

## Helena Bittencourt **CURRICULUM VITAE**

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**Height 1.69m hair: dark brown weight 60 kg Eyes: dark brown**

**Languages: Portuguese, english, french, italian, spanish.**

**Birthdate : 17/11/1979 - Brazil**



Actress, comedian, singer, director, script and theatre writer

Bianco su Bianco	Compagnia Finzi Pasca ( World tour )	Leading actress/ creation
A Menina e o Pote	Oi Futuro ( Rio de Janeiro )	Leading actress/ creation
Solvo	Cirque Bouffon ( Germany, France )	Leading clown / creation
Nandou	Cirque Bouffon ( Germany, France ).	Leading clown/ creation
Life the Show	Strut&Fret ( Australian tour )	Clown/ creation
Mar Aberto.	Helena and Goos ( Rio de Janeiro )	Actress/ director/ writer
Human Acts	Helena and Goos ( The Netherlands, Italy )	Performer/ director/ writer
Playing for Eurydice	Ensemble L'autre monde ( Germany ).	Director/ writer
Havana Cafe	Compania Ensaio Aberto ( Rio de Janeiro )	Actress/ singer
Corteo	Cirque du Soleil (U.S.A tour )	Aerialist/ singer/ clown
Donka	Compagnia Finzi Pasca ( world tour )	Actress/ aerialist/ creation
Circus Klezmer.	Circus Klezmer ( European Tour )	Actress/ aerialist
Philodendrus	Cristina Moura ( Rio de Janeiro )	Actress/ dancer
Scintilla	Cirque en Chock ( Switzerland )	Director/ writer
Opera SaintLouisBloes	Touchstones/ Muis ( The Netherlands ).	Director/creation
Olympic Games Sochi	Compagnia Finzi Pasca ( Russia )	Assistant Director/ Performer
Diverse Shows : Stroom		
Fashionata, Durf, Hoop!	Cirque de La Liberte, Touchstones	Co-creator/ Clown/ director/ writer
Blouse and Ver war me	(Arnhem, The Netherlands )	

### Film

PROVA!	Featured film	Writer, director, actress
Tales of Lovely L Losing	Short (Best Creative short award at Europe. FilmFest, Semifinalist StockolmFilmfest, Best screenplay award at Sidney Film Awards)	Writer, director, actress
Kit-Chen.	Short (Best comedy award- Best Istanbul Film Festival, CineRO (BR), CineVoyage and Nafco Film Festival (USA).	Writer, actress, director, editing
SHOW	Short (RedNose award-Best film Playthefool. filmfest (Canada), Honorable mention at London Comedy filmfest, official selection Festival Mundial de Circo (Brasil)	Writer, clown, director, editing
Samen	Short/ Festival Nacht's ( Netherlands/ Brazil )	Actress/ director/writer
Cotidiano	Music VideoClip/ Seu Jorge ( Brazil )	Leading actress
Una Goccia	Short/ Andrea Canepari ( Italy )	Actress
Música de Elevador	Series/ Estúdio Radiográficos ( Brazil )	Actress
Hold up; La citta hai.	Short/ Concerto ( Italy )	Actress

### Formation

Theatre University (UNI RIO), National Circus School (BR) , Method Acting (Andre Landzat), Actors Theatre workshop (NY), Professional Scriptwriting (Roteiraria), Singing (Estelle Esse , Pedro Lima), Cirque du Soleil General Formation.

Helena Bittencourt is a Brazilian and Portuguese director, actress and multidisciplinary artist, who is based in The Netherlands and in Brazil.

For the past 20 years she has been performing, directing and writing various performances, plays, contemporary theater, circus and comedy shows and film, collaborating with different artists and companies. She made her first appearance on stage at the age of seven and started performing as an actress at a very young age in Brazil. After graduating in Theater Interpretation at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (Uni-rio), she graduated also at the National Circus School. Her debut in a big production was in 1999, being part of the cast of *Ringling Brothers Barnum and Baileys Circus* as an acrobat and elephant rider. Following this tour, she was invited after to auditions and then to join the cast of *Cirque du Soleil* (Canada).

In the creation and north-american tour of the show *Corteo*, she performed multi roles as an physical actress, acrobat, clown and singer. At *Cirque du Soleil*, Helena first met the director Daniele Finzi Pasca who invited her to take part of his new company, *Compagnia Finzi Pasca* (Suisse/ Canada), of which she has been part since 2009. She was part of the company's first creation, *Donka a letter to Tchekhov*, which was for five years in a world tour. *Donka* is a coproduction with the *International Theater Festival Theckhov* (Russia) and was performed in theaters and festivals around the world. Among them, *BAM* (New York), *Teatro Solis* (Uruguai), *Teatro Piccolo di Milano* (Italy), *Festival Cervantino* (México), *International Theater Festival* (Colombia) and *International Theater Festival of Curitiba* (Brazil), between many others.

She was also part and collaborate in creations of many companies, performing as actress, clown, acrobat and singer at *Manicomics Teatro* (Italy), *Intrépida Trupe* (Brazil), *Circus Klezmer* and *Circ Ozo* (Spain) and compania *Ensaio Aberto* (Brazil) in the musical *Havana Café*. She founded the theater Collective *OH! Céus!* (Brazil) where she directed and adapted two plays from Dostoiévski 's romances ; *White nights* and *The Crocodile*.

Regularly she performs as an actress and performer in Rio de Janeiro, in various projects. When living in Italy, she wrote and played in short movies projects invited by the *Concerto Festival* .

In 2012 she meets her husband and working partner Goos Meeuwse (The Netherlands)

and they started working as a duo in several projects. They debut their first comic acts

together as main characters in *Cirque Bouffon* (France/ Germany), in the show *Solvo*.

Later, in 2013, they were also main clown characters characters in *Nandu*, from the same company. Also in 2012, they created the performance *30 Min To Shine*, played in the *Doetinchem Street Art Festival* (The Netherlands).

One year later, in collaboration with the *Orchestra Ensemble L 'Autre Monde* and invited by the *Academy of Art and Performance of Frankfurt* (Germany) they wrote, directed and performed the theatre- musical concert *Playing for Eurydice* and they were cast of *Philodendrus*, a contemporary dance creation of the coreographer Cristina Moura.

In 2014 Helena direct the play *Crocodile* (Brazil), with the Colective Oh! Céus! And worked as assistant director in the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics and at the Opening Ceremony of the Paralympics in Sochi, Russia, both ceremonies directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca.

In the same year, wrote, directed and performed in the show *Mar Aberto*, winner of the prize Fomento, given by the city of Rio de Janeiro. The open air play was inspired by the novel *The Old Man And The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. The clownish, musical and theater performance took place in a giant piano of 7 meters in the center of the city.

With *Touchstones Arnhem* (The Netherlands) and in collaboration with local designers, volunteers, jazz musicians and acrobats from different nationalities, they wrote, played and directed *Fashionata, Cirque de la mode* at the Eusebius church in 2014 and in the consecutive years, the shows *Stroom, Durf, Hoop, Bloes, VerWarMe and Vrij*, respectively in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2109, 2021 and 2022.

The five location theater creations took place in the ASM Harbor in Arnhem, The Netherlands, and were part of the *Arnhem Fashion Festival*. The performances reached every year an audience of around five thousand people.

In 2014, invited by the Compagnia Finzi Pasca, Helena, protagonize the duo's theater and clown show *Bianco su Bianco*, written and directed by Daniele Finzi Pasca, and in co- production with the Compagnia Finzi Pasca (Ticino, Suisse). Since its premiere, the show has been touring in many cities from different countries. Among them, Suisse (Lugano, Bellinzona, Morges and others) France (Belford, Vesoul, Roman sur Isere and others), Italy (Florence, Napoli, Palermo, and others) Spain (Pays Vasque, San Sebastian, Bilbao and others), Russia (San Petersburg, Sochi, Voronesh, Vladvostock), Uruguay (Montevidéo), Argentina (Buenos Aires), Chile (Santiago), Ecuador (Quito), Brazil (Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Belo Horizonte), Canada (Montreal, Quebec City), Romania, Denmark (Ahrus and Arborg), Finland (Helsinki) and Mexico (Mexico City, Guadalajara, Texcoco).

In 2016, Helena wrote and direct the performance *Scintilla* a colaboration with the company *Cirqu'en Choc* and sponsored by Amnesty International. *Scintilla* is a show about the Human Rights and had its premiere in Sion, Zwitterland.

Directly after, in 2016 she wrote and performed the comedy and visual performance show *HumanActs*, in collaboration with the *Kempenaar Advocaten* and *Touchtones Arnhem*. The show was played in the Netherlands, at the Theater de Leo and City Theatre (Arnhem), at the Festival *CircoCircolo* (Tilberg), Theatre New Regentes (Den Haag), Festival *Young Ones* (Zwolle) and at the Festival *Ultima Provincia* (Italy).

In 2019 she wrote and filmed in Brasil the short movie *Samem* (Rio de Janeiro/ Arnhem), which was featured at the Festival *Nachts* (Holand) with live music composed and performed by Miguel Boulens and jazz

trio. In the same year she collaborated with the Studio Radiográficos (Rio de Janeiro) in the video series Música de Elevador.

In 2018 Helena and Goos were invited by Strut & Fret Production House in Australia to Life The Show, directed by Scott Maudment. The show premiered at the Brisbane Festival. In 2019, Life played at the Fringe Festival in Adelaide, followed by a season in Canberra. In 2020 Life was at the Sydney Festival.

In 2019 they created the concept and directed the modern ópera St Louis Bleus, in collaboration with the orchestra De ErePrijs. The show was performed in one season at the Musis Sacrum in Arnhem, The Netherlands and produced by Touchstones Arnhem.

Helena Bittencourt created the theatre play, video and sound instalation, *A menina e o Pote*, at the exposition room and winner of the prize of the Cultural Centre of Oi Futuro (Rio de Janeiro).

Directed by Fernanda Bond, the play was performed by Helena and Nivea Magno. Both performers also signed the dramaturgy and writing of all texts and composed together the original soundtrack of the project.

Since 2020, Helena is part of the collective *Transatlântico* (Rio de Janeiro, Mozambique, Portugal and The Netherlands), A collective of multi disciplinary artists that develop a serie of movies and performances, having as their main inspiration the theme of the foreigner's processes of fabulation and fictionalisation.

Also in 2020, she started studying Cinematography at Institute of Cinema (Brasil),

And in 2021 started a integral scriptwriter formation at Roteiraria (Brasil), as well as sound editing and creative writing classes, all online in the form of zoom meetings.

In 2021 Helena and Goos wrote and directed the Physcal Theatre Play "VRIJ" , presented in Arnhem for two consecutive years, in Apeeldoorn and Nieuw Vennepe.

short movie SHOW, coproduced by ThefunniestFestival (Netherlands). The movie won the Rednose award (best of the festival) at the PlayingtheFool filmfest (Canada) and received the Honorable mention at the London Comedy FilmFest. They both also directed the movie Kit-Chen, written by Helena, which won the Best Comedy award at the Istanbul film Festival and was exhibit in the festivals CineRO (Brasil), CineVoyage (India), NafCofilm Series (USA) and Best Istanbul Filmfest (Turkey).

Later on they played, directed and wrote the movies: Tales of Lovely Locked Loosing Heroes ( Awarded best Screenplay at Sidney Film Awards and Best Creative Short at Europe Film Festival and which will be show in Focus Arnhem in January 2023 ) . In 2022 they directed the show and the feature movie "Prova" (2022) based on the movie of Federico Fellini "Prova d'orchestra".

Helena has participate as a singer in many shows as special guest and lead singer in the Nederlands (Arnhem, Amsterdam, Den Haag) , Cologne (Germany) and Rio de Janeiro. As a leading comic and writer she took part in the show "Cupido" also in Cologne (2022/2023).