

Malaiika



la sonrisa del lagarto 

Premiere: Il-Iluminar-Te Festival (Sagunto) 01/17/2025

THE STORY



Malaika, princess of an elephant herd, lives on the back of her father Komba. On a long journey to find the waterholes, she will face difficult challenges and a great lesson: memory is the key to the elephants' survival.



ARTISTIC SUMMARY

"Malaika" is the story of an elephant herd who, in their search for the waterholes, embark on the most fascinating adventures and reveal to us the secrets of the sacred Baobabs — those magnificent trees that grow upside down.

Like a gift fallen from the sky, the book "Malaika, la princesa" by Lizardo Carvajal came into our hands. Naturally, we immediately fell in love with Lizardo's work and proposed adapting it for the stage — and he said yes.

Once again, we are embracing the technique of shadow theatre combined with live acting, a creative approach that continually inspires and enriches the research and development of our artistic and theatrical projects.

Another innovative aspect of our project is the dramatic text and the use of oral storytelling within shadow theatre. We see dialogue not only as a dramatic tool but also as an aesthetic element, and we approach oral storytelling as a symbol — a form of expression that bridges gesture and emotion.

Stories, the words they weave, and children's theatre open endless doors to imagination — a place where wonder and creativity take flight. And through imagination, we learn to soar, even with our feet firmly on the ground.

Marli Santana

ARTISTIC PROFILE

Title	MALAIKA
Theatrical adaptacion	Marli Santana
Original Soundtrack	Lizardo Carbajal
Actresses/Puppeteers	Marli Santana y Ave Hernández
Scenography	La Sonrisa del Lagarto
Puppet creation	Ana Montes
Shadow puppets	La Sonrisa del Lagarto
Costume design	Marli Santana
Lighting	La Sonrisa del Lagarto
Music	Lizardo Carbajal
Video	Ángeles Muñiz y Ramón Martínez
Photography	María Cabaleiro
Acknowledgements	Jimi P. Lorente
Direction	Marli Santana
Production	La Sonrisa del Lagarto
Distribution	Leo Buenaventura





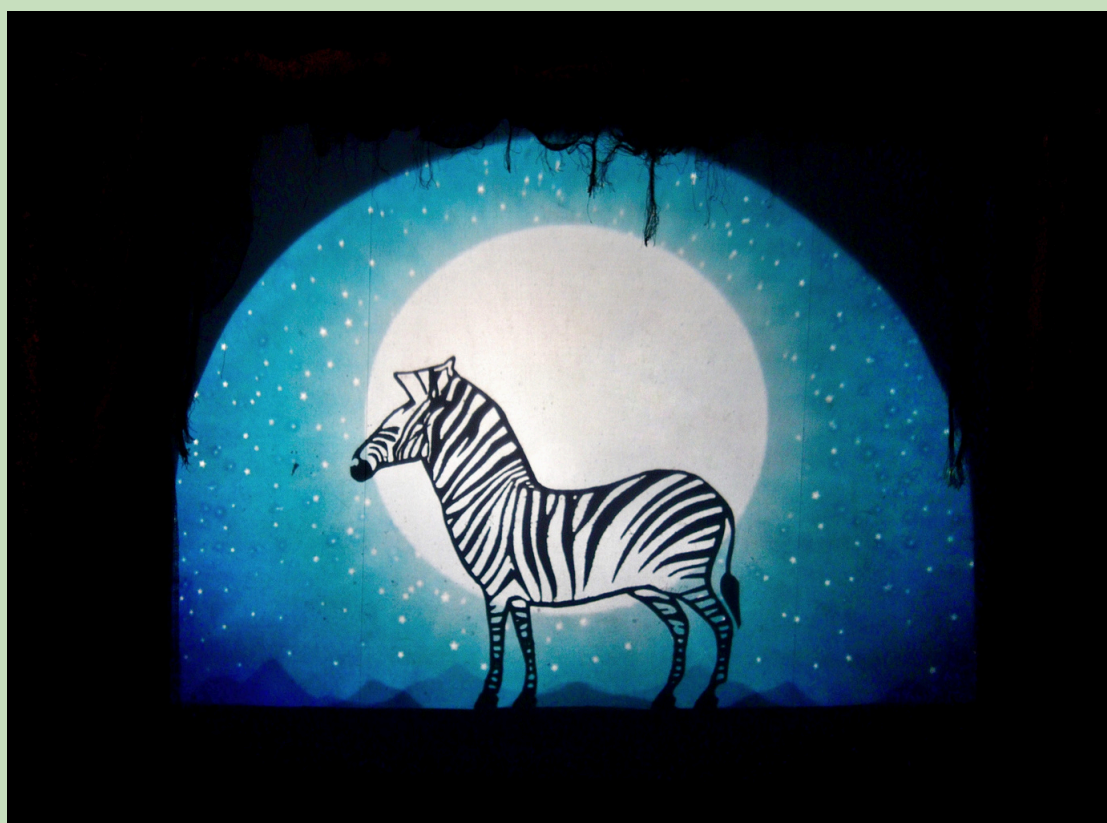




















LIZARDO CARVAJAL

Colombian editor, writer, animator, and illustrator. Member of the Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC) and the Canadian Author Association. Speaker on children's literature and creative director at LuaBooks publishing house. Since 2005, he has dedicated his time to artistic production in music and children's and young adult literature. His work is known for the simplicity and freshness of its stories, which also explore profound questions of life for both children and adults. Overflowing with imagination, his stories serve as an invaluable educational and pedagogical tool with far-reaching impact. He currently lives in Moncton, Canada, where he writes and illustrates his books in his "Bird Workshop." He is the author of books such as *El pájaro de los mil cantos* (2012), winner of the Crea Digital 2013 Award for Best Interactive Book and Best Interactive Book at Culture Days in Toronto 2012; *Malaika The Princess* (2013), awarded Best Animated Short for Early Childhood by Idartes 2013 and the Audience Award at Alcine 2015, Toronto.



MARLI SANTANA



Prize for Acting/Manipulation Skills

XXXI International Festival of Children's Theatre of Subotica
(Serbia, September, 2024)



Web - Malaika

Promotional Video



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