

# L'ANIMA DELLA MASCA

**The Soul of the witch**

**A theatre play by Teatro Cantiere**

**With:** Sara Pirotto

**Text:** Sara Pirotto, Hengel Tappa

**Stage costumes, objects:** Sara Pirotto

**Chants:** traditional, Sara Pirotto

**Idols:** Federico Biancalani

**Direction and theatrical coordination:**  
Hengel Tappa

**Language:** glossolalia, Italian. Songs in Occitan, Ligurian and Piedmontese dialects, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Romanian

**Duration:** 50 minutes (no break)

Not suitable for kids under 12

**Ph:** Antonio Moramarco



outsocantiere

*"Tu es venue d'un lointain pays au-delà des mers, avec Marie-Jacobé et Marie-Salomé  
J'aime venir te retrouver ici, te confier mes peines et mes joies."  
Prière à Sainte Sara*

*In some Italian areas (such as Southern Piedmont and Ligurian backcountry) the memory of the **Masche** is still alive. They were witches with supernatural powers, able even to control Nature. The **Masche** were often women on the margins of small farming societies, widows, lonely. Some of them knew the powers of plants and also healing and "malocchio" rites.*

A woman's confession. She is different from the others, she lives out of the box, she struggles to find a sense. Maybe, being a witch today is exactly this: refusing to be bound by the untrue ideals of our time, looking inside ourselves to re-discover the thrill of life. Charges of witchcraft have always punished freedom of choice and non-alignment, and this is still true today. The main character, aware of this state of things, lets her vibrant and diverse soul roam freely, bringing to life forces that belong to other times and places, to furious and sweet witches, to desperate women who lost their lives because they were different and, therefore, bad.

**The Soul of the Masca** is a theatre experiment which delves into the magical and emotional world of the Human Being. Among rites, ancient formulas, magical and traditional songs, the performer is "possessed" by the character of several **Masche** revealing their humanity and sharing with the audience the countless facets of their identities branded by their strength and by the fear of their lonely souls. A journey in places with no space and no time, where the boundary between game and ritual gets more and more subtle and then disappear, a confession of purity and carnality where man and beast find again their lost unity: this is **The Soul of the Masca**.

[Promo Video](#)

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Floor: level and even

Acting area: depth 4 m, width 4 m, (the space for the spectator seating is not included in these measurements); there must be no space between the acting area and the first line of spectators seated.

Spectators: The best will be the first line sitting on the floor (on cushion f.e.) and then in an upraised tribune U-shaped around the acting area, so that the stage floor can be seen by all. The spectators enter the performance space when the performance begins.

Lightning: White general lighting on stage. Possibility of total dark needed.

No technical assistance is needed.

Silence is needed.

Stage set up: 30 minutes. Set down: 15 minutes.

The acting area must be available to the group at least 1 hour prior the performance.