

Emilia's Theater

Visual Theater for Children Using Puppets and Props

Could imagination disappear? How do you fish laundry? And what's a donkey doing inside the house?

Emilia is an ageless grandmother, actress, and artist who runs a small, charming theater. One day, she decides to close the theater—Emilia is worried she is out of new ideas and her imagination has run dry. The lights are out, the stage is empty, and Emilia goes home. But the puppets and her imagination won't leave her be. With the help of Roberto, an old radio, she recreates the world of her theater ...

The play won three awards at the Haifa Festival of International Children's Theater in 2015. This is what the judges had to say:

Award for Best Puppets and Accessories

"For creating a variety of vibrant, captivating puppets of different ages, styles, and sizes—characters that exist in harmony with each other and create authentic and emotional relationships with one another as well as with the audience."

Outstanding Artist Award

"For bringing Emilia and her many theatrical characters to life; for the portrayal of a loveable, elderly figure who's easy to identify with. So much poetry and tenderness in the hand made of sponge that caresses the cheeks of this elderly woman made of sponge; so much humor in a dance; and what a loving relationship between puppeteer and puppet."

Award for Best Set Design

"For creating a magical world that is aesthetic, original, full of surprises, rich in imagination like Emilia; for the space so perfectly embracing Emilia herself as well as her story."

Reviews

Yedioth Ahronoth /Shai Bar Yaakov, April 7, 2015

"We have to mention the poetic performance by 'Emilia's Theater,' which makes excellent use of a collection of expressive puppets designed and worked by Orit Leibovitz Novitch The talented puppeteer's performance lends exceptional quality to the play."

Hapinkas / Tali Kochavi, May 4, 2015

"Emilia's character is portrayed with sensitivity, humanity, and with great respect. One actress works with the puppets on a tiny stage and manages to create whole worlds delicately and with sensitivity. There are a few dark themes, such as loneliness and failure, but everything is wrapped in love, tenderness, and lots of imagination. So the end result does not burden the viewer but makes the heart sing.

The bottom line is, [it's] an island of quality, creativity, and charm. The puppets win the heart of the viewer; they're worked with great skill, humanity, humor, and tremendous respect towards the heroine and the story itself. A lovely little play, performed with great skill."

nrg, May 1, 2015

“Emilia’s Theater,’ operated by talented puppeteer Orit Leibovitz Novitch: We meet a puppet who longs for the time in the past when she created plays, not accompanied by real text but by little experiences in private moments, and who still manages to excite and keep little ones focused with her remarkably thoughtful and soulful work.

EFIFO magazine

“One of the most fascinating and precise productions that participated in the competition this year is the visual show ‘Emilia’s Theater,’ written and performed by Orit Leibovitz Novitch, making clever use of puppets and props.”