



Press Release
25 Febbraio 2010, Bologna
Giornata della Commedia dell'Arte

In 2008 several Commedia dell'Arte companies came together through the project "Incommedia" to form an association called SAT with the goal of creating initiatives to validate and spread Commedia dell'Arte. The first steps of this association are to: build a video archive that captures the total experiences of Commedia dell'Arte companies both in Italy and abroad, to propose Commedia dell'Arte as a candidate for Intangible World Heritage to UNESCO, and also, through video appeal (by Enzo Aronica and Luciano Brogi) featuring personal testimonials with well known cultural leaders, and the proposal of a Commedia dell'Arte Day that this year is being organized in Bologna in collaboration with Fraternalcompagnia, and which in 2011 will most likely be held in Torino. Commedia dell'Arte Day will be celebrated on February 25th of each year, a symbolic date on which the first professional company was legally formed in Padua in 1545. The day is intended to promote awareness of this tradition, born in Italy but practiced throughout the world. Similarly to the Theater Day and Dance Day organized by ITI (International Theater Institute), this day will also be open to anyone and everyone who wants to participate by organizing an event in their own city. This cause has even been taken up in the U.S., in Washington D.C., where Faction of Fools Theatre Company is coordinating all events that will take place outside of Italy. In Bologna, the Day will feature an exceptional group of artists: Luciano Brogi (SAT President), Venezia in Scena, Pantakin (Venice), Teatro Viaggio (Bergamo), Teatro Ricerche (Viterbo), Tetes de Bois (Montpelier), Opera Prima (Latina), Carro dei Comici (Pesaro), Luca Rossi (Florence), Santibriganti Teatro (Torino), Fraternalcompagnia (Bologna), Imago Mundi (Roma), Antonio Fava (Reggio Emilia), Carlo Boso (Paris), and also the mask designers Stefano Perocco and Piero Ottusi, important personality like Nuccio Sebastiano Messina president of the 'ITI Italian Center (International Theatre Institute) and the theater historians Roberto Tessari (University of Torino) and Gerardo Guccini (University of Bologna).

The Day is planned to optimize awareness of this theatre genre: the morning of February 25th will begin with three important seminars at the Tivoli Theatre, dedicated to theatre students, student actors and theater people, in six advanced institute courses of Bologna, additionally companies will bring performing classes of Commedia dell'Arte that will reach over 2,000 children, at the Academy of Beaux Arts there will also be two seminars on mask making and scenic design for Commedia dell'Arte. In the afternoon three intensive courses will begin that will be held over four days at Dehon Theatre (at 5pm) there will be a discussion panel on commedia dell'Arte with all of the artists and actors involved. February 25th will conclude with an evening jam session at Dehon Theatre where the companies will present Commedia dell'Arte scenes. For several days the eyes of the world will be turned upon Bologna for this international event that is destined to be repeated in future years and that will be entered in the annals of this ancient forerunner to the modern theatre. Commedia dell'Arte Day is a project of the Association SAT with sponsorships of UNESCO and ITI. The organization for this event is by FraternalCompagnia and it has the sponsorships of the City of Bologna, the Emilia Romagna Region, the Province of Bologna, San Vitale Quarter, the Del Monte Foundation, the Academy of Beaux Arts, Legacoop Bologna and Alliance Francaise.

Attached please find the complete schedule of events for Commedia dell'Arte Day.