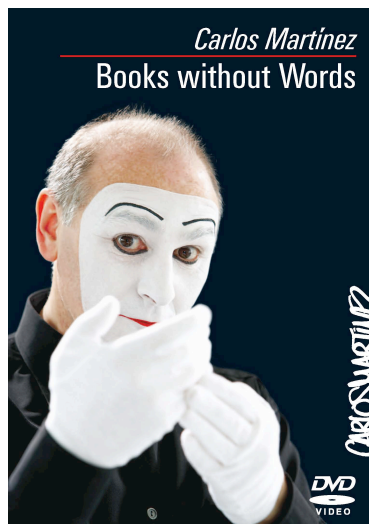


Carlos Martínez mime actor

Interview with Carlos Martínez on the publication of his new DVD: Books without Words

What inspired you to dedicate a show to the world of books?

I love reading. As a child, very often I went to the library of my town to enjoy the stories of Tintin. I loved reading the words and especially the pictures. Perhaps that was the beginning of my career as a mime actor.



What can viewers expect to find in this DVD?

Mainly they will find the piece about the library. This piece gave name to the show. However, there are nine pieces that are directly or indirectly related to books. In fact, all my pieces (and not just the ones in this DVD) are like books ... without words.

What is your favourite moment in the DVD?

The audience. I don't like to see myself on the screen. I'm always very critical with my work. I prefer to observe the audience. Their faces, their emotions, their laughter ... they are the best representation of my work.

What is the book or story you like the most?

As an actor I enjoy performing the library. It's a challenge for a mime to perform a piece this long and in silence. However, as a spectator I love the piece titled "The Little Ball". The audience plays an essential role in it.

You produced three DVDs in Europe but for your fourth one, Books without Words, you changed continents. Tell us about that experience?

I wanted an audience who did not know me, an audience who could observe my pieces for the first time. Their reactions would be more spontaneous, more honest. I knew it was a challenge but ... I love challenges.

Is it best to see you perform live before buying one of your DVDs?

The DVD is a prologue for those who have not seen me perform live. However, after the show, the DVD itself becomes an epilogue.

Do you have a special audience in mind with each DVD?

My first DVD was dedicated to biblical stories because that year, 2003, was the International Year of the Bible. And I wanted to add my own version of the holy book. However it is not intended for a religious audience but for any viewer who wants to find out what the art of mime can contribute to biblical literature.

Human Rights is dedicated more to humans than the rights. So any viewer recognizes the situations that I represent on stage no matter how cruel, ironic, provocative or funny they may be.

Hand Made is a family show. The humour of each piece reaches everyone, whether children, parents or grandparents.

What do you mean by that?

When I go to another country and try to read a newspaper in a language I don't speak I feel illiterate. This is why I study the pictures in detail. I look at the images of the newspaper. And then I feel as well informed as the person next to me. My images on stage do not need to be read or translated. The audience (illiterate or not) can understand them.

You seem to know a lot about the Book of books. What does mime have in common with the Bible?

For many people the Bible is boring, outdated and difficult to understand. That's what many people think about mime too. Humans can also be boring, outdated and difficult to understand. Both the Bible and mime (and art in general) reflect human beings as we really are.

In what ways can you connect your work with the Bible?

I'm an actor, a storyteller, a singer-songwriter, a poet, a mime actor who represents silent stories. Some of my pieces are like parables, others resemble psalms. Some, even without words, are like epistles, others have a prophetic touch, and some might contain proverbs. Just like any other form of art.

Your new DVD is called "Books without Words" but you have also written a book with words called "From the Dressing Room". Is this a contradiction?

Yes, this contradiction is part of my art. My silence comes from the words and my words are born from silence. On stage, my art describes words; in my book, words describe my art. This paradox, this apparent contradiction is part of me. Yes, I am a mime who is in love with words.

What is more difficult for you, to create a piece or to write a story?

Everything has its own difficulty. This is why I like to surround myself with other professionals who help me to refine my work. I tend to be very hard on myself. I am never satisfied with my work until the director gives my piece the nod or the style editor approves my text. Then everything is easier.

What role do reading and writing have in your work?

I love making notes in books, highlighting paragraphs, sentences and words. Afterwards I review them, write them, paraphrase them and then turn them into actions. I describe these actions in words and then I incorporate them into my collection of gestures. The word incorporate is rather interesting. It comes from the Latin word "in" (inward) "corporis" (body). When we absorb words into the body we are acting.

In conjunction with your performance schedule, you also teach and preparing new programs for yourself and others. What aspect of your work do you enjoy the most?

Above all I am an actor. The rehearsals, the dressing room, the stage, the lights, the audience ... Yes, I'm an actor. This profession has taught me a lot about human beings, about the sorrows and joys of life. Everything that I've learned on stage helps me to live better offstage. That's what I try to teach in my courses. I'm not a teacher, I am an actor who teaches.

2012 is your 30th stage anniversary, basically touring throughout Europe with your new show "Mirage". What are your plans for the upcoming years?

Continue with what I have been doing all along: thank each audience that comes to hear the silence of my art and reads my books without words.

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- Biography: http://www.carlosmartinez.es/pdfs/Carlos_Martinez_Bio.pdf
- YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/carlosmartinezactor>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/mimeactorcarlosmartinez>
- Press Photos: www.carlosmartinez.es/pressphotos

DVD Details

- 55 minute Show + 50 minutes of Extras
- Menu in seven Languages: English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Brazilian Portuguese, Spanish
- Commentary about each piece by Carlos Martínez in Spanish with subtitles in 7 languages
- Excerpts of his book, From the Dressing Room, read by Carlos Martínez in Spanish with subtitles in seven languages
- Interview with Carlos Martínez in Spanish with subtitles in seven languages
- Photo Gallery
- Making of: Made in Brazil
- Bonus Show ... without Words
- 12-page Booklet

Pieces in the DVD

1. Library without Words
2. Love Letter
3. The Aquarium
4. The Little Ball
5. Dinner for Two
6. The Window
7. Telephone Museum
8. The Box of Chocolates
9. A Horror Book
10. The Right to Education