filled of comedy and warmth.

After presenting the protagonist and his insatiable hunger, the story describes the arrival of the three little pigs who are determined to build their houses in straw, wood or brick, followed by the wolfs assault using his enormous lung power and is concluded with the inevitable defeat of the ravenous devourer of pigs.

## THE MAIN THEMES

*Wolves* have always been seen as wild beasts, cruel and ravenous, that can attack and devour animals, children and even people. Their wild nature has made them a strong symbol, feared by people in past. After their decimation due to hunting and poaching they are no longer seen to be so dangerous, and so their image has changed from what was once presented in stories and fairy tales. To tell a story from a wolf's point of view allows us to discover a character that is fascinating, comical and as said by Daneil Pennac, "a complex character".

But the play's dominant theme, which controls all the wolf's actions, is *Hunger*.

Hunger is an ancient theme, recalling the great famines of the middle ages or the tales of misery and deprivation in times of war.

We all know what it means to be hungry! We all recognise this sensation in our stomachs; hunger is the driving force of many classic tales, this overwhelming energy that propels the plot, carries characters and continually modifies situations.

*Detachment* is also explored in the performance by the three little pigs attempt to find new homes, moving away from their families, this is also a reoccurring theme in fairytales symbolising growth and the search for autonomy. Our three brothers begin the story carelessly, unaware of danger, but once warned are very determined to cooperate in

the realization of their goals. This underlines how in life it is fundamental to do things one self but to also be supported and surrounded by others who can assist.

## THEATRICAL LANGUAGE AND TECHNIQUES UTILIZED

Is it possible to treat a problem as immense as hunger, with *comedy and irony*? We dared to, using the sensational strength of our protagonist wolf: a puppet with human like expressions and gestures.

In the show *words* are almost absent, the story is narrated with *the language of puppet theatre* using rhythms and music in a performance that draws on silent movies and the world of cartoons.

The wolf, our tragic hero, is won't be stopped by the catastrophic events that constantly torment him, he fights till the end, in a stubborn battle; similar to that of Willy Coyote, the main character of the Looney Tunes production animated series *Road Runner*, who desperately follows the Road Runner, setting traps to which he always falls victim. In this way our Ravenous Wolf, makes his ploy to catch the little pigs, he chases them, hides behind trees ready to attack but without fail ends up with an empty stomach; like Willy Coyote, our wolf is indestructible and never dies, even in the end when he ends up in the little pigs cooking pot. The show is driven by witty comedy, where emotions, situations and complex problems are explored through laughter.

This is a classic example of puppet theatre where no humans are present in the scenes; the puppets are highly expressive and have undergone special modifications for making very particular movements. The wolf is a classic puppet with the addition of two long arms moved by sticks, his movements are based on pantomime and he uses very few words only for sharing the reason for his existence with the audience, to eat! The show takes place on a medium sized stage, covered in black, creating a space where the puppets are highly visible and expressive.

*The Set* is the same as the one used in the last show "At Brema! The extraordinary

journey of four musicians", made up of expressive caricatures, engraved into paper forming the main material used for the construction of the puppets and the props. The set is composed three-dimensional props that interact with the puppets in a way that is similar human theatre.

## THE COMPANY

From 1982 the Melarancio theatre company has been predominantly focused on youth and street theatre as well as uniting the techniques of puppet theatre with those of human theatre, realizing highly evocative shows and events that are performed in Italy and overseas.

*The multidisciplinary residence "Workshop" is based in Cuneo, a permanent centre for the promotion and diffusion of the Arts, especially the performing arts. This show follows the journey of "stage and puppets" manipulated by Riccardo Canestrari and Luca Fantini, directed by Gimmi Basilotta who also writes the text.*

Ravenous Wolf won the "Gianduia di pezzo" award at the VI Piedmont Puppet Show at the XIV International Images festival 2008 in Pinerolo, for the best puppet theatre for children "for its alive rhythms, richness in innovation and acute sense of humour, able to win over even the adult audience".

It's possible to view a promotional video of Ravenous Wolf by typing "Famelico Lupo" at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)



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