

TRACING ROADS ACROSS

a project by

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 a three year period. 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 in 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**.

Intervention in Fabbrica Europa Festival Florence, Italy

April 30 – May 6, 2004

Intervention in Fabbrica Europa Festival is one of the “Interventions” activities of **Tracing Roads Across**. “Interventions” will take place throughout the three years of **Tracing Roads Across** in the form of punctual events for the most part held by Thomas Richards and Mario Biagini. They will usually consist of conferences and short seminars of a theoretical nature. Occasionally, however, the “Interventions” will consist of performances and demonstrations of the Workcenter team, as during the **Intervention** in Fabbrica Europa Festival.

Fabbrica Europa Festival is organized by Fondazione Fabbrica Europa per le arti contemporanee. The theatre sector of Fabbrica Europa Festival is directed by Fondazione Pontedera Teatro.

During **Intervention** in Fabbrica Europa Festival, the **Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards** will be present in Florence with one branch of its ongoing research:

Project *The Bridge: Developing Theatre Arts*

Dies Irae

May 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 21.00hr, Can Go Cantieri Goldonetta, Via Santa Maria, 25, 50125 Firenze

Since May 1998, the Workcenter is developing a new branch in its research, a branch that is evolving and maturing next to the research on “art as vehicle”, Project *The Bridge: Developing Theatre Arts*. Therein, a bridge is being sculpted in the material of performing arts, which stretches from the world of the theatre to the investigations on “art as vehicle”. What is appearing in Project *The Bridge* is neither theatre in the strict sense, nor “art as vehicle”. The first piece created inside Project *The Bridge* was *One Breath Left*. Now, a new opus is emerging, ***Dies Irae***, directed by Mario Biagini and Thomas Richards.

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’s 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 in ***Dies Irae*** is: Gey Pin Ang, Mario Biagini, Pei Hwee Tan, Souphiène Amiar, Cécile Berthe, Francesc Torrent Gironella, Elisa Poggelli, Johanna Porkola, Jørn Riegels Wimpel.

Dies Irae is open to an audience, for reservation contact Fondazione Pontedera Teatro either through the following phone numbers or e-mail account (from the 5th April):
Phone number: +39 (0)587 55720 or +39 (0)587 57034
Email: reservations@pontederateatro.it

For more information about **Tracing Roads Across** consult the project's web-site at: www.tracingroadsacross.net

or contact Gülsen Gürses - Project Manager 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 Development (Municipality of Zaros) – Crete, Greece University of Cyprus – Nicosia, Cyprus
Main Partners:	"For a New Bulgarian University" Foundation – Sophia, Bulgaria A.C.C.A.A.N. – L'Atelier Cinéma de Normandie – Caen, France Associazione Grotowski – Pontedera, Italy The Moscow Theater "School of Dramatic Art" of Anatoli Vasiliev – Russia IMEC – Institut mémoires de l'édition contemporaine – Paris-Caen, France The Centre for Studies on Jerzy Grotowski's Work and of the Cultural and Theatrical Research – Wrocław, Poland Kent University – Canterbury, Great Britain

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