

Title: (Câlin magique in French) **Magic Hug**

Company: **Le cirque perdu** (France- Barcelona).

Co-writers: **Ruth Salama** (aerial silks, acting and dance) and **Florence Nouveau** (contemporary and jazz dancer, choreographer and teacher).

Circus and dance choreography about the mother-child relationship with an aerial artist and a child.

A tribute to the universal bond that unites these two beings who are perpetually searching for love. They show incomprehension at times, but gradually they weave the web of their relationship. At times funny, at times bittersweet, the moments they spend together are the stuff of life everywhere.

Two different but complementary approaches: a circus artist and a dance choreographer.

#### **Authors' Note:**

« A child always wants to play and being a mother means making up for one's lost childhood. Having a child forces us to find the time to play together, to take time for the simple things -- even if the day-to-day hustle and bustle would seem not to allow it -- since there are other priorities. One day my son said to me, "A good mother is a mother that plays with me!" And this made me think.

I became a mother by adopting a child and this has changed my life, my pace and my priorities.

My son's adaptation was very difficult and I received much advice from other parents. Reality, however, was completely different, because he demanded to play all the time, and he was overflowing with creativity. He forced me to question old habits, to listen to him properly; I had to be creative to find solutions, and very often the solutions came from him!

I had to give the best of myself, I had to change old habits, I had to modify my authority model of a mother ... I could say he made me a better person: fairer, more attentive, a better listener, and most of all, I made the connection with the child I still was (I was rebellious too!).

As an artist, I have also regained a new, more naïve way of looking at things. I have learned to see through the eyes of a child. The director of *Locura flamenca*, Berty Tovías, used to say, "If you want to improve your clown, observe your son..."

Through this Project we want to bring help and harmony to those families where this relationship is difficult, complicated and atypical; we seek to lighten their burdens. For a start, we will approach an audience that would be particularly open to our proposition: families with adopted, gifted, or autistic children, and reorganized families, among others... where we can speak of emotions and much more...

The starting point was a CD of French songs by and for children, with lyrics talking of the parent-child relationship. There is one song in particular that made us laugh, because it says that parents are children too and also make many mistakes, so they also deserve punishment! Creation with a seven-year-old partner is a challenge and a lesson in life.

#### **Cultural Actions and the Creative Process :**

The choreographic development of this creative work will take place along two axes:

- Research on comic sequences, using objects too. We will play at rediscovering the possibilities of silks as an aerial playground for life.
- Workshops with mothers and their children (aged 7-9), in France and other countries. The idea is to get ideas from proposals floated during the workshops, taking into account all the while the different facets of the mother-child relationship.

The **workshops** will take various approaches:

1. Group discussion with one group of children and one group of parents, to talk separately about their relationship: feelings, thoughts, frustrations, memories, wishes, etc.
2. How to put these feelings in motion, how to express them with the body, with the help of music (our songs or other songs they would bring), and how to express them without words...
3. Afternoon snack and dance: group games, party, songs, and dance.