The Train Theater
תיאטרון הקרון مسـرح القطار

Why Did the Fish Cry?

Created by Hila Flashkes & Danielle Cohen-Levi

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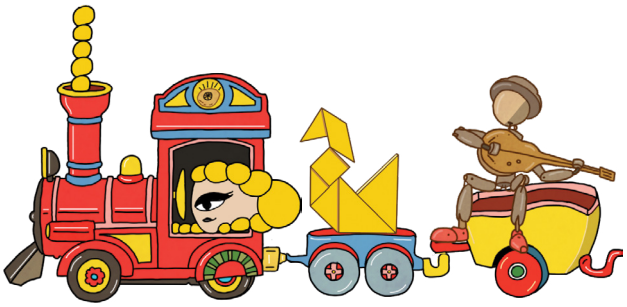

The Train Theater is the leading Visual & Puppet Theater for children in Israel. Based in Jerusalem since 1981, our house contains 3 generations of over 50 artists: puppeteers, designers, directors, musicians and more. Our theater offers a rich variety of productions through its diversity of artists.

We believe that every child deserves a high-quality theatrical experience, and that art is essential for their development.

The Theater offers original performances, educational programs, master classes & international exposure, the Art Fair for children, special projects for those in need, and the annual Jerusalem Puppet Festival.

Yizhar Florsheim CEO | **Shahar Marom** Artistic Director

International distribution
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“Why Did the Fish Cry?”

Created by Hila Flashkes & Danielle Cohen-Levi

Co-creator and director: Danielle Cohen-Levi
Acting and puppetry: Hila Flashkes, Orit Mimrud
Creative actress: Orit Mimrud
Artistic consultant: Marit Benisrael, Shahar Marom
Design: Hila Flashkes
Music: Dan Karger
More texts and songs: Ronit Kano
Lighting design: Keren Dembinsky
Books wraps: Anny Shani
Cover photo: Eldad Maestro

Based on stories by Oded Burla (1915-2009), an Israeli writer, poet, and artist, considered one of the founders of Israeli children's literature.

Join us in a very special library filled with colorful pop-up books—some quite teeny, others absolutely gigantic—filled with hidden secrets and surprises.
Two actresses, five stories, and a vibrant, amazing world. Children are invited to take a peek into Oded Burla’s tales about bizarre animals all made of paper. What happened to the giraffe when the raven offered to tied his neck in a knot? Who is in love with the scorpion? And what made the fish cry, of all things?
At the end of the performance, all of the characters pop back into the book. What do you think would happen if you tried to open a book?

▶ Full length show ▶ Clip ▶ HD Pics

Recommended audience: ages 3-7
Duration of performance: 45 minutes
Capacity: 120 spectators

Premiered in 2016

The show is performed in Hebrew.
The Train Theater will provide an English version of the text, including stage-action and timing. The host will arrange for a high-quality translation of the show to the local language, and an actor or actress who will perform the translation. The person will learn the text beforehand, and a minimum two-hour rehearsal will be coordinated with the Train Theater, no later than a day prior to the show.

Festivals and international presentations

2018

> Ankara Puppet Festival
> Community Stage, Moscow Russia
> Jerusalem Puppet Festival

2017

> HATSZÍN Teátrum, Budapest 2017
> Jerusalem Puppet Festival

2016

> The Haifa International Festival of Children Theater
> Jerusalem Puppet Festival

Awards

Israel Children Theater Awards, 2017
best Interdisciplinary Play and best Supporting Actress for Orit Mamrud.

From the reviews

"...It is impossible to put into words the magic of this children play. It is a lesson of what is theater about: how text and idea are transformed into a rich stage form; shows how when a concept is good it is the base for playfulness ..."
Nano Shabtai, Haaretz, 16.07.2017

Touring conditions

People on tour: 2 persons
2 performers (F)
Round flights from Tel Aviv (TLV)
2 single rooms, 2 stars minimum
Internal transportation from/to airport and venues
Per diem for every day of stay

Set transportation

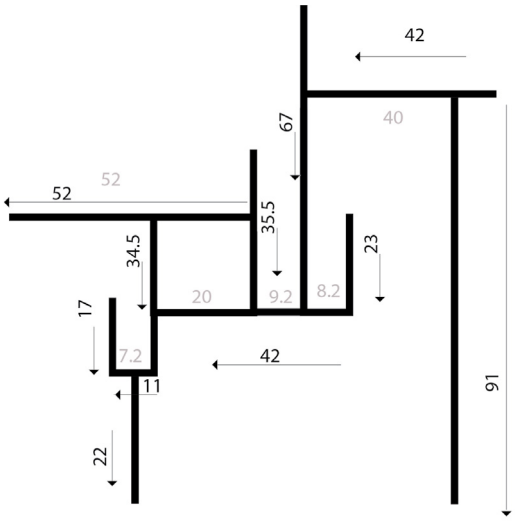
The set is transported in 2 pieces of luggage:

First piece of luggage carries the books, up to 158 cm perimeter and 23 kg weight

Second piece of luggage carries the shelves, up to 220 cm perimeter and 32 kg weight

The hosts can choose to build the shelves by themselves instead of transporting them.

Following the drawing:



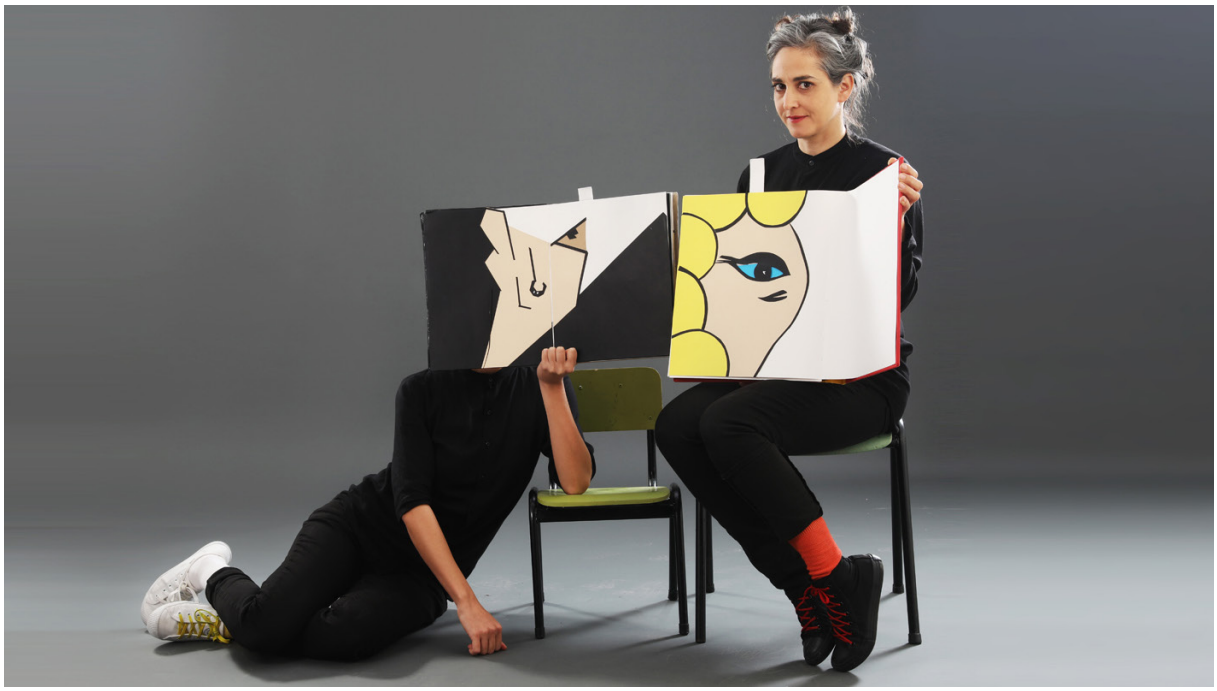
Technical requirements

Stage size: width - 4.5 m, depth - 5 m, and height - 3.5 m
Total Darkness: recommended
Graded seating: most recommended

Setup: 4 hours
Dismantling: 2.5 hour

Sound equipment: Music played from laptop on stage.
Please provide cables accordingly.

Please provide 2 chairs: one normal size and the other kid size.



Pop-up book workshop

A workshop inviting children to create pop-up books inspired by animals (and other creatures) inventing their own stories.
Maximum capacity: 25 children (accompanied by an adult)
Duration: about an hour