

Le festival de théâtre "Aux Actes Citoyens" est un découvreur de talents, on le sait. Souvenez-vous au mois de mai dernier, nous avons invité Elena Serra, qui fut entre autres pendant 15 ans l'assistante du mime Marceau, à présenter à Tomblaine son nouveau spectacle "Perfomime".



Nous vous avons prévenus : la création se faisait à Tomblaine, c'était une première mondiale. Nous avons proposé à Éléna Serra de jouer ce spectacle sous la magnifique montgolfière de Bruno Lovadina ce metteur en scène italien. C'est Carlo Boso qui un jour m'avait présenté Elena et quelques années plus tard Bruno Lovadina, rencontré dans les rues de Padoue, alors que j'étais avec Carlo...

Elena et Bruno ne se connaissaient pas, ça a été une belle rencontre à Tomblaine. Et bien, sachez que ce beau spectacle créé à Tomblaine a fait son chemin, puisqu'il a pris le nom de "tais-toi et bouge !" et Éléna Serra a été invitée à le présenter cet été en Indes, lors du premier festival de mime en Indes, où elle a triomphé devant un millier de spectateur.



Même si Éléna Serra ne doit ce succès qu'à son talent, on est ravi, à Tomblaine, d'avoir participé à cette belle aventure.
Hervé Féron.



Steps of silence

Artiste and teacher Elena Serra shares the joy of conveying emotions without words

BY NEERAJ MURTHY

The greenhouse of Ravindra Bhavsra becomes a stage for renowned mime artist and teacher Elena Serra. Seated comfortably on a chair, she adjusts her hair and combs her lips to make strange sounds. "Vroom, daah, phoooo, nassay" she utters, moving her hands animatedly. She is recreating the busphand traffic situation in the city. "Hyderabad is nice but the street and traffic is not," she smiles. Elena was in city for the Mimic's International Festival, presenting a solo show and as one of the teachers at a three-day mime workshop.

Elena, an Italian was 18 when she went to France. A dancer and artiste, she joined Marcel Marceau in International School of Mime-drama in Paris and after graduation began teaching with Marcel during internships and masterclasses in France, USA, Italy and Japan. "Mime is a universal emotion and movement," she elaborates. For more than 30 years, the stage has been her companion. "Mime moves the body and a performer cannot be on stage. The art is generous and touches everybody's hearts," she shares. In a mime act, the actors are able to communicate without words. "Mime can showcase every emotion, age and imagination, with heart and in silence. One uses text to convey in theatre but mime is about silence and movement. There could be few words but one has to feel the movement from inside."

When Elena saw a Charlie Chaplin movie, she was instantly attracted to his act. It made her cry and smile at the same time. She even tried to be like the legendary actor. "Artists who are able to make the audience experience happiness and sorrow at the same time cast an impression and create real emotions," she says. Besides being a mime artiste and teacher, she also acts in French and Italian stage shows as a comedian. Does it help if a mime artist knows dance too? "Knowing dance makes the movement easy but the danger is artistes might just be dancing on stage. Mime is being aware and in control of one's body and movement. Mime includes acting and dancing but much more than that." One often sees mime artists painting their faces white and making different gestures. "It is not art but an animation," she remarks. "Everybody thinks mime is not a big art form. It is big - like puppetry, dancing, jazz or music."

A mixed group at her workshop listens attentively when she explains how to create an illusion of transforming into different characters with basic movements. "This is not just about technique as the artiste has to respect the philosophy behind it."

Since 2005, she has been teaching mime and pantomime arts at the Academy of Performing Arts in Paris and Italy and is glad she has been able to make a difference in her 30-year-mime-journey. "In this Mim International festival, I am the only woman among all male artistes. It is tough being a mother and artiste but I strive to go forward not because it is my choice but also to be an inspiration for the next generation."



Making an Impact Elena Serra

BY ARRANGEMENT

EDUCATE AND EXCHANGE

Arusam Madhusudhan is overwhelmed with the response to MIM'art, the International mime festival. "We got 147 application for 25 seats in the workshop and finally we took 40 people," he shares. The three-day festival includes workshops and performances with a participation of groups from nine states and two countries. "The intent behind organising the festival is to educate and exchange. When I started out, I did not have avenues to learn. I wanted this to be a platform to see and learn and also help artistes to exchange their knowledge. We hope to inspire with the new acts and styles presented in the festival. We want to make people happy and also touch their hearts through art."