**SHAPING YOUNG EUROPEANS’ FUTURE THROUGH DRAMA**

**EL RETABLO DE LAS MARAVILLAS/THE MARVELLOUS PUPPET SHOW**

**A PLAY PERFORMED BY THE SPANISH TEAM BASED ON AN ENTREMÉS BY MIGUEL DE CERVANTES, ADAPTED AND TRANSLATED BY PILAR ROMERO CANDAU**

**BULGARIA DECEMBER 2019**

CAST:

CHANFALLA: Carmen Rodríguez

LA CHIRINOS: Elizabeth Odebedge

RABELÍN: Pilar Romero

GOVERNOR: Martín Torres

TERESA REPOLLA: Laura Antón

JUANA CASTRADA: Claudia Sánchez

A QUARTERMASTER: Begoña Canivell

(ENTER CHANFALLA AND LA CHIRINOS)

CHANFALLA

Chirinos please don’t forget all the instructions I gave you about this new con, nobody must know

LA CHIRINOS

Don’t worry Chanfalla. But why do we need that Rabelin to help us do something we can do ourselves? He is the worst musician I have known.

CHANFALLA

We need his help for the characters that will appear in the puppet show

LA CHIRINOS

I only hope they don’t stone us because of that useless Rabelín!

(ENTER RABELÍN)

RABELÍN

When are we starting, Mr Author? I want to show how good asset I am for this company

LA CHIRINOS

You are a burden for us but at least I hope you play well

CHANFALLA

Chirinos, patience please. We are near the village. Aren’t they the governor and his gang? Let’s go and talk to them.

(ENTER THE GOVERNOR, TERESA REPOLLA, a mayor, JUANA CASTRADA)

THE GOVERNOR

I am the Governor, What do you want good man?

CHANFALLA

I am Montiel. I am bringing The Marvellous Puppet show to the hospitals and with my art less will die.

THE GOVERNOR

And what is this show about?

CHANFALLA

It is marvellous because of all the things shown there. The wise Mr Tontonello invented this show. He said that what is shown here can’t be seen by those who have a different race or was born outside wedlock.

TERESA

Every day we learn new things but who was this Tontonello? I’ve never heard of him

CHIRINOS

He was named after the city he was born, Tontonella. He was famous for his long beard, which reached his waist.

TERESA

Men with long beards are usually wise

THE GOVERNOR

Mrs. Castrada I order that tonight you organise a party .And at the party we will see the Marvellous puppet show directed by Montiel

JUANA

As you say, a show we will have tonight

CHIRINOS

Everything is perfect… but we need to be paid before our performance

TERESA

Don’t worry Mrs Authoress we are here very good payers

JUANA

Is Mrs Authoress happy if I pay her half a dozen ducats?

CHANFALLA

I am happy and I trust your word

JUANA

Good! Come with me, I will give you the money straight away and I will show you my house. You will value if it is suitable for the show

CHANFALLA

Yes, let’s go! Lucky are all those who will be able to see the marvellous things of my show

THE GOVERNOR

We will all be able to see it.

JUANA

Yes, author, let’s start working as soon as possible. My name is Juana Castrada, daughter of Anton Castrado and of Juana Macha. I am sure I will be able to see all those marvellous things.

CHIRINOS

Oh god help us! (*Speaking aside)*

JUANA CASTRADA AND CHANFALLA LEAVE)

THE GOVERNOR

Tell me, Miss Author, who are the most popular poets at the Court these days? I am an enthusiastic writer. In fact I have written 22 comedies. I really want to go to the Court to show my works.

CHIRINOS

My lord about the poets, I can’t answer myself, there are so many. But tell me, how are you called?

THE GOVERNOR

My dear Miss author, I am known as graduate Gomecillos

CHIRINOS

Gomecillos, Oh my god! Didn’t you write those famous poems about Lucifer?

THE GOVERNOR

Oh no! Gossiping tongues tried to dump those poems on me. I wrote those about the flood of Seville. I never stole a poem from other authors. God help me!

(CHANFALLA COMES BACK)

CHANFALLA

Governor, come everyone. All is ready for the performance!

CHIRINOS

The money???

CHANFALLA

In my inside pocket, next to my heart

CHIRINOS

Do you know that our governor is a poet?

CHANFALLA

A poet? How lucky!! These type of people are credulous. They have no evil

JUANA

Let’s go author, I am eager to see all those marvellous things

(ALL LEAVE)

(ENTER THE GOVERNOR, TERESA REPOLLA, JUANA CASTRADA, THE AUTHOR AND AUTHORESS, THE MUSICIAN AND OTHER PEOPLE FROM THE VILLAGE)

CHANFALLA

Everybody sit down. The puppet show must be here in the centre covered with this tapestry. On the left the authoress and on the right the musician.

TERESA

That is a musician? Hide him behind the puppet show. If I do not see him I won’t mind listening to him

CHANFALLA

Madam, you are not right but if you do not like him as a musician, at least he is a good Christian and a noble man.

THE GOVERNOR

Those being good qualities for a great musician!

CHANFALLA

Attention please! Oh you whoever you were, the one who built this marvellous puppet show, let us see marvellous things. Oh! I see you have granted our wish. Here comes the valiant Samson, embraced to the temple columns, ready to revenge his enemies! Stop brave knight! Or you can turn all these people watching you today into omelettes!

TERESA

Yes Mr Samson, be merciful with us here, we don’t want to die crushed down today! Can you see him?

JUANA

Of course I can see him, with my own eyes

THE GOVERNOR

(*Aside)* Oh what a miracle! I can see Samson, so I am a legitimate Christian old man

CHIRINOS

Be careful! Everyone, a bull is coming out. The one who killed a man in Salamanca! Oh my god!

CHANFALLA

Move away! Move away!

(EVERYONE MOVES AWAY BECOMING VERY DISRUPTED)

TERESA

The devil is in the body pf this bull. I’d better lie on the floor (she lies on the floor)

JUANA

Avoid making appear figures which don’t disturb us. We are scared sick.

THE GOBERNOR

(aside) All see what I don’t see. For my honour I will pretend I see

CHIRINOS

Look at all these mice coming closer and closer. They have different colour. But they are mice

CHANFALLA

That water from the clouds come straight from the river Jordan. All women whose faces are wetted by it will turn silver and men´s beards will grow long

TERESA

Water is coming down my back

THE GOVERNOR

(aside). What is happening here? Not a drop has reached me. What if I were a bastard son?

TERESA

That musician please! Leave! I can’t stand the noise you are making

RABELÍN

Mayor! Don’t take it on me! I am a great musician. God himself taught me how to play

TERESA

God himself! Don’t make me laugh. I have a horrible headache

CHIRINOS

Beware everyone! Here comes two giant lions and some bears

JUANA

Lions now? Mr Author we want more quiet animals like nightingales.

CHIRINOS

That woman who looks so lady-like, is the so-called Herodias who dances like an angel. Anyone who dances with her will feel like in the sky

TERESA

What a nice creature! Musician play something. Governor, you can dance with her.

GOVERNOR

It’s a pleasure

TERESA

But this girl is Jewish, how come she can see marvellous things?

CHANFALLA

There are always exceptions to the rule, mayor

(SOUND OF MILITARY TRUMPETS IS HEARD, THE QUARTERMASTER ENTERS)

QUARTERMASTER

Who is here the governor?

THE GOVERNOR

It’s me, how can I help you?

QUARTERMASTER

We need lodgings for 30 men who are coming with their weapons in 30 minutes

(he leaves)

TERESA

I bet they were sent by wise Tontonello

CHANFALLA

No. This is a horse company who are staying one kilometre from here

TERESA

Now I know well Tontonello, and what I know is that you and he are two scoundrels, as well as that musician. I hope Tontonello doesn’t dare sending here any armed men or I will give him two hundred lashes.

CHANFALLA

I tell you again mayor they are not sent by Tontonello!

TERESA

And I insist that they were sent by Tontonello as well as all the other rats I have seen.

But please musician, don’t play anymore or I will break your head

(QUARTERMASTER comes back)

QUARTERMASTER

Are the lodgings ready? The Horses have just arrived to the village

TERESA

So has this Tontonello got his own way at the end? I tell you something, author of deceit and fraud, you will pay for it!

CHANFALLA

You are all witnesses that she is threatening me!

CHIRINOS

You are all witnesses that what the mayor says is what your Majesty orders, it is ordered by the wise Tontonello

TERESA

God give me patience!

GOVERNOR

I hope that these armed men are real and not fake

QUARTER MASTER

Fake? Governor, are you crazy?

JUANA

They could also be creations of Tontonello as well as all we have seen here. By the way, beautiful Herodian maid is going to dance again. Perhaps when you see her dancing you will leave this place immediately

CHANFALLA

She is coming back and she wants to dance. She is trying to attract the attention of the

Dancer.

TERESA

Come on Governor make her tired. Dance round and round, if you need.

QUARTERMASTER

What’s all about? What kind of dance is this? Who is that Tontonello?

TERESA

Doesn’t the quartermaster here see the Herodian maid?

QUARTERMASTER

What the hell! What maid should I see?

JUANA

It is clear he is one of them

GOVERNOR

Yes, he is one of them, lazy, uneducated and unkempt

QUARTERMASTER

What’s that nonsense? I am son from the whore who bore me. I swear that if I take my sword out you are leaving this place through the window and not through the door

JUANA

He is one of them

TERESA

Yes he is one of them, he can’t see anything!

QUARTERMASTER

Bums! If you hint again I am one of them, I will break all your bones!

TERESA

Never were the Jewish or convert brave enough so we can’t stop saying it: “He is one of them”

QUARTERMASTER

(TAKING OUT HIS SWORD) Down with the villains! (RUNNING AFTER THEM) wait!

(THE CHIRINOS TAKES DOWN THE TAPESTRY AND SAYS:

CHIRINOS

Oh my God! What a racket! This quartermaster is crazy.

CHANFALLA

The event has been marvellous. The essence of the show is kept. Tomorrow we can show the puppet show in the village; we have been the winners here, we can shout: hurrah Chirinos and Chanfalla!