

*Carlos Martínez* Mime actor

The mime actor Carlos Martínez celebrates 40 years on stage

## The Poet of Silence

In black, white gloves, face made up, body language, without words, Carlos Martínez tells stories in silence. For 40 years, this mime has been focusing on the essential, bringing his stories to life on stage.

Born in Pravia, Asturias, in 1955, Carlos Martínez stands out for his attention to the smallest detail as much as to the big gesture: a smile, a slight raise of the eyebrows, an unleashing of mischief, or an expression of pain that runs through the whole body. The white face makeup – a tribute to Marcel Marceau, Ladislav Fialka and Samy Molcho – intensifies his mimicry and exposes his soul. The magic moment? At the end of the performance, when the mask is removed.

For 40 years, Carlos Martinez has silently performed his art on stages all over the world. Never giving in to discouragement in the face of the voices that considered classical mime to be passé, the actor has dedicated himself to researching his own forms of expression, delving into and pushing the techniques of this art beyond its limits. Part of his inspiration comes from his collaborative work with artists from other genres. Throughout these four decades, the actor and his team have developed ten solo shows, performed in theaters in Europe, Africa, Asia and America. His postgraduate thesis on Body Language in Theater is the culmination of a career that places him as a world reference in the field of body language and non-verbal communication, being also a teacher of these disciplines.

His training in mime and drama schools, coupled with a deep conviction that the artist's learning is continuous, that training and body work must be intensive and that technique must be constantly adjusted, are a sign of the on-going development of the actor's capabilities.

His pieces spring from an insatiable curiosity for life in capital letters. They arise from an intense perception, from the observation of detail, as well as from a strong sense of empathy. No wonder '*Pantomime*' means 'to imitate everything'. His great love for acting, his enjoyment of gestural dialogue with the audience, and his fine comedy, achieve a staging that, although executed with enormous precision, flows with apparent ease. Carlos Martínez is a master of wit, capable of showing

us reality from another perspective with just the blink of an eye. The artist's fantasy, wisdom and vision manage to turn silence into space and time. He is a philanthropist and humanist in every sense.

Through an art that can be understood by all audiences, this poet of silence has been addressing life's great themes for forty years: love, hate, courage, despair, failure, hope, honesty, life, death. He advocates respect, defends human rights and, within them, the protection of the environment, demonstrating how much can be said without words ... in an increasingly noisy world.

A performance by Carlos Martínez will not fix the world, but the audience will leave refreshed and their faith renewed in the human condition.

Carlos Martínez celebrates these forty years on stage with his program 'Vitamimo'. The title is a play on words: 'Mimo', for this art form; 'Vitamina', an organic compound that, in this case, nourishes the spirit; and 'Vita', a life dedicated to Mime.

Gaby Weiß, Journalist, Germany

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