



# INTiP

International Network Theatre in Prison  
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## Vito Minoia: “Prisons shouldn’t be the place where a person’s fate is sealed”

A successful four-day event was held in Rome merging two editions of “Destini Incrociati”, the National Italian Festival of Theater in Prison, waiting for INTiP's first international initiative in Venice, Italy at the end of 2022.

ROME - "Prisons shouldn't be the place that seals a person's fate, made of marginality and exclusion. Thanks to its creative, artistic and expressive peculiarities, the language of theatre is a privileged instrument of intervention. It provides a way to escape from fixed patterns and to identify the forms of knowledge to be used to face a real educational emergency". This is how Vito Minoia - promoter of the initiatives of the four-day event held in Rome, and expert of inclusive educational theater at the University of Urbino Carlo Bo - comments on the success of the seventh and eighth edition of 'Destini Incrociati', Italian Festival of Theatre in Prison. A high level of expressiveness and originality has characterized the seven performances presented at the event promoted by a network of 22 organizations within the National Coordination for Theatre in Prison, with the Aenigma University Theatre as leading partner.

The festival - organized with the contribution of the Ministry of Culture, General Directorate for Performing Arts - has been planned merging two editions this year, thanks to a special initiative that has allowed to make up for the time lost because of the pandemic.



Photo: Performance *I Sopravvissuti* (The Survivors) by Primo Levi at the Palladium Theater of the Roma Tre University

The performances have been selected by a qualified artistic direction board. Some classic plays were staged at the Palladium Theater of the Roma Tre University: 'Ulisse o i colori della mente' inspired by the Odyssey, directed by Gianfranco Pedullà and made in the Gorgona prison by the Teatro Popolare d'Arte, 'Ramona e Giulietta' inspired by Shakespeare, directed by Francesca Tricarico and made by the Donne del Muro Alto of the women prison of Rebibbia, 'I sopravvissuti' short stories by Primo Levi made in the prison of Pesaro with the Lo Spacco Theatre Company and Aenigma University Theatre directed by Francesco Gigliotti. The work by Bernard-Marie Koltès 'La Svolta' premiered in the new scenic space of the penitentiary of Civitavecchia by the ADentro Company with the direction of Ludovica Andò.

Vito Minoia says "New works have also been greatly appreciated: 'It's just a game', a tragicomic reflection by Robert Da Ponte on the capitalist society with the direction of Livia Gionfrida of Teatro Metropopolare; 'Questo è il mio regno', autobiographical monologue by Cosimo Rega. With the dramaturgical collaboration of Valentina Venturini and the direction of Fabio Cavalli he reflects on how - as inmate sentenced to life imprisonment - he has been helped in his journey towards personal and social redemption. Last but not least 'Destinazione non umana', the final show performed at the Spazio Rossellini on the tragic precariousness and brevity of existence, directed by Valentina Esposito and performed by former inmates of the Fort Apache Cinema Teatro company".

The president of the National Coordination of Theatre in Prison also underlines "The images of Saka, Said, Denis, Aattif, Alban - interpreters of 'The Survivors' - will be remembered by the audience within a dimension of 'time out of time' that generates micro-stories among the protagonists who find empathy and solidarity while sharing their memories. It is a new dimension that is triggered by the performance, an emotional one. The symbolic value of gestures, words and bodies acts against the physical degradation suffered and against the spiritual wreckage of men and objects. The young musician Francesco Scaramuzzino performs the role of an angel evoked by the imagination of the other protagonists. In a lyrical finale on the notes of an unreachable melody, the angel initiates a captivating cathartic effect with which everything seems to lose weight and vanish, just as the attempt to evoke those very memories".



Photo: Claudio Collovà

The Video Event has also been rich and successful, with the 21 works selected coming from penitentiary institutions throughout Italy. "Il piccolo Amleto" by Federico Cruciani stood out among the many video contributions. It focuses on the work done by Claudio Collovà with minors followed by the Office for Social Services of Palermo. Claudio Collovà is a valuable artist, intellectual and director who won the International Gramsci Prize for Theatre in Prison promoted by the European Review "Catarsi Teatri delle Diversità", together with the National Association of Theatre Critics, [the International Network Theatre in Prison \(INTiP-ITI Unesco Partner\)](#) and the Association Casa Natale Gramsci of Ales. In the performance Collovà critically re-elaborates Shakespeare's work with a fortunate intuition from the young participants who consider unfair for a father to ask his sons to perpetuate revenge.

"Education and training represent an important challenge on many levels - Minoia says - We discussed about it at the Moby Dick Cultural Center of the Lazio Region during the panel discussions that accompanied the Festival. The panels focused on the first ten years of activity of the National Coordination that has become, over the years, a privileged observatory for the analysis of the phenomenon. Its action has already been considered a good practice by the International Theatre Institute of UNESCO".

Among the proposals to support the initiatives in this field in a more effective way, the Ministry of Justice has announced the renewal of the three-year Protocol of Understanding for the promotion of prison theater in Italy.

Teresa Valiani