

## **Variaciones sobre B... [Variations On B...], 1991**

This 1991 piece is based on three texts by Samuel Beckett; two short plays (*Act Without Words* and *Catastrophe*) and a novella (*First Love*). In the first act, the puppeteers no longer hid themselves, instead sharing the space with the main object: an anthropomorphic character with bound feet, named Jota. Wearing blue smocks, with parted hair and face masks, the performers subjected the distressed Jota to behavioural experiments, until causing his death. The presence of the puppeteers' bodies created a complex relationship with the manipulated object, creating a kind of dialectics between domination and servitude, masters and slaves.

For the second act of the show, the group abandoned a classic axiom of puppetry: the handcrafted construction of puppets. They began to work with pre-existing dolls, which they found in the street by chance or purchased from antique shops, recontextualising them in their performances. These were truly ready-made puppets, and the puppeteers imbued the movements of the two blind protagonists with such vitality that they created a startling effect: the sinister illusion that the puppets had come to life.

This work marked the beginning of the group's international tours, which continued until the group was dissolved.