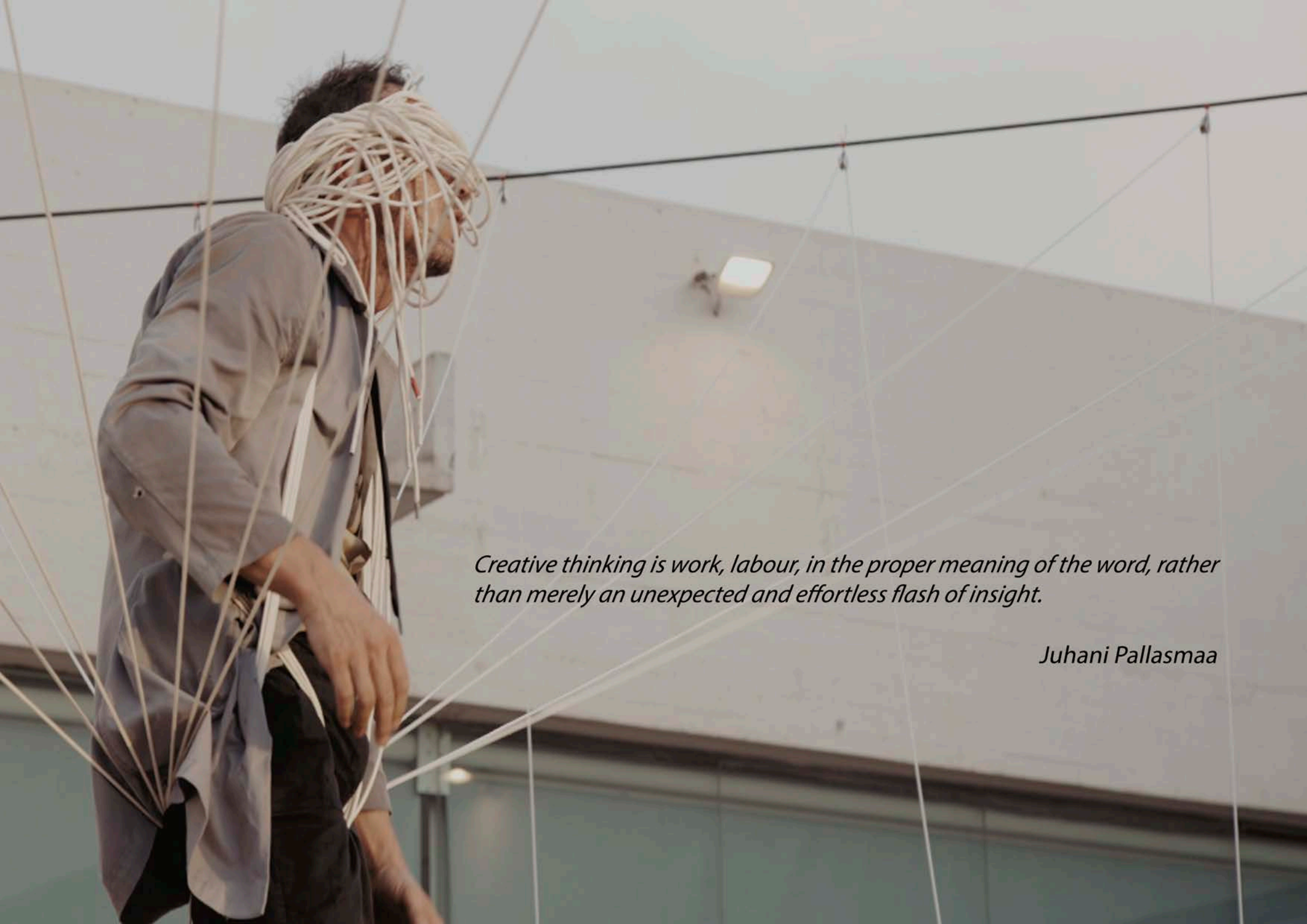


IDIÒFONIA

JOAN CATALÀ



Creative thinking is work, labour, in the proper meaning of the word, rather than merely an unexpected and effortless flash of insight.

Juhani Pallasmaa

RUN
TO THE
FUTURE

Past and Present

The Idiòfona project is the result of Joan's several years of research into working with materials (iron, wood, ropes, turnbuckles, etc.) as a performative instruments. It is also born of his years of observing the different reactions to the use of public space as a stage for street arts.

In November 2021, a solo work-in-progress showing of Idiòfona was performed as part of the Carte Blanche offered by Circuswerkplaats-Theater op de Markt, gaining a warm reception from audience members.

During 2022 and 2023 different artistic residencies/artistic rehearsals will take place in Spain, France and Portugal. IDIÒFONA has been presented in different international festivals between June and September 2023. OEROL Festival- Terschelling, Nederlands, GREC Festival-Barcelona, ConTempo Festival Lituania, Le Cratère Surface-Àles, Fira Tàrrèga , MIM Festival Sueca-València, Festival TNT Terrassa.

The desire at the heart of Idiòfona is to continue to explore the collective and social use of materials with autobiographical value, and the use performance as a means of making direct connections with our immediate environment and landscape.

Idiòfona

Another way of being in public space

IDIÒFONA, a word derived from idiophone, refers to instruments that produce sound through the vibration of the entire material from which they are made, without the need for strings, skins or wind.

In this piece, the scenic craftsmanship of movement and the manipulation of objects come together in the construction of a sound installation in public space. This installation is co-constructed with the audience, setting the scene for a dialogue between man and matter.

On the one hand, we have an object made from scrap metal – thirty iron tubes – approaches the audience and to the public stimulating different reactions from each spectator. And with it's gait it displays its abilities to and offers different imaginaries.

The public moves in an itinerancy towards another landscape. They take the iron pipes to make their way. They reach another space, another dimension, to a future that is arriving.



A large group of diverse people, including men, women, and children, are gathered outdoors in a park-like setting. They are holding long, thin metal poles vertically, some with their hands raised. The scene is filled with green foliage and trees in the background, suggesting a natural environment. The lighting is bright, indicating it might be late afternoon or early morning. The overall atmosphere is one of active participation and shared experience.

Shared responsibility

Idiòfona invites them to share a common experience.

The audience is a random collection of people of different ages, genders, backgrounds and skills, diverse in how they react and respond to one another. Everyone who is present is part of Idiòfona, to a greater or lesser degree, depending on each person. No one is obliged to participate. Those involved have decided to step forward and be part of it themselves. In giving audience members an active role, the intention is to make them take responsibility for what is happening every step of the way.

Material-space-community

"My idea is to lighten the load that iron brings. It is a cold, squalid and dirty material, one that has accompanied me through my whole life, since I was child."

The material, IRON, has an autobiographical significance for Joan Català.

IDIÒFONA is a stage performance designed with both the idea of roaming and the collaboration of the audience.

The audience comes, firstly to participate and play ultimately to build a visual and sound installation, hanging the thirty tubes on thirty strings and counterbalancing them to create a landscape of metal pendulums that spectators can touch, chime and move around.

This is a collaborative piece which takes on the aspect of a sort of ancestral ritual.

The stage area is also a character and witness, coexisting with the architecture of each place.

By its nature, Idiòfona can be performed in distinct and unconventional spaces, such as museus, the countryside, empty hangars, urban parks, small squares and back streets with intimacy that make the piece a unique experience.



In Idiòfona we literally run into the future, hide in the trees and feel the connection between air, bodies and ground. During the 45 minutes of the piece we come to believe that it doesn't take much to enjoy, that magic can be made from the simplest things.

Alba Cuenca Sánchez.
(Reviewer Recomenda.cat)

"The creator and acrobat puts the audience in his pocket in just a few seconds. He has a broken hand while walking and we blindly trust in his naive madness, which hides, deep down, a very fine sense of rhythm. There is a natural, comical sympathy, of which he knows how to express a lot with just a few words."

Martí Rossell Pelfort
(#NOVAVEU)

"He is Joan Català and his "Idiòfona" is one of those unique travelling shows, insofar as it adapts to each occasion that occurs in the public space where it is performed. And it seeks the complicity of all the spectators (who, with nervous laughter, are divided between 50% adult embarrassment and 50% childish enthusiasm)".

Ander Zurimendi
(Terrassa journal)

"... Don't be fooled by his workman's smock and his man-on-the-street moustache: Català knows how to interact equally well with both iron and people, and manages to amaze young and old, programmers and "normal" spectators, which is no easy task. Hardness and fragility, connection and harmony, play and poetry of the elements"

Oriol Puig Taulé
(ARA.CAT journal)

Synopsis

"Idiòfona is an attempt to make light of toughness, to find harmony amidst noise, and to build a common vibration. It is an ode to the pleasure of shared experience."

Those of you who are not musicians or students of the subject may not know what an idiophone is. This word lends the present show its name, and refers to instruments which produce sound through the vibration of instrument itself, without the use of strings.

Idiòfona is a conversation between man and material, during which an extensive sound installation is built in a public space with the participation of the audience.

Idiòfona, is a metallic-poetic odyssey of a destiny cast in iron, of a born explorer fleeing from the path imposed on them. Idiòfona tells of their betrayal of tradition in order to forge another, their own.

Joan Català

For Joan Català, the stage is a space in which human, object and environment interact, and work and play come together through craft, ideas and experiences. With a lifelong passion for sport, he has specialized in fine arts, the circus, contemporary dance and gestural theatre.

Since 2005, he has worked in different theatres and at festivals around the world with the companies Daraomai, Circus Klezmer, Los 2Play and Cia. Mudancès-Àngels Margarit.

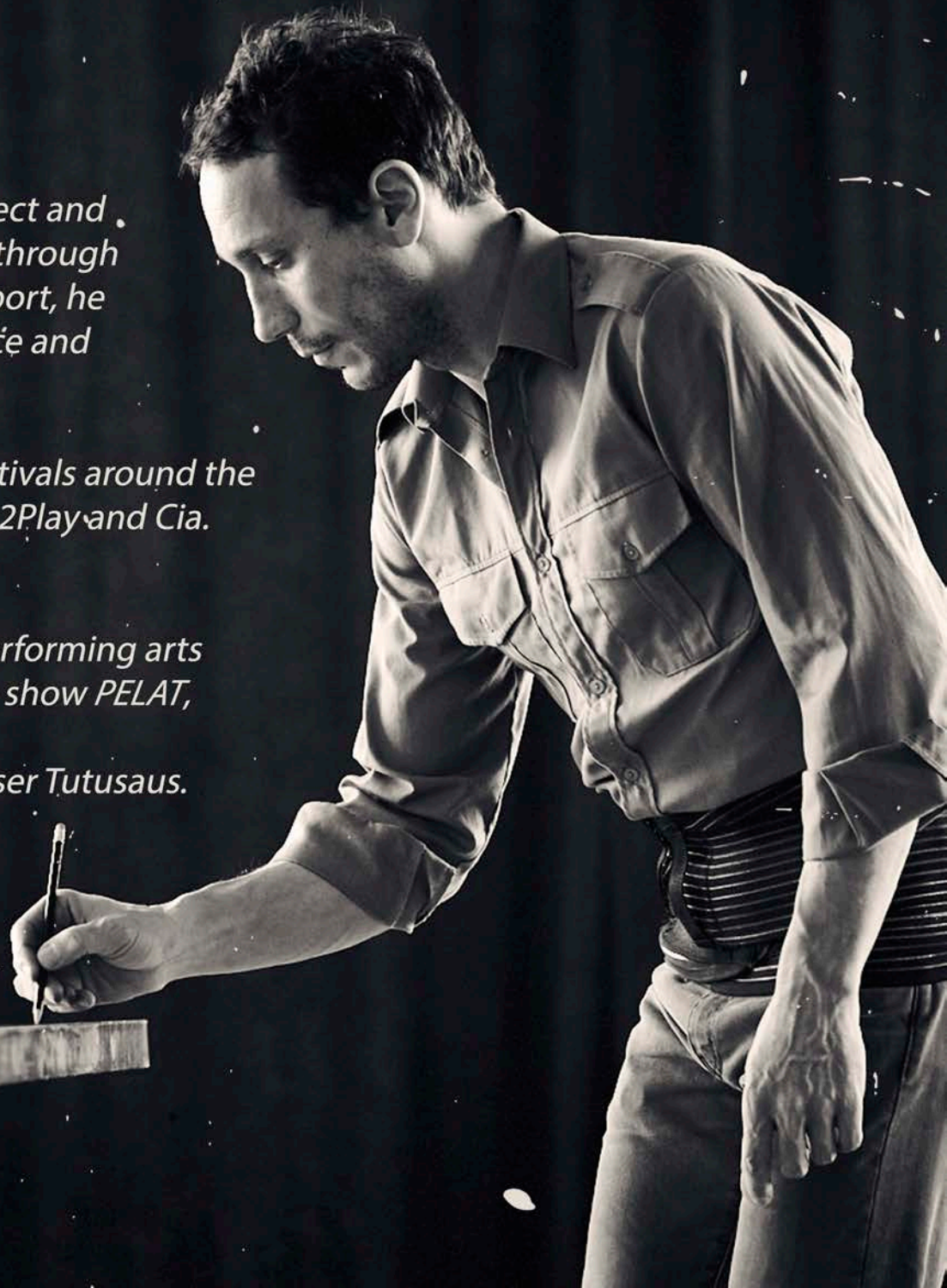
In 2012, he began developing his particular vision of a performing arts designed for the street and urban environments with the show PELAT, which is still being performed around the world in 2023.

In 2016 he premiered Menar, a two-person show with Roser Tutusaus.

In 2021, he premiered 5,1'00 m/s.

In 2023, he premiered IDIÒFONA.

He has served as an artistic advisor to various companies, focused particularly on the arts of movement.



Credits

IDEA, DIRECTION. Joan Català.

INTERPRETATION. Joan Català.

DRAMATURGICAL AND ACTING ASSESSMENT. David Climent, Claudio Stellato.

STAGE DESIGN. Joan Català.

SOUND DESIGN. Joan Cot.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT. Belén Eleonori.

COSTUME DESIGN. Belén Eleonori and Joan Català.

THANKS TO. Iván Tomasevic, Matteo Frau, Rubén Martínez, Quim Bigas, Pau Rodríguez, Leandre Ribera, Belén Eleonori.

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COL-LABORATION. L'Animal a l'esquena, Artesorio 147, Cultura Mataró-Can Gassol, Ajuntament de Cardedeu, Convent de les Arts-Alcover, La Peixera Cardedeu, Teatro da Didascalía.

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teaser

