

The Belly of the Whale

« *History growls, it gnashes its teeth. We cannot change it, embellish it, or make it more just. We cannot look at it without revulsion. But we can recount it through the eyes of the defeated, we can rewrite it with the words of the feeble.*

History pushes, it shoves. It crouches only when pain is passed down, when Time hands over its hunger and its dreams- when yesterday invents its future ».

With

Daniele Bernardi, Simone Martino, Damian Soriano, Carlo Verre, Freddy Virgolini

Costumes

Antonella Jemma

Stage design

Teatro delle Radici

Collaboration

Maria Porter

Assistant director

Bruna Gusberti

Written and directed by

Cristina Castrillo

Usually represented as a place of solitude, the belly of the whale is the penultimate environment in which one is sequestered to measure one's own strengths, to engage in self reflection, and to either triumph over or to succumb to oneself- ultimately reducing the self to nothing.

It is a belly : trench, or tomb, or bed. A belly : prison or nest.

And it is in this place, desolate, still, that the five protagonists must work ; carrying out the daily task imposed upon them of burying the dead.

Relationships unravel because of insincere alliances and weaknesses which they recognize in themselves. Roles are easily reversed : the weakest can strike the most violent blow and aggression gives rise to gestures of infinite sweetness.

There are alone, because it is when one is alone that questions arise, but each needs the other, because each one has within an important piece of the other, and because each will be for the other the duty which must be fulfilled.

Penetrating the path of violence with images that (perhaps without knowing so beforehand) speak of war, *The Belly of the Whale* has emerged as a common need to reflect on aspects of Man's desolation and cruelty.

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Technical card

Stage

Ideal space 9-10 m of width / 9-10 m of depth / 4 m of height

Minimal space 7 m of width / 7 m of depth / 3 m of height

Black backstage. Good view for the public (if possible slightly lifted).

It's important the view of the stage floor.

Lights

17 of 650 or 1000 Watt. 12 independent channels.

Sound

CD player . CD player and the control of the lights should be close.

Elements to be found at place

Recycled cutted paper or straw to fill 35 jute sacks. The company bring the sacks.

Staff

1 technician of light an sound while setting up

Set up time

7 hours to get up / 2 hours to get out

Performance time

1 hour and 17 minutes