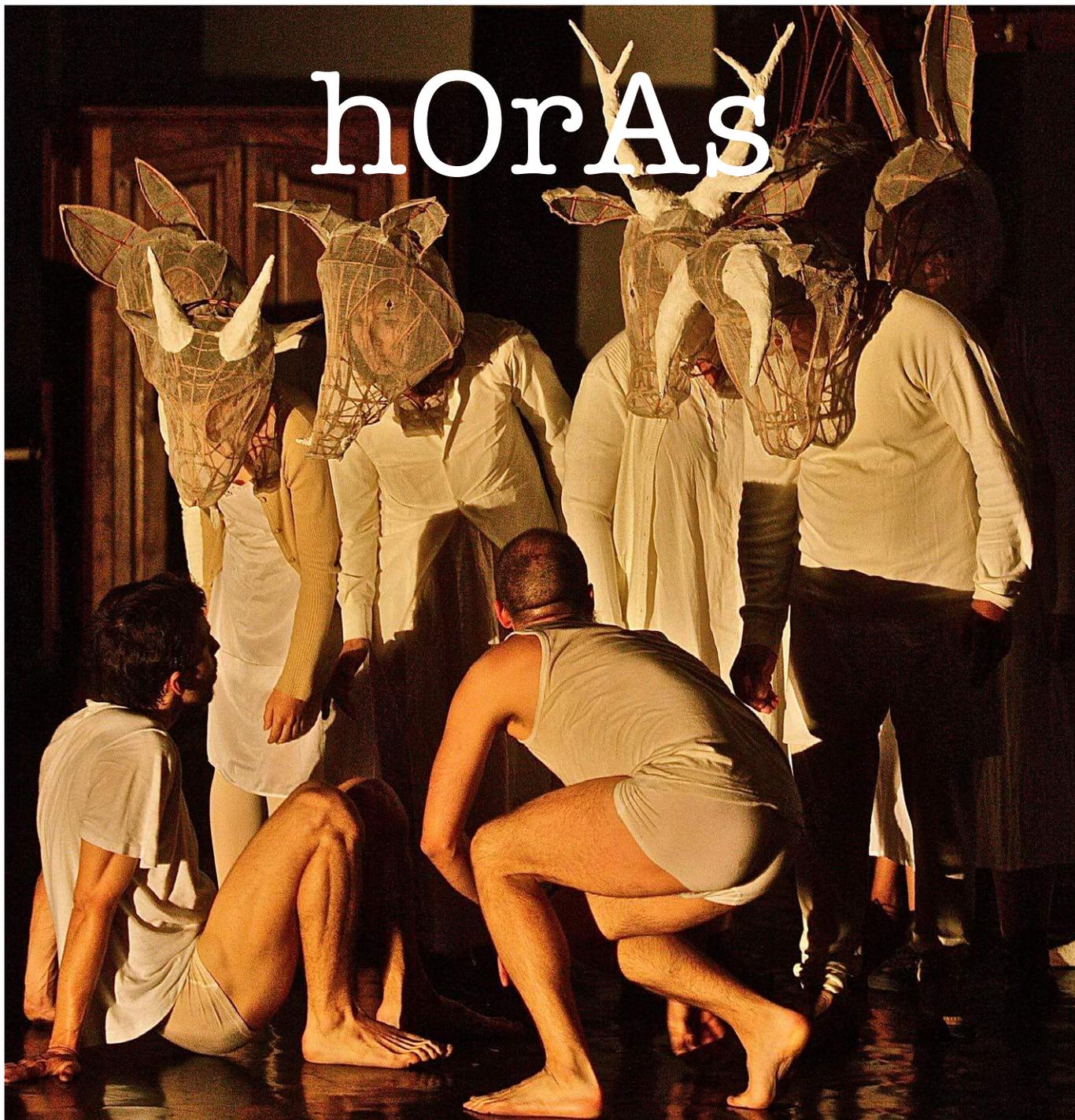




hOrAs



[**Circolando / André Braga & Cláudia Figueiredo**]



"Book of Hours" is the breviary for the laity, which contains prayers for specific times of the day.

Dusk, night, dawn. White, dark, blue.

A performance-voyage through the territories of darkness and light.

Dance, Gregorian chant, video: three artistic languages on their own or in intertwining dialogue.

A tour of ancient monasteries set in a chaotic, rush and confusing territory led to the overall theme of contrasts for this project: medieval-contemporary, religious-agnostic, harmonious-dissonant. These are the opposite poles of a dialogue between two hugely contrasting and yet curiously parallel worlds.



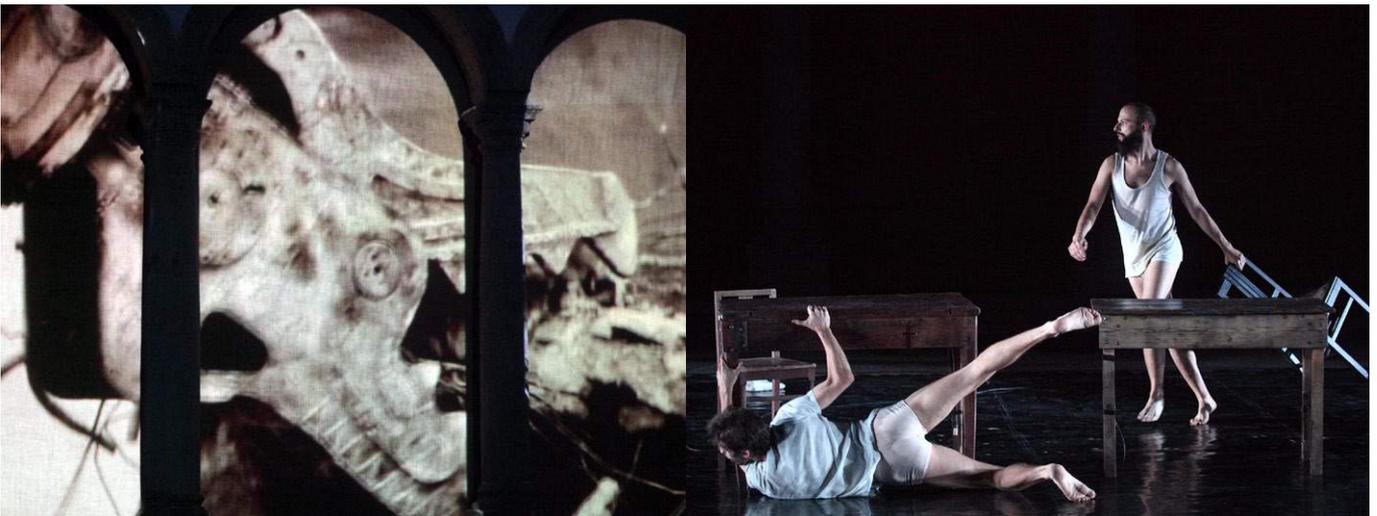


This place of monasteries isn't frozen in time. It's important to immerse in medieval imagery without losing touch with contemporary struggles. Frescoes, murals, sculptures, high reliefs... What dialogue with the present can be established? Which timeless elements should be highlighted? Silence, seclusion, doubt, fear, conflict... Monasticism is the point of departure for a journey between darkness and light. The radical experiences of silence are the guiding principle for questioning inner turmoil.

I never held an invisible flower in my hands.

Angels, cells, visions, apocalypse, light, scenes painted with frescoed tones and the freedom of poetry.

The project includes the participation of the Gregorian Choir of Penafiel. The great challenge was to integrate them into the performance in a somewhat unconventional way. We were all seduced by the idea of bringing this unique and pure chant to a meeting place with other artistic languages.





Hours is a show with beautiful images, clear voices, precise movements, a Manichean journey.

It is a dialogue between the real and the imagined, the internal and the external, darkness and light, the present and the past. André Braga sees the Middle Ages as a time of “decadence and disorientation that somehow approaches the here and now.”

There is peace in those human figures in white robes, with no wings on their backs, with faces of irrational animals, as if to say that they - the irrational - have the highest degree of purity. And there is anguish in those two men who writhe as if they had no spinal column. They are men full of inner noise living a radical experience: seclusion in a place of silence and prayer.

Ana Cristina Pereira, in *Público*, 27 July 2014







With both feet not only resting in mystery but sunk in it – in such a way that you even doubt if beneath that opaque and incomprehensible film they still exist and belong to you - you move your torso onwards trying to keep at least your hands free from that force that came from nowhere and knows no limits.

Gonçalo M. Tavares

*I was blinded by lucidity, but you made the madness spin.
Everything is vision, everything is free of sense.
The invisible is inside the light, but does something burn inside the invisible?*

Antonio Gamoneda

This project may be presented in conventional theatres or large spaces. The best stages will always be cloisters of monasteries or convents.

In our opinion the project has the potential to develop synergies with programmes related to cultural tourism and national heritage.





Cast and Credits

Directed by: André Braga

Dramaturgy and Associate Director: Cláudia Figueiredo

Cast: Paulo Mota, Ricardo Machado and Gregorian Choir of Penafiel: Ana Pérez (music director), Belmiro Barbosa, Deolinda Nogueira, Evangelina Canedo, Maria Teresa Moreira, Richard Bradley, Salomé Canedo, Sérgio Oliveira. Actor in training: Alexandra Natura

Video: Gonçalo Mota

Sound designed by: André Pires

Sets & Masks executed by: Sandra Neves and Nuno Brandão

Lighting designed by: Francisco Tavares Teles

Production Manager: Ana Carvalhosa

Deputy Production Manager: Cláudia Santos

Photography: Susana Neves, Stratos Ntontsis, Miguel Nogueira

Graphic design: Elsa Oliveira

Acknowledgments: Assembleia Penafidelense, Junta de Freguesia de Travanca / Sr. José Babo, Olivante, Serração Central Santa Marta / Sr. António Carvalho, Escola EB1 e Jardim de Infância Mosteiro, Escola EB1 and Jardim de Infância Portela, Protamb, Edilages, Valfios

Co-production: Circolando and Rota do Românico

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