

A woman with dark hair, wearing a black top, is leaning over a wooden workbench. Her hands are positioned as if she is about to work with clay. On the workbench, there is a small, rounded clay piece and a larger, more complex, textured clay piece. The workbench has several drawers with metal handles. The background is dark, and the scene is lit with warm, golden light. A thin, vertical orange line is visible on the right side of the image.

A Mano

Cia. El Patio

"EL PATIO with its first piece BY HAND, which presents us with a real jewel in small format."

Ferran Baile. Ciberpadres. FETEN 2013

"El Patio Teatro has produced a moving and believable show with just enough subtle naughtiness to hook in the adults in the audience. The universal message carried in the simple and loving human interaction of touching and holding hands speaks to all ages at different levels. This is a remarkable miniature fantasy that beautifully reflects real life."

Irene Brown. Imagine. Édimbourg. 2015

"There's no spoken text in A Mano. Instead, it's the fingers that do the talking in this beguilingly quaint production by El Patio Teatro (Spain). Wonderfully flexible fingers that can conjure bits of clay into heads, and those heads into little puppet characters who find humour and pathos in a deftly-nuanced quest for love, freedom, happiness."

Mary Brennan, Dance critic



A Mano - By Hand

A Mano is a story told with clay, through a small character with a great desire to escape from a shop window and its inhabitants. It is a love story, a story about small failures, a potter's wheel, a cup that breathes, two people with great enthusiasm, a tiny pottery workshop and four hands that play.

A Mano is a small format show with a very big purpose, to touch you.



El Patio

The patio or courtyard at school, in a prison, of my house, or your house, or the theatre.

The patio is a meeting place, a place for reflection, listening, searching and playing

This company was born from our need to share with our audiences stories from everyday life that excite us, or happen around us, small stories we care about that move us, and that serve as an excuse to seek out our own language to help us tell these stories on stage.

This search has led us to take refuge in objects and the lives of these objects, in a smaller format, in the mud, in our hands

The company, El Patio was forged by the fire of this performance, yearning and burning to tell stories that need to be told.



Artist Information

We build, model, write,
direct, light and play:
Julián Sáenz-López and Izaskun Fernández

Touring technician: Diego Solloa

Photography: Clara Larrea
Graphic Design: Diego Solloa



Technical Requirements

- A minimum performance area of 4 x 4 x 3 meters.
- Black backdrop.
- 1 220 volt outlet close to performance area.
- It is essential that the venue can be completely dark.

Given the nature of the performance, we recommend that the audience be seated as close as possible to the performance area, and ideally in stadium-style seating.

- Staging time:
3 hours
- Teardown time:
1,5 hours
- Duration of Performance:
45 minutes
- Time between performances:
30 minutes preparation time
- Maximum Audience:
80 people family audiences (with stadium-style seating)
50 people family audiences (without stadium-style seating)
50 students





FESTIVAL ENCINART 2012. SPAIN
Audience Award for Best Show



FETEN 2013. SPAIN
Award for Best Small Format Show



FIRA DE TITELLES 2013. SPAIN
Award "Drac D'or de las Autonomías"



FESTIVAL VALISE 2014. POLAND
Award for Best Performance



KUSS FESTIVAL 2015. GERMANY
Award for Best Show



FESTIVAL IMPULSE 2015. ROMANIA
Award for exceptional and refined
mastery in puppetry



A hand in a dark suit is shown pouring a stream of sand onto a clay sculpture of a bull's head. The scene is dramatically lit from above, creating a strong contrast between the illuminated sand and the dark background.

El Patio

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