



present

THE COUNTRY WHERE TREES FLY

Eugenio Barba and the Odin's day

By

Davide Barletti Jacopo Quadri

Produced by

Fluid Produzioni e Ubulibri

Supported by



In collaboration with



Italian distribution



Official Screening

Friday, September 11 at 11:30 am – SALA PERLA, Palazzo del Casino
Rerun

Friday, September at 11 21:00 – REMIERA DI PELLESTRINA

Duration 77'

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in collaboration with Mauro Marino

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sound Antonio Barba

editing Jacopo Quadri

editing assistant Martina Ghezzi

producer Davide Barletti

producer Jacopo Quadri

producer Cristina Rajola

produced by Fluid Produzioni Ubulibri

supported by Apulia Film Commission
Creative Europe - Programma Media

in collaboration with Sky Arte

Italian distribution Wanted

SYNOPSIS

In a quiet Danish province preparations are underway to for the 50th birthday celebrations of the Odin Teatret, the company which changed the direction of theatre in the second half of the twentieth century under the guidance of Eugenio Barba, enriching its alphabet by feeding on the theatrical cultures of the world. From the most far-reaching latitudes of the planet – Kenya, Bali, Brazil, India and Europe, too – teams of children, youths and artists come to the city of Holstebro bringing energy to this collective event with their acrobatics, music and voice , all under the impetuous gaze of the barefoot, white-haired director. The Odin Teatret is not just a theatre company; it is an extensive and timeless community, a visionary flow and uncompromising pace of life, it is a tangle of wild humanity whose constancy, intuitions, paradoxes and horizons are tenderly examined in this film. For half a century, actors who are also bricklayers-dressmakers-organisers, the auditor a postman-academic, a farm loaned to the theatre and the director a welder-woodsman, have all given rise to this partnership of political vision and universal value of art. The preparations for this celebration – which engages tribal rhythms and western classics in the entertaining search for a common language – invokes the prospect of mixing together the earth and the sky with a regenerative fire and flying trees.

EUGENIO BARBA

Born in 1936, in Salento, he emigrated to Norway in the mid-fifties where he worked as a welder and for two years as a cargo sailor. He graduated from the University of Oslo in French and Norwegian Literature and History of Religion; in 1960 he lived for six months on a Kibbutz in Israel.

Having returned to Europe, he studied for a time in Poland where he came to know the experimental Teatr 13 Rzedow (Thirteen Row Theatre) directed by Jerzy Grotowski and Ludwik Flaszen. A deep friendship formed with Grotowski which represented a true apprenticeship both in the theatre and in life for Barba and which, on his return to Norway in '64, would lead him to establish the Odin Teatret, a theatre group soon destined to settle in Holstebro in Denmark, where it is still based today. In over fifty years, the Odin Teatret and Eugenio Barba have become legends of contemporary theatre: a tenacious group which has created and popularized independent theatrical tradition nourished by anthropological research. In '79 Barba founded ISTA, the International School of Theatre Anthropology, an itinerant centre for comparative study of the principals of acting techniques. It is famed for its international recognition and its numerous publications, translated into various languages. Amongst the performances created and directed by Barba with the Odin Teatret are: *Ferai* (1969), *Min Fars Hus* (1972), *Brecht's Ashes* (1980), *The Gospel According to Oxyrhincus* (1985), *Talabot* (1988), *Itsi Bitsi* (1991), *Kaosmos* (1993), *Mythos* (1998), *Great Cities under the Moon* (2003), *Andersen's Dreams* (2005), *Ur-Hamlet* (2006), *The Chronic Life* (2011).

ODIN TEATRET

Founded in Oslo, in Norway in 1964, the Odin Teatret moved to Holstebro in Denmark in '66, becoming Nordisk Teaterlaboratorium. Today, its 25 members come from over 10 countries and 3 continents.

The Odin Teatret has created 76 performances shown in 63 countries in various social contexts. A specific Odin culture has developed during the course of these experiences, based on diversity and the practice of "bartering". Odin actors present their artistic work to their host community and, in exchange, its hosts respond with songs, music and dance originating from their own traditions. The bartering is an exchange of cultures which not only favours a certain understanding of the others' forms of expression, but it establishes a move towards a certain social interaction able to challenge prejudice, language barriers and divergence of thought, opinion and behaviour.

During its fifty years of studio and workshop activity, the Odin Teatret has fuelled the growth of an environment characterized by interdisciplinary practices and international collaboration. ISTA - International School of Theatre Anthropology - is central to the fields of research and over the years, since '79, it has become a theatrical village in which actors and dancers from different cultures can meet with academics to investigate and compare the fundamental techniques of each other's stage presence.

"I live in a strange, isolated fortress, which is a fortress made of wind, which has no walls. Its walls are the human relations, the actors, the participants who come from different parts of the world, some because they've heard about us, others because they find themselves by chance in Denmark, thrown there by the winds of history. This fortress is found in a small city called Holstebro."

Eugenio Barba

"Everything disappears, everything dies, but the theatre remains the place in which even the most anonymous of beings have the chance to become distinctive characters."

E. B.

"I have been asked many times: how did the Odin Teatret manage to stay together for fifty years? How did each member of the group manage to achieve that which had a personal meaning without giving in to the disappointments, the changes, the needs, the enthusiasm and the trends of the spirit of time? My answer has always been: thanks to the secret community of Odin, our friends. You have been one of the deciding factors for our economic and artistic autonomy. You, our friends, have not only invited us to perform, or you have convinced others to do so, but you have performed miracles in finding the funds and creating the circumstances for unimaginable endeavours."

E. B.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

"On the windy Danish plains we found a magical country where children from all over the world mix their own art with a small and seemingly silent local community. We also discovered a haven where sailors, welders, poets, actors, musicians and immigrants have created a theater without walls, made of human relations. For two weeks we witnessed the creation of a fragile, visionary, once-in-a-lifetime performance, and we realized we were living in a country where the trees fly."

Davide Barletti, Jacopo Quadri

DAVIDE BARLETTI

Davide Barletti founder of the filmmakers collective Fluid Video Crew, has made over thirty films, including documentaries, short films and features. His documentaries *Shquiperia - Albania and I fantasisti - Le vere storie del calcio Napoli*, along with his short *Gli ultracorpi della porta accanto*, have all won awards at numerous festivals. In 2003, Barletti's feature film *Italian Sud Est* screened at the Venice Film Festival in the New Territories section. 2008 saw the release of his feature *Fine pena mai*, which he co-wrote and directed with Lorenzo Conte.

JACOPO QUADRI

Jacopo Quadri has edited over sixty films that have screened at the world's leading festivals, such as the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at Venice, *Death of a Neapolitan Mathematician* by Mario Martone, and the Golden Lion winner *Sacro GRA* by Gianfranco Rosi. Quadri has worked with Bernardo Bertolucci, Marco Bechis, Paolo Virzì, Zhang Yuan, Apitchapong Weerasethakul, Francesca Archibugi, and Alessandro Rossetto, among others. In 2014 Quadri made a documentary about Luca Ronconi, *La scuola d'estate*, which premiered at the Turin Film Festival. He is president of the association Ubu per Franco Quadri which organizes the annual Ubu theater awards



APULIA FILM COMMISSION

The APULIA FILM COMMISSION was founded in 2007 with the aim of attracting to Puglia a larger number of national and international audiovisual production, to develop the audiovisual production line and to promote both professionalism and expertise in this field. Their target is to stimulate the foundation and development of companies operating in this sector, therefore promoting in Italy and abroad films shot in Puglia and those made by Puglia filmmakers.

337 audiovisual productions have been made in Puglia from 2008 to the present day. Over this period, the direct financial impact on the region has totalled about 42 million euros. In 2014, 51 productions were financed and another 15 benefitted from exclusively logistic assistance with a financial gain of more than 13 million euros for a total of 642 working days.

The box office earnings generated by the main productions backed by the APULIA FILM COMMISSION total 91 million euros.

Il Box Office generato dalle principali produzioni sostenute da Apulia Film Commission è pari a circa €91 milioni di euro.

In addition to this, 3 Cineports (Bari, Lecce, Foggia) have been established together with the Puglia Region Mediateca and the Media Desk of South Italy and they are the only large suppliers available in Southern Italy for this sector. In 8 years' activity the APULIA FILM COMMISSION has backed and coordinated the entire film and audiovisual production line, creating a series of projects which can be summed up in 2 large areas: Business and Cultural Promotion.

Some AFC projects in the Promotion Area

QUALITY CINEMA CIRCUIT

The "Quality Cinema Circuit" project aims at propagating and promoting top quality national and international cinema through a circuit of cinemas scattered all over the region.

FESTIVAL NETWORK PROMOTED BY AFC

The BIF&ST (Bari International Film Festival) has now reached its 6th edition and about 75.000 spectators took part in the 2015 Festival.

The Specchia Festival of Documentary Cinema.

The Lecce European Cinema Festival has reached its 15th edition and aims at promoting Italian and European Cinema while also giving young filmmakers public recognition.