

Los años / The years

A Project by **Mariano Pensotti / Grupo Marea**

"The present is only formed from the past, and what is in effect was already in the cause", Henri Bergson.

"To avoid the journey back is to avoid the Self, to avoid life", James Baldwin.



1 / About the project

“The Years” tells the story of a person in two very different moments of his life, when he's 30 years old and when he's 60.

Manuel is a young architect who tries to make a living with a project about Buenos Aires's buildings which are exact copies of European ones. While doing that, he meets by chance a child who lives alone in a slum with a peculiar life history: he invented a family for himself so he could legally go to primary school and have a daily meal. Manuel starts to follow and document the kid's life for a month.

Unexpectedly Manuel becomes very famous in the art scene because of his documentary about the child.

Thirty years later, now being almost 60, Manuel returns to Buenos Aires after a long time of living abroad. A Film Festival invites him to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the premier of his documentary. Manuel comes back with the intention of finding the child he portrayed many years ago, he wants to know what happened to him after all this time, to see if the film modified his reality. Manuel secretly plans to make a new documentary about him, a project that he hopes will help him recover some of the artistic brilliance he had in the past and

has long lost. But he can't easily find the child, and when he does he will realize his assumptions about the future were actually very different from reality. During this journey he will try to reconnect with pending conflicts from his past and he will experience how Buenos Aires has changed through the years. Manuel's youth is the present, the year 2020, and his future the year 2050.

One of the main staging particularities of this piece is that both times are seen simultaneously. Manuel's youth and his maturity are represented in parallel, one next to the other. The set duplicates the space, allowing the possibility of constantly contrasting present and future.

The audience follows young Manuel's story next to that of old Manuel, each one performed by a different actor. At the same time the progress of the shooting of his mythical documentary about the kid can be seen, projected on a screen, it works as a connection in between times.

Present and future are interspersed, creating particular modifications and combinations.



The audience sees in parallel the two stories, starring the same character played by two actors of different ages. A group of five actors in total - three of them performing all the secondary roles in both times - give life to all the characters.

A musician will play a piano placed into the set. The music, a central element during all the staging, creates contrasts and combinations with the spoken text and works almost as an invisible character.

People and societies are unexpectedly transformed throughout time.

The difference between what one believes will become and what finally becomes of oneself is often similar to the distance between utopias and failed societies created on their behalf.

Some universal questions revolve around the project: What can we expect from the future? What will happen to us, our cities and the people we know in thirty years? How will be the future of children, especially the ones that live in

poverty? How is the present going to be seen from the future? If we knew how we are going to be in the future, would we change anything from the present?



2 / Artistic Team

Text and direction: Mariano Pensotti

Set and costume design: Mariana Tirantte

Music: Diego Vainer

Light design: David Seldes

Video: Martin Borini

Artistic Production: Florencia Wasser

Cast: Marcelo Subiotto, Barbara Masso, Mara Bestelli, Paco Gorriz, Bernardo Arias Porras

Stage Coordinator: Juan Reato

Sound Engineer: Ernesto Fara

Los Años is a coproduction between Ruhrtriennale, Müncher Kammerspiele, HAU Hebbel Am Ufer, Künstlerhaus Mousonturm and Complejo Teatral de Buenos Aires

3 / About the director

Mariano Pensotti is an argentine author and theater director. He studied cinema, visual arts and theater in Buenos Aires, Spain and Italy.

In his work he developed two different lines, one composed by stage performances where he writes his own literary texts and the play is strongly based on the work with the actors, and in parallel he produced several site-specific performances where the main intention is to create a particular contrast between fiction and reality with fiction performed in public places.

In theater as an author and director he created more than fifteen performances in the past twelve years. Among the latest creations are “El Público”, “Diamante”, “Arde brillante en los bosques de la noche”, “Cuando vuelva a casa voy a ser otro”, “Cineastas”, “El pasado es un animal grotesco” y “La Marea”.

All of them were presented in more tan 30 cities around the world such us Buenos Aires, Kunstenfestivaldesarts (Brussels), Festival de Otoño (Madrid), Theaterformen (Hannover), Hebbel am ufer (Berlin), Auabirlewen (Bern), Norwich & Norfolk Festival (England), Kampnagel Festival (Hamburg), Hebbel Am Ufer (Berlin), Hong Kong Festival, New Zeland Festival, Ruhrtriennale (Duisburg), Zürcher Theater Spektakel (Zürich), Yokahoma (Japan),Tempo Festival (Rio de Janeiro), Fiac (Bahia), Rotterdamse Schowburg (Rotterdam), Frascati Theater (Amsterdam), Under The Radar and COIL (New York), Wexner (Columbus), Walker Arts Center (Minneapolis), Push Festival

(Vancouver), On the Boards (Seattle), Yerba Buena (San Francisco) and Redcat (Los Angeles).

Mariano Pensotti has become one of the most noted experimental directors throughout the world. He has been heralded as one of Latin America's brightest theater talents and he and his company tour extensively throughout the year. He formed the Grupo Marea together with Set Designer Mariana Tirantte, the musician Diego Vainer and the artistic producer Florencia Wasser.

4 / Contact

Mariano Pensotti

+54 911 5737 8695 / marpenso@yahoo.com

Mariana Tirantte

+54 011 5523 3311 / marianatirantte@gmail.com

Florencia Wasser

+54 911 3266 5480 / florenciawasser@hotmail.com