

COUNTERSENSE

BY AND STARRING ERIKA WEBE



ARTISTIC COLLABORATION **ISABEL LAGOS**
SOUND DESIGN **JOEL HEIRÅS** AND **FRED MARTY**
LIGHTING DESIGN **SHANTALA CRISCUOLO**

A PRODUCTION BY THE ESPUMA COMPANY



A production by the ESPUMA company (Montreuil)



in collaboration with Gathenhielmska
Huset Foundation (Gothenbourg, Suède)



Supported by Culture Moves Europe

2025 Nomination by Summerhallarts at the Catania Fringe Festival and selected for the 2026 season at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival

2025 Nomination by Soho Play House, New York, "brilliant dramaturgy on the contemporary technological world"

PARTNERS

France: Théâtre l'Épée de Bois in Paris and Théâtre des Roches in Montreuil

Sweden: Lilla Kaparen and Théâtre ACTA in Gothenburg

Argentina: Teatro de las Nobles Bestias and El Tanque Cultural in Buenos Aires

Italy: Zo Centro Culture Contemporanee and Catania Fringe Festival

England: Rotunda Theater in Royal Turnbridge Wells

Spain-Catalonia: BCN Studio in Barcelona

Scotland: Summerhallarts in Edinburgh

United States: Soho PlayHouse in New York



COUNTERSENSE

A poetic journey through **CARA**'s mental labyrinth, blending choreographic and physical theatre, visual language, and immersive soundscapes, inviting you to a sensory experience.

GENRE: Dark comedy

YEAR OF CREATION: 2023 - 2024

SHOW DURATION: 1 hour

SUITABLE FOR ALL AUDIENCES, recommended for ages 12 and up
THE SHOW IS ACCESSIBLE TO DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING PEOPLE

A poetic, clownish, and acrobatic physical theater piece that explores existence and the boundaries between Life and Death within an "invented society" threatened by mechanization and extinction. The feeling of strangeness and the fragility of life are questioned to the point of absurdity with humor and sensitivity.

A play that invites the audience to consider their journey in reverse, as if in a dream, and to find in this shift the material to awaken to transformation. To reconsider everyday life, to the point of considering with **CARA** the possibility of "symbolic" deaths and rebirths within the same existence.

S Y N O P S I S

This is the story of an ordinary life, that of **CARA**, secretary of the culture department of the city of Namdal*, who, like every other day of the week, works from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in her "mobile office." An office that has become one with her body.

That day, **CARA** walks home, but disturbed by strange phone calls, she stops in the middle of an intersection... and the course of her existence is interrupted. She escapes to other realities that were previously inaccessible.

She becomes the spirit of her angels and the body of her demons, in an absurd, sensitive, and comical journey through her own Hades.

*Is this what it means to be dead?
Or is this what Life is?*

* imaginary city

[TEASER + Poetry of Counter sense](#)



INTENTION NOTE

THE GENESIS

I was born in Argentina and am part of the third generation to live in this country. My roots are diverse. My ancestors left their countries of origin—Slovenia, Lebanon, Germany, and Spain—in the first half of the 20th century in search of a place where they could live in peace.

I came to France for the first time in 2003 at the age of 13. I have been living here since 2019 after living in Italy. I have dual Argentine and Italian nationality. I speak six languages and am currently learning French sign language.

I carry this connection to another place, my “strangeness,” with me everywhere I go. I decided to leave Argentina in 2009 to continue my search for a “Home-World.” While traveling, I realized that my home is the theater, a theater without borders that I carry with me everywhere. To do this, I had to invent my own language, which is essentially mixed.

From this house without walls and with wonderful roommates, I have collaborated on and created a series of works, culminating in this one, COUNTERSENSE. It is an intimate play infused with the scent of sharing and the flavor of tastes discovered and lost. It reflects my journey: a little extravagant, colorful, funny, and sometimes melancholic.

Erika Webe

COUNTERSENSE, a gestural tale of a spirit in conflict in its quest for a home of its own.

In COUNTERSENSE there is meaning, and the character's sensory awakening is central to the play.

And then, counter, which evokes a kind of resistance to oneself, the opposite of what everyone is looking for. Like a car in reverse. Countersense and Counter-sense.

*This counter-self that devours **CARA**'s body
— what does it produce in **CARA**'s body and imagination?*

That is the thread of the show.

*This play is an invitation to go towards oneself,
a journey in COUNTERSENSE.*



THE TEAM



Erika Webe Author, Direction, and Performance

Erika is a transdisciplinary artist deeply committed to developing sensory artistic experiences and working with marginalized communities. She firmly believes in art as a force for transformation.

Born in the southern suburbs of Buenos Aires, she trained and collaborated on artistic creations with 12 companies (40 plays and/or performances) in more than ten countries across South America and Europe. Today, as part of the Espuma company and through international collaborations, she creates contemporary poetic “plays.”



Isabel Lagos Artistic Collaboration

Isabel, based in Gothenburg, is an independent director, writer, and producer. After working in South America and Great Britain, she co-founded Sweet Venues at the Edinburgh Fringe and programmed over 700 shows. In Sweden, she initiated the Gothenburg Fringe Festival and the Nordic Fringe Network, directed various stage projects, and developed innovative cultural centers within the Gathenhielmska Huset Foundation and the Kronhuset art factory. Guided by co-creation, she has been working closely with Erika since 2018.



Eric Whiteford Outside Perspective and Visual Understanding

Born deaf in England and raised in Sweden, Eric trained early on in theater, mime, cinema, and sign language. Passionate about movement and alternative forms of communication, he was encouraged by artist Hans Hugo Ferdinand to develop a physical form of expression designed to raise awareness among the “hearing world.” Today, he studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, collaborates on the film project *État Théâtre* and a series of short films written by Erika and Isabel, and continues his involvement in theater, opera, and visual storytelling.



Shantala Criscuolo Lighting Design

Actress and theater teacher, graduated from IUNA (National University of the Arts in Buenos Aires).

Throughout her career, she has participated in various theatrical works as an actress, assistant director, creator, and technical director.

She is also part of the management team at the Teatro de las Nobles Bestias, located in Temperley and recognized by the INT (National Theater Institute of Argentina), and directs the EMAD (Municipal School of Dramatic Arts) higher education institution in Lomas de Zamora, Buenos Aires.



Joel Heirås Sound Design

Joel is a composer, musician, writer, and performance artist working at the intersection of philosophy, music, and physical theater. His practice explores how to live with Parkinson's disease and how sound, movement, and thought intersect as living matter. Rooted in the concept of physiopoetics, his work considers the body, space, and language as mutually generative forces. For *Contresens*, he develops a soundscape where physical movement appears as a resonance and dialogue with music. He also collaborates with Erika on her project *Amor Fati*.



Fred Marty Sound Design

Born in 1970, Fred developed his musical skills on the electric bass and, above all, the double bass after studying classical and jazz music at the conservatories of La Roche-sur-Yon, Boulogne-Billancourt, and CIAM in Bordeaux. Based in Paris since 2007, he devotes himself to improvisation and experimental sound work combining concrete music, recorded voice, and electroacoustic explorations. He collaborates with numerous international improvisers, butoh and contemporary dancers, and trains in radio broadcasting with Phonurgia Nova. A member of L'Onceim since 2012, he is currently pursuing a solo project, composing for his quartet and creating for the theater.

ESPUMA COMPANY

ESPUMA is an artistic creation company that expresses itself equally well in live performance and in the audiovisual sector.

Its expression is minimalist, offbeat, and transdisciplinary. Its aesthetic approach is based on choreographic and gestural theater, where the body is the raw material of expression.

The creations draw their inspiration from human relationships, through which they explore, for example, the contemporary female experience, fragility, turmoil, but also fantasy, memory, intuition, and imagination. They conceive of fiction as a powerful tool for reinventing reality and offering unique immersive sensory experiences.

The company is committed to inclusion and care with various partners, including the Red Cross in Champigny-sur-Marne and the City of Montreuil in its schools.

The ESPUMA company is based in Montreuil (Ile-de-France). Since 2022, it has been collaborating with the Gathenhiemska Huset foundation in Gothenburg, Sweden, directed by Isabel Lagos. Erika and Isabel designed the project, Etat Théâtre - Tissages culturels (France Sweden), supported by the Swedish region of Västra Götaland with numerous partners in both countries, including IVT Paris (International Visual Theatre).

"We use the tools of theater and cinema to work with deaf and hearing artists to build an original visual language and develop innovative and inclusive tools for communication and artistic expression."

The play COUNTERSENSE is part of this artistic process and is the new production by the ESPUMA Company.

The premiere took place on February 23, 2025, at the Teatro de las Nobles Bestias in Temperley, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina.



2025-2026 TOUR

SHOW AVAILABLE ON TOUR DURING THE 26/27 SEASON

PREMIERE: FEBRUARY 23 @TEATRO DE LAS NOBLES BESTIAS, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

JULY 8-13 @ROTUNDA THEATER - TURNBRIDGE WELLS FRINGE FESTIVAL, UK

OCTOBER 16-19 @Z.O CENTRO CULTURE CONTEMPORANEE - CATANIA FRINGE FESTIVAL, ITALY

NOVEMBER 6 @BCN STUDIO - BARCELONA FRINGE FESTIVAL, CATALONIA, SPAIN

DECEMBER 11-21 @L'EPÉE DE BOIS THEATER - LA CARTOUCHERIE, PARIS, FRANCE

COMING SOON IN 2026

FEBRUARY 7@TEATRO DI LARI - ITALY

MARCH - BUENOS AIRES AND SAN JUAN, ARGENTINA

APRIL - THESSALONIKI, GREECE

AUGUST @SUMMERHALLARTS, EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL

CONTACT

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