

# Popera III

Fondation EME

## HOME

Libretto based on workshops with the Popera Participants / written by Antoine Pohn

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## OUVERTURE

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*The boy arrives in the patio. Rings a bell. Waits. Rings again. Then slowly leaves.*

Choir.

|                                                                                     |
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| We look, we observe, we see.<br>Through the window.<br>We look, we observe, we see. |
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*This is the Leitmotiv of the public. It can be sang in call and response with the public.*

Vemos un niño, solo en el patio.  
¿ Quién es ? ¿ Qué está haciendo ?

We look, we observe, we see.  
Through the window  
We look, we observe, we see.

We see a child all alone.  
What is he doing here ?  
Whom is he looking for ?

### Scene 1

**Choir.**

Por la ventana vemos el patio,  
A los niños jugar, a la gente ir a trabajar,  
Volver a casa con sus bolsas de la compra.  
Por la ventana vemos el cielo,  
El sol pálido y algunas nubes.

Par la fenêtre nous voyons nos voisins.  
Nous nous voyons nous mêmes,  
Nos quotidiens comme dans un miroir.  
Que sais-je de quelqu'un ?  
Que je vois lever et baisser les stores tous les jours ?  
Si peu et pourtant autant.

Through the window we see the court,  
The children playing, people go to work,  
Coming home with their shoppings bags.  
Through the window we see the sky,  
A pale sun and some clouds

Through the windows we see our neighbors.  
We see ourselves,  
Our everyday life like in a mirror.  
What do I know about someone ?  
Whom I open and close thhe blinds every day ?  
So little yet so much

### Scene 2

**Pigeon lady.**

Venid, venid,  
Os he traído algo de comer.  
Semillas de girasol, pan rallado.  
Un desayuno de rey.

*The boy appears again.*

¿ Niño, qué estás buscando ?  
¿ Puedo ayudarte ?  
¿ Tu Tété ? ¡ No conozco a tu Tété !  
Podemos preguntar al conserje.

Come, come,  
I brought you something to eat.  
Sunflower seeds, bread crumbs.  
A king's breakfast.

Boy, what are you looking for ?  
Can I help you ?  
Your grandmother? I don't know your GM !  
We can ask the housekeeper.

**Choir.**

We look, we observe, we see.  
Through the window  
We look, we observe, we see.

Qui est ce garçon ?  
Il est nouveau ici.  
Qu'est-il venu faire ici ?  
Qu'est-ce qu'il nous veut?

Who is this boy ?  
He is new here ?  
What is he doing here ?  
What does he want from us.

### Scene 3

**Pigeon lady.**

¿ Tío, puedes ayudar a este niño ?

**Housekeeper.**

Tu cherches ta Tété ?  
Moi j'ai mieux à faire que de chercher des Tétés.  
Je dois ranger les lettres abandonnées  
Je dois nettoyer les entrées.  
Je dois aller changer des ampoules.  
Je dois veiller à l'ordre et au calme des lieux !  
Elle s'appelle comment ta Tété ?

Uncle, can you help this child ?

You're looking for your GM  
I have better things to do then help finding GMs  
I have to sort abandoned letters  
I have to tidy the entry halls.  
I have to change lightbulbs.  
I have to guard the order and calm of this place.  
How is your GM's name ?

Pourquoi tes parents ne sont pas avec toi ?  
On n'est pas une garderie.  
Les gens ici aiment leur calme,  
Ils n'aiment pas les choses imprévisibles,  
Les parvenus, les enfants perdus.  
Bon allez, allez, on va voir ce qu'on peut faire.

Why are your parents not with you ?  
We are not a childcare.  
People like their calm,  
They don't want unpredictable things,  
The newly arrived, lost children.  
Ok, Ok, we'll see what we can do.

*The children of the neighborhood arrive and get the boy's attention.*

**Children.**

You want to play with us ?  
Catch us, catch us if we can.  
You want to play with us ?  
Run, run faster if you can.

*While playing with the children and running around, the boy gets to the hiphop corner. There is Romeo and some people of his group. He stops, out of breath. The children are afraid and run away.*

#### **Scene 4**

**Romeo.**

Hey, kiddo  
You want to dance with us ?  
I can show you some moves would you like

*They dance a bit together.*

Can I ask you something ?  
You see the girl over there ?  
Can you bring her this letter ?

**Choir.**

¡ No te juntes con esta gente !  
¡ Ten cuidado con lo que haces !

Don't mingle with those people !  
Be careful with what you do !

*Pressured, the boy leaves Romeo and his group.*

We look, we observe, we see.  
Through the window.  
We look we observe we see.

It's the end of the day.  
Slowly everybody is getting home.  
Through the window we see people cooking dinner, reading a book or watching TV.  
People live their lives, with their pleasures and worries.  
That's how we live, when the sun falls, that's how we live.

*During the choir singing, the boy goes to Julia to give the letter. Then exit with the pigeon lady.  
And everybody.*

## Scene 5

*Night.*

**Romeo.**

There you are, hiding!

**Julia.**

You know we have to be careful.

My parent's don't want to see us together.

**Romeo.**

Don't worry my love. The night hides us.

**Julia.**

I wonder, how long will we go on like that ?

I am tired, I am afraid.

Can fire live under constant rain ?

**Romeo.**

We could run away !

We can go wherever you want.

What is your favorite place on earth ?

**Julia.**

I don't know my favorite place.

This is where we live, I don't want to run.

I want to stay here, with you.

**Romeo.**

Your parent's will kill me.

**Julia.**

Give us time. Give us time.

That's all we have. We're rich of time.

*Entrance Housekeeper and parts of choir, checking the patio.*

**Housekeeper.**

J'ai entendu quelque chose.

I heard something.

**Choir.**

There is a noise in the garden.

Who can it be ?

There is a noise in the garden.

**Romeo.**

I have to run.

**Choir.**

¿ Quién vaga de noche ?

¿ Son los amantes otra vez ?

Who is roaming at night ?

Is it the lovers again ?

**Housekeeper.**

Halte ! Stop !

*Romeo runs away. Julia manages to slip away without being seen by the housekeeper, her father.*

## ACT II

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### Scene 6

#### Choir.

Une nouvelle journée commence  
Nous sommes à la fenêtre  
Les même personnes quittent leur appartement  
Pour aller dans les mêmes lieux  
Nous aimons cette vie calme,  
Cette tranquillité.

A new day starts  
We are standing at the window  
The same people leave the same apartments  
To go to the same places  
We like this calm life  
Our tranquility.

#### Children.

We are late for school,  
We have to run.  
See you tonight Mama, Papa.

*The boy watches them run, not far away the pigeon lady.*

### Scene 7

#### Pigeon lady.

Venid, venid,  
Es hora de un gran festín.  
Nosotros también nos reunimos en torno a la comida.  
Para celebrar la alegría, para celebrar la vida,  
Para superar nuestro dolor,  
Para conmemorar juntos.  
Sóis como nosotros,  
Vivís aquí como nosotros.  
Os contáis historias,  
En lo alto de los edificios o en los árboles.  
Nos vigiláis.

Come, come,  
The hour of a big feast.  
We also gather around food.  
To celebrate joy, to celebrate life,  
To surpass hardships,  
To commemorate together.  
You are like us.  
You live here like us.  
You tell each other stories,  
Sitting on top of buildings or in trees.  
You look after us.

*Julia joins her.*

#### Julia.

Tata, I need your help.  
Can you talk to my father ?  
I love Romeo. I can't go on like that.  
But he will get angry if I tell him

#### Pigeon lady.

No te preocupes.  
No somos más que una historia  
Que las palomas cuentan sobre nosotros.

Don't you worry.  
We are nothing but stories  
That pigeons tell about us.

*The boy joins them.*

#### Julia.

Tata, please.

#### Pigeon lady.

Si, voy a hablar a tu padre.

Yes I'm going to talk to your father.

#### Julia.

Who is this boy ?

Pigeon lady.

Su Tété vive aquí.  
Todavía no la hemos encontrado.  
Debe vivir con ella.  
Su madre se murió hace mucho tiempo,  
Su padre ya no puede cuidar de él.

His grandmother is living here.  
We haven't found her yet.  
He is supposed to live with her.  
His father ran away long ago,  
His mother can't take care of him anymore.

## Scene 8

*The housekeeper trying to make phone calls to join the Childs parents or grandmother.*

Housekeeper.

Bonjour ? J'essaie de vous joindre depuis deux heures.  
Votre fils est ici. Seul.  
Pourquoi n'êtes vous pas avec lui ?  
Le répondeur, toujours le répondeur.  
Bonjour, c'est la concierge ici !  
Votre petit fils est là, il vous attend.  
Il doit vivre avec vous.  
Vous-êtes où ?  
Je n'ai pas le temps, on n'est pas une garderie.  
Le répondeur, toujours le répondeur.

Hello? I've been trying to call you for two hours.  
Your son is here. Alone.  
Why are you not with him ?  
Voicemail. Always the voicemail.  
Hello, it's your concierge here !  
Your grandson is there, he's waiting for you.  
He's supposed to live here.  
Where are you ?  
I don't have time, we are not a childcare.  
Voicemail. Always the voicemail.

*The pigeon lady, Julia and the boy go to the concierge.*

Julia.

Father, I have something to tell you.

Pigeon lady.

Tío, tu hija está enamorada.

Uncle, your daughter is in love.

Julia.

I love Romeo and I want to be with him.

Housekeeper.

Qu'est-ce que j'entends ?

What am I hearing ?

Pigeon lady.

Tío, no te enfades.

Don't get angry.

Housekeeper.

Comment oses-tu ?  
Tu penses que je te laisse à ce vaurien ?  
Non, non, non, jamais !  
J'ai trimé toute ma vie  
Pour que tu finisse avec un vaurien ?!

How do you dare ?  
You with this good-for-nothing ?  
No, no, no, never !  
I've been working all my life  
So you end up with a good-for-nothing ?!

*He drags her away and locks her in their apartment. The boys runs away to look for Romeo.*

Choir.

We look we observe we see.  
Through the window.  
We look we observe we see.

Nous ne faisons pas confiance à ce vaurien.  
Ce n'est pas quelqu'un pour elle.

We don't trust this good-for-nothing.  
He's not the right one for her.

Il traîne toujours dans la cour  
À déranger notre tranquillité.

He's always hanging around in this court.  
Troubling our tranquility.

Yet it is love  
And who are we to judge ?  
We should let them live.  
We should let them chose.  
If they want they shall be together.

¿ Qué deberíamos hacer ?  
El amor es algo tan frágil.  
¿ Podemos confiar en el ?

What are we supposed to do ?  
Love is so fragile.  
Can we trust it ?

## Scene 9

*The boy runs until finding Romeo.*

**Romeo.**

Hey kiddo.  
You look so sad, what is wrong ?  
You're still looking for your Tété ?  
You miss your mum ?  
Look she is right there in your heart, by your side.  
And you are in the same spot in her heart.  
Be sure she loves you very much.  
Sometimes we have to go separate ways with people.  
Sometimes we have to let them go.  
That doesn't mean we don't love each other still.  
I lost my mother when I was a little boy.  
And I still love her, she is always here with me.  
Hey kiddo.  
Look what I can do, I can play the flute !  
Air-flute !

*Mimicks playing a flute, on the sound of the orchestra. The boy laughs. Then leans forward to whisper something in his ear.*

Oh, poor Julia !  
But don't you worry, I have a plan !

**Choir.**

Regarde cet homme,  
comment il s'occupe de ce garçon  
Sans penser à ses propres peines.  
Peut-être que nous nous sommes trompés sur lui.

Look at this man,  
How he takes care of the boy  
Without thinking about himself.  
Maybe we were wrong about him.

We look, we observe, we see.  
Through the window.  
We look, we observe, we see.

Este chico no es un ladrón.  
Tiene el corazón en el lugar correcto.

This man is no thief  
He has his heart on the right spot.

*Exit.*

## Scene 10

*Juliette on a balcony.*

Julia.

Look at the stars, whenever you think of me.  
Look at the stars, whenever you need help.  
That's what my mother used to say.  
I implore you today, dear stars,  
Show me a way out of here,  
Show me a way to my love.  
I implore you today, dear mother,  
Let your ghost come to my father tonight.  
Sooth him, help him to let go of his anger.

*Romeo, the boy and the pigeon lady come in with a ladder.*

Romeo.

Juliette, my love, come down we have to run.

Choir.

Pas trop fort. Pas trop fort  
Le concierge ne doit pas vous entendre.  
We look, we observe, we see.  
Through the window.  
We look, we observe, we see.

Not so loud. Not so loud.  
The housekeeper must not hear you.

Julia.

Where will we go ?

Pigeon lady.

A casa de un pariente mío.  
Podéis quedaros allí algún tiempo.

To a relative of mine.  
You can stay there some time.

Romeo.

We will live a new life, we will be free.

Julia.

But this is the place where I belong.

Pigeon lady.

Vive en una ciudad pequeña, no muy lejos de aquí.

She lives in a small city, not far from here.

Romeo.

But the place you belong is a prison.

Pigeon lady.

Es un lugar precioso, allí seréis feliz.

It is a beautiful place, you will be happy there.

Julia.

I am chained to my memories.  
Yet, I trust you, I give you the key.  
Take me with you.

Choir.

They should be allowed to live their life,  
They should be allowed to be free.

## Scene 11

Housekeeper.

J'entends du bruit !

I hear noise !

Choir.

¡ El conserje, que pena !

¿ Qué va a pasar ?

The housekeeper, oh no !

What will happen ?

We look, we observe, we see.

Through the window.

We look, we observe, we see.

Housekeeper.

Qu'est-ce que je vois ?

Qu'est-ce que vous faites ?

What do I see ?

What are you doing ?

Pigeon lady.

Tienes que dejarles vivir su vida.

You have to let them live their life.

Housekeeper.

Je suis son père, j'ai mon mot à dire aussi.

I am her father, I also have something to say.

Julia.

Father, I love him, you have to accept that.

If you don't I will run away with him.

Housekeeper.

Je ne t'autorise pas à l'aimer.

Tu ne t'enfuiras pas.

I don't allow you to love him.

You will not run away.

Romeo.

Please sir, I promise to take good care of her.

Housekeeper.

Jamais ! Jamais !

Never ! Never !

Pigeon lady.

Tío, desecha tu ira.

Uncle, let go of your anger.

Housekeeper.

Vous cambriolez ma maison !

Vous enlevez ma fille !

J'appelle la police !

You break into my house !

You steal my daughter !

I call the police !

Julia. *(to choir and public)*

Will you all just stand and watch while this man destroys my life ?

Choir.

Espera ! Espera !

No hagas algo de lo que te puedas arrepentir.

Conserje, por favor.

Wait. Wait.

Don't do something you will regret.

Housekeeper, please.

Housekeeper.

J'ai déjà perdu ma femme,

Je ne peux pas perdre ma fille.

I already lost my wife

I can't also lose my daughter,

Pigeon lady.

Crees que tu hija te querrá así?

You think that's how she will love you ?

Choir.

On a vu cet homme s'occuper du garçon.  
C'est quelqu'un de bien.  
Ne t'enferme pas dans ta colère.

We saw this man take care of this boy  
He's a good man.  
Don't lock yourself in anger.

We look we observe we see.  
Through the window.  
We look we observe we see.  
And we take care.

Laisse les s'aimer.  
Nous leur faisons confiance.  
Laisse les s'aimer.

Let them love each other.  
We trust them.  
Let them love each other.

Housekeeper.

Et vous ne vous enfuirez pas ?

You won't run away ?

Julia.

No father. If you accept us, I stay here with you.  
I know you love me. But you have to learn to show it.

Choir.

We look we observe we see.  
Through the window.  
We look we observe we see.  
And we take care.

C'est la joie. C'est la joie !  
Regardez les amoureux.

It's joy, it's joy !  
Look at the lovers.

**End**

*The grandmother arrives with her backs from a trip to the sea. Sees the boy, let's them fall and runs to take him in her arms.*

*Monologue boy ? (blank talk / microphone).*

Tété, Tété, I am so happy to see you ! Thank god you've come. I was waiting here, I was lost. Tété people were really nice, I like those people, I trust them. Tété I think we need time, time to let our view on things crumble. Time to see something new flourish, time to see the other as who they really are instead of the image we project upon them. Tété, we must believe in people, we must believe we can do something. We must believe that we will stand up and talk, that we will stand up and act. That we won't be alone. Look, this man made me really afraid. He was so angry and full of hatred but he is just broken and suffering. Tété, we must take care of each other. And all those people were watching and finally they decide to help. What if they had not ? Everything would have gone on again. All the pain and suffering. Again and again. Tété we must believe in people, we must believe in joy. We will do something !