

THE COMPANY

Culturas em Movimento

Theatre rooted in memory, oral tradition and women's narratives. São Paulo, since 2005.

The Empty Suitcase

Culturas em Movimento · culturasemmovimento.com

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The company

Culturas em Movimento is an artistic collective and cultural production company based in São Paulo. It was founded in 2005 by actress, storyteller and producer **Dinah Feldman Harari**, first under the name Cia Lazzo. It creates and produces theatre, storytelling and cultural mediation, in conventional and unconventional spaces, for a wide range of audiences and communities.

From 2013 the collective expanded into cultural production, with projects of creation, touring and artistic exchange. Its team of artists, educators and producers has worked in theatres, Sesc and SESI venues, libraries, museums and touring programmes. Its mission is to combine artistic quality with social relevance and accessibility.

The Empty Suitcase, its most travelled production, was originally produced by SESI-SP. It has reached 102 performances and more than 40,000 spectators, won six Brazilian theatre awards, and is available for international touring.

Founded	2005, São Paulo, Brazil
Founder and director	Dinah Feldman Harari
Fields	Theatre · storytelling · cultural mediation · education
Research	Memory · oral tradition · women's narratives
Repertoire in focus	*The Empty Suitcase* · *Yentl, the Girl Who Wanted to Learn*

Dinah Feldman

Actress · Storyteller · Producer

Dinah Feldman is a Brazilian actress, storyteller, cultural producer and arts educator, with more than twenty years in the performing arts. A journalism graduate of PUC-SP, she trained in theatre at Teatro Escola Macunaíma and at the École Philippe Gaulier in London and Paris. She was part of the experimental performing arts research centre of Teatro Popular do SESI-SP, did an internship at the Théâtre du Soleil in Paris, and studied with the griot Sotigui Kouyaté, the root of her work on orality, listening and storytelling.

Since 2006 she has devoted herself to the research and practice of storytelling, connecting theatre, oral tradition, memory and cultural education. She has represented Brazil at the Festival Yeleen in Burkina Faso and at the Encuentro de Contadores de

Historias y Leyendas in Buga, Colombia, and has worked with artists and groups such as Denise Weinberg, Cia Dedo de Prosa, Toumani Kouyaté and Isaac Bernat.

She conceived and produced *The Empty Suitcase* and *Yentl, the Girl Who Wanted to Learn*, among other works. *The Empty Suitcase* was born at the Jewish Museum of São Paulo, where she was working: she saw audiences listen for forty minutes, in complete silence, as her cousin William Jedwab told the family's story, and knew it belonged on stage. A descendant of Jewish refugees who lived in Shanghai, she is on stage in the play and leads the company on tour.

In 2025 she joined the Creative SP business mission to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where she presented the company. On 21 October 2025 she spoke about *The Empty Suitcase* at the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum, which published the story a week later.

> *Dinah Feldman, unique, marks the crucial moments of the text with excellent technique and once again creates a figure shaped almost entirely by her exceptional work with the voice.*
>
> Marcio Tito · Deus Ateu, 09/05/2024 (O Vazio na Mala)

Research: women, memory, oral tradition

Since 2006, Dinah Feldman's research has explored the representation of women on stage and the oral transmission of stories. The collective was founded on the same ground: to investigate women's worlds, the meeting of storytelling and dramaturgy, and the dialogue between theatre, music and oral narrative.

The same themes return across the repertoire: memory, gender, ancestral knowledge, resilience, emotional inheritance, displacement, and what passes from one generation to the next.

Women stand at the centre of this work. A young woman who disguises herself as a man in order to study, in *Yentl*. Heroines who rely on wit and courage, in *The Three Wise Women*. Three women who reclaim their voices, in *Tattered Souls*. Tales of women's strength and transformation, in *Feminices*. In *The Empty Suitcase*, the research turns to family memory: what does one generation leave inside the next?

The company is also developing a Women's Solo Theatre and Research Festival: a platform for solo women artists to meet, share their work and tour it internationally.

In focus: The Empty Suitcase

Inspired by a true family story, *The Empty Suitcase* follows a journey that begins in Germany, reaches Shanghai and, years later, continues to Brazil. At its centre is an old suitcase that holds memory and silence. The play asks what one generation leaves inside the next, and how we inherit experiences we never lived and stories that were never told. Combining theatre, original music, projections and visual storytelling, it turns one family's history into a deeply human story about memory, family, displacement and what passes between generations.

In 1939 the Jedwab family left Breslau, in Germany, and arrived in Shanghai, where they lived for nine years. Shanghai did not just let this family survive: it took them in. Today the Jedwab name is on the Wall of Names of the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum.

Premiere	21 March 2024, Teatro do SESI-SP, São Paulo · original production: SESI-SP · selected for the Festival 2024 em Cena
Track record	102 performances · more than 40,000 spectators · 7 cities, six of them in one theatre network
Awards	Three Bibi Ferreira Awards: Best Play, Best Original Playwriting, Best Actress (Noemi Marinho) · APCA Award for Playwriting (Nanna de Castro) · two CENYM Awards: Artistic Quality and Set Design · Shell Award nomination, Best Actress (Noemi Marinho)
On tour	80 minutes, no interval · 4 actors · company of 10 · in Portuguese with English and Simplified Chinese surtitles
Accessibility	Performances in Brazil with Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) and audio description
Availability	International touring 2026–2028, by prior arrangement

Concept and original idea	Dinah Feldman
Playwright	Nanna de Castro
Director	Kiko Marques
Cast	Dinah Feldman, Noemi Marinho, Fábio Herford, Marcos Suchara
Original music and sound design	Gregory Slivar
Lighting design	Wagner Pinto
Set design	Márcio Medina
Image direction and videomapping	André Grynwask, Pri Argoud (Um Cafofo)
Costume design	João Pimenta
Executive producer	Marcela Horta
Produced by	Culturas em Movimento
Original production	SESI-SP

Technical rider, programme, press clippings and trailer: culturasemmovimento.com.

Yentl, the Girl Who Wanted to Learn

A literary and musical performance inspired by the short story "Yentl the Yeshiva Boy" by Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer. Yentl is a young woman who defies the norms of her society by disguising herself as a man in order to study, in a time and place where knowledge was denied to women. Her story intertwines with contemporary texts by poets and thinkers, opening a conversation about women's pursuit of equality and access to knowledge, then and now.

Blending theatre, music and the art of storytelling, the piece speaks about female agency, gender, education and equity, for audiences aged 12 and over. The oral transmission of knowledge, essential to Jewish culture, runs through the performance and links it to Dinah Feldman's long-term research on women on stage. Designed for cultural centres, museums and schools, it has played at venues such as Itaú Cultural, Sesc São Caetano, Casa Museu Ema Klabin and Arena B3, and at education events.

Running time	60 minutes
Audience	Ages 12 and over
Language	Portuguese

Concept, adaptation and performance	Dinah Feldman
Director	Malú Bazán
Musical direction	Lucas Coimbra
Art direction	Eder Lopes
Lighting design	Lica Barros
Production	Marcela Horta
Company	Culturas em Movimento

Repertoire

Productions

- ***The Three Wise Women***. From British oral tradition; directed by André Garolli and Luciana Viacava. Three tales of heroines who rely on wit and courage. Supported by the Cultura Inglesa Festival and ProAC.
- ***Tattered Souls***. Inspired by stories by Mia Couto; directed by Paulo Williams. Three women reclaim their voices in a poetic, intimate piece about African roots and women's narratives.

Storytelling repertoires created and performed by Dinah Feldman

- ***Feminices***: fantastical tales of women's strength and transformation.
- ***Tales of the Cangaço***: stories of the women of the cangaço, in the backlands of north-eastern Brazil.
- ***Why Stories***: myths that explain the inexplicable.
- ***Brazilian Echoes***: Brazilian versions of traditional tales.
- ***Backcountry Tales***: the caipira culture of rural Brazil, in poetic and musical form.

- ***The Dead, the Living and Maja***: literature, music and storytelling for adult audiences, from Luigi Pirandello's *The Dead and the Living* and Anaïs Nin's *The Nude Maja*.

Also conceived and produced by Dinah Feldman: *Anne's Game*, and *Autumn, Winter or What We Dreamed Yesterday*, by Lars Norén, adapted and directed by Kiko Marques.

In development

- ***Lysistrata, My Love***: Matéi Visniec's version of Aristophanes' classic; directed by Clara Carvalho and Denise Weinberg.
- ***The Midnight Garden***: from Philippa Pearce's *Tom's Midnight Garden*; directed by Thais Medeiros.
- ***Carlota***: inspired by Didier Lévy's *La Petite Sœur du Chaperon Rouge* and by the work of Ailton Krenak and Peter Wohlleben; directed by Cristiane Paoli-Quito.
- ***No More Silence***: from Márcio Pitliuk's book *O homem que venceu Hitler* (The Man Who Defeated Hitler); directed by Kiko Marques.

Storytelling, mediation and workshops

Alongside its productions, the company works with storytelling, cultural mediation and education, for audiences that range from regular theatregoers to educators, students and historically marginalised communities. Theatre and storytelling become tools for listening, exchange and dialogue, and for keeping individual and collective memories alive.

- **Storytelling performances** from Dinah Feldman's own repertoires, in Sesc and SESI venues, libraries, museums and touring programmes.
- **Workshops and masterclasses** with Dinah Feldman on memory, oral tradition and storytelling.
- **Post-show talks** with the cast and creators, held every Sunday during the São Paulo premiere season of *The Empty Suitcase*. Students, teachers and descendants of Shanghai's Jewish refugees have taken part in the company's talks.
- **Educational programmes** for schools, universities and museums, adapted to each context.
- **Accessible performances**, with Brazilian Sign Language (Libras) and audio description.

Talks, workshops and educational programmes can travel with the productions, on request.

Milestones and partners

2005	Dinah Feldman founds the company in São Paulo, first as Cia Lazzo.
2006	Dinah begins her research and practice in storytelling.
2013	The collective expands into cultural production: creation, touring and artistic exchange.
2019	The Jewish Museum of São Paulo and the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum hold a joint exhibition on the Jewish refugees in Shanghai. Afterwards, the Jedwab family suitcase is donated to the São Paulo museum: the seed of *The Empty Suitcase*.
2024	*The Empty Suitcase* premieres on 21 March at Teatro do SESI-SP, São Paulo, as an original production of SESI-SP, and is selected for the Festival 2024 em Cena.
2024–2025	Three Bibi Ferreira Awards, the APCA Award for Playwriting, two CENYM Awards and a Shell Award nomination.
2025	Tour to six cities of São Paulo state in one theatre network; the 100th performance at Teatro Moise Safra, São Paulo, in October. Dinah joins the Creative SP mission to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and, on 21 October, presents the project at the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum.
2026	102 performances and more than 40,000 spectators. Dinah presents *The Empty Suitcase* at the ChinaSPAF Pitch Session "Going to Chinese Mainland!", Shanghai, 16 October.

Institutions and partners along the way

- **SESI-SP**: original production of *The Empty Suitcase*; premiere and tour in its theatre network.
- **Jewish Museum of São Paulo**: where the play was born; the Jedwab family suitcase is part of its permanent exhibition.

- **Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum**: the 2019 joint exhibition with the Jewish Museum of São Paulo; Dinah Feldman's presentation in October 2025 and the museum's article on the play.
- **Public cultural programmes**: ProAC, PNAB, the Aldir Blanc Law, Funarte and SESI-SP open calls. The Cultura Inglesa Festival supported *The Three Wise Women*.
- **Venues**: Sesc and SESI venues, Teatro Moise Safra, Itaú Cultural, Casa Museu Ema Klabin, Arena B3, libraries, museums and schools.
- **Abroad**: Dinah Feldman represented Brazil at the Festival Yeleen (Burkina Faso) and the Encuentro de Contadores de Historias y Leyendas (Buga, Colombia), and joined the Creative SP mission to Edinburgh in 2025.

Contact

Culturas em Movimento welcomes conversations with curators, presenters, festivals, cultural institutions and international partners about touring, co-productions, collaborations and artistic exchange. We answer in English, Portuguese and, with a little patience, in Chinese.

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