

# BARCELONA PRODUCCIÓ 2023-24

## PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

GUIU/LAIA GIMENO AND LAURA ROIG, ESTANIS COMELLA,  
ARI CARDOZO

### **Seek the extremes, that's where all the action is.**

The category of performance is extremely important in the Barcelona Producció 2023-2024 programme at La Capella, an art centre dedicated to the emergence and care of the city's artistic context as it constantly seeks other ways of living and working together.

Barcelona Producció promotes research through action, opening a space for unbridled experimentation, considering time, extremes, instability, resistance, balance, accident, change, improvisation, energy, voice, body, gesture, sound, editing, doubt, plunge, risk, acceleration and the like as materials. All these factors become indisputable components for creating a work of art prepared live, in which life sweeps in to distort everything. Performance moves us. It makes us reel in order to live on the extremes, as Lee Lozano commented: 'Seek the extremes, that's where all the action is.'

The programme invites us to inhabit the architecture of La Capella in a novel manner, opening a gap of light that leads to the possibility of relating, listening and feeling each other's presence from the intensity of the here and now. It is a proposition open to the celebration and joy of the encounter in order to create sensitive material, in which the spectator is invited to form part of a unique experience that is jointly created among all of us. Otherwise, it would not be possible.

The action space is also a place of research, amalgamating the visual arts, the performing arts, poetry and music. Performance material is our life, as well as the life that unfolds daily in La Capella, a space coinhabited by the creation, experimentation, management, coordination, production and consideration of many projects, as well as many people walking and talking and shouting and whispering and thinking and presenting ideas inside the building. Where the echoes of all the projects exhibited before still reverberate. History breathes, and the present is alive and requires hubbub, attempting the improbable and resisting.

Performance does what it wants. It is impertinent. It is power and energy in its purest state. It is not rigid. It is unpredictable. It lacks rules or, in any case, it ignores them if it identifies them. Risk and resistance are essential components of this living material that can turn and fall at any moment. Fragility is present in all performative practices, and it is beautiful to share this tremor so frowned upon in the world we inhabit.

During the performances by Estanis Comella, Ari Cardozo and the pairing of Guiu/Laia Gimeno and Laura Roig, a programme unfolds that is open to the unexpected, forging bonds with the audience as if it were a laboratory brought to the stage.

The programme begins on Tuesday, 14 November with **La llenya escalfa dues vegades** (Firewood Heats Twice) by Guiu/Laia Gimeno and Laura Roig. It invites us to relive a performance in the form of a re-enactment centred around the tradition of their town in order to recall woodcutters, questioning corporealities traversed by many acts of violence perpetuated by this tradition. Next, on Wednesday 15, **SXT – Courtyard Rosebush** by Estanis Comella encourages us to engage with a latent sculptural sensibility that uses live performance as the format from which to incorporate images into the architectural space in the form of fading atmospheres. Finally, closing the series on Thursday, 16 November is **¿Qué hace una chica como tú en un sitio como este?** (What's a Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?) by Ari Cardozo, providing us with the opportunity to enter with her into the body of a long concert geared towards improvisation, plunging us into the depths and surfaces of live time.

Three days of performances to set up and move the stage. The chores, axes and cries of woodcutters will sound the trunk of a tree, a voice will enter accompanied by many figures prompted by the twists and turns of time to end up in a place like this, attending a concert to connect with the music and soar together. La Capella embraces these possibilities of working in which all lives come together, looking, supporting and understanding each other, working and thinking about different realities in which we live. Performance allows us to live many times.

Text: Laia Estruch (La Capella's Curatorial Team)

GUIU/LAIA GIMENO BARDIS & LAURA ROIG

*LA LLENYA ESCALFA DUES VEGADES*  
(*FIREWOOD HEATS TWICE*)

TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER, AT 6.30 PM  
\*LIVE INSTAGRAM ON @LACAPELLA FROM 10 AM

The woodchopping competition is one of the oldest, most popular traditions of the town of these artists, Torrelles de Llobregat. It is held annually in memory of all those people who worked and lived in the forests: woodcutters.

*La llenya escalfa dues vegades (Firewood Heats Twice)* stems from the desire to share this rural festivity, using the competition as a way to bring the languages of oral tradition onto the stage, transporting the action from the forest to La Capella's Sala Gran. The piece engages in a dialogue between tradition and contemporaneity and uses action to explore and question the history and many acts of violence perpetuated by this tradition. The performance unfolds in three staged moments: the forest, the muleteers' journey and kicking off the woodchopping competition in La Capella's Sala Gran. Instagram Live will be the device that generates the live broadcast of this tradition's journey, from the forest to the city.

**Guiu/Laia Gimeno Bardis & Laura Roig** are two lifelong friends who decided to work together to explore the possibility of a dialogue between their contemporaneity and the popular folklore of their village. Their first piece, *Galop de Panderetes* (2022), premiered at Hangar and was reprogrammed at the Rihihui festival.

WOODCHOPPERS

Pep Estévez, Mariona Gallego, Carla Garcia, Guiu/Laia Gimeno, Valentí Gimeno, Àlex Guirao, Gerard Palet, Àger Palet, Isona Palet, Jaume Panyella, Maiol Panyella, Mireia Riu, Laura Roig, Annabel Torres

STAGING & TRANSPORT

Valentí Gimeno

NARRATOR

Gerard Palet

MULETEER

Josep Palet

VIDEO & SOUND

Maria Laudes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ESTANIS COMELLA

*SXT – COURTYARD ROSEBUSH*

WEDNESDAY 15 NOVEMBER, AT 7 PM

**SXT** is a long-term project in which writing and musical production converge, using live performance as the format from which to incorporate images into the architectural space in the form of fading atmospheres. In this performance, the La Capella space of the former Hospital de la Santa Creu in Barcelona will be the place where materials from an own archive, texts and images lay the foundations upon which to improvise live, thereby becoming choreographic parameters. **Courtyard Rosebush**, one of the variations arising from SXT, describes the slight modulations occurring in the temporal sequences that structure it. The materials begin to take shape organically around seamless as a notion that would become a way of signalling continuity and sensuality in the flow when applied to sound, turning linear time into rotation.

ACCOMPANIMENT

Josu Bilbao

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Carolina Jiménez

**Estanis Comella** (Lleida, 1985). The aspects of my work are flexible, seeking lightweight materials that can adapt to continual contact with the job at hand. Based on a latent sculptural sensibility, images, texts, sound and drawings lose information in each attempt to configure atmospheres where these materialities overlap to generate amplitude. It is in this difficulty of naming a specific underlying temperature within this entire practice where a poetic field is established that overwhelms formats such as publications, spaces or live performances.

ARI CARDOZO

*¿QUÉ HACE UNA CHICA COMO TÚ EN UN SITIO COMO ESTE?*  
(WHAT'S A GIRL LIKE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?)

THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER, 5 PM TO 11 PM

*¿Qué hace una chica como tú en un sitio como este?*  
(What's a Girl Like You Doing in a Place Like This?)

is a long-form electroacoustic improvisation concert that works with the emergence of sonic phenomena and voice. The project focuses on music as a language that can generate and synthesize transcendental experiences and thought in order to position itself in contemporary artistic practices. Forsaking any extra visual accompaniment, the very body of the concert becomes the work and stage.

SOUNDRECORDING  
Amalia S-P. de Nieves

LIGHTING DESIGN  
Pol Roig Valldosera

**Ari Cardozo** (Caracas, 1996). is a Barcelona-based artist. Passionate about music and active in the city's underground scene, she has been publishing music independently since 2016. She is a member of the Catalan collective label Nova Era, a local benchmark in the emerging scene revolving around SoundCloud. Her recent performance works include *Demasiado ímpetu*, commissioned for the opening of the Art Nou 2022 festival, as well as concerts for the exhibitions *Vermell Passió* by Irantzu Yaldebere (Halfhouse, 2022) and *Information Resort* by Rafa Castells (L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 2023).