

"I had a dream last night. I dreamt of non-present humanity.  
Humanity without a body"

*"1 year, 13 weeks, and 3 days. That is the time that  
has passed since reality slapped us in the face"*

"We might not have our normality anymore, but  
this must be the start of something new"

*"Our lives are a constant rehearsal, aren't they?"*

"Let's accept it, once and for all: life is a tremor"



Universitat de Lleida  
Departament d'Anglès  
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Universitat de Lleida  
Facultat de Lletres



Universitat de Lleida  
Vicerektorat de Cultura  
i Extensió Universitària

*The Department of English  
and Linguistics presents*

# THE YEAR WITHOUT SPRING

**An Anti-play for the New Era**

**Performances on the 21st and 22nd of June at 20.30h**

at the Studio (3.17b) of the Faculty of Arts of the Universitat de Lleida

Only with seats reserved in advance

via the Department of English and Linguistics

Available online in July at DALDrama Productions' YouTube Channel

This year we present you an anti-theatrical play: a play without a story, without characters. A piece of non-narrative theatre, to be precise. For, since the Covid-19 pandemic put the world upside down, all the drama has been outside this studio. When we started our workshop, there was no story to tell, no plot that could possibly encompass everything we have been living through: the macro tragedy, the surreal comedy in which we have all been trapped. And there was no way we could (nor wanted to) ignore it. So what you will find here is a theatrical account of our Year Without Spring. Mind you, though, that everything will be re-presented from our own perspective, including our frustrations, anger, fear, care... and our youth. A palette of theatrical lenses (ranging from epic theatre, to social drama, satire and theatre of reminiscence) will offer you the angles from which we have tried to make sense of it all. The routines of an audition will give you the metatheatrical framework through which all these performance styles can be observed and, hopefully, enjoyed. And, of course, the audition will also enhance an old metaphor: isn't life a constant rehearsal, as we wait for something better to arrive? Especially this year, haven't we all been rehearsing our lives again, re-learning what it means to be alive? Last but not least, let's not forget the tone! Fortunately, what started as a "dramatic requiem" to mourn the end of an era has gradually become a requiem to say goodbye to a very trying time... Thank you for joining us today in our return to the theatre, a dream in which we recover the utopia of lovers, one year after lockdown. Welcome back to the shelter where everything is possible, even if things do not completely go back to normal; the place we call 'home!' like children do when they play in the sand, as we wait for a new spring to arrive.

## OUTLINE OF THE SHOW:

1. Prologue: A New Theatre for a New Era
2. The Audition Begins
3. Social Drama: "The Pandemic and Youth"; "Covid-19 Mindscapes"; "Love in the Times of Covid".
4. Satire: Have We Learnt Anything At All?
5. Theatre of Reminiscence: Our Year Without Spring
6. Epilogue: Our Lessons, Our Requiem

**Sources for the playscript:** We have been inspired by Pier Paolo Passolini and Peter Handke's anti-plays, and Pere Faura's *Rèquiem Nocturn*; have freely adapted passages from a monologue by Davide Carnevali for the show *Decameró* and a text by Marina Garcés for *A Tocar!*; but, most of all, have worked on material generated by the company as an ensemble through improvisations and devised work. Our ideal muses have been Mary Shelley, Albert Camus, José Saramago, Calderón de la Barca, Samuel Beckett, Manuel de Pedrolo and, of course, William Shakespeare.... But above all things, we have tried to mirror the fantasy of our "new normality" as faithfully and poetically as possible.

## CAST:

**Aida Becerra** as Scarlet the activist, Ellen the Presenter, and herself

**Maria D. Berzal Bautista** as the bad cop, Matilda, and herself

**Amàlia Bratu** as a dancer, Nadia, and herself

**Amina Djabali** as Julia, Chanel, and herself

**Alba Martin** as Kristen the activist, Susan, and herself

**Rosa Martín Sarroca** as Ana, Matilda's mother, and herself

**Javier Royes** as Health Official, the good cop, James the presenter, and himself

**Teme Tsvetanova** as Health Official, Amy and herself

**Anna Vadrí Calbet** as Sarah the activist, Oprah, and herself

**Badredene Yassin** as Dr. Grubman, (allegedly) Tom, and himself

**Script writing assistants:** Maria Alamillo (also casting director), Marc Figueres (also live cam operator), Sílvia Goixart (also casting director), Ànnia Segarra (also coach dancer / Anna Pavlova)

**Assistant directors:** Rosi Silva (also sound operator), Laura Oller (also visuals operator)

**Production assistants:** Graciela Armijo (also light operator), Marta Baró (also publicity designer), Natàlia Castelló (also light operator)

**Composer, musician and choir arrangements:** Jordi Cano

**Jazz dance choreographer:** Maricel Cano

**Technical coordinator for lighting/sound/video:** Òscar Sánchez H.

**Devised and directed by** Núria Casado

**Produced by** The Department of English and Linguistics of the University of Lleida

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