

Stage Director's Notes

Now that you know the story, let's discover together why the stage director Silvia Paoli has decided to transform Turandot into a moth!

Since she was a child, she was afraid of insects. Hornets, grasshoppers and hairy spiders are not nearly as sweet and lovely as puppies or kittens, or soft like rabbits. **THEY ARE DIFFERENT, THEY SEEM TO BELONG TO ANOTHER WORLD**, where you move on spiders' webs, underground or you fly. A fascinating kingdom, a long way away from what we are used to.

So, thinking about Turandot, a beautiful woman but one who has lost all sense of joy, love and tenderness, the idea of a moth came to mind, a moth who lives by night. The ice princess is like a butterfly who has lost her colours and who has transformed all the inhabitants of Peking into many types of insects, accomplices in her cruelty. **THEY ARE NO LONGER THEMSELVES, THEY REPRESENT WHAT THE PRINCESS WANTS.**

If we think about this, we often **FIND THAT WE TOO TAKE ON ROLES** during the day. When we go to school we are students, when we are at home with our parents we are children, when we go out with our classmates we are friends, and many other things. But if someone made us be only one of these things it would be terrible. It would signify that this is the only role that describes us, identifying ourselves only with one small part.

This happened to Turandot. **SHE CANNOT BE AND CANNOT THINK ABOUT BEING ANYTHING ELSE** and she finds herself enveloped in that idea, in that feeling, as if she was in a cocoon. She needs help to find the parts of her that she has forgotten. Her help is Liù: she makes her understand that strength is in love, in the opening up to others and not in closing into ourselves.

DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE FUN TO GET TO KNOW SOMEONE AND FOR SOMEONE TO GET TO KNOW YOU? Insects are like this in the end: they often have an appearance that we don't like or that frightens us, but if we look closer and stop saying "how horrible", if we try to look at them carefully, we discover that they are beautiful.