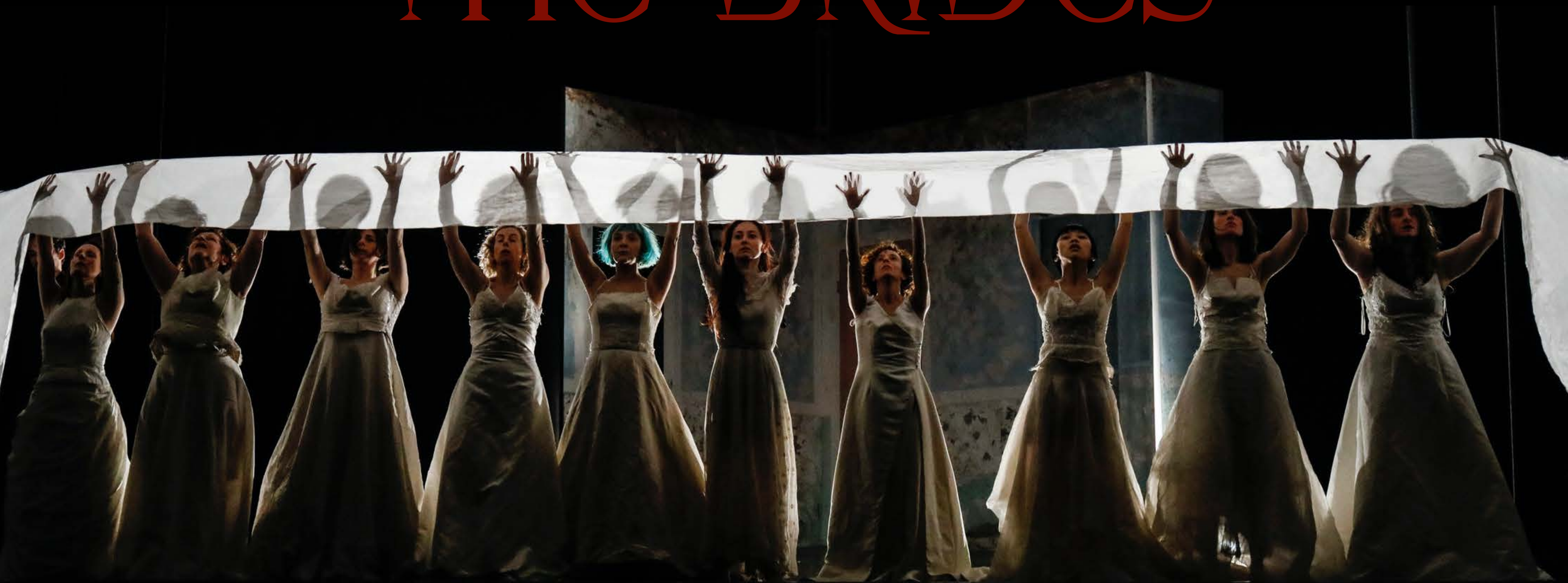


DAVID GLASS
ENSEMBLE

THE BRIDES



a cultural movement.

Theatre, Learning, Activism, Celebration

"Born in our beautiful home of Siena Italy through the experiences, passion and vitality of our community of women artists , we see The Brides International as a gift , a cultural movement, celebrating women around the world , in all their extraordinary expressions , using performance ,celebration , learning and the power of the digital world to amplify and grow the vital interconnected place women hold at this time of great change when the feminine principle of renewal and nurturing is needed more than ever. The Brides is truly a necessary movement for our time!"

Margherita Fusi and Silvia Priscilla Bruni founders of The Brides Project.

**DAVID GLASS
ENSEMBLE**

INTRODUCTION

From an originating idea by Margherita Fusi, Silvia Bruni an extraordinary community of female performers in Siena Italy, David Glass has reworked and developed The Brides into a spectacular piece of physical theatre. The Brides vividly exploded onto the Rozzi Theatre Siena wiping away the cobwebs of what theatre should be in a electric, vital, exuberant and powerfully visceral celebration of Women and the feminine principle. Such was the success of the piece and popular universality of the theme and its expression and workshop, that the project has spread to China, Singapore and most recently the UK.

It is envisaged to develop The Brides in a number of partner countries that David Glass Ensemble-UK and Europe -work with Greece, Denmark Japan and USA whilst continuing to grow the project in Italy, UK, Singapore and China.

The Brides cultural movement has four main strands:

The Brides physical theatre production. Hugely popular , entertaining and as with productions like Stomp and Blue Man Group uses physical theatre dance and music as its universal language.

The Brides Workshop. A wrap around “pollinating” workshop that has grown out of the theatre games, explorations , physical theatre techniques and experiential Navajo University forum practice of David Glass.

The Brides Symposiums. Attached to the performance productions and workshops would be creative symposiums of learning , exchange, exploration and celebration especially relevant at this time of rebirth and renewal and when the feminine principle of nurture over destruction is vital.

An Interactive Digital archive and learning centre that grows as the various projects around. The world grow through networks, workshops and research.

A virtual celebration of the voices , creativity and culture of women globally.

In this way it is hoped that The Brides as a provocative, joyous and celebratory ‘brand’ will find the widest audience Nationally and Internationally and develop learning strands that will empower women – and men-of all ages to explore, learn, profile and celebrate Women in all their extraordinary creativeness, expressiveness , passion and strength.



SILVIA BRUNI



Actress, performer, storyteller and theatre teacher, started studying theatre when she was a teenager, gaining her diploma in Commedia dell'Arte at the Accademia l'Avogaria in Venice. While researching and deepening pantomime with Maria Claudia Massari, assistant to Marcel Marceau, and puppetry with Famille Floz, Silvia Priscilla feels the need to tell stories, mixing up traditional fairytales with real ones. After studying with the famous storyteller and performer Marco Paolini, she developed her own storytelling style: a social and intimate voice to be shared thanks to a community vision and practice, as well as through the tools of fairytales, framed in a natural environment.

In her Theatre/Nature method Silvia Priscilla mixes up storytelling, mask construction and use, kitchen and food as tools to express and communicate, oral Italian and German tradition, physical and devised theatre, basic knowledge of natural environment.

Over the years Silvia Priscilla has been studying and deepening theatre improvisation and impro matches, performing many shows both for children and adults and applying improvisation methods to her special storytelling technique.

Over the last four years Silvia Priscilla has been, together with Margherita Fusi, co-president of Topi Dalmata company, teaching to over 500 people of all ages, from primary schools to elderly people. The company has been awarded prizes and fundings for intergenerational and community theatre.

Focusing on female empowerment over many years, Silvia Priscilla, together with Margherita Fusi, conceives a new storytelling project about the role of the bride and of women in Italy. After devising and performing for a couple of years, the project is renewed and deepened after the meeting with David Glass. Now "The Brides" is both a physical theatre performance and a broader project aiming to involve women from all over the world, mixing their voices and expressions with an Italian community approach to theatre and sharing.

Silvia Priscilla is an associate artist of the David Glass Ensemble and facilitator, as well as responsible, for the AB project.

MARGHERITA FUSI



Actress, dramaturg, theatre director and teacher, gained her diploma in Teatro2 school in Siena. After deepening Stanislavsky method with Russian teacher Natalia Gorchova, she studied contemporary theatre with both Italian and international mentors, such as Serena Sinigaglia, Pippo Delbono, Jean Paul Denizon. In 2010, together with musician and performer Alberto Massi, she founded Topi Dalmata company, then joined by Silvia Priscilla Bruni. Topi Dalmata is specialized in devised contemporary theatre as well as in theatre for children; in 2014 they started theatre courses (about 500 students in 2017-2018) conceiving educational projects aimed to youth empowerment, integration, intergenerational exchange, development of skills and expression. Since the beginning, Topi Dalmata aims to build a special relationship with the audience, involving people in a deeper connection with performers. In this view they open a small theatre in their apartment, thus allowing artists to get in contact and to really speak with their audience through shared meals after or before the show in a familiar place which is home. They have been organizing for five years the contemporary theatre festival Teatropia, then transformed in a permanent theatre season hosting both external companies and courses final shows.

The company works in permanent connections with main regional cultural and educational institutions, as well as with David Glass Ensemble, promoting international networks and exchanges with Italy.

DAVID GLASS



David Glass is an award winning solo performer, theatre director, writer, designer, lighting designer, filmmaker, teacher and creative thinker. He is Artistic Director of the David Glass Ensemble, Lead Creative Practice and Leadership Trainer for the UN and Senior Foreign Consultant on Creativity to the Ministry of Education China.

He trained at the Lecoq School of Physical Theatre.

He is a leading international theatre teacher and has taught and influenced three generations of theatre makers in 73 countries. He has influenced industry leaders such as Tom Morris (War Horse) and John McGrath (Artistic Director of Manchester International Festival) and has been influential in shaping the creative lives of performers such as Emma Thompson, Kathrine Hunter, Anna Marie- Duff, Sarah Parrish and Gong Lee. For fifteen years David helped shape arts policy and delivery for both the Arts Council of England (1988-1992) and The British Council as a consultant and panel member.

In 1999 he established David Glass Ensemble and has toured productions to 32 countries, including Mervyn Peake's Gormenghast that won him the TMA Best Director Award in 1992. He spearheaded theatrical adaptations of films including Les Enfant de Paradis with Mike Alfreds and Fellini's La Dolce Vita, as well as the first ever stage adaption of Popeye and a celebrated version of Paul Theroux's Mosquito Coast. His Lost Child Trilogy broke the mould of how theatre could be made. It was a collaboration with over 6000 street children in 22 countries. And his return to performance in 2004 with Disembodied co-created with Tom Morris, changed the map of physical performance. With The Chimp That Spoke, David spent two weeks with chimps that spoke American Sign Language, creating a work ahead of its time around the theme of ecocide.

In 1997 he founded the ground-breaking Lost Child Project working with over 10,000 street children in 22 countries and established the first Centre For Creative Development with VBNK in Cambodia. It was in Cambodia that he wrote his five stage Creative Practice book which is now used worldwide to help organisations such as Save The Children, UNICEF, UN/ILO

Recent productions include an Bleak House (UK Tour), a visually powerful adaptation of Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451, Requiem for Change, inspired by Naomi Klein's seminal work on capitalism and climate change- This Changes Everything..

In 2021, David and the Ensemble established the Alchemy of the Extraordinary: Creative Practice and Innovation studies in Athens with the vision of creating the theatre and digital arts mavericks of the future.

JULIAN CROUCH



Julian Crouch is an independent director, designer, writer, maker, teacher, illustrator and musician, whose career has spanned theatre, opera, ballet, film and television. Initially a mask and puppet maker and with much of his life based in London, in the mid- 1990's he co-founded London's Improbable Theatre Company. Improbable's productions have gained far-reaching national and international recognition. Julian co-created, co-directed and designed the multi-award winning Shockheaded Peter. His opera work has included set design and associate direction for Satyagraha at the ENO and The Met Opera, and staging the 125th Gala for the Met. On Broadway Julian designed The Addams Family Musical and Big Fish. More recently Julian co-directed and designed Jedermann for the Salzburg Festival. His recent set design for Hedwig And The Angry Inch on Broadway earned him a Tony Nomination. This year he designed The Merry Widow for the Met Opera, Le Petit Prince for Lausanne Opera and Mackie Messer for the Salzburg Festival.

THE BRIDES PRODUCTION

David Glass Ensemble(UK/Europe) and Topi Dalmata (Italy)

Nine Women awaken in plastic bridal bags wrapped in their placenta like bridal gowns in the 'Palace of Survival. Watched over by the nurturing and terrifying Death Bride we see the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter of a womans life.

The Brides is a riot of delicacy, misbehaviour, tenderness and power, of love, greed and of course, death and rebirth.

"The Brides is beautiful, hilarious and monstrous. The love child of Pina Bausch and The Marx Brothers. Mama Mia and Garcia Lorca. Bugs Bunny and Frida Kahlo. Physical and visual theatre at its best. "

Director David Glass



WORKSHOP

Celebrating Women everywhere.

Created by Margherita Fusi, Sivia Bruni and David Glass

A three to five day intensive experiential workshop exploring, celebrating and expressing all that it is to be a Woman. Based on a collaboration between the David Glass Ensemble and the Brides Collective from Siena Italy, this workshop is an immersive, passionate and participatory way of entering the Brides beautiful, tender, powerful and visceral world. And all done with that passionate stylish panache that is the signature of Italian Culture.

The workshop will explore through Drama, Dance, Singing, Art and Play the various ages of the woman. From Childhood, Adolescence to Maturity and Old Age .

Pleasure, Struggle, Desire, Fertility, Work, Marriage, Divorce, Love and Death will all be explored and celebrated. Using the personal stories of the participants, songs, dream imagery and experiences. Inspired by some of the great 20th Century Female Artists such as Pina Bausch, Frida Kahlo ,Simone De Bouvoir and Nina Simone the workshop seeks to celebrate the the voices of Women of all ages. For everyone female identifying and men who like to dress up!

Designed as a co-creation with David Glass Ensemble's partners from Italy The Brides Collective

If you are a Young Woman, Mother, Professional Female or Elder Women, this is an experiential creative workshop unlike anything you may have done before.



SYMPOSIUM AND DIGITAL PLATFORM

Symposium and Interactive Digital Platform for Female Creativity

Along with The Brides Production and Workshops is a Symposium on Women, Performance and Creative activism. Developed alongside festivals, Universities and celebrations of women's theatre and performance.

A Digital Archive and Interactive Platform is being developed through the ongoing 'pollination' of thoughts, imagery, experience and art The Brides Movement has begun and will continue to grow.

"This is exactly the sort of groundbreaking, thrilling, hilarious, entertainment we need right now. Lifting the veil on wedded bliss"

- Caroline Quentin, British Actress & Writer



WORLD RESPONSE



"... an incredible flow of energy overwhelming you" (Monica, audience)

"original, provocative, unusual: I loved it!" (Flavio, audience)

"A stunning expression of feminine power" (Il Cittadino, Siena)

"Disturbing, suggestive, powerful" (La Nazione)

"Full of dynamic, and challenging, movement and passion."

"Absolutely loved it from the mise en scène to choreographies! Fantastic production, congratulations to the actors & crew!"

"Wonderfully produced, beautiful in depth and art and of course sinister (in a good way!)"

"Visually Stunning- Thought Provoking-"

"I am so impressed by the cast's physical ability to do a one hour show of movement and expression."

"A fluid dive into the many identities of a bride and a woman. Moving in more ways than one!"

" It is a magical yet dark world into the state of the feminine."

"It was intense."

"Very entertaining! Loved it!"

"A truly beautiful piece."

"I loved the dynamism and the incredibly expressive cast."

Singapore September 2021

CONTACT

For more information, please get in touch with

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**DAVID GLASS
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