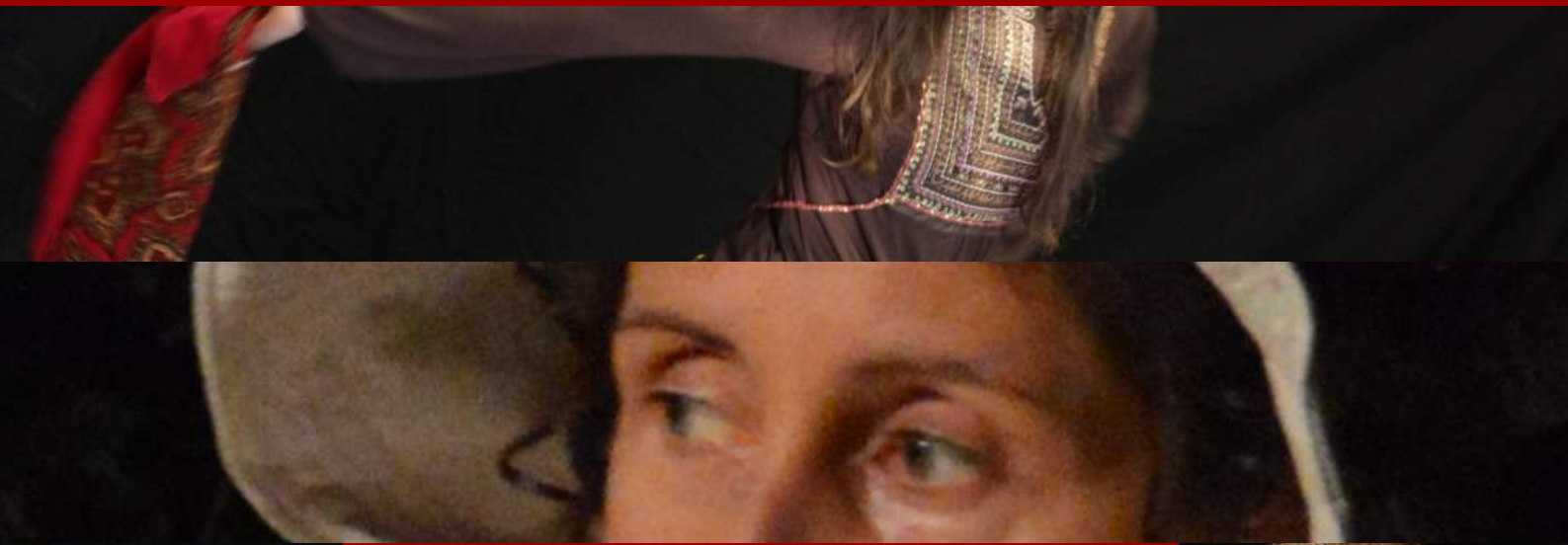


# Zorro & Compagnies



**THÉÂTRE**

•

**AUDIOVISUEL**

•

**ENSEIGNEMENT ARTISTIQUE**



## IDENTITY

Zorro et Compagnies is a no-profit theatre company founded in January 2009 in Toulouse, France. Our mission, as written in our Statutes, is to « facilitate, develop and promote culture in all its forms. We achieve this through theatre, music, choreography and audiovisual formats, as well as through the organisation of cultural events and arts education for all, with emphasis on the most disadvantaged settings such as prisons and hospitals. »

**OUR NAME** : the company's name was inspired by Zorro, the charming Disney hero devoted to standing up for the weakest amongst us and fighting injustice without resorting to violence. The character of Zorro reflects our own values. We believe that it is possible to defend rights in non-violent way, and that it is important to not stay passive when confronted to injustice.

**ECO-FRIENDLY** : we strive to make ours an eco-friendly theatre by ensuring that our work impacts the environment as little as possible, while still producing qualitative content.

**CHILDREN** : our theatre company gives particular attention to childhood ( the age as well as the one we have inside), and as in Moliere's time, we like children to be « in the middle of everything », for them to learn while helping us.

**INCLUSION** : our hope is for our artistic activities to reach as far and wide as possible, with no exclusion of any kind. We see differences as a strength. We ourselves are a group of people from all walks of life. Our different ages, nationalities, and artistic backgrounds come together to make our company what it is.

Where we are



## OUR TEAM

A dozen people work for us on an ad-hoc basis, depending on the projects of the moment. We do not have permanent employees. We are artists, technicians, trainee actors, friends, volunteers, who collaborate on a whole range of tasks: writing, graphic design, costume and accessory creation, communication, logistics...

We also welcome young people who are carrying out their voluntary service.

Since the beginning of the company, all projects had been led by Marisa Mirinda, who at the time of founding the company already had 20 years of experience (including 10 years in Italy) as an actress and theater director. We directed plays, short films, theatre classes, theatre performances... Since 2018, some projects have been led by other members of the team.

Independently of the activity led and the ones who are in charge of it, we try to stick with our company's values : will of sharing, respect of the minorities, accessibility for all, quality work.



Marisa Mirinda  
actress, theatre director



Charly Boino  
musician, composer



Sara Guilbert  
artist, projet director



Andrea Cannata  
actor



Marie Lacombe  
European projects



Gabriel Galeotti  
dancer  
artistic teacher

## OUR PROJECTS

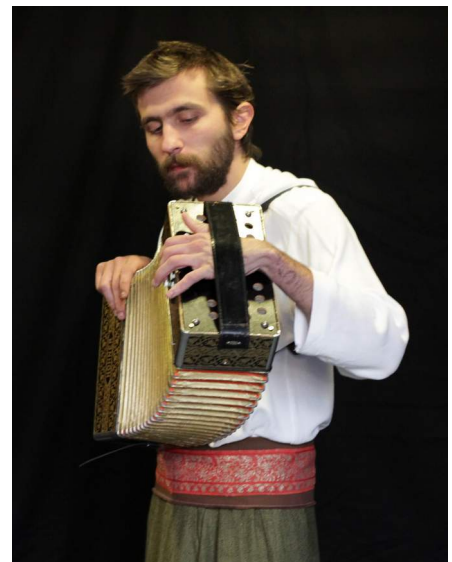
In 2010, Zorro et Companies produced its very first play and what remains one of our most popular pieces, **La Plume de Finist Fier Faucon** (The Feather of Finist the Falcon). The play is adapted from an old Russian tale brimming with magic and poetry. Though the story was originally written for children, our interpretation captured the imagination of adults and young alike.

We performed *La Plume de Finist Fier Faucon* in cultural centres, youth clubs, schools, theatres and at several public festivals.

Two more children's plays followed: **La Petite Maison** (*The little house*), based on a story by Gianni Rodari; and **Contes En Voyage** (*travelling tales*), a musical created in 2013 for the Toulousains et Toulousaines d'Ailleurs festival, an event celebrating travel and tolerance.



La plume de  
Finist  
Fier Faucon



Contes en  
Voyage



En 2014, the City Council of Toulouse and the United States Consulate of Toulouse jointly organised an open competition called **Sur Les Traces de Martin Luther King** (In the Footsteps of Martin Luther King). Our submission was a filmed performance re-enacting the famous bus scene of 1955 in which Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white man. We performed it on 39 buses over two days. We won first prize, and continued our work on the project one year more, taking it into schools, participating in debates and holding exhibitions. We finished the project with a performance based on the novel **To Kill a Mockingbird** (*Ne tirez pas sur l'oiseau moqueur*).



Sur les traces de Martin Luther King



Ne tirez pas sur l'oiseau moqueur

We are committed to challenging not only discrimination, but also violence. In 2009, during one of our workshops, we created a piece on the absurdity of war. In 2011, we performed a feminine version of the Karl Valentin sketch, **Père et fils au sujet de la guerre** (*Father and Son Discuss the War*).



An ever-present aspect of our work is our commitment to protecting the environment (e.g. using second-hand materials, non-waste measures, low-emission transport, etc.). In 2011, this is how we were inspired to create **Contes à Vélo** (*Bike tales*). We then created **Contes sur le Fil** (*Tales on a tightrope*) which we performed at the 2012 Fête du Vélo, in collaboration with the Maison du Vélo (Bike's house) of Toulouse.



Contes  
à vélo



Contes  
sur le fil

Since 2016, we've been part of the Parcours Laique et Citoyen programme, an initiative of the Département de la Haute Garonne. As part of this, we've made with secondary school students a music video, five short films, and a short documentary (the short films can be viewed on our website or on Vimeo › Zorro et Compagnies).



## CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Classes and workshops are an important part of our work, especially for children. Teaching children is very close to our hearts. Our classes and workshops are open to all children. Cost are kept as affordable as possible.

Our education method is alternative, not unlike that of Montessori or Freinet, and is one that we have developed throughout our years of experience. We saw that due to this method, some children who struggle in traditional classroom settings were able to progress in other areas of their lives, such as at school.

Many parents have expressed a particular appreciation for this. And that's why we'll always keep our classes and workshops going.

Although this is nothing but an artistic training, we have noticed the benefits to children with learning difficulties and special needs. We believe that children benefit from our method, as well as the safe and supportive environment we provide. They are always excited to show off their work at the end of term.





## EUROPEAN PROJECTS

Participants 15-30 have the opportunity to take part in European exchanges. Since the founding of the company, we have been interested in taking our projects to other European countries. Our first collaboration took place in July 2019 in Sicily. Five young people joined us travelling to Terrasini, a village near Palermo, to meet with 20 other young people from across Europe (Spain, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, and our host country, Italy). Together, they created a theatre piece on the theme of travel, which was performed on the last day of the exchange. In September 2019, we were in Germany. Further projects are currently in preparation (please visit our website for the latest news).



## AUDIOVISUAL

We were founded as a theatre company, but we always had the intention of moving into audiovisual work when the time was right.

We began making short films and documentaries in 2014. Through these projects, we developed the skills and acquired equipment to create audiovisual work. Our first fiction project was *Le Voyage de Théophile* (*Théophile's Travels*).

Currently, we are working on a documentary about ecology.



Le voyage de Théophile

## OUR ECO-COMMITMENT

Our commitment to the environment does not stop with our creative projects about the topic. It can also be seen in our everyday work. We try to adopt a zero-waste, zero-pollution strategy: recycling, reusing costumes, props and scenery, using second-hand material and home-made objects, fighting against planned obsolescence...

Our audiovisual work consumes more energy than our theatre work, such as electricity for the cameras and editing posts. We try to limit this consumption to the bare minimum and adopt the same green practices as in the theatre. We are careful to respect nature when we work outdoors.

## FUNDING

Since its creation in 2009, the company has self-funded all of its projects, with two exceptions: we won funding for the Martin Luther King project; our programme with the Parcours Laique and Citoyen is being funded by the Département de la Haute Garonne.

We do not receive any regular state funding. We fund ourselves through our work.

## PARTNERS

We have partnerships with the following organisations: the local government here in Toulouse, who provides halls for rehearsals and theatre classes; the Cercle Laique Jean Chaubet, who houses us in the Maison de Quartier; the Ligue de l'Enseignement, with which we are affiliated; Digijeunes, an association who brings us their digital expertise; the Département de la Haute Garonne, for the Parcours Laique et Citoyen programme; the multimedia hub of the Centre Culturel Bellegarde, for audiovisual editing; the FReDD festival, who invites us to their events and radio shows; and the Collectif Mobilité Européen en Haute Garonne, of which we are a part.

## ADMINISTRATION

We have a partnership with a structure that is the producer of our shows, because we have not set up a show-specific administration ourselves; this structure can sign for us transfer contracts and pay intermittent fees to artists who work.

For tasks that can be paid for under the general scheme, we use the Urssaf Association Employment Check (CEA).



## CONTACT

Marisa Mirenda

+336 62 47 31 33

zorro.compagnies@gmail.com

[www.zorroetcompagnies.fr](http://www.zorroetcompagnies.fr)

