

Spoors

Societas Raffaello Sanzio

January 15th - March 11th 2008

Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago



Spoors
Societas Raffaello Sanzio

conceived by: Romeo Castellucci

photos by Luca del Pia from: *Amleto - la veemente esteriorità della morte di un mollusco* (1992), *Oresteia - una commedia organica?* (1995), *Giulio Cesare* (1997), *La prova di un altro mondo* (1998) *Genesi - from the museum of sleep* (1999)

Sound Installation by Scott Gibbons by Chiara Guidi
Live Performance by Scott Gibbons

in collaboration with
Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago for the production of *Hey Girl!* by Societas Raffaello Sanzio, January 18th and 19th 2008

Italian Cultural Institute of Chicago
500 North Michigan Ave - Suite 1450
Chicago, IL, 60611

spoors - le ragioni di un'esposizione

SOcIeTA SRAFFAELLO SANZIO

Shows

- *Khmer Theatre*, 1986
- *Inanna's Descent*, 1989
- *Gilgamesh*, 1990
- *Isisi and Osiris*, 1990
- *Hamlet - the Vehement Externalism of a Mollusc's Death*, 1992
- *Aesop's Fables*, 1992
- *Hänsel and Gretel*, 1993
- *Thumbkin*, 1995
- *Oresteia, an Organic Play?*, 1995
- *Donkeyskin*, 1996
- *Julius Caesar*, 1997
- *Genesi - from the Museum of Sleep*, 1999
- *Voyage au Bout de la Nuit*, 1999
- *The Combat*, 2000
- *Uovo di bocca*, 2001
- *Endogonia Tragedy*: C.#01 Cesena, January 2002; A.#02 Festival d'Avignon, July 2002; B.#03 Hebbel Theater, Berlin, January 2003; BR.#04 Kunsten Festival des Arts, Brussels, May 2003; BN.#05 International Festival Norway, Bergen, May 2003; P.#06 Odéon Théâtre de l'Europe avec le Festival d'Automne, Paris, October 2003; R.#07 Romaeuropafestival, Rome, November 2003; S.#08 Le Maillon Théâtre de Strasbourg, February 2004; L.#09 London International Festival of Theatre, May 2004; M.#10 Les Bernardines avec le Théâtre du Gymnase, Marseilles, September 2004; C.#11 Cesena, December 2004.

Exhibitions

- *Rhetorica. Mene Tekel Peres*, Bologna e Palermo, 2000
- *Uovo di bocca*, Roma, 2001
- *To Carthage Then I Came*, Festival d'Avignon, 2002
- *Tempo incerto*, Avellino, 2003

Books

- *Dal teatro iconoclasta al teatro della super-icona*, Societas Raffaello Sanzio, (Ubulibri, Milano 1992)
- *Uovo di bocca - scritti lirici e drammatici*, Claudia Castellucci, (Bollati Boringhieri, Torino, 2000)
- *Rhetorica - Mene Tekel Peres*, Romeo Castellucci, (Aldo Grompone, Roma, 2000)
- *L'epopea della polvere - Il teatro della Societas Raffaello Sanzio* (Ubulibri, Milano, 2001)
- *Les Pèlerins de la Matière - Théorie et Praxis du Théâtre - Ecrits de la Societas Raffaello Sanzio* (Les Solitaires Intempestifs, Besançon 2001)
- *To Carthage then I Came*, Romeo Castellucci, Claudia Castellucci, Joe Kelleher, Nicolas Ridout (Actes Sud, Arles, 2002)
- *The Theater of the Societas Raffaello Sanzio*, Claudia Castellucci, Romeo Castellucci, Chiara Guidi, Joe Kelleher, Nicholas Ridout, (Routledge, New York, 2007)

Video

- *Brentano*, by Romeo Castellucci, (1995, 25')
- *Diario sperimentale della scuola infantile anno I*, by Chiara Guidi, Romeo Castellucci and Stefano Meldolesi (1996, 58')
- *Diario sperimentale della scuola infantile anno II*, by Chiara Guidi and Romeo Castellucci (1997, 49')
- *Genesi - from the Museum of Sleep*, by Cristiano Carloni and Stefano Franceschetti (2000, 60')
- *Epitaph*, by Romeo Castellucci (2000, 8')
- *Le Pèlerin de la Matière*, by Cristiano Carloni and Stefano Franceschetti (2000, 45')
- *C.#01 Cesena*, by Romeo Castellucci (2002, 25')
- *A.#02 Avignon*, by Cristiano Carloni and Stefano Franceschetti (2003, 27')
- *Tragedia Endogonia - Societas Raffaello Sanzio*, by Romeo Castellucci, video by Cristiano Carloni and Stefano Franceschetti, music by Scott Gibbons (2007, 340,15')

Awards

- Special Ubu Prize for contributions to experimental theatre, 1996
- Premio Masque d'Or for *Oresteia*, as best foreign performance of the year, Festival Theatre des Ameriques, Montreal, Quebec, 1997
- Ubu Prize for *Julius Caesar*, as best performance of the year, 1997
- Special Ubu Prize for Children's Theatre to Chiara Guidi for her Children's Experimental Theatre School, 1998
- Premio Europa Nuove Realtà Teatrali, Taormina, 2000
- Ubu Prize for *Genesi* from the museum of sleep, as best performance of the year, 2000
- Best International Production for *Genesi - from the Museum of Sleep*, Dublin Theatre Festival, 2000
- Grand Prix de la Critique-Paris for the scenography *Genesi - from the Museum of Sleep*, 2000
- Romeo Castellucci received the title of "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" by the Ministry of Culture of The Republic of France, 2002
- Romeo Castellucci is nominated Director of Venice Theater Biennial for the 2005 edition, 2003
- Special Ubu Prize for *Tragedia Endogonia*, 2004
- Romeo Castellucci is designated as "artist associé" for the Festival D'Avignon with Valérie Dréville for the 2008 edition, 2007

Romeo Castellucci

Romeo Castellucci was born in Cesena in 1960. He graduated in scenic design and painting at the Academy of Fine Arts, Bologna. At the age of 20, he started working as a theatre director. Together with Claudia Castellucci and Chiara Guidi, he founded the Societas Raffaello Sanzio in 1981. At the beginning of the 1980s he started combining his interest in the theatre with painting, also organising some exhibitions. Since then he has produced a large number of works as author, director and designer of sets, lights, sound effects and costumes. He is well known in Italy and abroad as a theatre author aiming at a 'total' perception and a 'synaesthetic' audience understanding. He has also written several theoretical essays on staging based upon his own theatre's experience.

After the first autobiographical production, *Santa Sofia-Teatro Khmer*, (1986), the interest of Romeo Castellucci and of the Societas Raffaello Sanzio moved to the Middle Eastern cycle, including *La discesa di Inanna* (1989), *Gilgamesh* (1990) and *Iside e Osiride* (1990). This was followed by the classical cycle, with *Amleto - La veemenza esteriorità della morte di un mollusco* (1992) adapted from Shakespeare, *Oresteia - una commedia organica?* (1995) from Eschylus, *Julius Caesar* (1997) adapted from Shakespeare. After the latest production, *Genesi - from the Museum of Sleep* (1999), by Romeo Castellucci himself, his interest shifted to musical theatre with the concert for voice and sound instruments, *Voyage au Bout de la Nuit* (1999), adapted from Louis Ferdinand Céline's work, and *The Combat* (2000), by Claudio Monteverdi and Scott Gibbons. In 2002 Romeo Castellucci designed *Endogonia Tragedy* a cycle of ten episodes including a series of "bases" corresponding to as many European cities. They are the cities participating in the project and engaged in the co-production, also funded by the European Community "Program Culture 2000": Avignon/Festival d'Avignon 2002, Berlin/Hebbel Theatre, Brussels/Kunsten Festival des Arts, Bergen/Bergen International Festival Norway, LIFT (London International Festival) Paris/Odéon Théâtre de l'Europe and Festival D'Automne, Rome/RomaEuropa Festival, Strasbourg/Le Maillon Théâtre de Strasbourg, Marseille/Les Bernardines. It is a new dramatic unit based on the concept of open performance, destined to change over time like a body and demand a summing-up of dramaturgy, economy, distribution and theatrical organisation.

Romeo Castellucci has been working with a group of people who have formed and followed the Societas Raffaello Sanzio since the beginning. So far he has not directed any work outside the company of origin, evidence of the importance for he attaches to trusting a group of people whom he knows thoroughly and who share with him the need for accuracy, artistic rigour and temporal consistency. Romeo Castellucci recently also inaugurated a season of plastic art monograph exhibitions which took place in Palermo (*Rhetorica*, *Mene Tekel Peres*, Palermo City Council, ex-mental hospital La Vignicella), Bologna (*Mene Tekel Peres*, Bologna 2000 Events, La Salara), Siena (*L'Adolescente sulla torre d'avorio*, Siena City Council, Palazzo delle Papesse) and Rome (*RomaEuropa Festival*, Ex Reformatory Istituto San Michele).

Romeo Castellucci has also made the videos *Romolo und Remo*, *I Miserabili*, *Martyrion*, *Interferon*, *Epitaph* e del cortometraggio *Brentano*, a black and white 35mm film which was screened at the 1997 Locarno Festival. Romeo Castellucci is often invited to participate in discussions concerning drama theory and to give talks in the main theatre centres of Europe, as well as lectures in universities. He has also written extensively on dramaturgy and his books include *Il teatro della Societas Raffaello Sanzio*, Ubulibri, Milan (1992); *Rhetorica. Mene Tekel Peres*, Edizioni Aldo Miguel Grompone, Rome (2000); *Epopea della Polvere*, Ubulibri, Milan (2001); *Les Pèlerins de la Matière*, Les Solitaires Intempestifs (2001). Romeo Castellucci was awarded Grand Prix de la Critique-Paris (2000) for the staging of *Genesi - from the Museum of Sleep*. On 22 February 2002, he was appointed *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of France.

Scott Gibbons

Scott Gibbons (Belleville, USA, 1969) has been composing electronic and electro-acoustic music for more than 20 years, with a two-fold exploration into the possibilities of natural acoustic sound on the one hand, and those of audio technology on the other. His first compositions demonstrate an acute balance between delicacy and physicality, often focusing around frequencies that are at the outermost limits of human hearing, and embracing quietness as a central element. Cited by many as a seminal composer of micromusic and ambient 'isolationist' music, his early releases are based only on the sound of stones and wind. His first live album - 1999's *Field Notes* - was one of All-Music Guide's "Best Albums of the Year" across all music genres. Amongst the CDs he has released are seminal electro-acoustic works by Lilith : *Stone* (Sub Rosa: '92) and *Redwing* (Sub Rosa: '94); forward-looking synthetic pop by Strawberry : *Strawberry* (Taigkyo: '02); critically acclaimed electronica by Orbitronik : *My Computer My Stereo* (Thousand: '99); and, with Golan Levin & Gregory Shakar: *Dialtones: a Telesymphony* (Staalplaat: '02), a performance for more than 200 cell phones.

Over the last ten years, he has increasingly sought to combine music with other disciplines. He has created music and sonic events for the award-winning theatre productions of Romeo Castellucci's Societas Raffaello Sanzio (*Genesi - From the Museum of Sleep*, *Tragedia Endogonia*), composed music from fire for *Flame Tornado* with Kevin Binkert of Survival Research Labs ('05) and for *FireWorks* with Groupe F ('03), and created *Subterranean Sky* with George de Merle ('01).

Gibbons is currently touring "The Cryonic Chants" with Chiara Guidi; is composing music for "La Face Cachée du Soleil" with Groupe F; and is scoring music for film projects by Cristiano Carloni and Stefano Franceschetti as an outgrowth of Societas Raffaello Sanzio's "Tragedia Endogonia."

Chiara Guidi

Born in Cesena in 1960, Chiara Guidi received a degree in Humanities from the University of Bologna. She began working in the field of theater while still in high school, together with Romeo and Claudia Castellucci, with whom she co-founded Societas Raffaello Sanzio in 1981. She has worked for Societas Raffaello Sanzio since its founding, dedicating herself to the artistic direction of the productions. In addition to being responsible for writing the scripts for the productions of the Company, she also composes, instructs and follows the vocal performance and careers of each actor. Societas Raffaello Sanzio has performed in the major international festivals throughout the world. Chiara Guidi created a school of experimental theater for children at the Teatro Comandini in Cesena and served as the Director from 1996-97. She has written two

essays entitled *The Diary of a School for Experimental Theater for Children* and has produced two videos of the same name, featuring this school. In 1998, she received the *Premio Speciale Ubu* for the creation of this school. Her writing has appeared in the program of Societas Raffaello Sanzio and in the book, *Epopoea della polvere*, published by Ubulibri, Milan in 2001. In 1999, she began collaborating with the American composer Scott Gibbons. Together they co-founded a permanent workshop for lyrical and vocal composition in the field of *Endogonia Tragedy*, developed in the span of three years, from 2002 to 2004. The creation of this workshop was made possible thanks to a contribution from European Cultural Program 2000. Chiara Guidi and Scott Gibbons have co-directed *The Cryonic Chants*, in many cities throughout Europe. Chiara Guidi also performed in these productions. In 2002, they were invited by the MCA Chicago to co-present a workshop for voice, entitled "Vox in tragoedia". In 2004, Chiara Guidi performed a concert entitled *Crescita VIII* at the Auditorium in Rome, Parco della Musica. She taught a course on directing for the theater at IUAV in Venice in 2004 -05 and in 2006, she conducted various workshops in Japan on acting at the Setagaya Public Theatre Studio in Tokyo. Currently, she is developing a musical production for theater, together with Scott Gibbons. She also teaches an advanced voice course at the Teatro Comandini in Cesena, where in its first year, the program concluded with *Madrigale appena narrabile*, a musical production for theater for sixteen singers and cello. Chiara Guidi has described voice as a technical molecular of composition and she has created a course for specialization in voice, which she taught in 2007 in Cesena. Together with Scott Gibbons, she has experimented at great lengths for a new madrigal, to unite the chorus with the reciting and musical development of vocal pieces. In her professional career, Chiara Guidi embraces the entire possibility for vocals: dramaturgy, acting, composition of music vocals. She has always paid particular emphasis to the dramatic rhythm of the works produced by Societas Raffaello Sanzio for theater.