

# LINK LINK CIRCUS



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*“After the great success of the widely acclaimed live on stage show ‘Green Porno’ (Bestiaire d’Amour) based on the popular Sundance Channel series, Isabella Rossellini presents a new one-woman show once again taking inspiration from the animal kingdom. A brand new solo lecture performance and a totally new experience for the audience around the world.”*

## *What I wish this show to be* *Isabella Rossellini*

My work as a writer is intended to be comic and it is once again about animal behavior. It is important to me that my art is both entertaining and scientifically informed.

I wrote, directed and performed 40 short films for the series “Green Porno”, “Seduce Me” and “Mammas” produced by SUNDANCE CHANNEL and ARTE TV.

I made a feature length documentary “Animals Distract Me” for DISCOVERY CHANNEL.

In 2015 I toured 50 different cities with a monologue “Bestiaire d’amour”, written with Academy

Award winning author and screenwriter Jean-Claude Carrière, directed by Muriel Mayette that can be seen on NETFLIX.

I received very good reviews and several awards, a PhD Honoris Causa from UQAM (Université du Québec à Montreal) and the French Minister of Culture bestowed me with the title of Commandeur de l’ordre des arts et des lettres.

Link Link Circus is similar in style to my other monologue. It is the same length, one hour and ten minutes without an intermission. It is illustrated with my short comic films, home movies, photos and of course my drawings.



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But this time on stage with me there will also be Pan, my trained dog. I cannot have on stage all the animals I will talk about in the play so Pan and I we'll dress up and interpret several different species.

*Link Link is in fact a little circus.*

Pan and I will address the newest scientific discoveries about animal minds, intelligence and emotions. I will also transform myself into Aristotle, René Descartes, a medieval theologian, Harvard Professor F.S. Skinner and Charles Darwin, all discussing what is the essence of human beings and what distinguishes us from the "brutes".

Circa 150 years ago Charles Darwin, with his theory of evolution, linked humans to non-humans, demonstrating that there is a continuum between animals and us. For some this idea is

still offensive. While physical continuity maybe more accepted, cognitive continuity is mostly rejected.

The title Link Link Circus reveals the core of my intention in the show: the sound "link link" is childish, innocent, fun like saying "ding dong" when referring to the sound of bells. But the word link has also the meaning of a relation, a bond, and a continuum.

Darwin predicted that there was also a mental and emotional continuum between animals and us, which nowadays it is being confirmed by ethology studies. In 1871 he wrote in his book "Descent of Man" "[...] the difference between the mind of the lowest man and the highest animal is immense, (but) the difference in mind is one of degree and not of kind".

The show will be directed by Guido Torlonia.





**“Impossible to resist.”**

*The Hollywood Reporter*

**“Invites Us to Share Her  
Appreciation of All Species.”**

*The Village Voice*

**“Staged with its tongue  
firmly implanted in its cheek,  
the evening enjoyably flits by  
with many belly laughs  
and a whole lot of knowledge...”**

*Theatermania*



“A wholly intelligent, hysterical,  
and human show.”

*Scribicide*

“Rossellini’s hilarious appreciation  
of the natural world  
and its sexual wonders is infectious.”

*The Guardian*

“Quand Isabella fait le bête, c’est un ange...  
la comédienne présente un spectacle gai,  
enlevé, tout d’esprit et de cocasserie.”

*Le Figaro*



Isabella Rossellini grew up in Paris and Rome. When she was 19, she moved to New York City, working as a translator and a journalist for RAI-Italian Television. She began a modeling career at the relatively advanced age of 28, appearing on numerous covers of magazines such as Vogue, Elle, Harper's Bazaar and Vanity Fair.

An enduring style icon, in 1982 Ms. Rossellini began a 14-year run as the exclusive spokesperson for Lancôme. When she turned 40, an age considered too advanced to representing the beauty industry, her contract was not renewed. Isabella launched her own cosmetics brand, Manifesto, and in 2016 Lancôme hired her again as a spokes person with the specific intent to promote inclusiveness and fight against 'ageism'.

Ms. Rossellini made her cinematic debut as an actress in 1979 in the Taviani brothers's film *Il Prato* (The Meadow) and has appeared in numerous other films since then, including the American features *Blue Velvet*, *White Nights*, *Rodger Dodger*, *Cousins*, *Death Becomes Her*, *Fearless*, *Big Night* and last year *Joy*. She worked with many different directors like Robert Zemeckis, David O. Russell, David Lynch, Robert Wilson, Taylor Hackford, Marjane Satrapi and Guy Maddin.

She is also a successful television actress and filmmaker, with a keen interest in animals and wildlife conservation. Her award-winning series of shorts, *Green Porno*, *Seduce Me* and *Mammas* offers comical and scientifically insightful studies of animal behaviors.

Isabella is completing her Master Degree on Animal Behavior and Conservation at Hunter College in New York City and has received a PhD Honoris Causa from the Science Faculty at UQAM (University of Quebec at Montreal). Her most recent work on television includes Master of Photography for European broadcaster SKY and the American series *Shut Eye* for the platform HULU that has been released in December 2016.

Ms. Rossellini's philanthropic interests embrace preservation of her family's extraordinary cinematic heritage, including the films directed by her father, Roberto Rossellini, about whom she has written, and those featuring her mother, Ingrid Bergman. She also runs an organic farm in Brookhaven in association with the Peconic Land Trust and the Post Morrow Foundation. Ms. Rossellini is a mother of two and resides in Bellport, Long Island.



# Guido Torlonia

Guido Torlonia is a theatre and cinema director. Born in Rome, Italy, where he studied Cultural Anthropology, he actually formed at the workshop of Milan's Piccolo Teatro by working as an assistant to Giorgio Strehler, at the beginning of the 90's. In 1995, he directed two short films for the New York Film Academy, and then returned to work in theater in Italy, France and Spain.

In Florence he served as Event Manager for the Fashion and Cinema Biennale. From 2003 on, he worked in Paris for the Festival des Italiens and covered the role as Stage and Artistic Director at the Italian Institute of Culture.

For many years he served as Master of Ceremonies at the Venice Film Festival and at the Rome Film Festival.

He wrote and directed three theatre plays tributes to Visconti, Fellini, and Strehler (2007-2008), that have been presented over the years in Paris, Rome, Milan, Venice, Moscow and New York.

In 2012 he wrote and directed Handmade Cinema, his first documentary on the arts and craftsmanship of the Italian film industry.

In 2015 he creates the theater piece 'The Tribute to Ingrid Bergman' with Isabella Rossellini and Ludovica Damiani, presented worldwide on the centennial of the birth of the great Swedish actress.

Since 2014 he's Resident Stage Director at the Teatre Akademia of Barcelona.

