

THE LAST BLACK CAT

A cat that is aware of a terrifying secret...

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November 21, 2014

Described as a harsh "accusation" against racism, prejudice, superstition, and fascism that ultimately leads to genocide, a chillingly relevant fairy tale becomes a play for children and those who feel like children. Today, timeless and more relevant than ever, the international bestseller by our national storyteller, Eugenios Trivizas, "The Last Black Cat" (Metaichmio Publications), is presented for the first time on stage by the theater companies "Lykofos" and "Pedio Technis," in a stage adaptation by Venia Stamatiadi, with the collaboration of the author, and directed by Kostas Gakis, Athena Moustaka, and Konstantinos Bibis, at the Horn Theater, starting from November 22.

Not staying on the surface, facing children as mature individuals with imagination, judgment, and clear thinking, Eugenios Trivizas reveals to them the deep roots of racism, analyzes the real causes, highlights the political and economic interests it serves, all through a charming, entertaining, and captivating adventure that doesn't stay on the surface, doesn't speak simplistically. It employs humor, imagination, sensitivity, emotion, and metaphors to guide us through the causes of this destructive phenomenon, which, in recent years, perhaps more than ever, plagues Greek and not only society.

This story of relentless persecution, desperate love, and bitter betrayal becomes a performance that draws inspiration from various theater genres, including shadow theater and black theater, using 3D mapping techniques and spectacular projections that magically immerse the entire stage space, interacting playfully with the actors.

Only one cat remains alive.

Combining lyricism with humor, emotion with mystery, despair with hope, the author creates a mythical but convincing world, with dark conspiracies, intense pursuits, and an exciting adventure that takes us to an island where a secret brotherhood of preventers is determined to exterminate all black cats to rid the place of the scourge of bad luck. They almost succeed in their goal. Only one cat remains alive. A cat that knows a terrible secret. Its pursuers are determined to find it, trap it, and kill it. They are ruthless. They are organized. They are relentless. But the last black cat doesn't back down. It is versatile, flexible, and seven-lived.

Vaccine Against Prejudice

"At the time I wrote 'The Last Black Cat,' I was preoccupied, as a criminologist, with the theme of stereotypes of good and evil," explains Eugenios Trivizas. "In many of my children's books, such as 'The Three Little Werewolves,' I question or overturn these stereotypes.

The bitter truth is that the events of the novel pale in comparison to the persecutions suffered by black cats in reality, especially during the Middle Ages. During that period, the populations of Europe believed that black cats were incarnations of Satan. In 1233, Pope Gregory IX issued a papal proclamation (Voxinrama) accusing cats of serving the prince of darkness, and in 1484, Pope Innocent VIII, in a bull (Summisdesiderantes), decreed that witches should be burned at the stake along with their cats. These horrific persecutions continued throughout the Middle Ages. Hundreds of thousands of cats were tortured in horrifying ways, hanged, drowned, dismembered, and burned alive, to the point where the species almost disappeared from Europe.

Unfortunately, though, superstition, bias, and prejudice are not limited to black cats. Many other groups, races, and ethnicities have suffered relentless persecutions, oppressions, and atrocities. When a person, a country, a population, a race, or an ethnicity is considered to embody good, and their opponent embodies evil, it opens the way for all kinds of barbarity, for all kinds of inhumanity, and this must be avoided at all costs. And to avoid it, we must start early.

I am often asked what I consider more important between what I write: criminological studies and textbooks or children's books. The latter, I answer, and that is because it is difficult for adults to change their way of thinking. However, children can shape their approach to these issues correctly. Our early readings touch us more deeply, influence us more dramatically, and accompany us many times throughout our lives.

The most important reference for me in reviews written internationally for 'The Last Black Cat' is that of the 'Times Educational Supplement,' titled 'Time to think,' which recommends the book as a suitable introduction for elementary school children to the issues of genocide. I hope that this proves to be the case. Vaccine against prejudice. Vaccine against racism. Vaccine against genocide."