

Travel with Sounds

By Isabel Cristina

The beautiful actress Marilena Triantafillidou traveled from Greece to a Children's Circle in Centro Habana. At Los Martianitos, the youngest children of the 2-year-old class and the older preschoolers awaited her to receive the workshop "Travel with Sounds." One of the unique aspects of the exchange was that the actress did not speak Spanish, and a young Cuban accompanied her to translate her songs and the fundamental guidelines of the workshop. It was incredible to see how the children were comforted by her tender voice, even though they did not understand the meaning of her words.

Language was not a barrier; the words served as a texture of affection that cannot be explained but must be experienced through the body. To achieve this harmonious relationship with the one-year-olds and later with the five-year-olds, the actress was accompanied by Coloko, a funny glove puppet. The children formed a spontaneous relationship with the little dog Coloko, who invited them to meet his animal friends. At this point in the workshop, the children suggested new animals and imitated their sounds and forms.

The "O" game was very fun; while it worked as a sound stimulus for the younger children, the preschoolers interpreted it as a coordination and rhythm challenge. One by one, they passed their fingers through circles of different sizes while singing with the letter "O."

Marilena sang several songs in Greek, the most beautiful and catchy being the handkerchief song. While singing in the language of Aphrodite and Athena, she handed out colourful handkerchiefs to the children.

"Travel with Sounds" is an exquisite sensory experience for the children, featuring bubbles, puppets, colorful handkerchiefs, and much love in the form of theater. The most beautiful part was seeing how Marilena enjoyed herself while sharing with the children. She laughed and danced as if it were the most beautiful day of her life. Working with early childhood has that magic—it leaves you with more than you give to the children, even if you put your whole soul into it.