

Peter Kus, Kaja Avberšek, Hans Christian Andersen:

# Singing Castle

PAINTED  
MUSICAL  
PERFOR  
MANCE

(inspired by the motifs of the story *The Nightingale* by H. C. Andersen)

Directed and music composed by **Peter Kus**

Dramaturgy by **Ajda Rooss**

Movement and drama consultancy by **Miha Arh**

Visuals appearance, illustrations and video animations by **Kaja Avberšek**

Costumes by **Iztok Hrga**

Original instruments by **Peter Kus** and **Darko Korošec**

Lighting design by **Luka Curk**

Technical coordination by **Jan Žavbi**

Scene production and props by **Jaka Mihelič, Zoran S. Janežič, Alojz Košmrlj**  
and **Brane Ždralo**

Computer animation by **Jernej Žmitek, Jernej Lunder (Invida)**

Photography by **Nada Žgank**

Performed by **Andrej Žibert, Kaja Avberšek**

Produced by **Forum Ljubljana** and **Zavod Federacija Ljubljana**

Partner: **Španski borci cultural center/ En Knap institute**

Supported by **Ministry of Culture** and **City of Ljubljana**

Duration: **45 min.** The performance is suitable for children age 4 and above.

## PRESS REVIEWS:

... the energy, directness and uniqueness of the carefully planned and immaculately executed media event as a whole come to life most convincingly.«  
**Slavko Pezdir, Delo (Slovenia)**

... surprising richness glows from the projection screen in the middle of the stage.« **Uroš Smasek, Večer (Slovenia)**

## FESTIVALS

### 2011

*The 18th International Children's Theatre Festival*, Subotica (Serbia)

*Luaga und Losna*, Feldkirch (Austria)

*6th Biennial ULU, Maribor (Slovenia)*

*100, 1.000, 1.000 Stories*, Bucharest (Romania)

*Cikl Cakl, St. Michael (Austria)*

### 2012

*The 14th puppet festival Golden Sparkle*, Kragujevac (Serbia)

*Lutfest*, East Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

*The 20th Kotor Festival of Children's Theatre*, Kotor (Montenegro)

## AWARDS

*6th Biennial ULU, Maribor (Slovenia)* - Special award for the use of original instruments in theatre (Peter Kus)

*100, 1.000, 1.000 Stories, Bucharest (Romania)* - Special award for the modernity of theatrical language and for using new media in a creative theatrical way (Peter Kus, Kaja Avberšek)

*14th puppet festival Golden Sparkle, Kragujevac (Serbia)* - Best production idea

## ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

The Singing Castle is based on the motives of the fairy tale by H.C. Andersen, *The Nightingale* and it is a story about a king who wanted to be like the nightingale, as similar as possible. The bird lived in his garden and sang beautifully, exciting admiration from the whole world. At first the king was jealous of the little singer that was stealing him the whole attention, but he eventually realized that he too must follow him and turn his life into a song. He decided to build his new castle as a giant musical instrument that would play and sing like the nightingale.

The fairytale is performed in an original multi-media performance where **comic book illustrations** and **original instruments' concert** connect with **the puppet theatre**. Animations play an important role in the performance; they are being projected at the back of the stage throughout the play and are being complemented by the illustrations that are being drawn live with the help of a computer by **Kaja Avberšek**, illustrator and comic book author. The mixture of comics, animated films and puppets bring a whole new visual experience in the world of performance.

The scene consists mainly of musical instruments, designed in various objects. The musician and actor **Andrej Žibert** uses them to perform a proper concert in the last part of the performance.

## THE GUIDE BOOK

A part of the project also consists of a guide book *The Singing Castle, a Guide for Making Original Instruments in the form of a comic book* (**Forum Ljubljana/Stripburger, Ljubljana, 2010**). *The Singing Castle* concept was written by the composer Peter Kus and the text was co-written by Boštjan Gorenc - Pižama; the comic, illustrations and visual appearance of the instruments were designed by Kaja Avberšek. The comic book guide is intended for children age 14 and below, elementary school children, their parents and teachers. The guide consists of an illustrated fairytale and a comic about a king, who wanted to resemble the nightingale and made himself a singing castle made of different musical instruments. The book includes instructions on how to make similar (albeit simpler) instruments of sound. The guide enables the readers to explore the world of musical instruments and acoustics in a popular and visually attractive way; they also learn how to build effective musical instruments out of easily obtainable materials.

**PETER KUS** is composer, puppet theatre director, instrument builder and educator from Ljubljana, Slovenia. In his latest projects he is exploring the field where music and theatre meet. The results are puppet/musical performances like **Black Kitchen** (2004), **The Voice** (2005), **Tristan Vox** (2006), **A King Listens** (2007), **The Lost Tone** (2010), **The Singing Castle** (2011) and **The Forest of Sounds** (2012). The performances were invited to numerous international festivals and received many awards for music and originality. Peter Kus is also an original musical instrument's designer and builder. In September 2008 he conceived a widely appraised series of exhibitions of original musical instruments **Euphonia**, presented in various towns in Slovenia. In 2012 and 2013 his exhibition **Le jardin Musical** (aka **Klanggarten**) was presented in Reims, France and in Wels, Austria. In October 2010 he published a guide book **The Singing Castle, a Guide for Making Original Instruments** in the form of a comic book together with the illustrator Kaja Avberšek.

**KAJA AVBERŠEK** is a design graduate active in the fields of illustration, comics, graphic design, puppet design and scene design. Her graduation thesis *Notes and drawings from Asores* she received a student Prešern's Award; the project was published in 2006 in a book **Nos Açores**, published by the Portuguese publisher Texto Editores. She has participated in numerous group exhibitions, as well as independent ones. Her comics and illustrations were published in various comic book anthologies and publications (Slovene literary classics in comics, **Greetings from Cartoonia**, Tukistripičaki, etc.) In October 2010 she published **A guide book The Singing Castle, a Guide for Making Original Instruments in the form of a comic book** together with the composer Peter Kus. In 2009 she received a Brumen design award for **the Slovene literary classics in comics** front cover design. During her stay in Lisbon she collaborated with the **Lua Cheia** puppet theatre and designed visuals for the **Agakuke e o Pescador Curandeiro** (2007) and **Agakuke e os Estranhos Estrounhos** (2007) performances. As a visual designer she also participated in Peter Kus production **The Lost Tone** (LGL and Forum Ljubljana, 2010) and the exhibition **Euphonia - The Singing Castle** (2009) in the old Castle in Celje.