

HISTORY OF THE COMPANY



Mercè Framis trained as a puppeteer at The Theatre Institute, in Barcelona. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy at Ramon Llull University, a Master's degree in Psychoanalysis (C.G. Jung) at the Autonomous University of Barcelona and a Master's degree in Art Therapy at University of Girona. She has a qualification as an art therapist from the Anthroposophic Therapeutic Arts Association (Dr. Hauschka, Waldorf pedagogy).

In 1992 she completed her training at The Theatre Institute and, together with Kerstin Von Porat, founded the company **Framis Von Porat**. Together they began their professional career with the creation of their own shows centred on shadow play puppetry: *l'Oriole*, by Joan Amades, and *El ruiseñor del emperador*, by Hans Christian Andersen. They also worked on the construction of puppets and props for various productions, such as: *Raticonte* and *Mama Por* by **Tantarantana Teatre**; *Tocats de l'Ala*, by **Teatre Mòbil**, and *Córporeos*, an ad for the TV shows *Fruittis* and *Delphi*, by **D'Ocon Films**.

In 1995, she joined the **Els Aquilinos Teatre** company. She took part in their shows *Diari d'una confusió* and *Aquilino Maggi Circus*. She collaborated in the creation of new shows for the company, such as *The Happy Prince*, by Oscar

Wilde; *Teatro de medianoche*, by Kveta Pakovská; and *La Perla del Dragón*, a production for the China-themed area in Port Aventura Park. Additionally, she began working on numerous stop motion videos for television programmes, notably *Programa Basura*, for **Canal Plus**, and an intro for **Nikelodeon**.

She has participated in numerous puppetry festivals, both nationally and internationally, and she has been awarded twice by the **Mostra Internacional de Titelles a la Vall d'Albaida**; 'Best Show' in 1993 for *El ruiseñor del Emperador*, by H.C. Anderssen, with the Framis Von Porat company, and 'Best Show' and 'Best Scenography and Presentation' for the 1997 show *The Happy Prince*, by Oscar Wilde, with Els Aquilinos Teatre company. She has also toured in numerous school theatre campaigns in Catalonia and throughout Spain.

In 2001 she began her solo career under the name **Cía. Mercè Framis. Teatre d'Ombres**, focusing her work on the Chinese style of shadow puppetry. Since then, she has always counted on the collaboration of other artists; puppet theatre professionals such as Olga Oliveira, Esther Prim, Eudald Ferrer, Marga Carbonell and Núria Mestres. Musicians such as Joan Saura, Anna Subirana, Xavier Maristany, Manel Valls, Anna Amigó and Raül Poblet. Illustrators such as Marta Balaguer and Montse Ginesta and scriptwriters such as Mercè Maure and Jordi Teixidó.

She has done several works for television. For *Una mà de contes*, a children's story programme by **Televisió de Catalunya**, she produced five stories told through Chinese shadow puppetry. She also voiced Non, the main character in the children's series *Què Non?* by **RTVLC**. She is currently working as the puppeteer and voice actress of the character Mic in the children's series *Mic*, directed by Laia Gimo and Manel Trias, for **TVC**.

In her work as a teacher, she has taught shadow puppetry courses for:

Education professionals: **Escola d'Expressió de Catalunya**, training for kindergarten teachers at the **Departament de Treball de la Generalitat de Catalunya**, and permanent training for teachers at the **Institut de Ciències de l'Educació**.

Puppet theatre professionals: **Festival de Títeres de Beniel**, **Marionetari** in Valencia and **Titerearte** School, in Barcelona, among others.

Since its creation, **Cía. Mercè Framis. Teatre d'Ombres** has presented ten original shows, in addition to collaborating in other projects. In all of them, Mercè has been able to produce very personal work, with great care put into the aesthetics and presentation, based on an extensive study of the effects produced by light and shadow to achieve the desired results. In addition to the physical aspects of the plays, she gives great importance to the writing process and the music, which is composed especially for each show.

In the shows, special stages and behind the scenes set-ups have been devised to facilitate the complex manipulation of the silhouettes of the characters and props. With the help of her collaborators, she has dedicated time and effort to perfecting the systems and rehearsals in order to achieve a coherent and expressive whole, necessary to capture the attention and interest of the audience.

Cía. Mercè Framis. Teatre d'Ombres. - List of Shows

2001- Compadre Lobo

Joan Amades

Text by Mercè Maure

Original music by Xavier Maristany

2004 - Cuando no había ni cielo ni tierra (When there was no sky or earth)

Text by Mercè Maure

Original music by Xavier Maristany

Singer Anna Subirana

Created in collaboration with Núria Mestres

2007 - La luna luna (The moon moon)

Poems and songs

Text by Mercè Maure

Traditional songs adapted by Joan Saura

Singer Anna Subirana

2010 - Jarabe de caracol (Snail syrup)

Text by Jordi Teixidor

Original music and adaptation of traditional songs by Joan Saura

Created in collaboration with Olga Oliveira

2013 - El pequeño circo (The little circus)

Text by Jordi Teixidor

Adaptation of traditional germanic songs by Manel Valls

Created in collaboration with Marga Carbonell

2016 - A l'ombra del pessebre (At the shadow of the nativity)

Quotes from *Poema del Pessebre*, by Joan Alavedra

Traditional christmas carols from Catalonia and Venezuela

Sung by Mercè Framis and Sarina Guerra

2017 - Piel de asno (Donkey skin)

Charles Perrault

Created in collaboration with Sarina Guerra

Sung by Mercè Framis and Sarina Guerra

2019 - Polvo de estrellas o como el Nawal decidió nacer (Stardust or how Nawal decided to be born)

Text by Mercè Framis

Original music by Manel Valls

Directed by María Castillo Pinos

Performed with the collaboration of Eudald Ferré

2022 - A l'ombra del pessebre (At the shadow of the nativity) - New version of the show

Quotes from *Poema del Pessebre*, by Joan Alavedra

Traditional christmas carols from Catalonia and Venezuela

Anna Amigó (harp) and Raül Poblet (tenor)

2023- Exposición itinerante. Piel de asno. El teatro de sombras, un cuento de hadas. (Travelling exhibition. Donkey Skin. Shadow play, a fairy tale).

Props and original designs for the show based on Charles Perrault's fairy tale.

Design and construction by Mercè Framis.

Other collaborative projects

2005 - El retablo de Maese Pedro. (The altarpiece of Maese Pedro)

Manuel de Falla

Created in collaboration with Rocamora Teatre

For the Teatre Auditori de Barcelona, in collaboration with JONC

Artistic direction by Quim Lecina

2018- Jaume de Vidre (Giacomo-of-Crystal)

Story by Gianni Rodari

Created in collaboration with Núria Mestres for the presentation act of Jordi Cuixart's book *Aprenentatges i una proposta*

For Ómnium Cultural

2023- Un sueño (A dream)

Puppetry show in collaboration with Titelles de l'Avia Pepa

Text and direction by Esther Prim