

SEARCHING THE SUN



Coproduced by **Binixiflat** and **Rocamora Teatre**.
Created in collaboration with the NGO "**Veterinarians Without Borders**" (Spain).

PEDAGOGIC DOSSIER

SEARCHING THE SUN

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DESCRIPTION

Medium-format show for two actors and puppets of different techniques, the main one the top rod puppet. For children or families and all audiences. Interior or exterior.

CREDITS

Original idea: **Biel Porcel**

Written and directed by: **Biel Porcel** and **Carles Cañellas**

Design and construction of puppets and props: **Carles Cañellas** and **Biel Porcel**

Puppets dressmaking: **Susanna Rodríguez** and **Roser Pou**

Design and construction of scenery: **Biel Porcel**, **Carles Cañellas** and **Ricard Torrentó**

Musical environments: **Gerard** and **Ferran Aguiló**

Actors - Puppeteers: **Carles Cañellas** and **Susanna Rodríguez**

A coproduction of the Companies: **BINIXIFLAT** and **ROCAMORA TEATRE**

SYNOPSIS

This is the story of a giant who crossed half the country in search of the sun, stolen by a group of demons and hidden in a cave at the bottom of the sea. During his adventurous journey, he will have to pass many difficulties, which he will overcome with the solidary help of the villages he will encounter.

THE SHOW

Work based on Chinese folk tale of the same title. Using the Sun as a metaphor of well-being, on disappearing, we will see how the different villages are lost everything they had, and the efforts they will make to recover. The puppets talk about the right of all peoples to produce in a sustainable form, respecting the environment and without impositions, foods that want to consume. They explain the importance of working together to overcome the problems and the need to be solidary and helping the neediest people. Thus we work the EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT, introducing the concepts of the RIGHT TO FOOD and FOOD SOVEREIGNTY.

PLOT SUMMARY

In a village inland of China, people live happy and joyful, are neither famished nor living in poverty. However, there comes a messenger who wants to sell their genetically modified seeds -"magical", he says-, that will be the solution to all their "problems": if they only planted these seeds instead of the habitual, he will buy the entire crop and then they will be very rich and could buy exotic and delicious food brought from the other side of the world, and also machines with which they shouldn't work so hard...

But the people, who value tradition and considers satisfied their vital needs with what they have and how it have, they reject it: *"Food is not a commodity; it is necessary and essential to people's lives. We do not want to buy the magic seeds. We have our own, without relying on anyone."*

After a while, the seller becomes and now wants to convince them, as he has done already with all the other villages visited, that will live much better if they use their "miracle" products: *"Chemical fertilizers, which will make the crops grow and grow and grow ... in an instant. Artificial feed, balanced food for livestock, so fattening, fattening and fattening in half the time. And to top it off, the magnificent insecticides to kill all those nasty insects that eat crops with impunity."*

But again the people rejected it: *"No thanks. We do not need any of that. See our green land. See our trees so high. See our animals so healthy..."*

The seller goes away, but he threatens them that it will not end like this: *"When the big boss will know that you are the only ones who do not buy us anything, will be angry too much and you will pay the consequences ... Miserable ignorant..."*

Then, one morning, when the Sun was still below the horizon, a dark and terrible cloud comes from who knows where. The Sun runs its way, but the cloud grows and grows and become so big and huge and covers the Sun. And covers it so well, that being day ... seems like it was at night.

Without the sun, the cold and darkness reigns. People gathered decide to send someone to consult the Golden Phoenix. The Wonderful Bird that makes rise the Sun every morning and is reborn from its ashes to make it reappear the next day.

Liu Xu is offered voluntary. Then the Magic Bird lets know that Yao Mo Wang, the king of monsters, the bigger demon, to take revenge on them, he has kidnapped the Sun. He seeing that without Sun they cannot live, with great sadness the man says goodbye to his young pregnant wife. And he goes, in company of the Golden Phoenix, to ask Yao Mo Wang to turn it back. But Liu Xu died in the attempt, and in dying he becomes a star, to indicate the right path all those who, like him, will want to go to search the Sun.

His wife at knowing it, she faints away in pain and gives birth at the same moment. Her son becomes a giant.

Informed of everything and in company of the Golden Phoenix, the giant follows the path that his father started.

He must overcome many obstacles and on the road arrives in a first village where they explain him how to disgrace them came before of disappear the Sun: *"A messenger came in a chariot of lights and music. He sold us a magic seeds, transgenic. He told us we had to plant those in our best land. If we will cultivate only those, we would be rich. We trusted in him. Unluckily! The plants grew and grew without stopping. But not only the land had been exhausted and already do not was giving anything, but we lost our seeds and we had no money to buy more. We had lost everything. And then we lost the Sun."*

To protect him from the hard cold and while the giant rests, everybody cut a part of the blanket they use to sleep. They sew all the pieces, making for him THE COAT OF THE ONE HUNDRED FAMILIES.

Thanked and warm the giant goes ahead until find another village where they say him they have lost everything: *"Long time ago, we live well with our crops and our livestock. But one day came an emissary, a seller of miracle products, with fertilizers to the land, feed for the animals, insecticides... First we rejected it but he insisted so much, that in the end... To test it, we had used everything. At first those were going fine. The harvests were huge, but we requested so much to the land, than soon was exhausted and for more fertilizers that we added wasn't giving anything. The feed had been fattening the animals, but they began to have strange diseases. Because of insecticides, all birds were killed and began the insect pests, in addition, the air almost could not breathe and the water of our sources could not drink. And then... the Sun disappeared..."*

The next day when the giant is ready to resume his way, they give him a huge bag full of earth, *"Look, we are very poor, we have nothing but each of us have put a handful of dirt from his garden in this sack. Take it, will be very helpful."*

Covered up and loaded, he will have to go through all kinds of vicissitudes and overcome all sorts of tricks which they want to do him various demons. Until he reaches to the East Sea, where is caged the Sun. There, the Bird said to throw, handful by handful, the soil bag in the sea. And from each one will emerge an island that allows jumping from one to another, to reach in the middle of the sea. Then he tries to convince Yao Mo Wang to release the Sun: *"You should know that since the Sun does not rise, people have cold, the trees neither grow nor give fruits, the flowers wither, and as no pastures the animals cannot eat, get sick and die. The Sun is of all us, and you have to return it now."*

But the devil does not want to give in and Bao Xu begins to search the Sun for his account. Yao Mo Wang wants to avoid it and thus began a bloodless struggle, until Bao Xu puts out his head of the water and says: *"I done it! I released the Sun! I removed the great stone that blocked the entrance of the cave. The Sun is free. Phoenix! The Sun can rise again!"* The demon appears behind him and dragging him to the seabed, he shouts: *"We'll both die!!!"*

The Phoenix Bird is submerged and does rise the Sun. On his way back to the exit's village, he finds the villages visited before with Bao Xu that aware of the giant's sacrifice, they say: *"We are recovering us. We are working together to reclaim our land and clean the waters. Never more anybody will impose us what to do with our crops and livestock."* And the next: *"Bird of Happiness, you have brought us the Sun. Bao Xu has done, he was very brave. Here we are right. We help each other. We have found seeds of before and we have replanted it in our gardens. Only us we have the right to decide what we want to plant and what we want to eat. Because everyone must have access to food, in order to lead a healthy and active life. It is our right: The right to food".*

CONTENTS

The purpose of this show is to be a point of reflection on some of the problems of hunger in much of the rural world. Specifically, those that are caused by greed of multinational corporations, which do not see beyond their own interests and to achieve make how much more money, they are capable of anything, regardless the past, the present or the future of peasants and cattle ranchers and all of us. For example, with commercialization and invasive use of transgenic crops, at the expense of traditional crops and seeds rooted in their own culture and which are the most appropriate for their land, for their climate. The promotion of livestock and intensive agriculture based on the indiscriminate use of artificial feeding, chemical fertilizers and insecticides highly polluting, which among other things end up burning their land, polluting the air and water and doing sick animals and the people themselves.

With all this, the peasantry ends up being totally dependent on corporations and working for them. For to pay for the seeds of each new harvest, for to pay feeding enabling them to fatten cattle quickly, etc. Thus, until the environment of the area will deteriorate so that it no longer can do any productive activity neither livestock nor agricultural. They end up losing everything.

Given this, we can only to cooperate and to do good use of natural resources. For the RIGHT TO FOOD and the FOOD SOVEREIGNTY of the people.



"Veterinarians Without Borders" is a non-governmental organization, declared of a public utility in Spain, which was founded in 1987 by a group of students from the Veterinary Medicine Faculty at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. It was born with the aim of helping developing countries through support to rural communities. From those days, VSF has evolved towards a deeper understanding of the problems of developing countries and causes of inequalities. This means that, increasingly, we have gone from replicate the production models of the "developed" countries as a tool to eradicate poverty, to adopt a more political view of the inequality and its causes; this process culminated in 2007 with the decision to integrate all the actions of VSF in the paradigm of **food sovereignty**.

<http://www.vsf.org.es/>

THE PUPPETS AND THE SYMBOLIC PLAY

The puppeteers, with great skill and much practice, they achieves to give the puppets movements and gestures that make them very expressive, so that children "forget" that they are objects and what prevails is their symbolic value, opening in so many educational opportunities.

Through the symbolic representation it can work issues very close to the children, so the puppets sessions are excellent opportunities to act out and resolve internal conflicts of their own age and thus, help children grow.

OBJECTIVES AND CONTENT OF THE DOSSIER

The purpose of this show is to provide a funny theatrical experience, educational and of quality for pupils and teachers due to its complexity and the necessary skills, but of great beauty and interest.

CONTENTS

CONCEPTUAL

- Theater.
- The Puppet Theater.
- To approach the students to the problems of agriculture and livestock.
- Teach them to appreciate the importance of food sovereignty, that is, of the right of all peoples to decide how and what food they want to produce.
- Promote education for the development from a perspective of solidarity and sustainable development.
- Responsible Consumption (review of what we buy, what we eat, etc.).
- To sensitize the students to respect the environment.

PROCEDURAL

- Understand and work the proposed activities prior to the performance.
- Assistance to the presentation of the show "Searching the Sun".
- Observation of what happens on stage.
- Understanding of the situations and the argument of the parts.
- Recognition of the characters.
- Memorization of acts.
- Share the emotions experienced during the execution of the show.
- Resolution of the proposed activities for after the show.

ATTITUDINAL

- Respect for the actors and the companions during the performance.
- Attention and concentration for the understanding of the text and the expressions played.
- Reflection on behavior, goals and interests of the different characters.
- Empathy with the characters of a rural world, to understand their problems and his way of life (For example: pending of weather -sun, rain, cold, wind, etc.-, and the seasons -spring, summer, autumn, winter-, to do jobs that corresponds at the right time, control of animal health, etc.).
- To incentive the ability to express the experimented emotions (happiness, sadness, etc.).
- To promote peaceful and cooperative coexistence.
- Sense of criticism (what they think about the show).
- Sense of humor (What have laughed? Why?).

WORK PROPOSALS

BEFORE YOU WATCH THE SHOW

Comment the synopsis of the show, that they may better understand the meaning of what you will see, omitting details, not to spoil surprises on the day of a performance.

We propose some questions that may be useful to introduce them in various themes:

- What is the title of the work that we will see?
- Why do you think is this title for?
- What would happen to us and the earth if suddenly the sun disappeared?
- If we need the sun to live well, what do you think that would happen if we had neither food nor drink?
- What would you think if we were farmers, and they don't allow us to plant in our land what we need to eat?
- And if we have farm animals to raise, how do you prefer to do it, by giving them healthy food and natural and the time needed to grow healthy, or only artificial feed to fatten them very quickly, although not be so good to eat?

It would be nice that you speak about theater, puppets and marionettes with your pupils. We suggest that you speak of:

- What are the top rod puppets?

Those who they move from above using wires and a rod that comes from the head.

- What are the most popular types of puppets?

Basic technical modalities in Puppet Theater:

- Those who move from below and generally introducing a hand into the puppet:

GLOVE



MAROTTE



MUPPET and ROD



- Those are conducted from behind:

TABLE



BUNRAKU



INTERIOR



and EXTERIOR DIRECT



etc.

- Those who are animated from above by rods, strings or wires:

TOP ROD



and MARIONETTE



- And those who are animated by projecting its shadow, silhouette or transparency on a screen:

SHADOW



(Photos of the exhibition l'EXPOSICIÓ DELS TITELLAIRES CATALANS, which promotes and Commissioner Carles Cañellas)

- How is a puppet-theatre?

On Puppet Theater -according to different techniques-, are used a small theaters, where to move the puppets. Some of them hide the puppeteers and others do not. In this case, the theatre allows seeing also the puppeteers operating the puppets and the different scenic props. It has a frontal lower than the rest and tilted for easy view in the pit of the theater, and is the space where they move mainly the puppets. Behind there is a larger space, with doors from which the puppets do their entrances and exits to the frontal space. Here is where the actors have all material ready for use.

AFTER TO SEE THE SHOW

Try to make a list of all the characters that appeared in the show and comment with them the evolution and meaning in the show.

In order of appearance:

XIAU TSOU: He is the simpleton that represents the innocence that some will want to take advantage. If it weren't for the other villagers, he would buy immediately everything that the seller offered.

LIU XU: The man who at the beginning is about to get married. Who after will be the father of the giant and he is going to seek the sun voluntarily. Who will die in the attempt and will become a star.

PIAO LIANG TE SAN VILLAGE: The village of the Precious Mountain.

The only people who are reluctant to change their lifestyle.

Represents all the villages and people who can appreciate what they have and do not let persuade them with false promises of wealth and prosperity.

HUI NYIANG: She is the young wife of Liu Xu, who will give birth to a child who will become a giant.

With pregnancy, childbirth, and the courage with which he faced the march of her husband and then her son, she represents the efforts and courage of a people to recover the wellness that has been removed them.

PEI XIU: He is the seller, the spokesman of the "agroindustry" and "transgenic".

He represents the manufacturers of products who they want believe us that are "miraculous". He wants to impersonate an emissary of "progress". He is in fact a messenger of the King of Monsters.

THE GOLDEN PHOENIX: The magical bird that according to the Chinese legend every day makes raise the sun and how dies in burning, reborn from the ashes to do it again the next day.

First accompanies Liu Xu and then the son of this to seek the sun. He tries to protect them from the tricks of the demons and he helps the Sun to exit of the cave.

BAO XU: Is the giant, son of Liu Xu and Hui Nyiang. His name means "My jewel".

He is born suddenly, when his mother fainted when she knowing her husband's death.

For the effects of magical winds, is accelerated his growth and learning: He learns to speak immediately, walk and run, and finally grows so much, that becomes a giant.

In himself are concentrated all wills to recover the sun, the lost welfare.

Good people help him with the little they have to get it.

He is an example of solidarity and cooperation.

He is the tenacity of the people, the heir to the path begun by his father, who does not will weaken despite the tricks and difficulties he will find on his way to the Sun.

On ending up dying at the hands of the King of Monsters, once achieved his goal, represents the sacrifice that sometimes needs to be done, and in this case it is because all the others can return to live well.

WAI TAO VILLAGE: It means the village of the coat.

This is the people who buy GM seeds and leaves to plant their seeds to devote themselves only to the soy. Due to monoculture, they deplete the land and longer cannot give more fruit.

As they have no money to buy more seeds and have left those used before, they cannot grow anything else and thus they end up on suffering so much hungry.

TU TAI VILLAGE: It means the village of the dirt sack.

This is the village who buys the "miracle" products. Following the dictates of livestock and intensive agriculture based on indiscriminate use of artificial feeding, chemical fertilizers and insecticides highly polluting, which among other things end up burning their lands, polluting air and water and doing sick animals and the people themselves. So also ends in misery.

OLD WOMAN - DEMON: Devil disguised as old woman to deceive Bao Xu and make go him for a wrong way for which he will never arrive to the East Sea.

FEI PAN JEN: Village of Demons.

That's where are all the emissaries of the King of Monsters, who discover themselves as demons and that attempt to poison Bao Xu, giving him a cup full of blood and they try to convince him to leave aside the Sun, and stay with them who are rich.

YAO MO WANG: He is the King of Monsters, the greatest demon.

He is the one who kidnaps the Sun and has it hidden and he commands the demons and the emissary's sellers.

He represents a very negative values as selfishness, because only thinks of him and his interest, although this causes harm to others. Greed, because there is never enough with what he has and wants ever more, at the expense of whatever it is. Avarice, because he is not willing to share nothing he has. Revenge, because he wants to punish those who do not do what he wants.

**WE HOPE YOU LIKE THE SHOW AND IN THIS DOSSIER YOU CAN
FIND IDEAS FOR TO COULD DEEPEN MORE IN ALL THAT OFFERING.**

Thank you for notify if you find grammatical errors or spelling in the text.

08/2013