

The catalan contemporary performing arts today¹

This document provides a series of links to publications and websites about the contemporary performing arts in Catalonia today². Before the start of the IETM Girona Satellite Meeting, we encourage you to take a look at them to become familiar with the artistic ecosystem you are about to visit.

Written in 2018 by Mercè Saumell, PhD in Art History and contemporary theatre researcher, “[Overview of Theatre in Catalonia](#)” presents a broad overview of the Catalan performing arts, from the beginning of democracy in Spain up to the present. Special attention is given to Girona and other surrounding areas.

In “[A journey through Catalan object theatre](#)”, Tim Sandweg, artistic director of the Schaubude Berlin, answers the question “What makes Catalan object theatre unique on the international scene?”. Meanwhile, in “[Interview to Théâtre Paul Éluard in Choisy-le-Roi directors](#)”, Cécile Le Vaguerèse-Marie and Vanessa Maestre, directors of the Théâtre Paul Éluard de Choisy-le-Roi, explain what interests them about Catalan creation.

The video “[Street Arts in Catalonia: Landscape of Creativity](#)” by Catalan Arts is a thorough presentation of Catalan street theatre and open air performing arts. It also describes the discipline’s most representative festivals and companies. Anna Giribet, artistic director of FiraTàrrrega, gives us her take on street arts in Catalonia in “[The International Success of Ungovernable Street Performance](#)”.

[Fira Trapezi](#) brings us *Poetic memories*, a series of short videos portraying circus companies and artists, their projects and their goals. More about Catalan artists and circus companies can be found in the [online guide to the Catalan circus](#), published by the Association of Catalan Circus Professionals.

[Barcelona’s arts factories](#) are part of a Barcelona City Council programme aimed at transforming old unused industrial buildings into new spaces devoted

to culture and artistic expression. There are a variety of performing arts creation centres and residencies worth mentioning, such as [Nau Ivanow](#) for theatre, [Graner](#) and [La Caldera](#) for dance, and [La Central del Circ](#) for circus. [Sala Becket](#) is an art factory specialised in theatre creation and contemporary playwriting, and its project [Catalandrama](#) contains an extensive online database of Catalan plays translated into other languages.

However, there is a large network of artistic structures committed to contemporary performing arts creation spread throughout Catalonia, not only in the main business centres but also in rural areas. To name just a few festivals and creation centres outside Barcelona: in Les Terres de l’Ebre we have [Eufònic](#), [L’Obrador](#) and [Deltebre Dansa](#); in Girona, there are [L’Animal a l’Esquena](#), [Sismògraf](#) and the performing arts festival and meeting point, [Temporada Alta](#). And we cannot forget [TNT](#) in Terrassa. You will also find strategic markets spread all over Catalonia; these are national and international meeting points for performing arts professionals, spaces for reflection and exchanges that showcase the most recent creations. The entire territory buzzes with energy thanks to festivals like [Fira Tàrrrega](#), [Fira Mediterrània](#), [Mostra d’Igualada](#) and the previously mentioned Trapezi.

In order to increase people’s awareness of the sectors and disciplines within the Catalan performing arts, the Generalitat de Catalunya Ministry of Culture has worked with industry stakeholders to develop a series of strategic and promotional plans to further the impact of the disciplines both at home and abroad. These include the [Catalan Plan for Dance](#), the [Circus Promotion Plan](#) and the [Plan for the Performing Arts and Music for All Publics](#).

Enjoy reading!

¹ A proposal from Toni González, IETM member.

² This selection of references is intended to provide the professionals attending a brief general guide to the performing and live arts in Catalonia. It was not our desire to exclude anyone but to simplify the approach to make it more accessible.