

## El Periódico

### 5/7/2009 TO THE ROOT // TONI RUMBAU, PUPETEER, WRITER AND PLAYWRIGHT

« We live in an absurd world and one has to laugh and discover the positive.»



Toni Rumbau. Photo: JOAN CORTADELLAS  
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Born in Barcelona (1949), Toni Rumbau has travelled the world with his puppet show Two Hands and with others by the company La Fanfarra. In 1984 he opened the Malic Theatre, a fringe theatre which closed in 2002. Today he presents Full Hands in the theatre at the Poble Espanyol.

**–What’s the show about?**

–It’s an invitation to magic, vitality, imagination. It’s the synthesis of many years as a puppeteer. I came to work with puppets by chance, but it became my trade, my profession, they’ve been a gift.

**–The theme of death is very present in your shows.**

–Yes. The fundamental story of traditional theatre in Europe is the struggle against death, with archetypal characters such as the dog, the policeman, the devil and death.

**–Do children understand it?**

–Yes. Children have plenty of imagination, but current experiences colonize their thoughts, domesticate them. The protagonist, Polichinela, is a free being who does what he wants.

**–You’ve also written books about the world of puppets.**

– I’ve reflected a lot, and I think that a puppet show is very personal, intense, cathartic and transforming, like death itself.

**–And you’ve also written novels?**

–I entered a literary phase which allows me to express things that concern me. For instance I wrote a false essay and a critical novel which was sarcastic and reflective, *La colla de la platja i el futur de Catalunya*. We live in an absurd world and one has to

enjoy life, laugh and discover what's positive.

**–What are these absurdities?**

–War, the mess of the [Catalan] Estatut, the accumulation of crises. It's absurd that when there's a revision of the system of production, the only solution is to stimulate car sales!

**–And the positive?**

–There's value in what's subtle, the world of knowledge and understanding. Young people, particularly, have a global awareness - though politicians are still stuck in oversimplification; they don't accept the world's complexity

**–What else are you going to write?**

–I'm planning to write a book of memoirs. We've allowed others to explain life to us, but I'm not satisfied with the history of the transition in Spain, I need my own interpretation, free and sovereign.

**–Do puppets and writing allow you to explain the world?**

–Yes. They're like a mirror that enlarge life. And I like the fact one can do them oneself on one's own.