

A PASSAGE THROUGH OF AN ANCIENT JOURNEY:

“[...] AND SWEET TO ME IS SHIPWRECK IN THIS SEA”. *

The dynamic-emotional theater by Nicola Iervasi and Mare Nostrum Elements

An essay by Ivana Badolato (excerpts)

In the contemporary scene of the performing arts, the “laboratory” in which actor, director and spectator work together on the training to prepare a performance, it became the situation in which the real meaning of being on stage emerges. The role of the director-trainer, the space/time variability, a technical code and a methodical practice transform the laboratory in a real setting. Serving as a background for the action, emotions and relations, the laboratory offers a setting for the theatrical situation, a transitory area in which one can learn structures of thoughts, emotions and behaviors.

Thanks to a 5-year intense laboratorial activity, under the direction of Nicola Iervasi and Kevin Albert was formed in New York a multicultural group of 22 artists gathering from different places around the world. To keep together these performers was the genesis of “*Mediterranean Voices*” a performance strongly influenced by Mediterranean and realistic flavors since was inspired by the novels of “Verismo” writer Giovanni Verga. The structure of the narrative scenes described by the participants, all free to speak in their native language and to use familiar gestures and movements, amalgamated together with music and dance, created a unique and innovative line of emotive movement of high Mediterranean anthropological value.

By working in this direction it was created an expressive bridge between diverse cultures that through an interdisciplinary study of dance and theater discovered to have the same fragilities, the same original human roots, similar backgrounds and contradictions to declare and share with a critical and careful audience. The show, presented for the first time at the Club La MaMa in New York, is seeking performances in Italy; this is the reason that motivates artistic director Nicola Iervasi to work hard in this direction. In the meantime he gave a demonstration of what he would like to achieve as a meeting point of different artistic disciplines with a study called “*The Wave Within!*” that focuses on the exploration of the body, the mind and emotional impulses.

Nicola Iervasi offered a Movement Theater workshop at the 26th edition of Rumori Mediterranei Jazz Festival in Roccella Jonica, birthplace of the artist. [...]

[...] During his workshop, Iervasi was able to create a positive energy and a trustful relationship between himself/director and the actors/performers. In a very quiet environment and without feeling judged by the others,

the participants were able to abandon all pre-constructed masks, habits and images of themselves in order to reinvent, perceive and express new emotions.

(* From the poem “*L’Infinito*” by Giacomo Leopardi)