

INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS TEMPORADA ALTA?

Temporada Alta - The Autumn Festival of Catalonia takes place in the cities of Girona and Salt, during the months of October, November and December. The two City Councils are the organisers of the festival together with the Generalitat of Catalonia, the Girona Regional Council and Bitò Produccions. Bitò Produccions have been in charge of the management and artistic direction since 1992, when it was first decided to create a stable program to promote the creation and evolution of the **Temporada Alta Festival** with the idea of encouraging the presence of theatre in the city of Girona. At present its consolidation means it is the best international letter of cultural presentation for the City Councils of Salt and Girona. In the same way, it has become a cultural reference in Catalonia as a festival of the best Catalan theatre and as an entrance door for the finest international theatre. It is differentiated as being unique in Spain for its organisation, which is based on an innovative formula: a festival organised by public bodies (Girona City Council, Girona Regional Council, Generalitat of Catalonia and Salt City Council) with a large economic contribution from the private sector. Since its first edition the **Temporada Alta Festival** has received support from a large group of companies and organisations that are members of the Theatre Patrons' Club, as well as other sponsors. This gives prestige to this sector and guarantees an audience for the festival. Furthermore, the festival is managed privately (the production and artistic direction are the responsibility of Bitò Produccions). The value of this new formula is that it enables integrating private initiative in a program of the highest level.

The Temporada Alta - Autumn Festival of Catalonia program is outstanding for the quality of the scenic arts (theatre, dance and music), even though it is also complemented by parallel activities such as cinema, courses, conferences, work in progress or multimedia art. The names of the highest quality foreign companies and artists who form part of the program have helped the festival earn the recognition of the intellectual public and that of the sector itself. A commitment to the quality of the content has led to very high public acceptance of an eclectic festival where we find offers for all types of spectators: intellectual, commercial, families. The festival, at the same time as programming famous names on the international stage, also makes it possible to see new talents.

Temporada Alta - Autumn Festival of Catalonia aims to be a large production centre for Catalan artists and a motor that generates greater involvement in stage productions in the Girona region. For this reason there are absolute premiers each week, many of them joint productions for the festival itself. Therefore, as a festival it is characterised not so much as an exhibition, but for taking the risk of the joint production of shows and being the setting for the presentation of absolute premiers, a place of creation and adventure for the artists and their audiences alike.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The Temporada Alta Festival was born seventeen years ago in Girona with the idea of improving local stage productions. Always under the management and artistic direction of Bitò Produccions, the festival began as a short cycle of theatre, with a maximum of eight performances until 1995, but with a clear commitment to staging premiers.

Temporada Alta grew slowly and in 1996 a significant change took place. From the eight shows programmed in 1995, it expanded to include eighteen, promoting the presence of foreign artists and companies.

Temporada Alta was now becoming a theatre festival with an international vocation.

There was no turning back. **Temporada Alta** had become an International Theatre Festival and so extended itself throughout the autumn, until early December, just like nowadays. Since 1998 to date the number of shows included in the program has never stopped growing. Since its beginnings until last year, Temporada Alta has presented almost 600 different shows.

In 2001, **Temporada Alta** decided to open itself up to joint productions, with three proposals, and extend the offer to other disciplines such as dance and music.

The presence of public bodies in the festival was also extended in 2005 with the signature of an agreement with the Generalitat of Catalonia. **Temporada Alta** is recognised as a Festival of scenic arts and is now called the Autumn Festival of Catalonia. One year later, in 2006, the Ministry for the Arts joined the organisation (even though it had been contributing some financing since 2004). and the 2,150,000 pesetas of the first year were increased in 2008 to 2,157,113 euros.

Temporada Alta is a festival with enormous national and international prestige. The program, which occupies 13 venues in Salt and Girona, is comprised of theatre, dance and music and welcomes leading international artists, actors and companies of renown in Catalonia and Spain, while at the same time offering opportunities to new talents. Until 2008, the festival had been attended by a total of 283,660 spectators, with more than 90% average occupation since 2000

TEMPORADA ALTA EDITION BY EDITION

1992



SHOWS		4
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		0
PREMIERS		0
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	4.115
	% OCCUPATION	62,35
VENUES		1
BUDGET		2.150.000 PTAS

1992, Bitò creates a theatre festival in Girona

Temporada Alta was born at the hands of Bitò Produccions and supported by Girona City Council from the outset. The program only included “four hilarious shows” which were staged at the La Mercè Centre Cultural in Girona. In this first edition, the festival created the Theatre Patrons' Club, a formula created by Bitò to bring more money into theatre programs and which was to become one of the keys to establishing the festival.

Outstanding artists: **Talleret de Salt.**

1993



SHOWS		6
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		0
PREMIERS		2
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	4,527
	% OCCUPATION	70,08
VENUES		2
BUDGET		8.248.000 PTAS

1993, the first two premiers

In its second year **Temporada Alta** already had two premiers, but it is still a simple closed program to open the theatre season in Girona.

Outstanding artists: **Juan Echanove.**

1994



SHOWS		8
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		0
PREMIERS		1
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	7.475
	% OCCUPATION	73,82
VENUES		3
BUDGET		16.750.000 PTAS

1994, expansion abroad begins

For the first time the **Temporada Alta** cycle programmed two foreign shows and began to travel the road that years later would make **Temporada Alta** an international festival of the highest level.

Outstanding artists: **Sèmola Teatre and Philippe Genty.**

1995



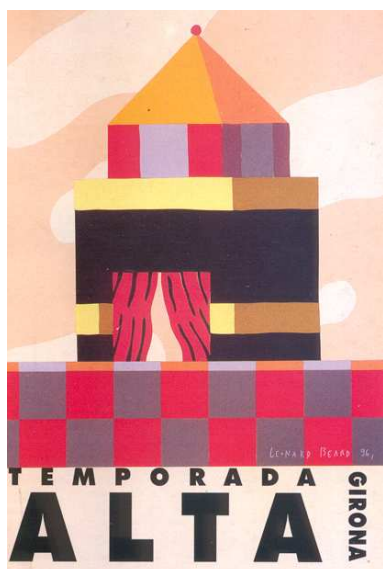
SHOWS		7
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		0
PREMIERS		4
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	7.112
	% OCCUPACIÓN	76,47
VENUES		2
BUDGET		18.000.000 PTAS

1995, Els Joglars visit the festival

Temporada Alta is still a cycle of theatre for the people of Girona. It already includes, however, four premiers. One of them was *Ubú President* by Els Joglars.

Outstanding artists: **Els Joglars and Sèmola Teatre.**

1996



Creator of the 1996 poster:
Leonard Beard

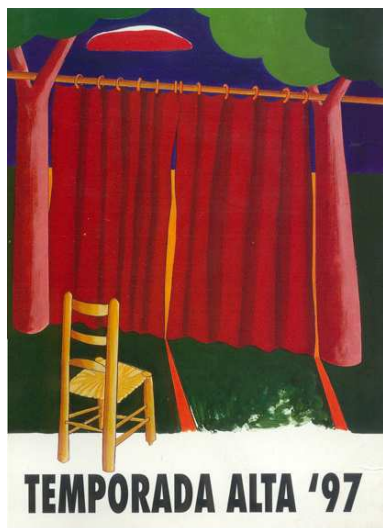
SHOWS		18
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		0
PREMIERS		6
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	9.092
	% OCCUPATION	77,05
VENUES		6
BUDGET		23.621.000 PTAS

1996, the audience is doubled

The 1996 edition was one of the most important ones. In five years the number of spectators has doubled and Bitò began to trace the embryonic design of festival with the complicity of Girona City Council. The poster was commissioned from an artist for first time. Since then one of the surprises of the festival each year would be the poster.

Outstanding artists: **Talleret de Salt, La Fura dels Baus, Adolfo Marsillach, Víctor Ullate, Pep Bou, Mauro Gioia and Foostsbarn Travelling Theatre.**

1997



Creator of the 1997 poster:
Narcís Comadira

SHOWS		18
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		0
PREMIERS		8
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	11.773
	% OCCUPATION	82,59
VENUES		3
BUDGET		32.955.000 PTAS

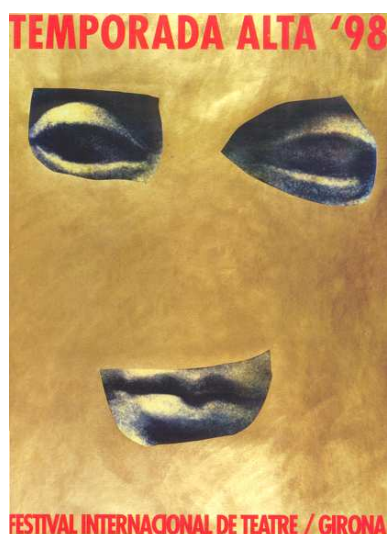
1997, festival format and a new space in Salt

Another decisive edition. For the first time **Temporada Alta** presented a festival format and wide program open to different scenic languages designed to increase the quality of the artists and audience a little more each year.

Opening of a new space, the Salt Theatre.

Outstanding artists: **Talleret de Salt, Els Joglars, La Fura dels Baus, Tantakka Teatro, Núria Espert, Marta Carrasco, Robert Lepage, Hanna Schygulla and Jango Edwards.**

1998



Creator of the 1998 poster:
Àngel Jové

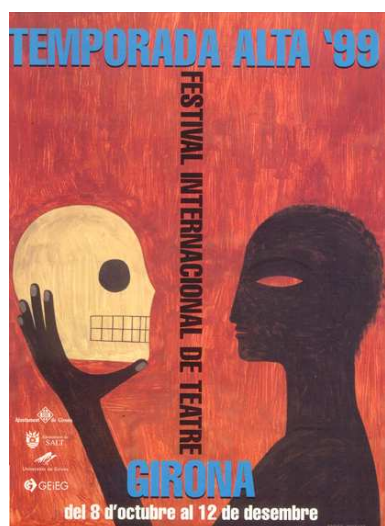
SHOWS		23
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		0
PREMIERS		8
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	15.018
	% OCCUPATION	81,98
VENUES		3
BUDGET		39.423,966 PTAS

1998, internationalisation is a fact

Temporada Alta is now an international theatre festival, for the number of shows, the premiers and the participation of foreign companies, even though it is only financed by the Girona and Salt City Councils and the companies who were members of the Theatre Patrons' Club.

Outstanding artists: **Sèmola Teatre, La Fura dels Baus, José Luis Gómez, Núria Espert, Pep Bou, Jango Edwards, Leo Bassi, Philippe Gaulier, Irina Brook and Misia.**

1999



Creator of the 1999 poster:
Carme Sanglas

SHOWS		32
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		0
PREMIERS		7
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	18.047
	% OCCUPATION	84,75
VENUES		4
BUDGET		56.676.855 PTAS

1999, a new course

The festival reaches maturity, the beginning of a design that must define the next stage in the evolution of the project and the role to be played by Catalan and Spanish theatre, but without forgetting Europe.

Outstanding artists: **Adolfo Marsillach, Núria Espert, Vicky Peña, Montserrat Carulla, Piccolo Teatro di Milano, Lluís Homar, Pepe Rubianes, Roger Bernat-General Eléctrica, Josef Nadj, Albena Teatre and IT Dansa.**

2000



Creator of the 2000 poster:
Frederic Amat

SHOWS		32
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		0
PREMIERS		9
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	17.474
	% OCCUPATION	91,39
VENUES		4
BUDGET		53.741.315 PTAS

2000, the debut of Peter Brook

This edition was marked by the first visit of the director Peter Brook to **Temporada Alta**. The festival stabilised itself in a year without significant growth. Outstanding artists: **Peter Brook, Rosa Novell, Compañía Nacional de Teatro de México, Ute Lemper, Àlex Rigola, Rafael Álvarez El Brujo, Faemino y Cansado and Dagoll Dagom.**

2001



Creator of the 2001 poster:
Perejaume

SHOWS		37
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		3
PREMIERS		11
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	18.228
	% OCCUPATION	90,23
VENUES		4
BUDGET		77.235.654 PTAS

2001, closure of the Municipal Theatre in Girona

The festival can no longer benefit from its most emblematic space, the Girona Municipal Theatre. The closure for reform work did not, however, affect the loyalty that the audience had maintained with the festival since its beginnings. For the first time, **Temporada Alta** participated in the production of three shows. Outstanding artists: **Milva, Companyia Kràmpack, Comediants, Boban Markovic Orkestar, Maurizio Scaparro, Comediants, Centre Dramatique de Tours, Pascal Comelade, Chano Domínguez, Sol Picó, Albert Boadella and Mal Pelo.**

2002



Creator of the 2002 poster:
Carles Santos

SHOWS		38
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		7
PREMIERS		15
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	17.907
	% OCCUPATION	91,81
SALES		4
PRESSUPOST		592.783,80 €

2002, Isabelle Huppert popularises the festival

Even more joint productions, with seven shows. The exclusive presence of the actress Isabelle Huppert, with *4.48 psychose*, would make **Temporada Alta** known abroad.

Outstanding artists: **Isabelle Huppert, Meret Becker, Antonio Canales, Pere Arquilué, Maurice Bejart, Declan Donnellan, Cecilia Rossetto, Royal Shakespeare Company, Avner, Susana Rinaldi, Lluís Homar and Rosa Novell.**

2003



Creator of the 2003 poster:
Ferran Adrià

SHOWS		42
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		13
PREMIERS		16
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	18.856
	% OCCUPATION	91,80%
VENUES		4
BUDGET		685.007,05 €

2003, first collaboration with the Generalitat

After eleven years of festival, **Temporada Alta** received the support of the Generalitat of Catalonia. The Catalan government recognised the role the festival played in Catalan theatre as an entry point for international shows and the work done in the production of events.

Outstanding artists: **Maria Friedman, Josep Maria Pou, Maurice Friedman, Amparo Rivelles, Núria Espert, Maribel Verdú, Maddalena Crippa, Charo López, Rosa Maria Sardà, Patrice Chéreau, Carles Santos, Javier Daulte, Mercè Sampietro, Albert Pla, Vicky Peña and Djivan Gasparyan.**

2004



Creator of the 2004 poster:
Toni Catany

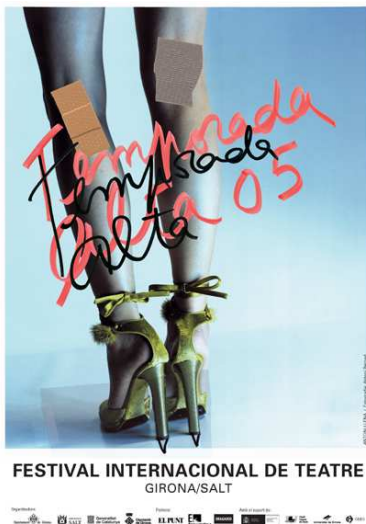
SHOWS		45
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		15
PREMIERS		24
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	18.672
	% OCCUPATION	90,15
VENUES		5
BUDGET		796.278,14 €

2004, the critics support the festival

Temporada Alta presented a very special and interesting edition with performances by Jan Fabre, Thomas Ostermeier, Peter Brook and Johan Simons. Many critics considered **Temporada Alta** as the best festival in the country. The Ministry for the Arts collaborated with Girona for the first time.

Outstanding artists: **Isabel Coixet, Carme Elias, La Fura dels Baus, Toti Soler, Enric Casasses, Eduardo Mendoza, José Sanchis Sinisterra, Julia Migenes, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Jan Fabre, Peter Brook, Thomas Ostermeier, Anne Tismer, Mario Gas and Leonor Watling.**

2005



Creator of the 2005 poster:
Antoni Llena

SHOWS		66
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		22
PREMIERS		28
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	22.924
	% OCCUPATION	90,13
VENUES		5
BUDGET		1.053.370,56 €

2005, agreement with the Generalitat for a four-year period

The four-year agreement signed with the Generalitat enabled designing the festival of the future with the pretension that it become the Autumn Festival still missing in Catalonia.

Outstanding artists: **Miguel Poveda, Enrique Morente, Sergi López, La Fura dels Baus, Mariza, Gelabert-Azzopardi, Animalario, Rafael Spregelburd, Victoria Chaplin, Jaume Sisa, Gran Teatre del Liceu, Sol Picó, Ahmed Ghazali, Ismael Lo, Teatre Lliure, Sala Beckett, TNC, Joel Joan, Camut Band, Watermill, Els Joglars and Joan Ollé.**

2006



Creator of the 2006 poster:
Joan Fontcuberta

SHOWS		69
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		22
PREMIERS		45
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	29.675
	% OCCUPATION	91,65
VENUES		8
BUDGET		1.431.116,00 €

2006, birth of the Autumn Festival of Catalonia

Temporada Alta became the Autumn Festival of Catalonia and opened the remodelled Municipal Theatre of Girona with a performance of *La Nit just abans dels Boscos* under the direction of Àlex Rigola. The cast was headed by Josep Maria Pou, Pere Arquillué, Francesc Orella, Andreu Benito, Jordi Bosch and Lluís Homar.

Outstanding artists: **José Luis Gómez, Laurie Anderson, Peter Brook, Àlex Rigola, Kristyan Lupa, Pascal Comelade, The Watermill Theatre, Agnès Jaoui, Ubu Theatre, Carlota Subirós**

2007



Creator of the 2007 poster:
Jaume Plensa

SHOWS		70
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		24
PREMIERS		49
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	28.030
	% OCCUPATION	91,83
VENUES		10
BUDGET		1.874.111,61 €

2007, EL CANAL premiered its first shows

EL CANAL, Scenic Arts Centre of Salt/Girona, premiered its first shows during the festival closing ceremony. From that moment on EL CANAL and **Temporada Alta** would work intensely along two lines: the production of shows by Catalan playwrights and joint international productions that would help artists become better known abroad.

Outstanding artists: **Dario Fo, Martin Wuttke, Sergi Belbel, Carles Alfaro, Paolo Conte, Claudio Tocalchir, Daniel Veronese, Benjamín Biolay, Peter Brook, Joan Ollé, Jérôme Deschamps and Macha Makeïeff, Frederic Amat, Ballet Preljocaj and Michel Camilo Trio.**

2008



Creator of the 2008 poster:
Antoni Tàpies

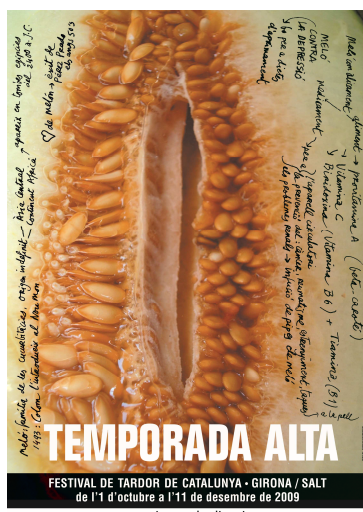
SHOWS		69
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		27
PREMIERS		46
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	36.905
	% OCCUPATION	91,99
VENUES		12
BUDGET		2.157.113,20 €

2008, Record for audience and occupation

In an edition where the festival had the highest audience attendance and occupation of its history, **Temporada Alta** timidly began the joint production of shows with festivals and theatres from outside the country. The four-year period was over and now we had to design the future of the festival and the new stage which will open up as of 2010.

Outstanding artists: **Pau Miró, Marta Carrasco, Llibert Fortuny, Patrice Chéreau, Xavier Albertí, Lluïsa Cunillé, Jordi Prat i Coll, Rosa Maria Sardà, Àlex Rigola, Sidi Larbi, Cherkaoui, Martín Wuttke, Ricardo Bartís, Lisa Nelson and Steve Paxton, William Kentridge, Ani di Difrango, Peter Brook, Leandre Ribera, I Colombaioni, Rafel Duran, Antonio Simón, Mariano Pensotti.**

2009



Creator of the 2008 poster:
Antoni Miranda

SHOWS		74
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		26
PREMIERS		47
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	44.962
	% OCCUPATION	90,66%
VENUES		13
BUDGET		2.373.096 €

2009, the Girona festival's best edition

2009 was by far the best year because of the high quality programme, featuring both national and international artists, and the number of shows premièred. There were 6,230 more spectators than in the previous edition. The 2009 festival also maintained its commitment with festivals and theatres from outside Catalonia to put on coproduced shows, thanks to the financial assistance of the Interreg IV programme of the European Union.

Outstanding artists: **William Kentridge, Declan Donnellan i Cheek by Jowl, Peter Brook, Daniel Veronese, Claudio Tolcachir, Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Maria Pagés, Krystian Lupa, The Watermill Theatre, Piccolo Teatro di Milano, Slava Polunin, Baro D'evil Cirk, Ute Lemper and Christoph Marthale**

2010



Creator of the 2010 poster:

Eugènia Balsells

SHOWS		76
JOINT PRODUCTIONS		25
PREMIERS		40
SPECTADORS	TOTAL	52.808
	% OCCUPATION	90,37%
VENUES		12
BUDGET		2.875.000 €

2010, A growing audience

The festival took a small step forward in 2010: the programme and the productions premièred were high in quality and audience reception was excellent. That's why the 2010 edition had the highest number of visitors in the festival's history.

Outstanding artists: **Krystan Lupa, Claudio Tolcachir, Michael Pennington, Teatri Uniti, the Forman Brothers, Joan Ollé, Julio Manrique, Tricycle, Marta Angelat, Sergi López, Carlos Santos.**