

Footprints in the Air

By Isabel Cristina

"Footprints" is the title chosen by Antonella Dalla Rosa for her workshop with young children. With extensive experience accompanying a group like La Barraca and conducting workshops in various countries, Antonella knew how to win the hearts of the little ones. She worked with the children in the 3-year-old classroom and with the babies who were just one year old. With her special cadence, she managed to transport them to wonderful places. Through her body and voice, the children travelled to the jungle, climbed a mountain, got wet in the rain, imagined various shapes, and painted strange figures in the air that seemed close and loving to them.

Antonella gradually immersed herself in the classroom dynamics, and the teachers emotionally supported her at every moment of the workshop. The explorations and discoveries were different with the one-year-olds and the three-year-olds. The older ones were more active and verbal. However, with the younger children, the importance of gestural guidance over words became evident. The little ones wanted to explore, touch, squeeze, and move freely. They could do all this under Antonella's magical influence.

The moment with the sheets of paper was beautiful and impactful. The little ones brought the paper to life in various ways. They shook it, stepped on it, threw it, crumpled it, made it fly through the air like butterflies, and squeezed it like a cherished attachment object. Besides interacting theatrically, Antonella caressed the children, put on their shoes, and spoke to them kindly about the small things in life. The little ones from *Círculo Infantil Saltarines del 2000* had an unforgettable morning, and she left her footprints on everyone who met her, like a wildflower leaves its scent in the air.