



PALS

by **Leandro Mendoza Artagaveitia**

Cíclicus Company



Pals is a contemporary circus show staged by **Cíclicus**. This show has been created and directed by the company's current director Leandro Mendoza Artagaetia.

It has been coproduced with the 2015 Grec Festival of Barcelona, the Buenos Aires Polo Circo, the Department of Culture of the City of Buenos Aires and Cíclicus.

Cíclicus is a Spanish circus company created in 2008 by Tanja Haupt and Leandro Mendoza. Their first show called **Cíclicus** was in reduced format, directed by Joan Busquets and interpreted by the company founding members themselves. This show was on tour throughout Spain for 5 years. Currently the company is staging **Pals**, created and directed by Leandro Mendoza. The show includes 7 circus artists, a female singer and a musician on stage. The music was composed by Nacho López.

Story line

A travelling company bids its last farewell to one of its members by performing contemporary circus acts in a rural setting. The ideas of change and transformation inspired this show.

Sinopsis

A group of artists of a travelling circus have suffered a loss: one of its members has died. To accept his absence and to express their grief they will pay homage to the missing artist and to his transformation into ashes that symbolise his metamorphosis.

They must look for a place where to deposit the ashes of the missing member so that he may find his way and become part of Nature again. In this ritual tribute all kinds of inventions come into play suggesting a constant dialogue of change and transformation.

Some elements of the rural setting will turn into harmonic geometrical pieces that will enable them to build a merry-go-round from which to contemplate dusk.

The moment has come to scatter the ashes into the air on fertile soil, far from the hands of his brothers, in eternal embrace with Mother Earth.

Leaflet Text

To travel seeking a place where to make a new start, together, as always with the harmony that stems from understanding. Far beyond life, the memory. Memory is the vivid essence of everything we share, the spirit that prevails in every gesture we make together. To pay homage to death is undoubtedly to honour life. Everything that remains “all is a whole, and the cycle starts once again”. In this way, a group of artists, a company, a troupe or simply us, have decided to accompany one of our brothers, a twin soul, a friend, a companion, a loved one, a presence in his last journey.

Characters

Pals characters are primitive, uncouth and universal, with their values deeply rooted into the origins. They have a strong connection with the environment –air, water, wind, animals, stars- that society would later contaminate and atrophy.

Several generations come together on stage to explain the same story from the impulsive look of the young to the appeased perspective of the old. It is a reflection of the nomadic life of a traditional circus where all the family works in and out stage.

The gesture and drama of the characters, the research on movement (both individual and choral) with equipment will constantly reflect a wide range of emotions in a dramatic situation seeking the empathy with audience.

Set design

Pals is set in a simple and natural visual universe, empty but also warm, taking advantage of the geometry of circus equipment as a natural landscape tool.

Lighting on the stage will also be an essential tool to cover the vastness and shortness of the story, looking for sunlight shades in the course of a journey.

Wardrobe will have a very natural approach, using mainly leather and hemp ropes, with an effective design for the mobility of circus techniques as well as looking contemporary, basic and beautiful.

Set design will be made of simple wood sticks and trolley wheels that will be assembled and unassembled in different geometrical structures to draw a landscape set as well as being used as equipment for circus disciplines. Equipment made with sticks will be anchor free, using a clear space of 9 meters x 9 meters wide and 7 meters high.

Contact and promotional videos

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Telephones

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Promotional videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeoLygOkvkM>

<http://youtu.be/Ca7xAdbUXNc>

Pals interview to Leandro Mendoza/ Ramón Simó

http://youtu.be/JWi_jZAlkqY

Full artistic specifications

Show:	PALS
Company:	CÍCLICUS
Idea,playwriting and direction:	Leandro Mendoza
Assistant director:	Joan Arqué
Cast:	Asvin López Echarri Irene Estradé Niubó Itziar Castro Joel Martí Melero Miguel Ángel Fernández (Tinga- Tinga) Miguel Ángel García Tanja Haupt Nacho López
Music conductor:	Angelo Mahenzane, Flor Inza, Isabelle
Musicians:	Laundebach, Jaume Fite, Augusto Macri, Sasha and Gastón Rodríguez
Set Design:	Leandro Mendoza
Lighting:	Cube.bz
Costume design:	Mariel Soria
Choreography coaching:	Fátima Campos and Mónica Alsina
Cast coaching:	Piero Steiner
Production:	Laia Alzueta and Gebra Serra

Produced by



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The director

Leandro Mendoza Aragaveitia is a stage manager, artist, technician and circus designer.

He began his training in the Escuela de Circo Criollo de los Hermanos Videla de Buenos Aires and later took specific courses on classical circus from well-known teachers and artists as Pablito Ortaines, Mario Pérez and José Machete.

He moved to Catalonia and began performing in street entertainment shows in 1998. At that time, he joined the teaching staff of the Escuela Rogelio Rivel in Barcelona and continued training as an acrobat.

His most important teachers in Catalonia have been Joan Armengol i Moliner, Vicente Espinosa and Joan Busquets Portera.

He has taken part in various shows as a circus artist, especially as a juggler , acrobat and acrobat cyclist. Among these shows we can mention: "Tiempo de Circo ", "Clan Babel ", "La historia de un soldado", "Sonidos de Circo " and "Juegos con Mazas " .

In 2001, he started the Curtcirckit Festival in the village of Montgat and throughout ten seasons shared its artistic management with José Antonio Hernández (Joselito). In 2002 he contributed in the creation of the Cortocirquito Company. "Los tontos en tiempo de circo" show is created and with it he goes on national and international tours for 4 years with over 100 performances.

For a period of 3 years he works and settles in a residence for circus companies called La Vela located in the village of Vilanova i La Geltrú. During his stay there he creates jointly with Bienve Moya the Christmas Circus .

He became a member of the board of the APCC (Association of Circus Professional People) when the Culture Department of the Generalitat (Catalonia's autonomous government) implemented a Comprehensive Plan for circus activities between 2007 and 2011.

In 2009, he created together with Tanja Haupt the Ciclius Company that would produce the show Ciclicus directed by Joan Busquets. This show

was performed in festivals, theatres, squares and schools with over 100 performances.

Between 2011-2012 he became artistic director of La Central del Circo. A factory of creativity which was founded by Barcelona's Cityhall and managed by the APCC. His tasks included designing and selecting the programmes for circus artists in creative residences, programming training courses and supervising laboratories of creativity.

He has also played an important role linking artists and little known companies with the cultural sector in Catalonia, or with European circus cooperation networks and potential exhibitors such as: TNC (Catalonia's National Theatre), Mercat de Les Flors, The Grec Festival, and various international festivals held in Brazil, Argentina, France and the U.K. etc.

His latest works include the artistic direction of the show "Retalls". This show was coproduced with the Grec Festival of Barcelona in July and was given an excellent review.

He took over the artistic direction of the international Cabaret of the Mercé 2013 which featured 11 artists who came from Japan, the U.S.A., Germany and Canada.

He has also acted as advisor of circus movements in the play "Baile de Títeres" directed by Ramón Simó. This play was produced and shown in the TNC from December 25, 2012 to January 22, 2013.

Later with the Ciclicus Company he created and directed the street show "La Tartana" which was released in the Muestra de Teatro de Calle de Igualada in 2014.

The creation and direction of the show "Pals" has been his latest challenge.

Cast

Asvin López Echarri

Acrobat, trapeze artist and mast specialist. He was trained in the Rogelio Rivel School and has worked for various circus companies. He has created his own company called “Estropicio” which has been on tour for many years.

Joel Martí Melero

Tightrope walker. He was trained in the French schools of Balthazar, Samovar and Lido in France. He is currently performing the circus act “Crazy” in a circus called Circo Afilado. Formado en las escuelas francesas Balthazar, Samovar y Lido de Francia, actualmente actua con su número “Crazy” de Circo Afilado.

Miguel Ángel Fernández (TingaTinga)

Clown, verticalist, acrobat and magician, he has been in the circus for 50 years, working for several seasons in traditional circuses and touring Europe and Latin America with his shows.

Itziar Castro

Film, theatre and television actress, singer, she has lately been in “**Taboo**” cabaret buslesque, “**Subterranea**”, “**Sobrevivir a las bombas**”, GREC 2013 or “**Ball de titelles**” at TNC Theatre, and in “**Las brujas de Zugarramurdi**” film. She works regularly for “**Crackovia**” TV series.

Tanja Haupt

Actress and multi-instrumentalist musician, she plays chromatic and diatonic accordion, saxophone, alto-tenor-soprano and bamboo, tuned bells, bici-bass drum, tuned glasses, musical hand saw, and others. She has been a member of **Circus Roncalli**, **Circus Klezmer**, **Comediants**, **Cíclicus Company**, **O Jarbanzo Negro**, etc.

Nacho Flores

Tightrope walker, he has been Revelation Artist in Cirque de Demain Awards 2012 with his show Tesseract (tightrope walker on wooden cubes). He has also been an artist in several shows like AAART and Cabaret de Circ in Barcelona MERCE Festival.

Irene Estradé

Acrobat and rope artist, she trained in **Rogelio Rivel School** (Bcn) and **Zofi** (Switzerland). She has been a member of “**AAART!!**” Show in Circ d’Hivern de l’Ateneu Popular de 9 Barris (Bcn), “**Circus Klezmer**”, “**Call Me Maria**” and “**René y Sambasilio**” (Best Street Show in Zirkolika Awards 2010).

Miguel Ángel García

Actor and acrobat, has worked with several musical companies as in theatre and circus like **Volátiles, Trapelles, Más Tumàcat, On-Stage, Los Villalba**. He has been an artist of “**Combinat 32 de circ**” in Ateneu Popular de 9 Barris (Bcn).

Nacho López - original music

Multi-instrumentalist and musical composer of circus acts and shows over more than 20 years. He has worked in **Kran Circus, Roncalli Circus, Cíclicus Company**. He is the creator of **Circonautas**.

