

Carlos Martínez Human Rights: A Universal Language for a Universal Theme

The Show:

Human Rights is a new Carlos Martínez mime "solo" based on the articles of the Declaration of Human Rights approved by the United Nations in 1948. In keeping with the very personal style of Carlos Martínez, *Human Rights* is a reflection, which is profound but at the same time provokes a smile. The experience of being human, with all its shortcomings, is transported to a world apart, the stage, where Carlos Martínez brings to life this universal theme.

Human Rights is designed to make the spectator laugh and smile, but at the same time cry, and above all to consider the abyss that exists between the expression of each right and the reality of its fulfilment. Symbol of our hope, but also of our frustrations, *Human Rights* gives evidence to the disproportion between what is written and what takes place day after day, between reality and utopia, between interests and compassion. Humour reveals the incongruence and vulnerability of life. The show opened on the 24th of February 2004 in Le Théâtre du Caveau, Geneva, Switzerland.

The Actor:

Carlos Martínez Álvarez is a Spanish mime actor who has taken his silent art around the globe performing in theatres, schools, churches, civic centres and on television. Mime has given him the freedom to dialogue in places and situations where the spoken word only creates more hurt and confusion. His Mediterranean spirit and humour combined with precise technique and rhythm open up a world of suggestion and provocation, giving glimpses and bringing deeper understanding into what it means to be human.

The Director:

Mercè Saumell received her PhD in the History of Theatre from the University of Barcelona where she specialised in non-textual dramaturgy in Catalonia. Since 2003 she is Head of the Theory and History Department at the *Institut de Teatre* in Barcelona. She has directed two solo shows of Carlos Martínez. Her professional rigor and ability to motivate constantly challenge the actor to reach further and push the limits of mime to engage in new dimensions of expression.