

## **Calabria Ora - January 19, 2008**

Review by Ida Zicari

### **Iervasi's Dance at D.A.M. Successful workshop organized by Entropia**

Consider Mediterranean as an emotional state, feelings as a starting point and emotions as a finish line. The outcome: a free and liberating physical expression.

This is Nicola Iervasi's artistic proposal that involved 15 artists in the laboratory called "*The Wave Within!*" presented by *Associazione Culturale Entropia* at D.A.M. University of Calabria. [Italy]

Thirty-three years old, New Yorker by adoption but originally from Calabria, Nicola Iervasi began studying ballet with Lidia Strangio at *Tersicore* Dance Center in his hometown Roccella Jonica. He then studied at *Balletto di Roma* with maestro Walter Zappolini, and finally, the turning point, in 1998: modern dance at the Martha Graham School in New York City.

But Nicola is reluctant to techniques and any imposition of communicative codes so he starts by searching for a personal, thus more satisfying way to unify performance languages in a comprehensive corporeal expression.

Working beyond techniques is the approach to Movement Theater – taken in collaboration with Kevin Albert: "We are one step removed from a Pina Bausch style and her dance theater" – he explains – "we use exercises taken from contact improvisation, tai-chi and more. Participants in our workshops learn to feel each other's energy and create a physical connection through which they exchange emotional impulses. They learn to listen to the others and express themselves".

The goal of Nicola Iervasi's workshops is to build performances and an international ensemble. The groups are extremely heterogeneous due to the nature of experimentation itself: from mature professional dancers to young aspiring actors, theater lovers and those in search of their true self.

This is possible because Nicola Iervasi promotes a backwards process. Movement is expressed regardless of the vehicle of communication used. Artistic forms are created without using a specific code. The goal is to express and communicate emotions at their natural and pure state.