



PRESS RELEASE
Volterra, July 2006

COMUNE DI VOLTERRA, REGIONE TOSCANA, PROVINCIA DI PISA,
COMUNI DI POMARANACE, CASTELNUOVO V.C., MONTECATINI V.C., MONTEVERDI M.MO,
COMUNITA' MONTANA ALTA VAL DI CECINA, AZIENDA ASA LIVORNO,
CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI VOLTERRA S.P.A.
FONDAZIONE CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI VOLTERRA

FESTIVAL VOLTERRATEATRO.06

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE, MUSIC, DANCE, POETRY, VIDEO, ART AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

**Volterra, Pomarance, Castelnuovo Val di Cecina, Montecatini Val di Cecina e
Monteverdi Marittimo (Pisa)**

I TEATRI DELL'IMPOSSIBILE

17 – 30 July 2006

XX edition

art director **Armando Punzo**
organization **Carte Blanche**

Meeting and Experiencing theatre

From 17 to 30 July 2006 the **XX edition** of **VOLTERRATEATRO FESTIVAL** takes place in **Volterra** and in Pomarance, Castelnuovo V.C., Montecatini V.C. and Monteverdi M.mo, organized by **Carte Blanche**, with the artistic direction of **Armando Punzo**.

The Festival is promoted by: Comune di Volterra, Regione Toscana, Provincia di Pisa, Comuni di Pomarance, Castelnuovo V.C., Montecatini V.C., Monteverdi M.mo, Comunità Montana Alta Val di Cecina, Azienda Asa Livorno. The support of **Cassa di Risparmio di Volterra** and of **Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Volterra** is to be underlined, as Institutions present, as usual, in every cultural activities in the area.

It is going to be the 20th edition of the Festival: a brand new starting point.

VOLTERRATEATRO, inserted in one of the wonderful cities of Italy, full of culture, history and art, becomes the centre where the comparison between innovation and tradition lead to methods and ideas for the future and for nowadays. VOLTERRATEATRO wants to be , not only a showcase, but a place where **“theatre could be met and experienced”**. A feature reinforced during the years, shaping the identity of the Festival. Together with the presentation of artistic projects and performances, the Festival is characterized by **workshops, labs and meetings**, conducted by the artists invited.

Adding to this, presentations of **movies, books, dvd and exhibitions** dealing with themes linked with theatre. The Festival creates different paths overstepping in **dance, videos, visual arts, creativity of childhood and the artistic research** at all, letting the public go through and share themes, stories, paths and lives. A Festival as a reference point for everybody wants to understand the world of artists, with all its contradictions and poetry, violence and passions, weakness, madness and crisis.

RODRIGO GARCÍA: VOLTERRA PROJECT

Among the other special paths this year, **VOLTERRATEATRO** wants to investigate at first the artistic life of **Rodrigo García**, special guest of this 20th edition. The director and filmmaker from Argentina, considered one of the most important characters of international theatre, is invited at **VOLTERRATEATRO** with a special event entitled **Rodrigo García: Volterra Project (from 25 to 29 July)**.

Born in Argentina in 1964, author, director and set designer, García founded the company “La Carnicería Teatro” in 1989 in Madrid. Provocative, author of a politically incorrect, violent physical theatre, he’s able to mix different languages (video, visual art, narration) with humour and insolence and to discover the devils of our time, private and of the myth. The stage of his work becomes the eye of a storm, an ephemeral space, where our domestic but warriors societies can express their fury and noise. A great opportunity to meet and understand this great artist that presents in **VOLTERRATEATRO** two of his most explicative works: *Accidens-Matar para comer* (**26 July**, Teatro di San Pietro, h. 19.00 and h. 20.30) and *La historia de Ronald el payaso de Mc Donald* (**28 July**, Teatro Persio Flacco, h. 20.30).

Very discussed, *Accidens- Matar para comer*, is a performance based on food and how occidental societies could be represented. Normally people find things already dead. You go to the supermarket and all the things they give you are already dead. Packaged, canned, vacuum-packed, made of plastic or paper. And we miss the murder, but murdering is a feature of human life. You must have a great sense of imagination – and I haven’t got it – to tremble in front of the idea of death while opening a can of meat ball with green peas in the kitchen...

La historia de Ronald el payaso de Mc Donald is a physical piece of theatre in which the text is closely related to the mise-en-scene. Dispute, resistance and hard opposition against ruling globalisation and out-of-control consumerism. On the stage, different goods and foods gather on the ground in progression: milk, beverages, hamburgers, ketchup..., the audience getting more and more disgusted and having his senses continuously shocked by smells, sounds, gestures and images. Every-day language has a striking role, being sometimes rude and shocking as it mirrors the well known modern routine, the main symbol of our mad and reckless society.

Both actors and audience are part of the delirium exploding on the stage, as a family on stage that, like the spectators, is not unscathed by the harsh indictment coming from the text. The principal target of accusation is western society itself, drowned with opulence and garbage.

Rodrigo García-Meeting with the public, coordinated by **Franco Quadri** (**26 July**, Centro Studi Santa Maria Maddalena, h. 11.30), the video-installation *Dedo – Miedo – Payasos – Piedad* (from **25 to 29 July**, Sotterranei della Pinacoteca) and the **workshop** *De la mano a los ojos* (*From hands to eyes*) complete the project.

PROGETTO COMPAGNIA DELLA FORTEZZA

Among the other events of the Festival the new and expected performance *Budini, capretti, capponi e grassi signori ovvero La Scuola dei Buffoni* – 1° study – **National Première**, freely inspired to “Gargantua e Pantagruelle” by François Rabelais, of **Compagnia della Fortezza** composed by prisoners actor of Volterra Prison and directed by **Armando Punzo** (from **24 to 27 July**, Carcere di Volterra, h. 15.00) is to be pointed out.

The performance will be present as a work in progress outside the prison too (**29 of July**, Teatro Persio Flacco, h. 21.30). What moves the performance of the company it is the idea of the turnover, which is offered by Rabelais work. The work of the great French artist is interpreted as a kind of omen toward a new renaissance in an age of medieval “culture”. The huge grotesque of Rabelais is a celebration of spirit and soul seems to indicate spectators that sad apparent truths of this world could be discussed, in an joyful and bright way. It seems to suggest that we don’t have to be afraid of life.

Another production by Compagnia della Fortezza is *Il libro della vita assolo per voce e anima*, a monologue with **Mimoun El Baroni**, idea and direction by Armando Punzo (from **25 to 28 July**, Sotterranei della Pinacoteca, h. 23.30). *Il Libro della Vita*, a study last year, becomes a real performance in Volterra, after a tour in Italy this year and a new one in Europe next year. Mimoun El Baroni, actor of the Compagnia della Fortezza, guided by Armando Punzo, decides to tale his own life, made of a Berber, raging, ungrateful, poetical world. A strong and absorbing *piece*, painful and lively.

Starting from the Fortezza’s experience several collateral initiatives are programmed. An **International Seminary** dealing with **Theatre and Prison in Europe**’s theme and coordinated by **Massimo Marino** and **Aldo Papa** (**25 July** Centro Studi Santa Maria Maddalena, h. 11.00 and **27 July**, h. 17.30) is organized. During the meeting there will be screened the docu-movie *Chant d’amour ...ma chi me l’avrebbe detto a me*

che avrei fatto l'attore by Antonia Moro, shows the back-stage, setting and the mise-en-scene of "P.P.Pasolini. Elogio al disimpegno", a work by Compagnia della Fortezza, presented in 2004 inside the Prison of Volterra (**27 July h. 18.00**). During the seminary the web site of the **Coordinamento Regionale Teatro e Carcere del Sito della Regione Toscana**, will be presented, with Lanfranco Binni, director of the Dipartimento Politiche Formative e dei Beni Culturali della Regione Toscana (**25 July**).

The **photographic tale** *Appunti per un film* (from **24 to 30 July**, Spazio Espositivo Via Turazza) by the official photographer of the Fortezza, **Stefano Vaja** and based on the last year performance completes the project. Vaja, with his sharp eyes, investigates the expressions, gestures, moves, atmospheres and suggestions of this work and of their actors. Only for people that, from 23 to 27 of July, will attend to the performance of the Compagnia della Fortezza, the **Mario Francesconi's exhibition, Beckett/Bestiario** is open to be visited. Volterra's prison, place of imprisonment, hosts heavy-laden but perky figures in which the painter portrays himself and the Irish writer, whom he loved very much and who influenced him in his creativity, in balance between reality and imagination.

PRODUCTIONS, GUESTS AND OTHER PROJECTS

Among the **national premières**, the work of **Teatro delle Ariette**, always present at the festival with special projects for **VOLTERRATEATRO** is to be pointed out. This year, the company from Bologna stages **BESTIE (...è finito il tempo delle lacrime)**, in Teatro Persio Flacco, transformed in sort of great ark-circus. The performance, projected by Stefano Pasquini and Paola Berselli, in coproduction with Volterrateatro and in collaboration with Emilia Teatro Fondazione, is a tribute to animals and the way they live their life without a time; an existence based on instinct, freedom, pleasure. And a trip through the words of the nineteenth century, a culture told by Kantor, Pessoa, Beck, Bob Dylan and Kafka (**24 and 25 July**, Teatro Persio Flacco, h. 20.30). As usual, Ariette gives their public to understand their way of staging with a workshop, "Il Cacciath. Gracco", four days based on the Kafka's work that influenced the development and atmosphere of "*Bestie*" (from 27 to 30 July).

A big section is dedicated to **YOUNG COMPANIES**. A "metropolitan" and contemporary interpretation of the story of Little Red Riding is presented by Hood **Teatro Magro** from Mantova (**24 July**, Teatro di San Pietro, h. 17.30) that tries to explore the solicitations that fascinate a modern preteen.

The **27 of July** (Teatro di San Pietro h. 20.30) the **Compagnia Tardito Rendina** stages *Circhio Lume*, a performance consisting in different tableaux and using a language between tragic and grotesque style. A clown language, a little over expressive, which describes human weaknesses, motion of soul and drama of life. From 24 to 26 July the company conducts the workshop "Il ridicolo del dramma".

The **Compagnia Rodisio** presents *Wonderful – Volevano la vita eterna* (**28 July**, Teatro di San Pietro, h. 22.30), a monologue with four voices, based on Harold Pinter's texts. The work is a metaphor of one single pattern, that of the violence that threatens and outrages men. The workshop of Rodisio is based on the performance and takes place from 29 to 30 July.

Isole Comprese Teatro, guest of the festival as usual, presents for this edition the performance (**29 July**, Teatro di San Pietro, h. 19.00), " explores the fight of contemporary man with his body, than his soul.

Isole Comprese presents also the workshop "Ex Requiem" (from 23 to 26 July).

An itinerant performance for **Ilinx**. The company presents *Ilinx Machine, ATA – Azienda Trasportatori di Anime. ovvero il tra.passaggio*. **from 26 to 28 July**. Three actors, a car and four passengers. These are the elements of the particular show that starts with a travel and that tells an other one. The passengers are the spectators-hostages of three individuals who exercise the noblest between the profession: the ferrymen of souls. From an external dimension to a private one with *Progetto K20-Teatro nelle case* (**from 26 to 28 July**), with the direction of Fabrizia Mutti. A unique and original performance, a home-delivery show that enters in houses of the spectators, transforming a private space in a public one.

Teatro di Nascosto presents a **national première**, a new theatre reportage's performance *Amore per la vita*. A dance party...to forget. An homeless Afghan, a Kurdish escaped in Europe when he was young, a woman who experienced the nightmare of War meet together (**24 July**, Cortile della Pinacoteca, h. 22.30).

Teatro dell'Anima presents *Don Lorenzaccio* (**27 July** - Chiesa di San Dalmazio), a portrait of Don Lorenzo Dilani, a prophet of this time, who spent his life searching a sense through listening, word and hearts.

The festival also invites two special Tuscan artists: **Bobo Rondelli** and **Alessandro Benvenuti**.

Rondelli stages the cult performance based on the monologue originally performed by Roberto Benigni, *Cioni Mario di Gaspere fu Giulia* (**26 July**, Cortile della Pinacoteca, h. 22.30), The text describes the Sunday

of a lonely boy who lives near Prato: his problems with his father and his mother, who is died; his popular house; the fascists; the homosexual bad dreams; the meeting with a prostitute.

With the autobiographical solo *Me Medesimo* (**27 July**, Cortile della Pinacoteca, h. 22.30), Benvenuti performs the character of Cencio, a man in crisis who, in his at the same time tragic and comic monologue, thinks aloud, remembers and tells his story, amusing and exciting the audience. It is an artistic, working, family crisis. Maybe, it is all his life call into question. Maybe, this is only a way to justify the evident failure. A relevant and smart **MUSICAL EVENT** is *Re-Joice*, a concert for piano, voice and projection with the great composer **Cristiano Gullotta** at the piano and the voice of **Maurizio Rippa**, who performs some “singing readings” by James Joyce’s “Chamber Music” (**25 July**, Cortile della Pinacoteca, h. 22.00).

SPECIAL PROJECT FOR POMARANACE, CASTELNUOVO V.C., MONTECATINI V.C., MONTEVERDI M.MO

An itinerant workshop in the towns of the Val di Cecina, which explores the places of Partisan Resistance. An historical and artistic research created by **Teatri della Resistenza** and starts from the traces of war, which scared Tuscany.

The workshop is articulated in two phases. The participants can follow one of the two phases or both. The first phase (from July 17 to 22) is a “tour” in Val di Cecina, with overnight in open-air, depth interviews and short “narrations”. The second one (**from July 24 to 30**) takes place inside Volterra’s walls. The workshop ends with a final performance on the historical events, going back to 62 years.

Moving through different places of the towns of the festival (Castelnuovo V.C 19 July **national première**, Monteverdi M.mo 20 July, Montecatini V.C. 21 July, Pomarance 22 July, Volterra 25 July), the show *Tamburi e Fuoco* by **Itzaes**. A group of young artists involve the public with the enthralling rhythms of percussions live and of acrobatic plays with fire.

Another “open air show” (Castelnuovo V.C 19 July, Monteverdi M.mo 20 July, Montecatini V.C. 21 July, Pomarance 22 July, Volterra 28 July) with the Street Band **Buda Pascià Orkestar**: four musicians (an a squeeze box, a clarinet a trumpet). An incredible travel from rhythms of Balkans and Dixie music.

The **Buda Pascià Orkestar** are protagonists of unexpected music moments in the festival's streets the 28 of July, while percussions of Itzaes play in Volterra’s streets and squares from 23 to 25 July.

SLOW THEATRE PROJECT

The *Slow Theatre* project, by an idea of Armando Punzo, comes back this year. Two different evenings of poetry and tales *Addahr (life)* – I part (**18 July** h. 19.00) and *Al Kamar (moon)* – II part (**22 July** h. 19.00) of Mimoun El Barouni, poet and writer from Morocco. Unforgettable moments to regenerate body and mind. A discovery of the region, of his older and genuine traditions. A cultural project that represent Slow Food’s philosophy: the conquest of pleasure, that is a human right, through the recover of natural rhythms, of slowness. An experience to share an experience of knowledge, framed by the wonderful *Podere L’Apparita*. A Path between life, poetry and nature in collaboration with Slow Food Condotta di Volterra Alta Val di Cecina and Christiane Hutter.

PERFORMANCES AND WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

As usual, the festival dedicates a section to children with **Circusbandando – Teatro del Clown** and the performance *Bravo chi legge!*, a warm and funny suggestion to read, in a fanciful library (**26 July**, Piazza San Giovanni). **From 24 to 26 July** it is possible to participate to the new and exciting workshop for children and adults “Maschere quotidiane” by **Gianni Gronchi**. **From 26 to 30 July** another workshop dedicated to young people from 14 to 21 years is the **Caterina Poggesi**’s “Lab. Bianco”.

OTHER WORKSHOPS

From 24 to 30 July Renata Palminiello and **Carmen Blanco** present “I Triangoli”, that wants to explore the idea of space to read it following Thierry Salmon’s method.

“Per un teatro di poesia...” is the **Compagnia Babbaluck** and **Sergio Longobardi**’s (from 25 to 30 July).

EXHIBITION AND INSTALLATIONS

Among the several exhibition, **from 24 to 30 July**, the installation *Appunti di una costumista per il circo*, by the visual artist **Arianna Fumagalli** is to be pointed out. She presents *Teatrini Memori* too, a workshop to poke around objects and stage setting materials used in the past edition of the Festival for the *Compagnia della Fortezza*’s performances. Not to miss the exhibition by **Pier Nello Manoni** *La famiglia - Racconto*

Fotografico, of a family lived years ago. A path built and re-invented by the artist, through the discovery of old photographic plates. A tale hanging over time, between reality and fiction, history and actuality.

Damiano Dainelli, that recorded with his photos every edition of the festival, is the author of *VolterraTeatro – 20 anni di memorie fotografiche*, a unique exhibition to celebrate the 20th edition of the festival (Piazza dei Priori – Consorzio Turistico).

Moreover, **Gianni Gronchi** presents the installation *Teatrocontinuo*, in different locations in the centre of the city.

MEETINGS AND PRESENTATIONS

Several presentations and meetings will be programmed. The **24 of July** (Centro Studi Santa Maria Maddalena, h. 19.00) the meeting with happy hour to present the dvd collection **Teatro In-Civile** is to be underlined: Artistic scratches for a provocative and uncomfortable theatre. Ascanio Celestini, Mario Perrotta, Emma Dante, Davide Enia, Giuliana Musso and Armando Punzo: six great directors, protagonists of a series created by Rossella Battisti and Mario Perrotta distributed with *L'Unità*. Rossella Battisti, Marco Rossitti, Angela Felice and Armando Punzo will be present during the meeting.

The **25 of July** it is programmed the meeting with **Bilad a-Cham** group, from Paris, composed of people from Israel and Palestine, with Nicolas Damuni, Tareq Sadeq, Guy Elhanan, Joav Shemer, Fayacal el Mezouar (Cortile della Pinacoteca, h. 12.00)

The **26 of July** Piergiorgio Giacchè and Nicola Zuccherini presents the magazine on line **Lo spettatore** (www.lospettatore.it) – **Meeting with happy hour**, dedicated to theatrical critic, cinema, media and culture that wants to be a tool of independent information. (Centro Studi Santa Maria Maddalena, h. 17.30).

The **28 of July** there is the presentation of the book **Al Museo Guarnacci di Volterra con Avle e Ansi**, guide dedicated to the Etrurian Museum “Guarnacci” and is thought to prepare and accompany school children to their visit to the Museum, giving ideas for researches. Jacopo Inghirami, Roberto Russo, Luigi Felici, Alessandro Togoli will participate (Cortile della Pinacoteca, h. 17.00).

The **29 of July** two meetings are programmed: **Lager Italiani- Meeting with happy hour**, Marco Rovelli presents his book *Lager italiani*, dealing with the theme of CTP: centri di permanenza temporanea (centres of temporary stay). A world of men and women imprisoned without a reason (Cortile Pinacoteca, h. 12.00). The **meeting on the Thierry Salmon's theatre**, with Renata Palminiello and Carmen Blanco (Cortile Pinacoteca, h. 17.00).

OTHER INITIATIVES

To go deeper through festival's themes, it is possible to look up texts and books with **Camper Libreria**, Alternative Print (**from 17 to 30 July** in all the towns and locations of the festival), or to go to **La Libreria del Festival**, Libreria Lorient, Texts, curiosities and...gadgets of the Festival (**from 24 to 30 July**, Via delle Prigioni).

HUMAN ASSOCIATIONS

As usual, during the festival, as usual, during the festival, there will fund raising points of different Human Associations as **Emergency, Amnesty International, Associazione Giusti Consumi, Associazione Nicaragua Nicaraguita, Saharawi e non solo, Associazione El Comedor**.

The night keeps on going with the **Dopo Festival d'Autore** with *Bidonville Party* cured by *Vena di Vino*, that every night, from 23:00 will offer new surprises to entertain the public of the festival at the end of the performances (**from 24 to 30 July**, Giardino del Conservatorio).

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