



Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Theaterkultur
Société Suisse du Théâtre
Società Svizzera di Studi Teatrali
Societad Svizra per Cultura da Teater
Swiss Association for Theatre Studies

Symposium "Comicità 23"

Accademia Teatro Dimitri, Ticino, 23-25 March 2023

From 23 to 25 March 2023, this international symposium will investigate the mechanics and theories of comedy, humour and laughter at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri (Verscio). In view of confronting theory and practice, the program offers a combination of presentations and shows. The lectures will be echoed by the performances of artists renowned for their unique approach to comedy: Gardi Hutter, Jos Houben, the duo Baccala and Matthias Martelli, who will present his reinterpretation of Dario Fo's *Mistero Buffo*. As a prelude to the conference, in collaboration with Teatro Dimitri, we are pleased to present 'Septik', the latest show of the Fribourg company Les Diptik, on March 22.

What is the comic phenomenon, how can it be understood, described and provoked? What are the similarities and differences between verbal, sound and physical comedy? What is the function of timing and rhythm in the comic effect? What links can be established between the notion of comedy and the figure of the clown, who has fascinated the arts since its birth, and particularly at the turn of the 20th century? The conference will bring together complementary modes of reflection through individual presentations and conversations, which will seek to explore the declinations of comedy and humour in theatre, circus, cinema, music, philosophy and neuroscience, with the purpose of deepening the research on this theme already undertaken in each of these disciplines separately.

By comparing different manifestations of comedy, and by jointly involving theory and practice, we aim to shed light on the multiple facets of this profoundly human phenomenon, which concerns us all, and whose crucial importance cannot be stressed enough at a time when ideological confrontations seem to make us lose all sense of humour.

Program

Wednesday 22 March

20:00 Company Les Diptik: 'Septik' at Teatro Dimitri (in French)

Thursday 23 March

13:00-13:30 Welcome of the participants

13:30-13:45 **Paola Gilardi** and **Yvonne Schmidt**: Welcome address by the co-presidents of the Swiss Theatre Society (SST)

13:45-14:00 **Anna Stoll Knecht** (Accademia Teatro Dimitri): Introduction

Keynote lecture:

14:00-15:00 **Sophie Scott** (Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, London): 'The neuroscience of laughter'

15:00-15:15 Break

Session 1 - Between comedy and philosophical laughter

15:15-16:00 **Gardi Hutter** in conversation with **Charlotte Gschwandtner** (Leipzig)

16:15-17:00 **Fabrice Hadjadj** (Institut Philanthropos, Fribourg): 'Against comedy: the clown in search of tragic laughter'

17:00-17:45 **Mathieu Horeau** (Accademia Teatro Dimitri): 'Le comique chez Kierkegaard'

18:00 Aperitif dinner

20:00 **Gardi Hutter at Teatro Dimitri (La Sarta)**

Friday 24 March

Session 2: Theatrical and Circassian Perspectives

9:00-9:45 **Demis Quadri** (ATD): 'La macchina dei lazzi. Meccanismi comici nella *commedia dell'arte*'

9:45-10:45 **Lise Michel** (Université de Lausanne et CET): 'L'humour de Molière'

10:45-11:00 Coffee break

11:15-12:00 **Alessandro Serena** (Università degli Studi, Milano): 'Circo e comicità'

12:00-13:30 Lunch break

Session 3: clown and theater - Dario Fo and Dimitri

13:30-14:15 **Giampaolo Gotti** (Accademia Teatro Dimitri): 'Il Mistero Buffo di Dario Fo'

14:15-15:00 **Matthias Martelli** (actor, Italy): 'Il grammelot: la lingua universale di Dario Fo'

15:00-17:00 **Masha Dimitri**: 'Il mondo Dimitri', tour of the piccolo Teatro, museo comico

18:00-19:30 Dinner

20:00 **Matthias Martelli at Teatro Dimitri: "Il primo miracolo di Gesù bambino"**

Saturday 25 March

Session 4: Musical comedy

9:00-9:45 **Benjamin Lassauzet** (Université Clermont Auvergne et CREAA, Strasbourg): 'Du comique musical'

9:45-10:30 **Delphine Vincent** (Université de Fribourg): 'The sound of laughter: humorous musical devices in films'

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-11:45 **Marco Lorenzi** (*Il Mulino di Amleto*, Torino) and **Anna Stoll Knecht** (ATD): 'Spasso Musicale'

12:00-13:30 Lunch Break

Session 5: Comedy cinema

13:30-14:15 **Patrick Désile** (Thalim/CNRS): title TBA

14:00-15:00 **Yvonne Augustin** (Film Festival Zürich): 'Clowns masks in films'

15:00-15:30 Break

15:30-16:30 **Jos Houben** (École de théâtre Jacques Lecoq, Paris): **The Art of Laughter**

17:00-18:00 **Round table and conclusions** with Gardi Hutter, Jos Houben, Masha Dimitri, Demis Quadri, Mathieu Horeau, Anna Stoll Knecht

19:00 Dinner

20:30 **Baccala clown 'Pss Pss'** (Teatro Dimitri)