

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 26, 2022

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**La MaMa in association with Teatro delle Albe
presents the New York Premiere of
fedeli d'Amore (Love's faithful)
a polyptych in seven panels for Dante Alighieri
by Marco Martinelli and Ermanna Montanari
with music by Luigi Ceccarelli
January 26-28, 2023**

La MaMa, in association with **Teatro delle Albe**, presents the **New York Premiere** of *fedeli d'Amore (Love's faithful)*, a polyptych in seven panels for Dante Alighieri by Marco Martinelli and Ermanna Montanari with music by Luigi Ceccarelli, featuring Ermanna Montanari and live trumpet by Simone Marzocchi from **January 26-28, 2023** at **La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club**, 66 E. 4th Street, NYC. Tickets are available at <https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/1144598>.

fedeli d'Amore (Love's faithful) is the new stage poem by Marco Martinelli focused on the exceptional vocal research of Ermanna Montanari (awarded "2018 best Italian actress" for this performance). The text revolving around Dante and our own present times, has been selected by Italian and American Playwright Project and published by PAJ Publications.

Different voices speak to us in these seven panels: the fog of a dawn in 1321, the demon of the pit where the merchants of death are punished, a donkey that carried the poet on his last journey, the "scolding" imp who incites brawls about money, Italy kicking herself, Alighieri's daughter Antonia, and "an end that is not an end". These voices, who are one single voice that can contain numberless voices, that of Montanari, speak to us of the refugee, of the poet fled from his own city and now laying on his deathbed, exiled in Ravenna, voices that are suspended between the fourteenth century and our own day.

In a scene generated by a vocal, sonorous, visual and dramaturgical alchemy able to bind together the psyche and the world, Dante is invoked while embracing a single salvation: Love is what makes us rebel, it is the force that liberates and elevates.

***fedeli d'Amore (Love's faithful)*, a polyptych in seven panels for Dante Alighieri**

New York Premiere

by Marco Martinelli and Ermanna Montanari / Teatro delle Albe
music by Luigi Ceccarelli

with Ermanna Montanari

live trumpet Simone Marzocchi

sound designer Marco Olivieri

script Marco Martinelli

in Italian with English surtitles

La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club

66 E 4th St, New York, NY 10003

Thursday, January 26, 2023 at 8pm

Friday, January 27, 2023 at 8pm

Saturday, January 28, 2023 at 8pm

Tickets

Adult: \$30 Student/Senior: \$25

First ten tickets available for every performances for only \$10 each. First come first served, advance sale only, limit 2 per person. Ticket prices include all fees. All seating is general admission:

<https://web.ovationtix.com/trs/pr/1144598>

Please note that La MaMa requires that face masks must be worn inside the building, theatre and lobby at all times.

fedeli d'Amore (Love's faithful), a polyptych in seven panels for Dante Alighieri will be presented at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club in association with Teatro delle Albe/Ravenna Teatro, Fondazione Campania dei Festival - Napoli Teatro Festival, and Ravenna Festival; with the support of Italian Cultural Institute in New York, ATER Fondazione, Regione Emilia - Romagna/Cultura d'Europa, Ministero della Cultura, and Ministero degli Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale; in collaboration with The Consulate General of Italy in New York, Com .It.Es, Italian and American Playwrights Project, and Casa Italiana Zerilli Marimò NYU.

La MaMa will also host a free, three-day workshop, directed by Marco Martinelli for people of any age, with or without theatrical experience, from January 25-29, 2023. The workshop will focus on Dante's *Divine Comedy*.

FREE WORKSHOP

I FOUND MYSELF *from the Dark Wood to Paradise*

a choral action inspired by the timeless work of Dante Alighieri

directed by Marco Martinelli / Teatro delle Albe

A "public summons" for people aged 13+

Dante's Divine Comedy begins with an "I" who is lost in a "dark wood" which is not simply a forest at night, but a wilderness of all fear, all anguish, all failure. It takes courage to admit you've lost your way, but that courage will guide us into the light.

Marco Martinelli, seven-time winner of the Ubu Prize (one of the most important awards for Italian theatre) as playwright, director, and teacher, will work with participants on the first two *cantos* of the *Inferno* which describe Dante lost in the woods, his anguish, and his courage to wield a poetry of hope to overcome that fear: a poetry that becomes a saving gift for us all. The current century and the one before have specialized in *Infernos* with no way out. But no matter how evil grabs us by the throat, we find the means to rise again. We know the stars point us to our destiny.

It is precisely there in the dark, when the curtain seems to have come down forever, that we find the strength for an incredible leap in to the Good. The poet whispers in our ear, "the good that I found there," from pitch darkness we set out on our journey to the light. Paradise is already here; in the first step we take away from despair.

Free Workshop Schedule

January 25, 2023 from 4-7 pm at La MaMa Great Jones Studios

January 27, 2023 from 4-7 pm at La MaMa Great Jones Studios

January 29, 2023 from 12-3 pm at La MaMa ETC Downstairs Theater

The final performance of the workshop is free and open to the public and will be held at La MaMa's ETC Downstairs Theater on Jan. 29th at 4:00 pm.

To register, please complete this form before January 18, 2023:

<https://forms.gle/q82ZXTJCgVZjwVXh8>

The workshop is free, no theatre experience is required. There will be no auditions. Registration is first-come-first-served. The workshop requires participation over three days, with no absences.

For more information, please email ifoundmyselfworkshop@gmail.com.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ermanna Montanari (actress, author and set designer) and **Marco Martinelli** (playwright and director) founded the **Teatro delle Albe** (1983) and share its artistic direction.

For her original itinerary of vocal research, **Ermanna Montanari** has received acknowledgements in Italy and all over the world. She's the founder and director - together with Enrico Pitozzi - of MALAGOLA, International Center for the Vocal and Sound Research, based in Ravenna (awarded with Premio Ubu 2022 for the Special Projects).

Marco Martinelli's texts have been published and staged in ten languages, and he has been awarded with several prizes in Italy and all over the world. He is founder of the Teatro delle Albe's *non - school*, a theatre - educational practice with adolescents, which has become a focal point for many scholars and which Martinelli has taken all over Italy and the world.

Luigi Ceccarelli, since the 1970s, has been dedicated to the composition of electro- acoustic music with special attention to sound space obtaining various prizes such as IMEB-Bourges, Ars Elettronica-Linz, the "Opus" prize from the "Conseil de la Musique du Quebec and in theatre Ubu Prize, Bitef Festival and Mess festival prizes.

Marco Olivieri (sound designer) collaborated with musicians and artists live and in the studio. He also works in the theatre field, realizing projects and researches on sound spatialization and the sonorization of unconventional spaces. Among the collaborations: Massive Attack, Scott Gibbons, Bob Wilson, Stefano Scodanibbio.

Simone Marzocchi (musician, composer, teacher) first trumpet of the Orchestra Arcangelo Corelli of Ravenna, for over 10 years collaborates with Teatro delle Albe and he is active as a soloist with the projects "Solo" and "Sibode dj".

“Seven pictures, marked by the beautiful music of Luigi Ceccarelli, performed on stage by Simone Marzocchi's trumpet: the absolute protagonist, Ermanna Montanari, in front of an abstract structure, gives voice in her way to a series of visions: poverty and wealth in the hands of a few, the invective on Italy, the world seen by a donkey... These are hyper - realistic pictures and other surreal ones, in Italian

or the ancient dialect of Romagna, dominated by Ermanna Montanari in a state of grace, almost an orchestra with her voice on the microphone, tense and sharp, which from picture to picture also becomes a dancing body on the background of angelic figures by Giotto , between angelic prophecy and diabolic delirium. “ - Anna Bandettini, *La Repubblica*, Dec 18, 2019

“*fedeli d’Amore* is a superb solo by Ermanna Montanari, who always seems to be growing nearer to actual singing. Martinelli’s text gives voice to real or imaginary figures that swarm about in the poet’s agonizing mind. What results is a highly personal expressive blend, in which words, sounds, images, her voice itself, her body - which at times is almost physically dissolved - are woven together and melt into one another, forming an inextricable whole.” - Renato Palazzi, *Il Sole 24 Ore*, Dec . 22, 2019

“Martinelli’s stage poem has an enormous illuminating force, and in its concise staging it seems to be able to move mountains. The worlds of sound and words created by Montanari, an extraordinary vocal acrobat, enthrall and frighten their listeners, instilling bliss, turmoil, uneasiness, and freedom. Last year, her astonishing vocal power earned her, once again, the Ubu prize for best actress.” - Renate Klett, *Theater de r Zeit*, March 2019

“The text by playwright and director Marco Martinelli imagines the last moments in the life of Dante, shamed and exiled , as they reverberate through time to the present, with diverse languages folding one into another in the innumerable and astonishing voices of actress Ermanna Montanari and the music of Luigi Ceccarelli. The performance is a sort of spoken - word cantata in which political and metaphysical reality, spirituality , and carnality take on voice to embody the aura of a poet driven from the home city that sentenced him to be burnt at stake, condemning him to die a refugee. “ - Santiago Giordano, *Pagina 12*, October 2022

ABOUT TEATRO DELLE ALBE

In 1983, Marco Martinelli, Ermanna Montanari, Luigi Dadina and Marcella Nonni found Teatro delle Albe. The company develops its way intertwining the search for the “new” with the lesson of the theatrical Tradition: playwright and director Martinelli draws inspiration from ancient authors as well as from present events, conceiving the stories for the actors, who therefore become co-authors of the plays to all effects.

<https://www.teatrodellealbe.com/eng/index.html?id=0>

ABOUT LA MAMA

La MaMa is dedicated to the artist and all aspects of the theatre. La MaMa's 61st "Remake A World" Season believes in the power of art to bring sustainable change over time and transform our cultural narrative. At La MaMa, new work is created from a multiplicity of perspectives, experiences, and disciplines, influencing how we think about and experience art. The flexibility of our spaces, specifically the newly reimagined building at 74 East 4th Street (La MaMa's original permanent home), gives our local and remote communities access to expanded daytime programming.

The digital tools embedded in the space allow artists to collaborate remotely, and audiences worldwide to participate in La MaMa's programming. A recipient of the 2018 Regional Theater Tony Award, more than 30 Obie Awards and dozens of Drama Desk, Bessie, and Villager Awards, La MaMa has been a creative home for thousands of artists, and resident companies, many of whom have made lasting contributions to the arts, including Blue Man Group, Bette Midler, Ed Bullins, Ping Chong, Jackie Curtis, André De Shields, Adrienne Kennedy, Harvey Fierstein, Diane Lane, Playhouse of the Ridiculous, Tom Eyan, Pan Asian Rep, Spiderwoman Theater, Tadeusz Kantor, Marc Shaiman and

Scott Wittman, Mabou Mines, Meredith Monk, Peter Brook, David and Amy Sedaris, Julie Taymor, Kazuo Ohno, Tom O'Horgan, and Andy Warhol. La MaMa's vision of nurturing new artists and new work from all nations, cultures, races and identities remains as strong today as it was when Ellen Stewart first opened the doors in 1961. <https://www.lamama.org/>

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