#ACTFEM - Girls ACTing For EMpowerment

PLÀUDITE TEATRE

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Young women from three countries challenge gender expectations on a Barcelona stage

At Barcelona's RBLS festival on 14 November, #ACTFEM connects theatre and digital creativity with young women's right to shape their own futures.

L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, 5 November 2026 - Young women from L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Athens and Bucharest will bring their experiences of inequality, identity and expectations for the future to Barcelona's Teatre Tantarantana on Saturday 14 November at 5.00 pm. Their joint production, ***When the World Weighs***, will premiere in Barcelona as part of RBLS, the performing arts festival for young audiences, bringing together the three groups of the #ACTFEM - Girls ACTing For EMpowerment project.
Led by Plàudite Teatre, which developed the original methodology in L'Hospitalet, #ACTFEM is a European collaboration with Transcena Association, from Romania, and Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet-Gr), from Greece. Co-funded by the European Union through Creative Europe, the project links artistic creation with support for continued education, gender equality and cultural participation.

Three groups in one shared performance

When the World Weighs brings together three pieces by the young participants and their artistic teams:

- *A un cel de distància* - Plàudite Teatre, Spain.
- *Our Stage, Our Voice* - Hellenic Theatre/Drama & Education Network (TENet-Gr), Greece.
- *Everything I Didn't Say* - Transcena Association, Romania.

Through theatre, movement, collective storytelling and technology applied to the stage, the pieces explore stereotypes, discrimination, silences and uncertainty about the future. Their creators bring diverse social and cultural experiences to a shared stage, asserting their right to be heard and to question the expectations placed on them.

Learning through the entire creative process

Designed for young women aged 16 to 20, particularly those facing barriers to education and cultural participation, #ACTFEM combines ongoing artistic training with hands-on digital learning. In a safe, supportive environment, professional artists guide participants as they develop their ideas and critical thinking, rehearse, make collective decisions and create work about the issues that matter to them.
The programme links acting and playwriting with set design, lighting, cultural management, digital technologies and communication. Workshops, mentoring, cultural visits and international exchanges introduce participants to the range of artistic professions. They experience first-hand the responsibilities involved in creating a production and working as a theatre company. The project's intersectional approach considers how gender, social background and economic circumstances can intersect. Its aim is to build confidence, critical thinking and collaboration, while encouraging participants to continue their studies and develop new aspirations.

Digital creativity with university expertise

The project collaborates with the University of Lleida (UdL) and Barcelona's Pompeu Fabra University (UPF). Researchers at UdL delivered several workshops on technology applied to the stage and artificial intelligence, exposing gender biases. At UPF, researchers coordinated the communication and gender module, helping participants develop promotional materials for their work. These contributions connect practical creative skills with critical reflection on technology and representation.

From the local pilot project to European cooperation

The earlier pilot project in L'Hospitalet ran from 2022 to 2025 and supported 23 young women who, as reported in October 2024, continued their post-compulsory education thanks to the project. Their production, *Perfectament Imperfectes*, was subsequently performed outside the city and laid the artistic foundations for the European collaboration.
The pilot also involved the Higher Polytechnic School of the University of Lleida in the design of the interactive costumes.
The pilot also led to research with a wider educational reach. Initiated by Plàudite Teatre in collaboration with the University of Lleida and the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), this research gave rise to EDUGENIA, an open-access guide on teaching artificial intelligence from a critical gender perspective, with support from the Instituto de las Mujeres.

As part of the ongoing European project, the Romanian and Greek partners are adapting the methodology to different contexts that nevertheless have much in common. The aim is to make the methodology transferable so other cultural and educational organisations can develop sustained creative programmes with young women in their communities.

The #ACTFEM project is recognised by the UNESCO Chair for the Prevention of Violence against Women.

Performance information

Performance: *When the World Weighs* (original title: *Quan el món pesa*)

Date and time: Saturday 14 November 2026, 5.00 pm CET

Venue: Teatre Tantarantana, Sala Baixos 22, Carrer de les Flors 22, Barcelona

Festival: RBLS, 10th edition

Running time and languages: 60 minutes. Catalan, Spanish, Romanian and Greek, with Catalan surtitles.

Admission: Free, with advance booking. Programme and bookings.

Additional notes

Project: #ACTFEM - Girls ACTing For EMpowerment was selected for funding under the 2024 European Cooperation Projects call of the Creative Europe programme. The project runs for 28 months, from 1 October 2024 to 31 January 2027.

Educational context: Eurostat's 2025 early leaving from education and training rates were 12.8% in Spain, 3.0% in Greece and 15.5% in Romania, compared with 9.1% across the EU. These national figures measure the percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds who had completed no more than lower secondary education and had not taken part in any formal or non-formal education or training in the previous four weeks.

About Plàudite Teatre: Founded in L'Hospitalet de Llobregat in 1998, Plàudite Teatre is a performing arts organisation working in artistic creation, education and community theatre to promote cultural participation and social change. Its values are Art, Culture, Community.

Support and collaboration: Project co-funded by the European Union. With support from the Government of Catalonia, ICEC and the departments of Culture, Social Rights and Education; Spain's Ministry of Culture; L'Hospitalet City Council; Spain's Instituto de las Mujeres; Genco'93; and UNITER. With local educational collaboration from Institut Bisbe Berenguer.

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