The cultural arm of the Formentera Council pulled the veil back today on its programme of performing arts and music for the first quarter of 2017. According to CiF culture councillor Susana Labrador, the events will take place across three months in the local cinema, the Council's Sala de Cultra. An effort, she said, to offer a rich sampling of theatre and musicals to everyone on the island, children too.

February

Formentera Viu l'Òpera continues through February with Giuseppe Verdi's *Nabucco*, a work based on the Old Testament and Francis Cornue and August Anicet-Bourgeois' *Nabucodonosor*. The screening will be held February 4 at 8.00pm in the cinema.

Audiences this month will also be able to see ***L'Etern Mecanoscrit***. Winner of the Bòtil prize and based on stories by Salvador Oliva as well as Manuel de Pedrolo's novel *El mecanoscrit del Segon Origen*. La Impaciència, the theatre group behind the show, says the production is for young and old audiences alike, one that underscores the importance of books and reading and conserving the heritage they represent. Part of Institut d'Estudis Baleàrics' Talent IB initiative, this production of L'Etern Mecanoscrit will take place February 11 at 9.00pm in the cinema.

Young audiences are invited to come February 18 for ***Hanna dels tres països***. It is a tale of three young women, each from a different country, who, for different reasons, are forced to leave home. A variety of symbolic interpretations can be made of this particular theatre format, presented without acrimony, and refusing to recoil at the task of discussing such controversial topics with children.

As part of the Dia de les Illes Balears events programme, music lovers can look forward to two Formentera performances on February 25, from **Marcel Cranc** and **Quin Delibat!** Mallorcan composer Miquel Vicensastre —alias Marcel Cranc— will share his most recent work before our neighbours on Eivissa, Quin Delibat!, close out the evening lineup. Both are scheduled for 9.00pm in the cinema.

March
In March audiences will have their chance to see Tennessee William's celebrated ***Un tramvia anomenat desig***
(
A Streetcar named Desire
), whose neurotic, fierce and tormented characters are all set to board the last train. The show, brought to Formentera by director Sergi Baos, with a premiere cast including Alexandra Palomo, Marga López, Joan Manel Vadell and Rodo Gener, can be seen Saturday March 4 at 9.00pm in the cinema.

The bill on Sunday March 5 is for children. Integrating techniques from shadow theatre and the music of the islands, ***Els Músics de Bremen*** (**Town Musicians of Bremen**) takes on the popular tale by the Brothers Grimm. It's the story of when four hard-luck animals, banding together and trying their luck as musicians, make for Bremen. Musics viatgers ("traveling musicians") is the name of the stage troupe, and they will perform Els Músics de Bremen on Sunday March 5 at 6.00pm in the cinema.

Another feature of Formentera Viu l'Òpera pulls up on March 15: *Il Trovatore*. A four-act opera composed by Giuseppe Verdi to an Italian libretto by Salvatore Cammarano, the work was completed by Leone Emanuele Bardere and based on a drama of the same name by Spanish playwright Antonio García Gutiérrez. The screening of this opera will start at 8.00pm in the cinema.

April
Acorar returns to Formentera on April 1. Toni Gomila, heading up writing and acting for the production, delivers visceral monologues as he carries us to the heart of Mallorca, bound for the most important social event for any islander: the hog slaughter. Gomila uses the decadence of the happening to explain the end of traditional Mallorca and, by extension, the world as we now know it. The Ferro theatre group performs Acorar before Formentera audiences April 1, at 9.00pm in the cinema.

On Saturday April 8 it's another one for the kids. Dud & Cia troupe brings street theatre to Plaça de la Constitució in Sant Francesc with ***El niu***. This family-friendly production reinvents itself at every turn, but without words or rules, just an ongoing interplay with spectators that cuts new imaginative paths and incubates surprises and laughter.

At the end of April, there's Piotr Tchaïkovski and Yuri Grigorovich's ***El llac dels cignes*** (**Swan Lake**). This fairly tale, told as a ballet in four acts, was taken up by the Bolshoi Theatre in 1875 and debuted in 1877. It will be screened on Formentera April 29 at 8.00pm in the cinema.

Ticket prices

Entry to Formentera Viu l'Òpera screenings is eight euros. For theatre productions, tickets are five euros for the general public and three for viewers under 25, part of an effort to encourage young people to attend theatre. Tickets for both children and accompanying adults are three euros at kid's productions, except for Els Músics de Bremen and El niu, which are free to attend. The Dia de les Illes Balears concerts with Marcel Cranc and Quin Delibat! are also free.

Support for culture

L'Illa a escena is backed by Institut d'Estudis Baleàrics' Talent IB initiative and the Spanish cultural ministry's Programa Platea, both bids to promote the performing arts. It was renewed this year and will be back again this autumn with even more cultural and artistic excitement.