



It is obvious that there are mothers and then there are mothers. Mine was a wise woman. I had to spend two years in the hospital, my body was completely burned, holed from shrapnel like a sieve, legs, belly... all my body. My mother only showed the doctors my head and my face. If they had seen my whole body, burned like a war field, they would have told her that it was not possible to cure me and they would have left me, and I would have had to leave the hospital.

That is why my mother, at home, burned pieces of cotton, picked up the ashes and filled the holes of my wounds with them to stop the bleeding, avoid infections and prevent the wounds from catching on my clothes. Every day she would put new ashes. Every day. Having patience is also a way to be wise. As is tenacity. Nobody believed that she would succeed, that I would succeed.

I don't know if she was obstinate, I'd probably say that she had a lot of faith: she was sure that I would be cured, and that I would be able to do a lot of things in my life. And I am doing them, and I will do even more!

Nadia Ghulam

(extract from the introduction from her collection of stories soon to be published)

What is "Nadia"?

Survival – Identity research - Contrast between cultures - Hope in the future

"Nadia" is a documentary theatre piece about the life experience of Nadia Ghulam.

Nadia Ghulam herself performs the play, on the stage together with the company members of La Conquesta del Pol Sud, Carles F. Giua and Eugenio Szwarczer, the same team that travelled to Afghanistan in 2014. The trip is an essential in the creative work of the company.

"Nadia" is also a play about the relationship between cultures built along months of dialogue and deepening.

Who is Nadia Ghulam?



Nadia Ghulam is 27. She was born in Kabul to a middle class family, a "normal" family; a government worker for a father, a housewife for a mother and four siblings: three girls and one boy. During the civil war after the retreat by Soviet forces, she was left wounded and disfigured from a bombing. She was 8 years old. Thanks to her mother's perseverance, through intense suffering and with great consequences, she managed to recover.

Kabul: from Nadia to Zemarai

Afghanistan was – and is – a country destroyed by war. Her family had lost its only son and their father was not well and unable to support them. In the Taliban's Afghanistan, women are forbidden to work and the family had no way to survive. Nadia abandoned her identity as a girl in order to pass as a boy. She was inspired by her brother killed in combat, in Zemarai. She assumed his name and mimicked his behavior. This incredible performance lasted for 10 years of her life.

Barcelona: The building of a future

In 2006, thanks to a program providing international assistance, Nadia was able to leave Afghanistan and come to Europe, to Barcelona, and regain her identity as a woman.

Now Nadia wants to study to be able to help the disadvantaged and, one day, return to her country to assist in its reconstruction.

Nadia is committed to different social projects aimed at educating the public about afghan culture and the plight of women in Afghanistan. Several projects have born out of her experience, including the documentary "Back to Nadia" and the book "El secret del meu turbant" (The secret of my turban), which has been translated into different languages and a book of stories soon to be published.

So far, the play has been performed at:

Madrid, Spain. Fringe Festival 2014.
Barcelona, Spain. Grec Festival 2014
Girona, Spain. Sala Planeta 2015
Viladecans, Spain. Teatre Municipal de Viladecans 2015
Sant Cugat, Spain. Auditori Sant Cugat 2015
Manresa, Spain. Kursaal de Manresa 2015
Badalona, Spain. Teatro Principal de Badalona 2015
Berlin, Germany. F.I.N.D Festival 2015 at The Schaubühne Berlin.
Manizales, Colombia. Festival Internacional de Teatro de Manizales 2015.
Armenia, Colombia. Festival Internacional de Artes de Armenia 2015.
Medellín, Colombia. Teatro el Poblado 2015.
Bogotá, Colombia. Universidad Javeriana 2015.
Badalona, Spain, Commissioned by the European Parliament 2016
Vilafranca, Spain, Commissioned by the Ministry of education of Catalonia.
Berga, Spain, Commissioned by the Ministry of education of Catalonia.
Barcelona, Spain, Nation Theater of Catalonia (TNC) season. 2016

Nowadays, the play keeps touring through Catalonia, Spain and abroad.

The staging







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The company

La Conquesta del Pol Sud is a company formed by Carles Fernández Giua and Eugenio Szwarcer and has a number of regular collaborators with whom we are interested in finding a common line of work.

We are interested in contemporary dramaturgy, which asks relevant questions and requires a challenging study concerning the theatrical language used on a project.

Now we've reached a moment in which we are looking for new forms. We find ourselves more often interested in reality as theatrical material and this brings us to the world of documentary, the world of non-fiction as a space of equilibrium between emotion and debate.

We are interested in exploring how poetry emerges from reality.



Claudia, CCCB, Grec Festival 2016



Claudia, CCCB, Grec Festival 2016



Claudia, CCCB, Grec Festival 2016





Variacions Kraepelin, Sala Beckett 2012



Variacions Kraepelin, Sala Beckett 2012

The Team



Carles Fernández Giua – Director

Has a degree in Law and Theater Direction. After studying Art History and visual arts (sculpture), he chose the theater for the possibility it offers to integrate the different live and plastic arts. In 2009 he created alongside with Eugenio Szwarcer the company La Conquesta del Pol Sud. From its origins, the company's work has explored the connection between many compelling themes of daily life using the Theater as a space for collective debate.



Eugenio Szwarcer – Set and Video Design

Studied in Argentina and Barcelona. Combines set design with video design in numerous productions. The essential themes of his work are the interaction between the action on stage and projected image and the use of space as an expressive element and engine for resistance and movement. Abroad he has recently worked with premier international creators like Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui (Milonga, 2013) and (Shellshock 2014) and in Catalonia he has collaborated with directors such as Carme Portaceli, Joan Ollé, Josep M^a Pou, Toni Casares and Rafel Duran.



Damien Bazin – Sound Design

Studied sound techniques in Paris. His work as a technician started in 1998. Since then he has worked at the Grande Halle de la Villette in Paris, and at the MC93 theater in Bobigny as well as different festivals and cultural conventions in France. In 2002 he did his first work with Carles Santos on “Samaruk, suck, suck” at the Villette in Paris and has since worked regularly with him as a sound designer.



Luis Martí – Light Design

Studied in Barcelona and Valencia. He has worked with the most important directors in the country on a special collaboration at Barcelona's Sala Beckett. He has collaborated with La Conquesta del Pol Sud on different productions including Macbeth, Contra la Democracia, Variacions sobre el model de Kraepelin, producing extremely expressive light designs specifically designed to combine with projected image.



Aina Pociello – Production and International Management

Studied Audiovisual Communication in Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona) and has worked on many film and advertising shootings as an Assistant Director. In 2015 she made a postgraduate course in Production and Cultural Management (UB) and started working with La Conquesta del Pol Sud. Nowadays she is the manager of the Catalan pianist and composer Clara Peya and the director of *Simbiotic Festival* (A Performing Arts Festival for sensorial disabled audiences).

Information

Duration: 80 min.

Language: Catalan or Spanish

Subtitles: English or German

Performers: 3

Nadia is a production from:

Grec Festival Barcelona

CCCB (Centro de Cultura contemporánea de Barcelona)

La Conquesta del Pol Sud

Velvet Events

Contact

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Links

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/122551194>

Making of: <https://vimeo.com/112977055>

Whole Show (catalan): <https://vimeo.com/110867099>