



Saturday 27 November, 8.30 pm  
Sunday 28 November, 5 pm

## MISERICORDIA (MERCY)

Directed by Emma Dante: internationally renowned Italian actress, director and playwright who, more than anyone else, left her mark on the Italian theatre of the new millennium, creating works of unforgettable power and poetry.



Her quest for an immediacy of communication based on rhythm has at its center the Sicilian cultural universe, characterised by oppression, prejudice and inaction.

Misericordia tells us of three women, Anna, Nuzza, Bettina, and Arturo

They knit, they prepare little shawls they sell in what appears to be a tiny knitting workshop. Together with them, lives a little one, Arturo, who can never stand still. Every evening, Arturo looks out of the window to see a marching band passing by, dreaming, just like Pinocchio with Mangiafuoco's marionette theatre, that one day they will take him away with them. Arturo cannot speak, cannot listen and cannot even walk very well, however, he never stops smiling. He may have understood something which escapes us, and which has something to do with music and dance.

This show tells us something about compassion. Despite their terrible and uncomfortable circumstances and their marginalisation, they choose to take care of a little being, Arturo, who, although special, presents his challenges, is not easy to handle, especially

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In collaboration with

considering the poor and filthy place they live. And yet, they adopt him, receiving him from another one of them who has died, killed by a man's beating, and they raise him. Their merciful gesture is very powerful: they do not act out of interest, nor selfishness; just out of love. At the same time, my aim is for the audience to look at the show with that same mercy in their eyes, mercy which is increasingly in need today, in order for them to be able to witness this story with acceptance.

Performers: Italia Carroccio, Manuela Lo Sicco, Leonarda Saffi, Simone Zambelli  
Co-production: Piccolo Teatro in Milan - Teatro d'Europa, Atto Unico/ Compagnia Sud Costa Occidentale, Teatro Biondo in Palermo

## Biography

### Emma Dante

Born in Palermo in 1967, Emma Dante explores the theme of family and marginalisation through her poetics, which while tense and perhaps insane, is not without humour. Playwright and director, she graduated in 1990 from the Silvio D'Amico National Academy of Dramatic Art in Rome. In 1999, she founded the Sud Costa Occidentale company in Palermo with which she won the Scenario 2001 prize with her "mPalermu" project and the Ubu 2002 prize as an Italian emerging talent. In 2001, she won "Lo Straniero" prize, awarded by Goffredo Fofi, as a young emerging director, in 2003 the "Ubu" prize with her show "Carnezzzeria" as best Italian new talent and in 2004 the "Gassman" prize, as best Italian director, as well as the critics' award (National Association of Theater Critics) for playwriting and direction. In 2005, she was awarded the "Golden Graal" prize as best director for her show "Medea".

### Italia Carroccio Bettina

An actress of the Sud Costa Occidentale company. She graduated with honours in Modern Literature from Rome's "La Sapienza" University, with a dissertation on the History of Theatre and the performing arts. While studying, she began attending actor training workshops. In 1996, she met a Peruvian actor and director, Carlos Riboty, an enthusiast of Grotowski and Eugenio Barba, with whom she began to engage with in street theater. As a stilt walker, she has taken part in parades/shows and worked at Palermo's Teatro Massimo (as an extra/stilt walker in two operas). She met Emma Dante in Palermo in 1999, by attending one of her workshops, which led to the creation of the show *Il sortilegio* (The Sorcery) and to the birth of her company. She played in several shows also directed by her, such as *Insulti* (Insults), *La principessa sul pisello* (The Princess on the Pea), *La schifa serpentessa* (The Disgusting She-Snake), *L'arringa* (The Plea), *Il filo di Penelope* (Penelope's Thread, 2000/01) until *mPalermu*, awarded the 2001 Premio Scenario, the year when her son Giuliano was born. She began a collaboration with the "Associazione Laboratori Riuniti Altrove ONLUS", leading theatre workshops aimed at children at risk at the "Tavola Tonda" youth centre. As an external expert theatre consultant, she has worked with numerous schools as part of the National Operational Program for Development. In 2008, Palermo saw the birth of the "La Vicaria" self-managed and self-financed space, headquarters for the Sud Costa Occidentale company, where Ilaria led theatre workshops for children. Alongside her deepening interest, with respect to her poetics, in theatre aimed at children and in fairy tales for both adults and children, she acted in *Anastasia Genoveffa e Cenerentola* (Anastasia, Drizella and Cinderella, 2010), *Gli alti e bassi di Biancaneve* (The Ups and Downs of Snow White, 2012), *Tre favole per un addio* (Three fairy tales for a goodbye, 2014). In 2014, she acted in *Le sorelle Macaluso* (The Macaluso sisters) and in 2016 in *Bestie di scena* (Stage Beasts). With her company, she is active both as an actress as well as a costume designer. She created the costumes for the movie "Via Castellana Bandiera" and, as a costume assistant, she worked

for "Odissea A/R", featuring the students of the School of Crafts and Performing arts of Palermo's Teatro Biondo, Capuccetto Rosso vs Cappuccetto Rosso (Little Red Riding Hood vs Little Red Riding Hood), a fairy tale for both children and adults (Teatro Biondo di Palermo), Le Baccanti (The Bacchae) by Euripides (graduation essay from her acting classes at Silvio d'Amico National Academy of Dramatic Art), Esodo (Exodus), featuring the students of the School of Crafts and Performing Arts of Teatro Biondo in Palermo. She is currently attending two-year's further training in Fashion Design at the Palermo Academy of Fine Arts.

Manuela Lo Sicco (Nuzza)

Born in Palermo on 9 June 1977. Actress with the Company Sud Costa Occidentale of Emma Dante since 1997, she made her debut with mPalermu and then acted in the shows Carnezzzeria, La Scimia, Cani di Bancata, Le pulle, Ballarini. In 2009, along with Sabino Civilleri, she created Associazione Culturale Civilleri Lo Sicco, through which the two actors promote cultural events based on collaboration between several artists, such as Era delle Cadute (The Era of the Falls, Teatro Era Pontedera), Il Volo (The Flight) and Rito (Rite, Festival Collinarea of Lari); training projects for teenagers, such as PlayOff, with a focus on the link between theatre and sport; residence programmes for professionals such as #Muta, study of rhythmic musical scores applied to expressive movement; projects in collaboration with UNIPA and the Palermo DAMS, for the in-depth study of creative processes between practice and pragmatics. Alongside Sabino Civilleri, she directed Educazione Fisica (Physical Education, 2011), Tandem (2013), Boxe (2015), Bianca (2019). She choreographed Emma Dante's stagings of operas, such as the Carmen by Bizet (Teatro alla Scala in Milan, 2009 and 2015); Rossini's Cenerentola (Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, 2016); the diptych La Voix Humaine by Poulenc and Mascagni's Cavalleria Rusticana at Bologna's Teatro Comunale, 2017, Macbeth by Verdi (Teatro Massimo in Palermo, Teatro Regio in Turin, International Edinburgh Festival, 2017), winner of the Angel Herald Award; The Fiery Angel by Sergej Prokofiev (Teatro dell'Opera, Rome, 2019). She is responsible for the staging and choreography of Eracle (Heracles, 2018, for the cycle of tragedies represented at Siracusa's Teatro Greco, produced by INDA foundation). For the cinema, she acted in Gomorra by Matteo Garrone, È stato il figlio (It was the son) by Daniele Cipri, La Trattativa (The Negotiation) by Sabina Guzzanti, Più buio di mezzanotte (Darker than midnight) and Una famiglia (A family), both by Sebastiano Riso, Una storia senza nome (A story with no name) by Roberto Ando.

Leonarda Saffi (Anna)

Actress and musician. Her artistic training began at a very young age. In 1999, she joined the Genoa ensemble "La Compagnia delle Vigne", directed by director and playwright Antonio Minelli. She took part in various theatre productions touring across the country, as well as in traveling shows and short films. She perfected her training by attending various workshops led by renowned national and international figures, such as Maurizio Vacca, Flavio Albanese, Maricla Boggio, Fibre Parallele, Julie Anne Stanzak, Emma Dante, Eugenio Barba, Viviana Bovino, Chiara Guidi, Jos Baker (Peeping Tom), Sandro Maria Campagna, Alaa Safi, Daniel Gol and Matteo Belli. In September 2010, she founded the Associazione Artistica Culturale Espressiva La Compagnia The Rainbow- Theatre, for the first time taking care of the direction of "Così è! Se vi pare/sConcerto per Suoni e Puppazzi" (Right you are if you think so/disConcert for Sounds and Puppets) based on Luigi Pirandello's work "La Signora Frola e il signor Ponza, suo genero" (Mrs Frola and Mr Ponza, her son-in-law). The following performances and shows followed: "Nata il 21 a primavera" (Born on the 21 in spring), "Controstoria: memorie di briganti" (Counter-history: robbers' memories), "Nutopia- Il paese (non troppo) immaginario" (Nutopia - The (not too) fictional country), "Characters for sale" and "Da qualche parte, non troppo lontano" (Somewhere, not too far away). In 2011, she met Sicilian director Emma Dante and began a long period of collaboration and study under her guidance. She took part in shows directed by her, such as "Le sorelle Macaluso" (The Macaluso Sisters, 2014 Ubu Award for best director and best show), "Cappuccetto rosso vs Cappuccetto rosso" (Little Red Riding Hood vs Little Red Riding Hood, 2015), "Bestie di scena" (Stage Beasts, 2016) and "Misericordia" (Mercy, 2020). Across Italy, she has been leading workshops for young people and children featuring live musical accompaniment: #posterdifamiglia, inFesta, Rtmia and Sognarsi Mondo. In 2013 she started her project "Le pene di Penelope" (Penelope's Pains), a study on the themes of abandonment and violence against women, which was staged as a traveling show. In 2017, within La Compagnia The Rainbow Theater, she

began playwriting with poet Michele Ciavarella; together, they wrote the shows "Nel nome della Madre" (In the name of the Mother) and "Oreste e Sara\_amore di periferia" (Oreste and Sara\_a suburban love). Alongside her theatre path, she undertook further musical training: initially studying opera singing, as a soprano, with Maestra Viviana Manisco, then vocal technique and experimentation with Luisa Cottifogli and Maestra Gianna Montecalvo. In 2006, she was admitted into the bass class of Maestro Michele Cellaro, at N. Rota Conservatory in Monopoli. In 2010, she became a specialised Ritmia trainer. As a singer and chorister, she worked in "Sur l'Île de France", a musical comedy directed by Claudia Liuzzi; in Rutigliano's Simil Band, directed by Professor Dominga Damato; with the choir of Monopoli's N. Rota Conservatory and in that of Bari's Teatro Piccinni; in Notti di luce... aspettando domenica (Nights of light ...waiting for Sunday), with the RAI Orchestra conducted by Maestro Leonardo De Amicis and with Cultural Sound System. She sings as a soloist in various bands performing Apulian folk music. She studies folk tambourine, history and rhythms with Maestri Massimo La Guardia and Davide Torrente. She is currently continuing with her research and creative experimentation, with the in-depth study of various aspects of theatre communication.

Simone Zambelli (Arturo)

After graduating from the National Academy of Dance in Rome, with a major in contemporary dance, he currently works with Emma Dante's show Misericordia (Mercy), with company Zerogrammi for Elegia delle cose perdute (Elegy of lost things) and with Michela Lucenti's Balletto Civile. He has collaborated with Jason Mabana Dance Company for the show Requiem for Aleppo, and with the Taiwan and Muxarte companies. In 2018, he attended the Free Professional Development Workshop DV8, led by Lloyd Newson, Hannes Langolf and Ermira Goro. Non Ricordo (I do not remember) is his first work as an author, which won him the Monologues section at the Inventaria Festival in 2019. In 2018, he obtained Premio Equilibrio's special mention and in 2017 he was awarded the choreography prize at Solocoreografico. He has currently a work in progress, in collaboration with Filippo Porro, entitled Gli ombelichi tenui (Tenuous navels).

Please note that a limited number of spectators may attend each event and that measures are taken by the authorities to counter the spread of COVID-19.

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Tickets

Fr. 30.– (Fr. 25.– students, AVS, member of Associazione e-venti culturali, Club Rete Due and participants to the Circolo Teatri del Locarnese Girino; free entry young people until 16 years old and journalists Teatro San Materno is accessible to wheelchairs (non-electric) and people with disabilities)