

# INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP OF COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

## 10TH EDITION

Directed by **CRISTIANO ROCCAMO**

**FRIDAY THE 31ST OF JULY > SATURDAY THE 8TH OF AUGUST 2009**  
**TEATRO BINARIO – COTIGNOLA (RA)**  
**ITALY**



### “THE COMMEDIA DELL’ARTE CRAFTSMAN”

***The workshop is addressed to Italian or foreign actors, directors or scholars willing to go deeper into the knowledge of Commedia dell’Arte.*** Italian Comedy is deeply rooted in the Zanesca tradition, that was born in the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Actually, Commedia dell’Arte can be considered as the first form of show business. Performances are unscripted and shows are based on scenarios (i.e. canovaccio, succession of theatrical actions) so comedians, according to their characters and canovaccio, normally improvise.

### IMPROVISATION

Improvisation “technique” consists in creating dialogues or monologues in a moment, basing on a canovaccio. According to given scenarios actors improvise, drawing on their repertoire, in response to the stimulus of their audience. The need to constantly change and improvise gives to Commedia its specificity.

## BODY AND MASK

Commedia dell'Arte actors normally wear a mask, so face is hidden and cannot reveal the different feelings of the characters. The body, thanks to its countless potential, becomes the mean to express the action.

## SUCCESS OF COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

Where is the reason why Commedia dell'Arte had such a big success to come across centuries and countries?

Success lies in the actors' skill of communication along with the mix of different kinds of expressions. You just need to look at a Commedia dell'Arte character to understand how he's using his body: "bizarre" gestuality, non - conventional rhythm, vocal "invention", colorful costumes, pantomime. But his main feature remains the mask, that introduces the character (stereotype). These elements are easily understandable from everybody everywhere in the world, even going beyond the limit of the spoken language.



## **WHAT'S YOUR MASK?**

### **Seeking your mask**

#### **PLAYING WITH MASKS**

- Introduction to Commedia dell'Arte
- What is a mask? symbols and meanings
- Knowledge of the space
- Breath
- Improvisation without masks.

#### **COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE CHARACTERS**

*(SERVANTS) SERVI:* Primo e Secondo Zanni, Terzo Zanni (Arlecchino, Pulcinella) Colombina, etc...

*(OLD) VECCHI:* Pantalone, Dottore

*(THE CAPTAIN):* Scaramuccia, Capitan Spavento

*(LOVERS) INNAMORATI:* Flaminia, Leandro

*(ARISTOCRATS) NOBILI*

*(WITCHES AND WIZARDS) STREGHE E STREGONI*

#### **THEATRICAL TECHNIQUES**

- Choreography and fighting
- Theory of technique of Lazzo
- Creating a drama
- Improvisation with masks
- Chorus and rhythm
- Writing a canovaccio

#### **WORKSHOP:**

**60 hours workshop, 6/7 hours per day in 9 days.**

Cristiano Roccamo will give classes in **Italian, French** or **English**.

Attendants will also use original masks from Italian mask – makers, and costumes of the renaissance made by specialized dressmaker.

A **final show** with all attendants will be performed at the end of the workshop.

*Comici dell'Arte frees actors from the limits of written text to take them to a new genre that comes from improvisation. Actors use all their fantasy, their bodies, their voices. Comici dell'Arte gave to the history of theatre a unique shocking genre where humor and sarcasm create the show and involve the audience. Comici dell'Arte changed the relation between audience and actors, between watching a show and taking part in it.*

*In the end, after 5 centuries Commedia dell'Arte is still lively and successful!*

### **CRISTIANO ROCCAMO - CURRICULUM VITAE**

Cristiano Roccamo is born in 1974 and he begins his studies of theatre in 1993. He graduates ad Honorem at the *Academie des Arts du Spectacles de Paris*, he studies at the *Accademia del Circo* in Cesenatico and specializes in Commedia dell'Arte studying with Carlo Nicolò Boso (founder of *Tag Teatro of Mestre* and now Director of *Accademie Internationale des Arts du Spectacle de Paris*).

In 1998 Cristiano founds in Cotignola (Ra), *TeatroVivo*, theatre company undertaken to protect and to spread Commedia dell'Arte worldwide. Some of the most important productions of *TeatroVivo* are *Commedia in Commedia* and *Comici e Capocomici*. These shows were given in Italy (Santarcangelo), France (Paris and Festival of Avignon 2001-2004), Spain, Belgium, Portugal, Germany, Malta, Hungary and Czech Republic.

From 2000 he has been directing the *International Workshop of Commedia dell'Arte* for professional actors that takes place at *Teatro Binario* (where he is artistic director) in Cotignola. He is also the artistic director of *Limprovvisa - Festival Internazionale di Commedia dell'Arte*, *Spettacoli a Merenda*, and *All'Improvvisa in Spazi Insoliti* theatre season that takes place in the municipalities of Bagnara di Romagna, Cotignola, Fusignano, Massa Lombarda and Solarolo.

In 2001/2004 he also directed *Teatro Vivo in Piazza Nuova* (summer theatre season in Bagnacavallo (Ra) and the European project *Europa in Maschera*, sponsored by Cultura 2000 - European Union.

In addition to his career of actor and director he has also taught Commedia dell'Arte at the Old University of Malta at the University of Pecs (Hungary) at the University of Prague and at the University of Nanterre-Paris.



## CONTACTS

**TeatroVivo Soc. Coop a r.l.**

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**The cost of the workshop is 300€**

Lectures will take place at Teatro Binario  
Viale Vassura, 20- 48010 Cotignola (Ra) ITALY

Timetable: Monday > Saturday  
10:00am > 12:30pm and 2:30pm > 6:30pm