World Theatre Day 2019
Event Report
26 - 27 March 2019
Pesaro and Rome, Italy
Introduction

For the World Theatre Day 2019 main event, the General Secretariat and the Italian Centre of ITI have selected a location and collaborations that underlined ITI’s humanistic and educational commitment.

For the first time ever the main event was held in a prison, included young people who participated in a competition to write for the theatre and performances of the winning plays that were written and played by young people.

For the reading of the message, the event followed the tradition of World Theatre Day all over the world: The message was read as an introduction to an artistic performance.

For all those who were able to participate in the events, the celebration had touching moments. And it is clear that such an event is underlining the importance of bringing the theatre to the people and opening the door for theatre, for the creation of theatre to everybody – independent of the socio-economic status, age, gender, cultural roots, ethnicity and religious beliefs.

That this could happen, needed the dedication and passion for theatre of a multitude of people.

I take this occasion to express my gratitude to all of them.

Tobias Biancone
Director General of ITI

Event Organizers
International Theatre Institute ITI worldwide
Italian Centre of ITI
Italian Committee for Theatre in Prisons
Italian Centre of the International Critics Association
Villa Fastiggi, Prison of Pesaro
Teatro Vascello

Patronage
UNESCO
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Education, University and Research
World Theatre Day was created by the International Theatre Institute and was celebrated for the first time on 27 March 1962, the opening of the “Theatre of Nations” season in Paris. Since then, every year on this date, World Theatre Day is celebrated on a global scale.

One of the most important actions for World Theatre Day is the dissemination of the international message through which a world-class figure shares their thoughts on Theatre, Culture and Peace.

World Theatre Day is celebrated all over the world on the 27 March with awards, publications, a reading of the message at the beginning of a performance, discussions, conferences, workshops, masterclasses, galas and special festivities.
World Theatre Day 2019 Message

Before my awakening to the theatre, my teachers were already there. They had built their houses and their poetic approach on the remains of their own lives. Many of them are unknown, or are scarcely remembered: they worked from silence, in the humility of their rehearsal rooms and in their spectator-packed theatres and, slowly, after years of work and extraordinary achievement, they gradually slid away from these places and disappeared. When I understood that my personal destiny would be to follow their steps, I also understood that I had inherited that gripping, unique tradition of living in the present without any expectation other than achieving the transparency of an unrepeatable moment; a moment of encounter with another in the darkness of a theatre, with no further protection than the truth of a gesture, a revealing word.

My theatrical homeland lies in those moments of meeting the spectators who arrive at our theatre night after night, from the most varied corners of my city, to accompany us and share some hours, a few minutes. My life is built up from those unique moments when I cease to be myself, to suffer for myself, and I am reborn and understand the meaning of the theatrical profession: to live instants of pure ephemeral truth, where we know that what we say and do, there under the stage lights, is true and reflects the most profound, most personal, part of ourselves. My theatrical country, mine and that of my actors, is a country woven from such moments, where we leave behind the masks, the rhetoric, the fear of being who we are, and we join hands in the dark.

Theatrical tradition is horizontal. There is nobody who may affirm that theatre exists at any centre in the world, in any city or privileged building. Theatre, as I have received it, spreads through an invisible geography that blends the lives of those who perform it and the theatrical craft in a single unifying gesture. All masters of theatre die with their moments of unrepeatable lucidity and beauty; they all fade in the same way, without any other transcendence to protect them and make them illustrious. Theatrical teachers know this, no recognition is valid when faced with that certainty which is the root of our work: creating moments of truth, of ambiguity, of strength, of freedom in the midst of great precariousness. Nothing survives except data or records of their work in videos and photos that will only capture a pale idea of what they did. However, what will always be missing from those records is the silent response by the public who understands in an instant that what takes place cannot be translated or found outside, that the truth shared there is an experience of life, for a few seconds, even more diaphanous than life itself.

When I understood that the theatre was a country in itself, a major territory that covers the whole world, a determination arose within me, which was also the realisation of a freedom: you do not have to go far away, or move from where you are, you do not have to run or move yourself. The public is wherever you exist. You have the colleagues you need at your side. There, outside your house, you have all the opaque, impenetrable daily reality. You then work from that apparent immobility to design the greatest journey of all, to repeat the Odyssey, the Argonauts’s journey: you are an immobile traveller who does not cease to accelerate the density and rigidity of your real world. Your journey is toward the instant, to the moment, toward the unrepeatable encounter before your peers. Your journey is toward them, toward their heart, toward their subjectiveness. You travel within them, in their emotions, their memories that you awake and mobilise. Your journey is vertiginous, and nobody may measure or silence it. Nor may anybody recognise it to the right extent, it is a journey through the imagination of your people, a seed that is sown in the most remote of lands: the civic, ethical and human conscience of your spectators. Due to this, I do not move, I remain at home, among my closest, in apparent stillness, working day and night, because I have the secret of speed.

Translation from Spanish original by Luis Llerena
Day 1: Tuesday, 26 March 2019, Prison of Villa Fastiggi, Pesaro

The first part of the World Theatre Day Celebration coincided with the 6th edition of the National Day of Theatre in Prison in Italy. It was organized by the Italian Committee for Theatre in Prison in collaboration with the International Theatre Institute ITI worldwide, the Italian Centre of ITI, the Italian Association of Theatre Critics as well as the European Magazines “Catarsi teatri delle diversità” and Aenigma Theatre of the University of Urbino. Patronage was granted by UNESCO and the Ministry of Justice.

Programme

1st Part

Welcome addresses by
• Vito Minoia, Italy; President of the International University Theatre Association-IUTA and of the Italian Committee of Theatre in Prison
• Armanda Rossi, Italy; Director of the Prison of Pesaro
• A High Officer of the Italian Department of Prison Administration
• Rosella Persi, Italy; Professor of Pedagogy of the University of Urbino Carlo Bo
• Antonio Rosa, Italy; Teacher at the Secondary School Galileo Galilei, Pesaro

Speeches by
• Tobias Biancone, Switzerland/China, Director General of the International Theatre Institute
• Carlos Celdrán, Cuba; Author of the message for World Theatre Day 2019

Presentations on WTD and on Italian Day of Theatre in Prison by
• Fabio Tolledi, Italy, President Italian Centre of ITI, Vice-President of ITI for Europe
• Vito Minoia, Italy

Reading of the message for World Theatre Day 2019 in Italian, with a video on the work of Carlos Celdrán by Roberta Quarta, Italy; Actress, singer and member of the Italian Centre of ITI
The Event: 26 March 2019 – Pesaro, Italy

2nd Part

Presentation of the videos “Undhurilay / see me /guardami” and “Al-Thiqah / trust / fiducia”
Director of the Project Brother Stefano Luca, Capuchin Franciscan Friars of Lombardy, Italy
Video directed by Mattia Canovi.

The first video presents the theatre project, carried out by the Capuchin Missionaries in collaboration with Jesuit Refugee Service at the School FVDL Centre in Lebanon, held in summer of 2018. It shows three months theatre work with Syrian refugee teenagers. Through adapting a text taken from the “The Merchants of Venice” by William Shakespeare lives broken by the war were shown. Being involved the theatrical work the participants could rekindle their zest for live and find hope for the future.

The second video showed individual statements of the participants of Stefano Luca’s work in a prison in Cameroon. The work had positive and touching effects on the participating persons.

The event ended with a Q and A period between 13-year old students of the Institute Galileo Galilei of Pesaro and twenty students of the University of Urbino, all of them are involved educational theatre activities, with an audience of prisoners (women and men). The work with the students were coordinated by Romina Mascioli and Vito Minoia for the University Theatre Aenigma.
World Theatre Day Programme

Day 2: Wednesday, 27 March 2019, Teatro Vascello, Rome

Morning: Ceremony “Scrivere il Teatro”
The event of the morning consisted of the Ceremony “Scrivere il Teatro” (Writing Theatre) which was organized by the Italian Centre of ITI, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR) and the Institute Costaggini Rieti as well as with the Municipality of Cinigiano, Region of Tuscany, the Accademia Mutamenti, the Teatro Vascello and Coolclub.

The project “Scrivere il Teatro” is a competition that is announced to Italian schools. It invites school classes to write a text for theatre. The written text are submitted to the jury, consisting of members of the ministry and theatre professionals. Once the winners are determined, the members of the school class receive support for creating the play for the stage. These performances were finally premiered to the audience in the Teatro Vascello on World Theatre Day, 27 March 2019.

The goal of the competition is to get school children inspired by and involved with theatre. The contest culminates in the performance presented during the Celebration of World Theatre Day where the winning texts and performances are awarded. The competition helps to open the children’s eyes to the global importance of the art form and give their talents a platform.

Programme
• Welcome Speech by Guiseppe Pierro, representative of the Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR)
• Introduction about World Theatre Day, by Fabio Tolledi, President of the Italian Centre of ITI, Vice President of ITI worldwide
• Reading of the World Theatre Day Message in Italian by Roberta Quarta, with video projection on the work of Carlos Celdrán

Awards
The Ceremony consisted of an introduction to the winning performance, the performance as well as presenting the Award Certificate to the winners. The award ceremony was moderated by Laura Palmieri, Il Teatro diRadio3 / Rai Radio 3. These are the winners of “Scrivere il Teatro 2019”:
• "Who finds a friend finds a right" by the Primary School A. Manzoni of Parabiago
• "We, from their point of view" by the Secondary School I. C. Giuseppe Bagnera of Rome
• "Levante" by the Secondary School I.I.S. "Giacomo Leopardi" of San Benedetto del Tronto

The main prize is given to an educational institution independent of the category of the school. The main award was given to:
• "I found you!" by the School I.I.S. “E. Majorana” of Rossano of Calabro

Evening
The evening event consisted of the official part of the World Theatre Day, with reading the message, welcome speech, and speech of the message author, followed by a full-length performance.
• Welcome Speech to World Theatre Day by Fabio Tolledi, President of the Italian Centre of ITI, Vice President of ITI worldwide
• Introduction to World Theatre Day by Tobias Biancone, Director General ITI worldwide
• Reading of the World Theatre Day message of Carlos Celdrán in Italian by Roberta Quarta, Actress and member of the Italian Centre of ITI
• Speech by Carlos Celdrán, World Theatre Day Message Author 2019
• Performance of “Abitare la battaglia” by Pierpaolo Sepe
The Event: 27 March 2019 – Rome, Italy

Fabio Tolledi, President Italian Centre of IT, Vice President of ITI worldwide
The Event: 27 March 2019 – Rome, Italy

Evening performance: Abitare la battaglia
World Theatre Day Promotion

57a Giornata Mondiale del Teatro
celebrazione ufficiale internazionale

Pescara, Casa Circondariale - 26 marzo 2019 ore 10.00

Enrica Olivieri (segretaria) e Giorgio Tulli (presidente)

Giovanni Calcagno, Mgr. 

Barbara Guerri 

José Antonio Rosi 

Donato Sciuto 

Vito Minniti (presidente della Internazionale Unione Teatrali) 

Programma

Ore 10:00 - Svolgimento del Concorso per gli studenti

Ore 10:30 - Presentazione del Premio al Migliore Scrittore Teatrale

Ore 10:45 - Premiazione del Migliore Scrittore Teatrale

Ore 11:00 - Premiazione del Migliore Scrittore Teatrale

Ore 11:30 - Chiusura

Con la partecipazione di Tobias Bancroft, Direttore Generale dell’International Theatre Festival in Città Vecchie, Autori del Messaggio della CNT 2019

Presente Laura Palieri, Giornalista Rai Radio 3

Teatro Vascello via Gismondo Carini, 78 - Roma

World Theatre Day Event Brochure
World Theatre Day Promotion

Website of the International Theatre Institute

Website of the World Theatre Day

Newsletter

Carlos CELDRAN, Cuba – World Theatre Day Message Author for 2019

Every year the executive council of ITI chooses an outstanding theatre personality to write the message for World Theatre Day, which is celebrated since 1961 on the 27th of March all over the world.

It is our great pleasure and honor to officially announce that for 2019 Carlos CELDRAN from Cuba, the outstanding stage director, playwright and theatre educator, has been selected the message for 2019.

Attached you find the original message in Spanish (original), English and French. Additionally, you find the biography in the three languages and the photo by Laura Ramos that is copyright free (but the photographer needs to be mentioned).

Attest: Unlike in other years, you may publish the message and its translation from now on. The reason for this is: In those countries where the
World Theatre Day Media and Press
Il carcere di Pesaro capitale mondiale del teatro per un giorno. Grazie all’Enigma di Urbino

Il carcere di Pesaro, capitale mondiale del teatro per un giorno. Grazie all’Enigma di Urbino

Nel carcere di Pesaro la Cerimonia ufficiale internazionale della 57a Giornata mondiale del Teatro

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