

Press release

Urbania (Pesaro - Urbino) 6 and 7 November 2021

Theaters and processes of liberation: maieutic practices

The XXII International Conference of the European Review "Catarsi, Teatri delle diversità" - founded in 1996 at the Carlo Bo University by Vito Minoia and Emilio Pozzi - has been announced on the website www.teatridellediversita.it

"Theatres and processes of liberation: maieutic practices" is the title of the XXII meeting promoted by the European Review Catarsi-Teatri delle Diversità. The event will be held in Urbania on 6 and 7 November 2021 and its title recalls Marco Cavallo, to whom the manifesto of the event is dedicated. The conference has become an international reference event for Educational, Social and Community Theatre. The blue horse made of paper-mâché and wood in 1973 in the San Giovanni asylum in Trieste from an idea of Giuliano Scabia, Giuseppe Dell'Acqua, Dino Basaglia and Vittorio Basaglia is a collective work created in the art workshops organised within the facility by Franco Basaglia, the then director of the Psychiatric Hospital. The sculpture became a symbol of the closure of asylums as a result of "Law 180" of 1978; it later became a symbol of all liberation processes.

"Giuliano's horse reunifies everything (including madness) with the will to transform society, shifting the logic of health beyond current habits" (these words were pronounced by Claudio Meldolesi, theater historian, while introducing Scabia in 2008 at the Eighth edition of the Conference organised by the Review).

In 2013 Marco Cavallo has been the protagonist of the closure of the Judicial Psychiatric Hospitals that had replaced the old criminal asylums in the mid-seventies. In November 2011 the sculpture is an active participant of the twelfth conference entitled "Impazzire si può" (*going crazy is ok*). It leaves Urbania and, as the photo by Franco Deriu shows, it enters the prison of Pesaro accompanied by a group of pupils of the Galilei Comprehensive Middle School within the project "I sogni dei reclusi" (*The dreams of prisoners*) involving the Lo Spacco theater company and the Aenigma University Theater.

Ten years later a reflection on "theater as maieutic practice" opens in Urbania with the presentation of the book that Scabia managed to conclude just before his passing on 21 May 2021: "Scala e sentiero verso il Paradiso: trent'anni di apprendistato attraverso l'università" (*Stairs and a path to Heaven: 30 years of apprenticeship through University*), edited by Francesca Gasparini and Gianfranco Anzini (Edizioni Nuove Catarsi and la Casa Usher).

The term "Theatres" (plural) refers to the other maieutic practices that are under the spotlight of the XXII conference starting from that of Mariano Dolci, celebrated on 27 March 2021 by UNIMA Italy on the occasion of the World Puppetry Day. The Master Puppeteer introduces and coordinates a round table on "Animation Theatre in Education and in the Social Context", commemorating Marie-Christine Debien, president of the French association Marionnette et Therapie, after her recent passing.

Two other significant moments are aimed at commemorating to two dear friends, of both the review and of the conference, who recently passed away: the Polish director Lech Maria Raczak, renowned master of contemporary European theater that, for 20 years, has been a reference point for young actors and directors at the University of Urbino; and the Argentine poet and playwright Alejandro Finzi, professor of European Literature at the University of Comahue in Neuquén, author

of widely performed works in Latin America that were translated into English, Arabic, Portuguese, Russian, French and Italian.

A session is also dedicated to "Arts in Interreligious Dialogue", with a reflection on the dramatic situation in Afghanistan through the viewing, twenty years after its making, of the film "Clown in Kabul" which tells the humanitarian mission of Patch Adams and 19 other clowns after the end of the war in 2001.

The Conference confirms once again to be a privileged home for the work of the International Network Theatre in Prison (INTiP) - partner organisation of the International Theatre Institute of UNESCO - with the Sixth edition of the International Gramsci Prize for Theatre in Prison, preview of the "Destini Incrociati" National Festival of Theatre in Prison ("*Crossed destinies*") (Rome, Palladium Theatre and Roma Tre University, 17-19 November 2021) by the National Coordination for Theatre in Prison.

Additional training day, scheduled for November 8 in Pesaro, thanks to the publicity of the first results of the Erasmus + ESCAPE Project (Encouraging SCenic Arts in Prisoners' Education) with partners from Italy, Portugal, Spain.

Event within "Destini Incrociati" - National Prison Theatre Project
organised by AENIGMA UNIVERSITY THEATER - Carlo Bo University of Urbino and by
the National Coordination for Theatre in Prison.

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International Network Theatre in Prison (INTiP)

Associazione Nazionale dei Critici di Teatro (ANCT) (*Italian National Association of Theatre Critics*)

Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA-Italy)

With the collaboration of

International Network Theatre in Prison (INTiP)

Managing Board of the Prison of Pesaro

Coordination Committee for Prison Theatre for Marche Region

More detailed information, preliminary program and registration on www.teatridellediversita.it

The event will be an in-person Conference in compliance with the security protocols set by the competent Authorities.

Participants can access the premises with either Green Pass or negative swab (done not earlier than 48 hours)