Name of the Publication: Rumorscena

Type: Online Magazine

Frequency: daily

Date Published: Aug. 8, 2017

City/Country: Italy

Article Headline: A BRIDGE DEDICATED TO CONTEMPORARY PLAYWRIGHTING BETWEEN ITALY AND NEW YORK

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**Translation of the Article:**

The Italian & American Playwrights Project is the name and the imprint of a story line which describes a cultural exchange and a passion altogether. It is a discerning and visionary experience which unwinds from the States across the pond and back, as if the arts could remind, amplify and reflect what happens between two continents or cities, just like what Lou Reed’s Velvet Underground meant by “I’ll be your mirror”. Part of what we are about to describe here does indeed take place in the same city where the Factory was set up. The Big Apple calls and Rome picks up the call admist cultural stimuli, in a sort of chain reaction in which contemporary drama and playwriting is the focus.

The Italian Playwrights Project was first launched in 2014, from an idea developed by Valeria Orani, a young art director and talent scout with a mercurial temperament. After the set-up of Umanism in NYC ([umanism.com](http://umanism.com)) and 369gradi in Italy, she was joined by Segal Center ’s director Frank Hentschker ([thesegalcenter.org/](http://thesegalcenter.org/)). The duo have worked together for three years with the support of CUNY’s theatre department. Their mission was to find a way where Italy’s playwrights could share their work in the States. “What we were looking for was a way to channel ideas and arts debates between the two countries, which had been a rare occurrence for the last 25-30 years” says Valeria Orani. “The results have encouraged us to extend our concept further with the creation of a twin project, which focusses on America’s contemporary drama program to be launched in Italy with the support of Rome’s Teatro Vascello. This project will host American authors whose work has never been translated or brought on stage in Italy”.

The sharing of knowledge and work has been the first step leading to the creation of a professional partnership between our country and the USA, a real platform for authors, producers, journalists, managers and everybody else involved, including translators and institutions. This has resulted in the creation of two groups of experts who have worked since January 2017 to short list the plays, under the dynamic supervision of the journalist Graziano Graziani in Italy and Frank Hentschker in the USA. Six theatrical works - three from the USA and three from Italy - have been picked. The ones written in Italian will be translated and some excerpts will be brought on stage in NY on December 4th, during an event supported by the Italian cultural institute led by Giorgio Van Straten. During the presentation, a staging will take place at the presence of the authors. The launch event of the American playwrights will take place in Rome, at Teatro Vascello, on December 12th. Our aim is to have all the selected plays translated and published by 2019.

The 2015 edition of the Italian Playwrights Project includes some of the theatrical works which have won the most important Italian drama awards such as Premio Ubu, Premio Riccione e Premio Hystrio. These are Ce ne andiamo per non darvi altre preoccupazioni by Daria Deflorian and Antonio Tagliarini, Il guaritore by Michele Santeramo, I Vicini by Fausto Paravidino and Origine del mondo by Lucia Calamaro. Furthermore, a special edition of the work devoted to Stefano Massini was added in 2016. Massini is possibly the most translated and represented Italian author worldwide. His excellent play Qualcosa sui Lehman (Mondadori 2016) has become a literary event.

Overall, our on-going cultural exchange has resulted in the launch of new partnerships (e.g. Marco Calvani, Allison Eikerenkoetter and Tommaso Spinelli) and the promotion of new ideas. The creation of two top notch panels across the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, has thriven and has created an imaginary land with no boundaries, where dialogue, the arts, cultural achievements and aesthetics are once again instrumental in preserving humanity.