

Artistic Director

Natalia Menéndez (June 22)

Natalia Menéndez (Madrid, 1967) is an actress, director, playwright and theatre producer. She has a degree in Stage Direction and Interpretation from the Real Escuela Superior de Arte Dramático de Madrid (RESAD). In 1987 she began her professional career as an actress, an artistic form in which she has wide experience. She has worked in film with directors including Carlos Saura, Emilio Martínez Lázaro and José Luis Bollaín; in television with Diana Álvarez, Carlos Serrano, Adolfo Marsillach, Eva Lesmes, Pepe Ganga, Jaime Botella, Toni Sevilla and Paino, among others; and in theatre with Jesús Cracio, Guillermo Heras, Miguel Narros, Gerardo Malla, Jorge Lavelli and Jean-Pierre Miquel.

Menéndez has directed more than thirty productions, embracing theatre, musicals, *zarzuela* and chamber opera, both in Spain and the Americas, in mainstream as well as private, independent theatres. Works she has directed include *Comida (Eten)* by Marin Van Velduizen, *El invierno bajo la mesa (L'Hiver sous la table)* by Roland Topor, *Don Juan Tenorio* by Zorrilla – version by Yolanda Pallín, *El curioso impertinente* by Guillén de Castro, *La Duda (Doubt: A Parable)* by Patrick Shanley, *Las cuñadas (Les Belle-Soeurs)* by Michel Tremblay, *Música clásica* de Ruperto Chapi, *Tantas voces* de Pirandello – version by Juan Carlos Plaza Asperilla, *2 Delirios* by José Sanchis Sinisterra, *Realidad (The Real Thing)* by Tom Stoppard, *La amante inglesa (L'Amante anglaise)* by Marguerite Duras, *La villana* by Amadeo Vives, *Tejiendo la paz*, premiered in Bogotá to celebrate the Peace Agreement, *Tebas Land* and *El salto de Darwin*, both by Sergio Blanco, *Mi niña niña mía* by Amaranta Osorio and Itziar Pascual, *Tres sombreros de copa* by Miguel Mihura, *El pequeño poni* by Paco Bezerra, *El vergonzoso en palacio* by Tirso de Molina, *Las dos en punto* by Esther F. Carrodegua, *Despierta* by Ana Rayo, *La vida es sueño* by Calderón de la Barca and *Queen Lear* by Juan Carlos Rubio in collaboration with Natalia Menéndez.

She has translated, adapted and made versions of a dozen plays, including *La amante inglesa* by Marguerite Duras, *El invierno bajo la mesa* by Roland Topor, *Tres versiones de la vida* by Yasmina Reza, *La duda* by Patrick Shanley, *La cantante calva (La Cantatrice chauve)* by Ionesco, *Se van los días (Svevn)* by Jon Fosse, *Tartufo, un impostor (Tartuffe ou L'Imposteur)* by Molière and *Las falsas confidencias (Le fausses confidences)* by Marivaux, the latter work commissioned by the publisher Cátedra. She is the author of *Llevarnos lo malo*, *Querido Mozart*, *Clic* and *A voces*.

For more than ten years she worked with 10&10 Danza as playwright/choreographer. She has been the artistic director for exhibitions, such as *A tres bandas*, premiered in Bogotá, *1812: El poder de la palabra*, premiered in Cádiz

and *Arte y naturaleza en la prehistoria*, premiered in Madrid. She gives courses, workshops and lectures in Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia.

Between 2010 and 2017 she was Director of the Fundación Festival Internacional de Teatro Clásico de Almagro.

In 2020, the French government appointed Natalia Menéndez as Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, and throughout her career she has been recognised with prizes such as the Premio Chivas for Best New Director for *El invierno bajo la mesa* (2006) and the El Ojo Crítico y Ágora prize at the Festival de Almagro for *La discreta enamorada*, both in 1996. She obtained the Celcit medal in 2013 and in 2017 she was admitted to the Orden Civil de Alfonso X el Sabio, as a Commander.