



PRESS RELEASE
Volterra, June 2007

**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 A.S.A. LIVORNO,
CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI VOLTERRA S.P.A.
FONDAZIONE CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI VOLTERRA**

FESTIVAL VOLTERRATEATRO.07

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF THEATER, MUSIC, DANCE, POETRY, VIDEO, ART AND CULTURE

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

I TEATRI DELL'IMPOSSIBILE

16 – 29 July 2007

XXI edition

artistic direction Armando Punzo

organization Carte Blanche

Il Festival che non esiste

XXI edition of FESTIVAL VOLTERRATEATRO, organized by Associazione **Carte Blanche** with the artistic direction of **Armando Punzo** takes place in **Volterra** and Pomarance, Castelnuovo V.C., Montecatini V.C. and Monteverdi M.mo **from 16th to 29th July 2007**.

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, Provincia di Pisa, Regione Toscana and Azienda Asa Livorno. **Cassa di Risparmio di Volterra** and **Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Volterra**, always committed in supporting local cultural manifestations and events, will give their fundamental support also for this edition.

The big VOLTERRATEATRO stage gives as usual hospitality to events and artists whose activities and researches are “borderline”, deeply enthralling and sometimes risky, and has the aim to spread stories, methods and experiences of these artists. In fact, Festival dedicates time to projects like workshops, presentations and meetings for letting audience know, go into and share experiences with the host artists.

This year great attention on different kinds of **Puppetry** and several fantasy characters, Pinocchio included, of course, will be given. “*For this edition I conceived*”, says **Armando Punzo**, “*a Festival that doesn't exist, the wish of not belonging to a world that others consider the best, a way for looking for the right perspective in order to understand who we are and who we could be.*”

Festival core is represented by the new **Compagnia della Fortezza** play, *Pinocchio - lo Spettacolo della Ragione*, directed by **Armando Punzo** – **Absolute première (from 23rd to 26th July** – Volterra Prison, h. 15:00). The play is the result of a long study about the theme of “disengagement, through Pasolini and Rabelais works to Collodi’s puppet. Armando Punzo says about the show: “*Voices from an inside theatre are evidence of the ancient war: to be easily carried away by a daily disengagement and coarseness or to resist bravely notwithstanding adversities?*”..“*The inverse path of Pinocchio. Until to come back to be a piece of wood and then the original tree. Hoping a forest. We are the (glorious) example of a failure. From failure to failure toward the (happy) way of not being*”.

Besides the play, the convention *La meravigliosa avventura del teatro in carcere*, two meetings with the protagonists of the most important experiences of the last twenty years, coordinated by **Massimo Marino**, at Spazio Ariette (**24th July and 25th July h. 17:30** Giardino del Conservatorio di San Pietro-Spazio Ariette).

Compagnia della Fortezza Project is completed by **Stefano Vaja**’s exhibition *Buffoni!*, a particular insight made of pictures taken from *Budini, capponi, capretti e grassi signori, ovvero La scuola dei buffoni* study, performed at VOLTERRATEATRO last year: the exhibition is focused on the interaction between Compagnia’s actors and audience, the faces, the smiles, the reactions of spectators, more or less aware of being actively involved in Armando Punzo’s play of Buffoni (**from 23rd to 29th July** - Spazio Espositivo di Via Turazza).

MIMMO CUTICCHIO: VOLTERRA PROJECT

Special guest at Festival is the puparo master **Mimmo Cuticchio**, that here celebrates the fortieth anniversary of his theatre. Cuticchio, heir of the ancient tradition of “pupi” and “cunto”, founded his own theatre that combines tradition and experimentation and, thanks to his pointless and continuous research, is at VOLTERRATEATRO with his company **from 23th to 28th July** for presenting, in a **special project** dedicated to him, his history and his works. Cuticchio will be in the big **Piazza dei Priori** with his last work *Dal Catai a Parigi - Angelica alla corte di re Carlo*, inspired to *Orlando Furioso* by Ariosto and *Orlando Innamorato* by Boiardo, narrated by the abilities of Cuticchio and acted through his “pupi”, with an incredible weaving of voices and characters: magic, coups de théâtre, real or suffered heroic deeds and love. The show is made more vivid and fascinating thanks to contact manoeuvring. Cuticchio brings to Volterra the ancient art of **cunto**, through three appointments: *Iliade*’s, *Odissea*’s and *Don Chisciotte*’s characters will have life through his voice and his body in the three shows *L’Ira di Achille*, *La Morte di Orlando* and *L’Ultimo Duello di Don Chisciotte* (**24th, 25th and 26th July** h. 19 Cortile della Pinacoteca). The project dedicated to the big Sicilian cuntastorie will be completed with a workshop –trained by the same Cuticchio- entitled *Cunti della tradizione orale e improvvisazioni* and the presentation of the book *Il teatro di Mimmo Cuticchio* written by Chiara Andrich (Associazione Figli d’Arte Cuticchio edition) in which the author, **Claudio Meldolesi**, **Massimo Marino** and **Mimmo Cuticchio** will be present (**23rd July** h. 17:30 – Spazio Ariette, Giardino del Conservatorio di San Pietro).

SPAZIO ARIETTE

Artistic collaboration with **Teatro delle Ariette** goes on with a project completely dedicated to the company. In the beautiful space of Giardino del Conservatorio di San Pietro is staged the **Spazio Ariette (from 23rd to 28th July)**, ideal stage for the play *E’ finito il tempo delle lacrime - gran soirée prediluviana*. It’s an evolution in the research path of Ariette, derived from the intolerance toward the murderous and soporific ritual of consuming the theatrical performance: for this event, Ariette is performing a play that goes beyond the traditional idea of show for joining that of party, and wants to invite spectators in a timeless space where listening to, dancing, eating, drinking and playing, giving life to a big fantastic installation like a Fellinian fairy, surreal meeting point for all people who will be at VOLTERRATEATRO. Time starting is at 19:30 all evenings with *La coda del gallo: bar aperitivi con Greg*, *il Mercatino delle Meraviglie*, *Soft land music di Ponz*, *Confessati con il Poeta*, *Da mangiare? tigelleria en plein air di Paola*, *Stefano e Maurizio*, *Lo zoo sentimentale: animali vivi e meno vivi per grandi e piccini*, *La ruota della fortuna con ricchi premi in natura*, ideal prelude for the show *Bestie circo filosofico da cortile* (h. 22).

SPECIAL PROJECT for Pomarance, Castelnuovo V.C., Montecatini V.C., Monteverdi M.mo, Volterra:

Yatra (Journey) – international meetings with foreigner cultures is the **Special Project** conceived for the beautiful landscapes of **Pomarance, Castelnuovo V.C., Montecatini V.C., Monteverdi M.mo and Volterra:** a real journey in the Indian and African tradition and culture through theatre, music and acrobatic dance.

After paying homage to Cuticchio, the protagonist of the project is another great artist of Puppetry, the Indian puppet player **Jagdish Bhatt**, who will present at Festival *La storia di Amar Singh Rathore*, fantastic history of Rajasthan king and his travels around India looking for a good wife. Jagdish Bhatt belongs to a family with an ancient tradition in puppet theatre and with his puppets, he will show a series of typical characters of Rajasthan tradition: wizards, tamers and snakes, involving the audience in the magic Indian atmosphere (**Montecatini V.C. 18th July Downtown h. 21 - Monteverdi M.mo 20th July Downtown h. 18 - Pomarance 21st July Downtown h. 21 - Castelnuovo V.C. 22nd July Downtown h. 21 – Volterra 25th July Giardino della Pinacoteca h. 17,30**).

Super Mambo Acrobatic Team from Kenya will present in the towns *Super Mambo Show*, show of African acrobatic art characterised by a strong visual impact and that involves audience in human pyramids, spectacular jumps with rope, air evolution and fire games. The five artists are members of *Sarakasi Trust* association, whose aim is to promote acrobatic art and to support presentation and spreading of performative jobs of African artists all over the world, promoting cultural exchanges among different kinds of acrobatic arts performed by teams and companies from other countries. (**Montecatini V.C. 18th July h. 22 - Monteverdi M.mo 20th July h. 21:30 – Pomarance 21st July h. 22 - Castelnuovo V.C. 22nd July h. 22 – Volterra 27th luglio h. 19 Downtown**). The **Super Mambo Team** will conduct the *Kuruka (Fly Workshop)*, a course of African flying circus (from 23rd to 26th July).

TEATRO REPORTAGE-TEATRO DI NASCOSTO

Teatro di Nascosto – Hidden Theatre presents at Festival the special project *Un Giorno di teatro Reportage - a Day of Reportage Theatre* (**28th July** from 16 to 19, Teatro di San Pietro). Their work wants to combine theatre and journalism, for narrating the history of Kurds, a proud people but without a land and committed for its autodetermination. The day begins with the show *Semi di Memoria* (h. 16), with **Ana Woolf** and directed by **Julia Varley**, both members of the historic group **Odin Teatret**; it's a reflection about absence of a father, of a corpse to bury, of 30,000 missing people in Argentina during the last military dictatorship; but also resistance, presence and identity.

After that (h. 17:30), the presentation of *Studio di Teatro Reportage*, monologue interpreted by **Nicolas Damuni**, artist from Palestine member of the Israeli-Palestinian **Bilad a-Cham**, with the viewing of some short films about the Israeli-Palestinian question. The last part of the project (h. 19) is the **Teatro di Nascosto – Hidden Theatre's** performance of the first study *Città in Guerra*, Teatro Reportage, narration of the everyday war, directed by **Annet Henneman**. The show will be the result of the **Teatro Reportage workshop**, trained by Annet Henneman, Ana Woolf and Faycal el Mezouar from 24th to 28th July.

COLLABORATIONS

As usual, a lot of collaborations with artists and companies tied to **VOLTERRATEATRO** poetics and history, from the young and multiprize-winner **Compagnia Rodisio**, that makes its debut at Festival with *Storia di una famiglia e delle cose di ogni giorno* by **Manuela Capece** and **Davide Doro** (**24th July**, h. 20:30-Teatro di San Pietro), **national première**, a Festival production. Protagonist of the soft play, for children too, is a family around a table for dining in the evening: the daughter, the mother and the father are mirrors of a creeping malaise made of silence or words too much hard and loud to be considered as real. Compagnia Rodisio, with the play *Wonderful - Volevano la vita eterna*, that made his debut at **VOLTERRATEATRO** last year, was finalist at *Premio Scenario 2005* and won the prize *Loro del Reno 2006* as Best Show, while it won the award *Premio Eolo 2007* as Best Show of Italian Teatro Ragazzi with the play for youth *Il Lupo e la Capra*. The Rodisios will train also a workshop called *T'ammazzo prima io* (from 25th to 28th July).

With the study *La Bohème e la ragnatela*, **Mimoun El Baroni**, actor from long time of Compagnia della Fortezza and **Reija Taifouri** make their debut in national première too. The result of the meeting between the Moroccan poet and actor and the Finnish painter and actress has been the company **Arteatr NordSud**, conceived as the mingling of two cultures conscious of being distant and close and two different and complementary ways of making art. The study deals with a delicate and often unsaid theme: the most obscure

aspects of dynamics in the love relationships and the violence of men against women (**24th and 26th July** h. 23:30 - Sotterranei della Pinacoteca).

After the big success in the last edition **Compagnia Tardito Rendina** is another time at Festival with the play *Gonzago's rose*, for bewitching the audience with the subtle seductive game of a play always between poetry and humour, comedy, elegance and thoughtlessness (**26th July** h. 20:30, Teatro di San Pietro). You will find the same atmospheres in the *Il corpo appoggiato* workshop, trained by Aldo Rendina: it concerns the "body living" and the necessary sensitiveness for understanding that inner world, which lives the present and recognizes the need of knowing the outside world, going through the pleasure and thoughtlessness as useful elements for performing (27th and 28th July).

Particular attention is given to the new generations of theatre with the presentation of the winning play and the other three indicated at **Premio Scenario**. Four "theatrical shorts" chosen after the selection made by Associazione Scenario among about 300 candidates: a generation of under 35 artists looking for their own theatre and that is voice for concrete needs like dealing with new and melted languages and the pressing themes of contemporaneity (**27th July** from 17 to 21– Teatro di San Pietro).

The **Compagnia Babbaluck**, youth group from Naples will train the *Ambulatorio Teatrale – farsi un film da soli* workshop (from 23th to 28th July). It is ready to admit in its special ward actors and artists who are in crisis with their job and their life: healthy carriers of oddities, hardships, poverty and unused riches. The aim is to transform the disease in remedy, taking in exam techniques of act, communication and dramatization, strong creativity, thrust to creativity, anatomy and physiology of the nervous system looking for the not being island, study of motor, symbolic and relational functions looking for the child inside all of us, opposite journey in the psychomotor and relational development, compared anatomy and ethology looking for the beast inside all of us, life and works of Peter Pan and Dr. Faust.

PERSONALITIES

Other great events at **Piazza dei Priori**, throbbing heart of Festival, that will give hospitality to two big PERSONALITIES, brave interpreters of our contemporaneity, able in breaking with tradition and in choosing new ways and new paths, obtaining a great success among the audience.

The square will be the stage for **JOY TOUR**, the successful tournée of the brilliant pianist **Giovanni Allevi**, become well-known in a short time for his talent and his particular ability in reworking the European classical tradition and in opening it to the new pop and contemporaneous (**Saturday 28th July** h. 21:45).

Big ending Sunday 29th July (h. 21:45) with the irreverent jester **Paolo Rossi**, with his show *Qui si sta come si sta. Serata Beat*, work that follows the musical path after his last record *In Italia si sta male*. Irresistible happening in which his repertoire and new things and improvisations are alternated. Anyone has watched one of Paolo Rossi show knows the performance becomes something unique each evening, an event whose interpretation is influenced by news, spectators' reactions, the place where the show takes place. It is hard to resist to the biting comedy of these monologues, and harder and harder is to pretend nothing happened in front of simple but awkward truths that Rossi reels off on the stage with an indestructible comic *verve*, an extraordinary energy and great facial expressions.

HOST COMPANIES

Interesting presences as regard the host companies. First of all, *Pinocchio's* fairy by Collodi, surreal act by **Teatro del Carretto**, directed by **Maria Grazia Cipriani** (**25th July** h. 20:30 – Teatro di San Pietro). The Teatro del Carretto reinterprets the Pinocchio adventures in a dream-like way, presenting the destiny of the puppet like a theatrical destiny since his birth: for reaching its destiny Pinocchio will know the worst misfortunes until –transformed in a donkey- will be the dancing star in the circus of Paese dei Balocchi and will risk to become a drumhead for the band.

The Grotesque masks of the young company **Compagnia Zachès Teatro** are, instead, the protagonists of the show *One reel*, tragicomic pantomime in which all melts. Didi, Gogo and Pozzo, three characters with grey and grotesque faces, lives in an unstable world, in a closed space that makes their life a big play where they are

pawns. They are imprisoned in a kind of silent film without knowing it and seem like clowns who, with their gag, remember us our tragicomic lives (**23rd July** h. 19:00 – Teatro di San Pietro).

The Tuscan company **Sacchi di Sabbia**, in collaboration with **Teatro Sant'Andrea**, presents *Studio sul Don Giovanni – Atto I, Scena I*, by **Giovanni Guerrieri** and **Bruce Borrini**. The show, produced with the guys of Teatro Sant'Andrea, is a short musical on Mozart's Don Giovanni arias. The theatre play, extreme in the dynamics between true and false, becomes metaphor of hypocrisy (**23rd July** h. 20:30 – Cortile della Pinacoteca). This kind of work is a didactic path made by Sacchi di Sabbia on the boundaries among text, music and representation in the last years. Comedy, instead, is the theme investigated in the *Comics* workshop, trained by the company from 24th to 26th July.

POETRY

Pinocchio is also the protagonist of *Autobiografia di un burattino - Studio in versi all'ombra di un racconto*, **national première**, reworking in verse of Pinocchio's fairy by **Giacomo Trinci**, well-known Tuscan poet and author, historic host at VOLTERRATEATRO (**25th and 27th July** - Sotterranei della Pinacoteca).

MUSIC

Original and innovative artists are hosts in the section dedicated to music. **Ceramichelineari** (**Marco Bagnai** and **Antonio Chierici**), close collaborators of Compagnia della Fortezza, are an eclectic group who combines naive author songs and rock, reggae, funky and ska arrangements in their passionate; they will present *Pianobar Cafone: intrattenimento triste, colonne sonore per momenti felici, serate all'italiana, servizi accurati per matrimoni e feste del cacciatore* (**VOLTERRATEATRO production, national première, 26th July** h. 22 - Cortile della Pinacoteca)

The **Maniscalco Maldestro** and their clumsy puppet, a shady-looking yellow with a red and sharp nose and group mascot, will be protagonists of Volterra Notte Bianca with their light orchestra (**28th July h. 24** - Giardino del Conservatorio di San Pietro).

EXHIBITIONS - INSTALLATIONS

Several exhibitions and installations are integral part of the Festival. *N.O.F. 4 - Ingegnere astronautico del sistema mentale* project, photographic tale by **Pier Nello Manoni**, who reproduces on panels (70 cm x 100 cm and 24 metres long) the complete graffito that Nannetti Oreste Fernando, or N.O.F.4, carved on the external wall of the inner courtyard of the Ferri department at Volterra Mental Hospital, with the buckle of the waistcoat, at that time part of the "mad uniform". The exhibition is a tribute to the memory of this extraordinary artist and to the fantastic places of mind, to the madness as human reaction against emargination, loneliness, disease (**from 16th to 30th July** Battistero di Volterra, presentation of the exhibition 26th July – Battistero di Volterra).

Arianna Fumagalli comes back to the Festival with *Altre Figure*, exhibition that collects a series of works freely inspired to the world of the Puppetry, of which the artist is a passionate spectator for long time. The artist loves to narrate stories and to portray characters using papers yellow with age, old pictures, objects and puppets found in old flea markets, and modelling papier-mâché. It's a sculptural, playful and poetic work in which several languages melt and the several worlds attended by the artist during her career appear (**from 23rd to 29th July** - Sotterranei della Pinacoteca).

Gianni Gronchi presents two installations at Volterra: *Abitare la Trama, installazione di arte contemporanea tra arte e vita* (from 21st July, with guided tours from h. 21 - località S. Ottaviano); and (*Ripetere*) *TEATROCONTINUO*, installed in different spaces in Volterra downtown, for deepening the experience of the last year, whose desire is to make "continuous" in the future a theatre that is already continuous for definition with its autonomy and free in self-management of space and time. The city, where people usually live with their everyday actions, will be the fixed stage inside a society affected by desire to be in the limelight. Gronchi's installations will offer to the audience the possibility of being either voyeur or under observation and of being active players like in the best theatre of interaction (**from 23rd to 29th July** – Different places in downtown).

THE FESTIVAL FOR CHILDREN

A lot of shows and events dedicated to children and children's creativity, like *La Storia di Re Bambu*, show for children and adults too, in which the puppet master **Claudio Fantozzi** and his marionette, Re Bambu, will face the hot subject of struggle for survival of Ogoni in Nigeria, narrating the history of a small African town. Children will ask, will be curious: Re Bambu will answer (**28th July h. 17:30** – Cortile della Pinacoteca).

The **Circusbandando** company, regular host and really loved by children, will present *Aram sam sam - Davanti al sole, alla luna ed alle stelle alla fine siam tutti fratelli e sorelle*, with the clowns **Paco Paquito** and **Celestina**, in order to educate to peace, solidarity, respect for each diversity (**27th July h. 17:45** – Piazza San Giovanni).

From 23rd to 29th July it will be possible to take part in (*ripetere*) *Maschere Quotidiane*, workshops for children and adults trained by **Gianni Gronchi**, evolution of a path begun the last year: facing the concept of mask starting from the face, heart of expression, for arriving to all things that surround us in the everyday life.

FESTIVAL LIBRARY

It is possible to inquiry into the themes of festival consulting texts and books at Libreria Lorient, that offers a wide selection of texts and publications about shows, artists and themes of festival (**from 23rd to 29th July**, Via delle Prigioni).

DOPO FESTIVAL D'AUTORE

As always, audience and artists will meet at **Dopo Festival d'Autore** with *Dancing Babilonia*, by *Vena di Vino e Zenzero s.p.a.*, that each evening from h. 24 will entertain the night birds with installations, good wine, snacks and a lot of surprises (**from 24th to 30th July**, Giardino del Conservatorio di San Pietro).

Info Festival : tel. 0588 80392

info@volterrateatro.it

www.volterrateatro.it

The press is requested to communicate with:

Press office *Pepita Promoters s.n.c.*

tel. 051.2919805

info@pepitapromoters.com

www.pepitapromoters.com