

Sofie Krog Teater
DIVA

The Plot:

Behind the heavy curtains in an old theatre, the fabulous Diva prepares for this evening's performance. Every night, when the curtain opens, her audience is enchanted by her beautiful, wistful song.

A hidden panel slides open, and a little shadow scurries away through a tunnel system leading deep into the theatre. Here, well concealed from the public eye, a deformed professor conducts his devious experiment. For years, he has secretly been working, in collaboration with his machine, to produce an elixir which will give him what he needs: a perfect body!

On this fatal evening, the professor's assistant, Eddie, gets a task, which exceeds his talents. He resorts to a dirty and immoral trick, which ruins the Diva's performance. The Diva's Butler is forced to bring in Guest Stars, in order to let the show go on. This turn of events has unforeseen consequences, which causes the machine to make an unexpected breakthrough in the experiment. Now the fates of all the characters of the theatre are intertwined. The theatre reveals new dimensions, and madness takes over....

"Diva" is an almost wordless performance – in a rotating animation theatre. Behind an inferno of 7 scenes of action and 21 curtains everything can be moved, opened, shut, and hoisted up or down. Small light systems, music, sound effects, cartoon comics, and tricky dexterity create a highly tensioned drama in a unique and magical universe.

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Gallery of Characters:

Diva:

The beautiful Diva was born with an enchanting voice, which draws an astonished audience to the old cabaret theatre, night after night. Her audience become infatuated by her song and feminine radiance. She conveys an unforgettable beauty, mixed with a confined and sorrowful longing. But behind the curtains, she has become a a frigid primadonna, a shadow of herself.

The Butler:

The Butler is a highly sensitive and conscientious gentleman, having served and secretly admired the Diva all through her long career. He makes himself useful during the daily performances and lives in a small room under the uninsulated roof of the theatre. From time to time he finds comfort by having a few too many drinks.

The Professor:

The talented young Professor lost his body during a research test, which went terribly wrong. After this catastrophical accident, he was misshapen – his head being his only remaining body part. He now lives a solitary and bitter life with only one thought in his stubborn head....

The Machine:

The Machine has been the Professor's only true partner since the accident. Together they try to create a drug, which will give the Professor back his body and make him the perfect human being.

Eddie:

Eddie is the Professor's assistant. On the Professor's orders he sprints towards goals that are often difficult to reach. Fortunately this rodent does not shrink from using dirty tricks. Charming, shameless, and daring he always gets away with it in any situation.

Guest Stars:

The brothers August and Carlos were born and grew up in a travelling circus. Their acrobat stunt has been passed from father to son and has created laughter and pleasure for centuries.

Sofie Krog**Born 1977 in Denmark.**

Sofie was originally educated within physical theatre, Method Acting, comedy, and mime in schools in Denmark and abroad, but is today working as a self-taught doll maker and puppeteer.

Since 2001 she has been drawn further and further into the universe of animation theatre, where her great passion for the strange, bizarre, and comical has been given a free rein.

In fact it all started with a passionate love-affair with Senor Gomez who definitely seduced Sofie Krog into a magic world – and here there were no limits for the madness.

From the very beginning Sofie was obsessed by the energy caused by the presence of Gomez, and she dedicated her life to further developing his dynamic possibilities of movement and his technical animation skills, for example his mouth, the rotation and blink of the eyes, the lifting of eyebrows, the wriggling of the ears, etc.

At the **Festival of Wonder** 2001 in Denmark Gomez and Sofie were allowed to enter the stage between two of the festival's high-lights, and in this way a vital door was opened.

In the spring of 2002 Sofie Krog produced her first 25 minutes' show DIVA (Diva 1). Throughout that summer she performed shows with Diva and Gomez at festivals in Denmark and abroad.

In the autumn of 2002 she was a puppeteer on the pilot of the movie STRINGS. After this Sofie worked on creating new control systems for the Diva and testing different materials, and thousands of hours were spent with the new dolls in front of a mirror....

In the summer of 2003 Sofie Krog was permanently appointed to Bald Film. Her job was to build up the characters of the marionettes and to work as a puppeteer at the

takings of the movie (STRINGS).

After 6 months' cooperation with some of the world's best puppeteers and doll makers Sofie's left cerebral hemisphere was almost bursting, and full of energy she started a breakneck project. After 7 intense months Diva (now Diva 2.) had grown into a 45 minutes' performance, and the old theatre had been exchanged with a new one: A rotating "hell machine" with 7 different stages and 21 curtains.

Schools:

2001

Method Acting (DK)
by Jean-Louis-Lochet.

1998

Cicomedia (UK):
Circus and Physical Theatre.

1997

Klovne- og Artistskolen (DK):
Physical theatre line: Mime, physical character work and clown.

1996

Ecole Philippe Gaulier (UK):
Neutral mask, Greek Tragedy, Melodrama, Bouffon,
Shakespeare & Chekhov, Writing and Directing.

1995

Gøglerskolen (DK):
Upstart place for the Education of Free Youth.

Private education:

2000-01 *Søs Egelind*

1997 *Johnny Melville*

SOFIE KROG TEATER:

DIVA

All by and with Sofie Krog.

The performance Diva does not look like anything you have seen before!

In a rotating theatre covered with flashing red velour Sofie Krog administers her marionette theatre with 7 stages and 21 small curtains, scattered all over the body of the rotating scenery.

The theatre revolves, a curtain slides aside, the play is on! A seductive diva sings melancholy cabaret songs sunning herself in the audience's rejoicings and the adoration of the infatuated butler.

Below the theatre's labyrinth of secret corridors a peculiar laboratory lies hidden away from the public eye. Here lives a mad professor, whose only goal is to produce a magic elixir that can transform his misshapen body into a perfect human being. But one evening the professor's arrogant assistant makes a fatal mistake. The two separate worlds intersect, the drama gains speed.

The show is a crazy combination of free style marionette theatre and bizarre poetry, which brings surprise after surprise. Each character in the show is its own type of puppet or animated object. The diva is an advanced doll with dramatic, trembling eyelids, the professor, a rubber face, wheeling around in a four-wheeled cart, the Butler a white glove. The show is almost wordless, but the few spoken lines are in English.

The rotating theatre reveals its mad ideas with a beautiful 'I-can-bloody-well-do-it-myself' charm.

All of it has been thought out, built, and animated by Sofie Krog, the one man army.

Releaving, unschooled, and crazy. Abstract picture poetry.

lotte.kofoed.erichsen@pol.dk