

Volterra Pomarance Castelnuovo V.C. Montecatini V.C.

20/26 luglio

VolterraTeatro

2015

I TEATRI DELL' IMPOSSIBILE

XXIX EDIZIONE

la città sospesa

Press Release

VolterraTeatro
from 20th to 26th July 2015
Edition XXIX
Hanging Town

Artistic Direction **Armando Punzo**

curated by **Carte Blanche/Centro Teatro & Carcere di Volterra**

The **XXIX Edition** of **VolterraTeatro**, the International festival of Theatre, Music, Dance, Video, Poetry, Art **directed by Armando Punzo**, will take place from the 20th to the 26th of July 2015 in Volterra, Pomarance, Castelnuovo Val di Cecina, Montecatini Val di Cecina, and its promoted by: Comune di Volterra, Regione Toscana, Provincia di Pisa, Comuni di Pomarance, Castelnuovo V.C. e Montecatini V.C. We are glad to thank Consorzio Turistico Volterra Valdicecina and Cassa di Risparmio di Volterra, the historical sponsor of the Festival.

This edition of the festival is dedicated to the 193 workers of the Smith Bits' Salt Factory of Saline di Volterra, to their 'hanging condition'. We aim to share, promote, as well as call media attention on the strenuous struggle they are carrying on for maintaining their job.

Among others, the artists involved in this edition will be Compagnia della Fortezza, Archivio Zeta, Aniello Arena, Fanny & Alexander, Mariangela Gualtieri/Teatro Valdoca, Chiara Guidi/Societas Raffaello Sanzio, Giuliano Scabia, Mario Perrotta, Generazione Scenario, Jacopo Quadri, Emanuela Dall'Aglio/Teatro delle Briciole, Ginevra di Marco, **Peppe Servillo, Cisco, La Banda Improvvisa, Sergio Staino**, Orchestra di Via Palazzuolo, **Officine Papage, Mario Francesconi, Giacomo Trinci**.

The Hanging City

The XXIX Edition of VolterraTeatro focuses and reflects on the idea of **Suspension**.

The Hanging City is an interrupted city, retreated from the everyday life scene, breaking the line of usual pathways to change the posture, moving a circular, slow, lost and thoughtful step, to observe its own walk's veining and remove it from the mortification of a purpose, of

contemporary hyper-efficiency.

The festival presents an extraordinary artistic journey into 'hanging' places, places "next to infinity" – **La Fortezza Medicea, the Salt Factory of Saline di Volterra, the Old Cemetery of Montecatini V.C., La Rocca Sillana of Pomarance, Badia Camaldolese of Volterra, Le Fumarole of Sasso Pisano/Castelnuovo V. C., and Parco Fiumi of Volterra** – in those places, during the hours when everyday life stops, suspends itself and enters another dimension - one of contemplation, origin, enchantment - outstanding artistic works will inhabit unique locations to trigger unexpected, phenomenal synergies.

As usual with VolterraTeatro, the public will be an active participant of the festival's voyage, directly partaking into the creation, production and staging of the performances. Guided by great masters the spectators will experiment the art of "suspension", the art of retreating from the stage of everyday life and embracing another one. With the purpose of giving back to theatre, and the festival, its value of privileged meeting place for the community.

The Fortezza Medicea As An Hanging Place

Continuing in the tradition of constant exchange between penal institutions and the outside world, a dialogue which has led to the transformation of the prison of Volterra in a one-of-a-kind "city-theatre" where the Compagnia della Fortezza has been working on a daily basis for 27 years, this edition of VolterraTeatro sees **the Fortezza Medicea becoming one of the 'hanging' places of the festival.**

The idea of suspension drives the artistic process of the **Compagnia della Fortezza** now rehearsing the first studio of its new spectacle ***Shakespeare. Know Well*** based on the investigation of the whole body of Shakespeare's work from the perspective of its cultural and philosophical legacy.

The Bard is one of the most representative authors of the Western Canon. This reflects in the influence and the importance that characters and situations of Shakespeare's plays had in shaping the humanity of today. Indeed, one can say that we are sort of made in his characters' likeness, copies shaped from Shakespeare's original models. But what kind of characters are those of Shakespeare? Individuals caught up in the intricacies of a plot, condemned to the predicament of taking it all the way to resolution, reacting and living in function of this goal. A humanity entangled in its own dramas, unaware of this condition, and incapable of finding a way out. What's radical about director and dramatist **Armando Punzo's** operation is precisely the will to suspend this logic: the artifice of theatre here functions so as to interrupt the oppressing, routinely mechanism of achieving which suffocates humanity. A suspension from everyday teleology which aims at redeeming Shakespeare's characters from the dictatorship of a purpose to fulfil, a goal to carry through. **(From the 20th to the 25th July, Fortezza Medicea, national premiere).**

With ***Buon Compleanno Giuliano!*** VolterraTeatro celebrates the eightieth birthday of a master of twentieth century theatre, **Giuliano Scabia**. He will present a symposium where he will recite/perform his last unpublished work ***Commedia di Matti Assassini*** as well as discuss it with the theatre critic **Massimo Marino (20th luglio, Fortezza Medicea).**

In the Fortezza Medicea will also take place, for the eighth year in a row, **Generazione Scenario**, a retrospective that will showcase four among the best under 35 artists who have participated at the prestigious national contest Premio Scenario. One after the other, will be played the works of the winners of Premio Scenario itself, of the Premio Scenario di Ustica, as well as two plays which distinguished themselves and/or received honourable mentions from the jury. **(21st July, Fortezza Medicea, regional premiere).**

Mariangela Gualtieri/Teatro Valdoca, one of the most important Italian poetesses presents ***Fraternità Solare***, a sonorous/musical rite **especially composed for this Festival's edition**, directed by Cesare Ronconi. This year Gualtieri returns to Volterra with 'parole epiche'. Epic is the realm of gods and heroes she claims, our realm. **(21st July, Fortezza Medicea, original creation for VT)**

The amazing stage of the Fortress also welcomes the return of the company **Fanny & Alexander**, which stages ***Giallo. Radiodramma dal vivo***, by **Luigi De Angelis e Chiara Lagani**. A mysterious radio dialogue between a school teacher and her invisible classroom. An investigation on nature and on that side of us most unknown, remote, incandescent and child like. **(22nd July, Fortezza Medicea)**

Aniello Arena, leading actor of **Compagnia della Fortezza**, presents the first studio titled ***A-Solo. Studi di assenza in pubblico***, the result of an **experiment of collective creation with Volterra and Pomarance's citizens**. Burning everything, leaving nothing behind, an existence that has no memory of itself. Till the end, till the last drop of sweat, without breath. No awareness, no knowledge. A picture of a man trying to break through his own limits. Theatre. **(22nd July, Fortezza Medicea)**

Chiara Guidi/Societas Raffaello Sanzio enters the Fortress for the first time, to present ***Nuvole.Casa***, a play based on one of the most complex works by Elfriede Jelinek, Literature Nobel prize 2004. On stage Chiara Guidi herself and Sveva Zimmermann, with music composed and played by Daniele Roccato **(22nd July, Fortezza Medicea)**

Mario Perrotta presents the monologue ***Milite Ignoto-Quindicidiciotto*** on First World War, the last conflict where the soldier had a name before becoming 'unknown'. The author begins by focusing on individual stories and from them creates a path to the bigger picture. **(25th July, Fortezza Medicea).**

During the afternoon the documentary ***La Scuola d'estate. Luca Ronconi a Santacristina***, will be screened, presented by the director Jacopo Quadri, which tells the story of the "Centro teatrale Santacristina", opened twelve years ago in Umbria by the director **Luca Ronconi**, master of European contemporary scene, recently passed away. **(25th July, Fortezza Medicea).**

The Fortress is also a European crossroad for encounters and public discussions, housing ***The prison, from penal institute to cultural place***, international closing meeting of the European Project PICP of which Carte Blanche is main partner, together with Fondazione Michelucci - Firenze, Théâtre de l'Opprimé - Paris, aufBruch Kunst Gefängnis Stadt - Berlin, London Shakespeare Workout - London. The manifesto "Practices for a concrete Utopia" will be presented, followed by a public debate concerning the good practices for Theatre and Prison: institutional relations, legal issues, work methodologies and relationships with both the artistic and cultural local scene. **Alberto Magnaghi**, professor of urban planning at the Università degli Studi di Firenze, presents his last book ***Un'idea di libertà. San Vittore '79 - Rebibbia***

'82 published by Derive ed Approdi in 2014. **(20th July, Fortezza Medicea).**

The Historical Archive of Compagnia della Fortezza dedicated to Augusto Bianchi Rizzi, intellectual and friend, recently passed away will be also presented inside the prison. The innovative project is developed together with The Art Department of Università degli Studi di Bologna and sovrintendenza archivistice of Emilia Romagna and Toscana, with the scientific direction of Cristina Valenti. **(20th July, Fortezza Medicea).**

Next to infinity: other places and suspended time

When the audience exits Fortezza Medicea the festival conduces the spectators in the most beautiful places close to Valdicecina's Infinity.

Archivio Zeta Special Project

The company **Archivio Zeta** will accompany the audience through **a collective project that involves several Volterra and Bologna's citizens**. They built a site specific project dislocated in the region, called **Pilade/Pasolini** and developed during the year between Bologna and Volterra. This theatre project will travel through the suspended places of the festival, using Pier Paolo Pasolini's words. This will give birth to a continuous *cultural rite*.

The project starts at the **Camposanto vecchio di Montecatini V.C.**, with **Pilade/Camposanto**. Pilade wanders in no man's land, but something still calls him back to the graves of Agamemnon and Clitemnestra. "Why, if this is a tragedy, it doesn't end with more blood?" he asks. The performance has a hanging ending, where uncertainty leads towards a sweet and reasoned profanity. **(20th July, Camposanto Vecchio di Montecatini V.C.).**

Then it moves to **Castelnuovo V.C.**, where Archivio Zeta will occupy the magic and unusual *Fumarole di Sasso Pisano* with the **Nascita di Atena**: from the head of her Father, Athena will be born and she will guide the choices of the new city to the miracles of the future. **(22nd July, Fumarole di Sasso Pisano, Castelnuovo V.C., site specific for VolterraTeatro)**

Third stop of the special project Archivio Zeta is **Pilade/Campo dei Rivoluzionari**, which will take place in an empty salt factory, a white cathedral, where the artists will be surrounded by salt mountains. The show will see more than 40 participants, citizens without acting experience who have been trained by Archivio Zeta. **The event is dedicated to the dramatic condition of the 193 Smith Bits workers, strenuously fighting against the threat of unemployment.** Some of the workers will in fact join in the performance. The festival this year has been dedicated to them, as is the show, which deals with the issue of predatory capitalism. Indeed in the play the procession of Eumenides led by Athena is characterized as the economic boom, a new unstoppable and growing revolution, which will cause the destruction of Pilade's army. By bringing poetry where it is needed the Festival highlights the dramatic vulnerability of the workers, whilst creating a new space for critical and original thinking, a space where the necessity and value of art are

preserved. **(25th July, Salina di Saline di Volterra, national premiere/original production for VT)**

The project ends at Pomarance with **Gianluca Guidotti and Enrica Sangiovanni**, together with the several participants of the workshop that the company run in Bologna, showcasing an unforgettable event at **Rocca Sillana**, one of the most astonishing suspended places of the VolterraTeatro Festival, through a metaphorical final rise of actors and audience towards Infinity. **(26th July, Rocca Sillana di Pomarance, regional premiere)**

As every year the Festival hosts a variety of musical events.

In the spectacular and unusual location of the Badia Camaldolese di Volterra, at sunset, we have planned another night next to infinity. A classic of Italian Opera, ***Cavalleria Rusticana***, played by 15 musicians from the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino Orchestra and accompanied by 40 voices between choir members and soloists. **(23rd July, Badia Camaldolese di Volterra)**

At Saline di Volterra we have organized a wonderful concert, ***La Fabbrica Sospesa***, a special night where prestigious musicians and artists will celebrate art as a medium of participation and socialization. A celebration of music, images and words, starring **Ginevra Di Marco, Francesco Magnelli, Andrea Salvadori, Marzio Del Testa, Peppe Servillo, Cisco, Sergio Staino, Armando Punzo, with a poetic intervention of Giacomo Trinci.** The night is dedicated to the workers of the Smith Bits factory of Saline, and their "suspended" condition, struggling against capitalism. Music and art will be celebrated in support of the workers' struggle. **(24 July, Area G.I.A.S.C. Del Cavo Di Saline - Saline Di Volterra)**

The hanging town: an on going workshop

The Hanging City is a workshop city, where spectators, under the guidance of theatre and art masters, can undergo first hand the experience of suspension from the noise of contingency. They can attempt the art of evading from their everyday life scene and place themselves into a different new space.

Beside the creative project ran by Archivio Zeta and the other projects that entail the engagement of the public, the festival presents two special project which are built thanks to and because of the active participation of the citizens.

After almost fifteen years of collaboration with Compagnia della Fortezza, a leading role in Matteo Garrone's movie, a Gran Prix in Cannes 2012, the winning of best actor for Nastro d'argento as best Italian actor in 2013 and a

nomination, in the same year, for the David di Donatello, **Aniello Arena** challenges himself in a new project, directed by **Armando Punzo**. **A-Solo, Studi di assenza in pubblico, is the results of an experiment of collective creation with Volterra and Pomarance's citizens.** This project consists in a dialogue between the actor and himself, exploring the thoughts and words that have defined his artistic and human path in these years. He investigates his own voyage towards suspension, which leads to the destruction of everything. The author wants to burn everything, he doesn't want to leave anything behind anymore. Man is brought to annihilation, until he can brake through his own boundaries. This project has been shaped through a series of events in which the actor and his director were able to interface the public and build the show thanks to this interaction. The spectators contributed actively to the creation of the show, whilst having the unique opportunity to witness the birth of a theatre performance.

Also in Pomarance, the theatre company **Officine Papage** in collaboration with **CittadiniInScena** presents **Coniugazioni: la grammatica dell'esistenza.** This new project is a study on singular motion, directed by **Marco Pasquinucci** and **Paola Consani**, which directly engages non-professionals in the creative process as well as in the staging process. The project investigates the grammar of being, identity and relation, transforming the conjugation of the verb "being" in theatrical exercise, through a shared and open practice where workshop experiences are gathered towards the production of a show. **(21st July, Teatro dei Coraggiosi di Pomarance).**

Projects dedicated to children and their artistic engagement

The festival dedicates a special series of events to children, offering them a chance to directly engage with the artistic creation process. **Chiara Guidi**, co-founder of the **Societas Raffaello Sanzio**, and exceptional international artist well known for her artistic works involving children, will bring to Volterra an incredible theatrical experience: **La terra dei Lombrichi. Una tragedia per bambini.** From Euripides' Alcestis a show open to children and adults (8 years onwards). An adventurous and poetic voyage underground, in the realm of earthworms, where these animals can teach us how to dig and liberate what really matters: love. Children, guided by the show's storytellers, will take the stage and shape the storyline with their actions. **(23-24-25 July, Sotterranei della Pinacoteca Civica. Regional premiere)**

Another project that engages children is **Emanuela Dall'Aglio's I'mnatura. Percorsi per spiare strane creature.** A show open to both children and adults (4 years onwards). An unusual guide with microphone and torch will lead a night excursion and reveal the existence of fantastic creatures as well as their thoughts. A mysterious voyage in the park during the night, when everything is suspended and other creatures silently mix with us engendering unexpected possibilities **(23rd July, Parco Fiumi di Volterra, prima**

regionale)

Exhibitions and installations

Mario Francesconi, extraordinary artist and long time friend of Compagnia della Fortezza, will put on his art works in one of the least hectic corners of the city, with an exhibition entitled **The Hanging Town**. **Clara Vannucci**, freelance photographer for the New York Times, puts on a photographic exhibition featuring the 'hanging characters' of **Compagnia della Fortezza**, captured while detaching from their identity thanks to the imaginary power of theatre. Her exhibition is displayed in Palazzo Pretorio's Logge, in Volterra's main square. **Stefano Vaja**, as every year, will exhibit his best pictures from the previous year's production of Compagnia della Fortezza. In the Giudice Concialiator's Saletta it will be possible to see an installation dedicated to the extraordinary figure of Pier Paolo Pasolini, where **Stefano Tonelli's** material and pictorial art work merges with Mattia Mura's video art. The installation is entitled **La Pietà Rimossa**. **Giuseppangela Campus** will also exhibit her artworks in a street poster art exhibition spread through the city, showing that history and life are suspended by the dance of death. Everything is precarious and fragile, even beauty. The exhibition is entitled **DANZA**.

Editorial Projects

The festival presents an original editorial project curated by **Rossella Menna** and enabled by the contribution of Clichy editors. The RO.RO.RO. is a collection of original writings by the authors that have contributed to the Festival this year, including unpublished poems by **Giacomo Trinci** and **Lidia Riviello**, together with a literary essay by **Davide Mannucci**, young emerging writer. The literary works all focus on the festival's key theme: suspension. RO.RO.ROs collect images and words born within and around the festival and present an appraisal of laziness by Roland Barthes, recently rediscovered by Doppiozero. RO.RO.ROs are available in Volterra during the festival and in bookshops from September onwards.

During the presentation of the project RO.RO.RO Edizione Speciale VolterraTeatro 2015

Inside Fortezza Medicea there will be a public discussion among **Armando Punzo**, **Tommaso Gurrieri (director of Clichy Editions)**, **Rossella Menna (curator of the publication)**, **Massimo Marino (theatre critic and co-author)**. There will also be a reading of **Davide Mannucci**, one of the authors of the publication.

Workshops

Chiara Guidi will run a theatre workshop from the 20th to the 26th, entitled **IL METODO ERRANTE. IL LAVORO DELL'ATTORE AGLI OCCHI DEL BAMBINO**. The workshop is open to 20 actors who will be involved in the show *La terra dei lombrichi. Una tragedia per bambini*. Another workshop

which is part of this years' Festival is **Futura Tittaferrante's** photography workshop where participants will have the chance to photograph actors while they are performing on stage. The workshop, entitled **SORPRESI. IN SOSPESI, LUOGHI** and will run from the **23rd to the 26th**, will offer the unique opportunity to observe the artistic creation process and interact with it.

Meeting Places

As usual **L'Araldo** bookshop (in Via Ricciarelli) becomes, during the festival, a hanging space where artists and spectators can meet and find shelter. From the **20th to the 26th** it will be possible to taste a glass of local wine and read about the history of Compagnia della Fortezza. The bookshop has an amazing collection of drama books by the authors whose words have been used to give voice to the festival.

Creative Projects

The artistic banners of the festival various editions are used to create exclusive **VT banner bags**, unique and handmade. You will be able to wear fragments of theatre history, whilst sponsoring a theatre project. The author of the banner bags is the local artist **Valentina Cioni**

Info Festival

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