

ABOUT

MUSCARIUM - performing arts festival in Sintra

MUSCARIUM#1 had its first edition in 2015, during the celebrations of the 15th anniversary of *teatromosca*. Alongside this commemorative motto, it was intended to boost a municipal venue, the **AMAS – Auditório Municipal António Silva**, with regular national and international performances. As well as to contribute to the engage with audiences in an area of high population density, but with little cultural offer; strengthen a network of artistic partners; to inject dynamism into the Shopping Cacém, enhancing the economic and social value of the initiative; promote a space for dialogue between artists and companies, but also between them and the public. From the beginning MUSCARIUM expressed an international ambition having presented “**Juste des Jeux**” (France), alongside national projects as “**Os Lusíadas - Viagens Infinita**”.

In the following year, **MUSCARIUM#2** presented, among workshops and debates, 12 performances in 4 different spaces. Integrating in its program, dance, and music performances, such as “**NOVO_título provisório**” (Portugal) or the **Lewis Barfoot** concert (Ireland). In that year, it was held in MU.SA – Museu das Artes de Sintra, the exhibition “**O objeto cenográfico como elemento dramático**” about the set design work on the Trilogia Norte-Americana / North American Trilogy, of *teatromosca*.

In its 2017 edition, **MUSCARIUM#3** decided to bet on the presentation of concerts by Portuguese musicians in unusual places.

This way, **Homem em Catarse** played on a train ride between Lisbon and Sintra, **B Fachada** gave an intimate concert in a private house, **Them Flying Monkeys** played on the Terraço do Centro Cultural Olga Cadaval at sunset and **Pupilos do Kuduro** played in Jardim da Anta. There was no lack of dance and radio drama performances for the whole family.

MUSCARIUM#4 spread, in 2018, to a large part of the municipality of Sintra, with a program that was reinforced with more music and more partying, such as the concerts of **Noiserv** (Portugal), **Kiasmos** (Iceland) and **Mykki Blanco** (USA) and the exhibition "**Captar o Efémero – A Fotografia no *teatromosca***" with work by Catarina Lobo. The fourth edition of this festival also marked the opening of the new program season of *teatromosca* at AMAS - Auditório Municipal António Silva, in the city of Agualva-Cacém.

In the year of *teatromosca* twentieth anniversary, **MUSCARIUM#5** aimed to bring national and international artists closer to audiences in Sintra or outside the municipality, with emphasis on works by dance companies such as, **Untamed** (Belgium), **Companhia de Dança de Matosinhos** (Portugal) and **Company of Wolfes** (United Kingdom).

MUSCARIUM#6, in 2020, invested on a new program predominantly national and on the premiere of a new creation by *teatromosca* in co-production with Centro Dramático Rural (Spain), the performance "**Estúdio Flores**", very much influenced by the covid-19 crisis.

MUSCARIUM#7 took place, still marked by the pandemic crisis. Even in this context, the program continued to believe in the diversity of venues, investing in reaching out to audiences. Therefore, Quinta da

Regaleira served as the backdrop for the concert of **Gisela João** (Portugal), who opened the 2021 festival in a sublime way. In front of the Palácio Nacional de Sintra, **Teatro Só** (Espanha) enchanted children and adults with the outdoor show "**Sómente**". Meanwhile, at AMAS, the Canadian collective **Mammalian Driving Reflex** (Canada) worked with local young people for a week, presenting the performance "Sex, Drugs & Criminality" at the end.

In 2022, **MUSCARIUM#8** questions itself – What is the purpose of a festival? — and changed its format. It no longer presents different performances every day and assumes itself as a space for research, investigation, and artistic experimentation. It favors artists in residence, open rehearsals and meetings between spectators and artistic teams. During the month of September, four artists, **Mariana Fonseca, Adriana Melo, João Garcia Miguel, Joana Couto**, and **Camilla Morello**, were in residence for a week in several spaces in Sintra. In 2022, the festival obtained the EFFE Label awarded by the European Festivals Association (EFA).