

## **TRACING ROADS ACROSS**

a project of

### **WORKCENTER OF JERZY GROTOWSKI AND THOMAS RICHARDS**

Thomas Richards, Artistic Director

Mario Biagini, Associate Director

**Tracing Roads Across** outlines a vision that houses the ongoing creative development of the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards throughout the next three years. The project – whose duration spans from April 2003 to April 2006 – is supported by the "Culture 2000" Programme of the European Union, and is made possible by a network of cultural operators from six different countries. Standing out among them is **Fondazione Pontedera Teatro**, its director Roberto Bacci and co-director Carla Pollastrelli, whose invitation to Jerzy Grotowski 1986 led to the founding of the Workcenter. **Fondazione Pontedera Teatro**, which has supported and hosted the Workcenter since its very beginnings, spearheads the group of co-organizers by hosting the "Main Work" of **Tracing Roads Across**.

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### **Main Work: Tradition and Performance**

#### **Pontedera, Italy**

October 12, 2003 – February 26, 2004

**Tradition and Performance**, one of the activities of **Tracing Roads Across**, will take place throughout the project's three years in the form of a yearly five-month activity in the home-base of the project in Pontedera, Italy, which is the natural place for the Workcenter team to continue work on its performative structures and develop its research.

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During **Tradition and Performance**, the **Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards** will hold the premiere of its new piece developed in Project *The Bridge: Developing Theatre Arts*, **Dies Irae**.

- **Dies Irae**

February 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 2004, 21.00hr, February 8 and 15 2004, 17.00hr, presented at Fondazione Pontedera Teatro, Via Manzoni 22, 56025 Pontedera, Italy

Is it a group of actors gathering for their daily performance, or a bizarre team of researchers investigating on borderline experiences? The objective of their inquiry: to provoke a revelation that will reach them from the crack between life and death, to beg an answer from the depths of the unconscious about human nature and the nature of theatre art. Surely, it would be a theatre company with a very peculiar conception of art.

*"Life splendor forever lies in wait about each one of us in all its fullness, but veiled from view, deep down, invisible, far off. It is there, though, not hostile, not reluctant, not deaf. If you invite it by the right word, by its right name, it will come. This is the essence of theatre, which does not create, but invites."*

They perform a piece telling the story of an experiment on human beings during borderline experiences. Each day, one of them is chosen to undergo the experiment. Through a complex and gradual enactment, the chosen one – today it is a woman – is led into a deep and unknown state, during which she is prepared to be the vessel of a mysterious force. Does she hang between life and death, or knowledge and ignorance? The other participants, who guide her through this singular liturgy, await, as she grasps for accomplishment, longing for revelation.

The Workcenter team members in **Dies Irae** are: Gey Pin Ang, Mario Biagini, Pei Hwee Tan, Souphière Amiar, Cécile Berthe, Francesc Torrent Gironella, Elisa Poggelli, Johanna Porkola, Jørn Riegels Wimpel.

**Dies Irae** is open to an audience, for reservations contact from the 15th of January on: Fondazione Pontedera Teatro, Phone: +39 0587 55720-57034, Fax: +39 0587 213631, Email: teatro@pontederateatro.it.

During **Tradition and Performance**, aside from its public events, the Workcenter will invite theatre groups from France, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Greece for extended meetings and exchanges of work with the Workcenter team. During the exchanges of work, each group observes the practical work of the other, that include from the side of the Workcenter, chosen elements of work from all branches of its research: *Art as vehicle* (Action and The Twin: an Action in creation) and Project *The Bridge: Developing Theatre Arts* (Dies Irae).

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For more information about **Tracing Roads Across** consult the project's web-site at: [www.tracingroadsacross.net](http://www.tracingroadsacross.net)

or contact Gülsen Gürses - Project Organizer at:

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**Tracing Roads Across**, as well as directly concerning the Workcenter's practical research, periodically focuses the artistic team's attention towards a vast number of young theatre groups, performance artists and students, and also gives the team the opportunity to address topics related to creative analysis with theatre experts and scholars. The project creates the circumstances in which the works and creative processes of young artists and scholars can be analyzed from the point of view of performance craft. A three-year traveling cultural dialogue is being fostered between chosen theatre groups, organizations and cultural operators from eleven nations. The participating individual artists, theatre groups and intellectuals delve at different levels and in different stages into the practical aspects of the overall project. **Tracing Roads Across** as well creates the opportunity for non-professionals and theatre-lovers to come in contact with the artistic research and performative opuses of the **Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards**.

**Tracing Roads Across** is supported by the "Culture 2000" Programme of the European Union



Project Organizer and co-ideation:

Theater des Augenblicks – Vienna, Austria

Co-organizers:

Fondazione Pontedera Teatro – Pontedera, Italy

Centre Dramatique National de Normandie – Comédie de Caen – Caen, France

Public Agency for Culture, Tourism and Development of Heraklion City  
(Municipality of Heraklion) – Crete, Greece

University of Cyprus – Nicosia, Cyprus

"For a New Bulgarian University" Foundation – Sophia, Bulgaria

Main Partners:

Associazione Grotowski – Pontedera, Italy

The Moscow Theater "School of Dramatic Art" of Anatoli Vasiliev – Russia

Turkish National Theatre – Istanbul-Ankara, Turkey

Théâtre National Tunisien – Tunis, Tunisia

Kent University – Canterbury, Great Britain

IMEC – Institut mémoires de l'édition contemporaine – Paris-Caen, France

A.C.C.A.A.N. – L'Atelier Cinéma de Normandie – Caen, France

The Centre for Studies on Jerzy Grotowski's Work and of the Cultural and  
Theatrical Research – Wrocław, Poland

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