



REGULA CONTRA
REGULAM TEATRO

LAUDESİ Project

Laudesi is a Research Program on the Performing Arts.

It is active again, from January 2021. It is therefore taking the first steps of its second season.

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The first season ran from **2007 to 2017**.

The Research Program was born with the support of the *Grotowski Institute*, alongside the *Educational* activity of *Regula contra Regulam/Open Sessions* (1). The Program took the *Laudario di Cortona* (MS91), which is the first Italian source of spiritual lyrics in *Volgare* as the focus of the project. During the progress the work took the name of *Laudesi*.

The work group was stable, and it was made of actresses, actors and musicians, coming from different theatrical realities. There are two sessions each year in residential form behind closed doors, in Brzezinka, the forest base of the Grotowski Institute. There were also additional sessions in Italy, within subgroups and with targeted tasks between the sessions in residence.

The development of this work led to several outcomes. On the exchange meetings side: meeting sessions in Brzezinka, with the Institute, Teatr ZAR and Maisternia Pisni (2007); *Song of the Goat* (2010); sessions promoted by *Instabile Urga e Stabile di Ferrara* (2011). Considering the aspect of pure research, we developed experience regarding exercises and practices on actor's singing, with reference to polyphony-acted-in-space, and also with the creation and practice of a performative structure called *Amaro in nullo core* (2010-12). On the artistic side, the Program led to the staging of two shows: *Stand al mondo senza 'l mondo* (2014) and *Ave, Eva* (2017), both in co-production with the Grotowski Institute.

Laudesi in its first season responded to the needs and intuitions of many young actors and actresses, animated with the necessity to keep active and alive a space where practical research regarding the actor's crafts and the possible drifts and connections both on an artistic and human level.

Participants: Raquel Alarcón, Elisabetta Bianca, Simon Bronikowski, Viviana Bovino, Agnieszka Bresler, Alessandro Borroni, Ana Crouseilles, Maria Kapala, Csongor Köllő, Raul Iaiza (conduttore), Simone Lampis, Serena Magazzeni, Isabelle Maurel, Agnieszka Pietkiewicz, Roberta Secchi, Marta Smaruj, Giulia Varotto, Maciej Zakrzewski, Monica Zipparri (2).

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From January 2021: new horizons.

The work is developed with the support of ELF Teatro (Milan), and seeks its work modality inserted in the daily life of a city. It is co-produced by Regula Teatro, ELF Teatro, and the individual participants in the project.

We work in two practical ways: weekly basic sessions within closed doors and residential sessions of intensive work, linked to occasions of meetings and exchange.

The first season opened a sort of horizon on two fronts: one linked to Art as a Vehicle, another to performance staging. We work in these two directions now with two different structures. Perhaps there are other possibilities, which lie halfway between these two fronts, or which could open to other possibilities. Sometimes, our practice makes us feel there are more openings.

The current phase focuses on three fields of practice and study, connected while at the same time independent.

The first is related to the necessary *training* to prepare the group for the musical languages of the Modes, for the techniques of unwritten polyphony, for its staging in space and the possibility of being acted, and finally for the prosody practice on the *Volgare*. The second is linked to the Song of Tradition in Italy, especially to the polyphonies in popular liturgy. The third is the one on the Laudario di Cortona, considering also to the lyrics in *Volgare* and the repertoire of the other Dramatic Laude of the same historical period.

The first semester of work ended in July 2021 with a residency at the Savona Seminary, care of CcnTeatro/Teatro21/Caritas Savona. It was an opportunity to understand the need for future development in different directions linked to the ongoing research: the popular liturgy in artistic terms, the dramaturgy of historical source in the face of contemporary times, the possibility for a kind of Open Space of practices.

Performers: Marta Annoni, Elisabetta Fraccacreta, Silvia Minchillo, Ruggero Bonacina, Raul Iaiza (conductor), Simone Lampis, Stefano Olimpi.

Witnesses and supervisors: Marco Berta, Simone Faloppa.

Consultants, close to our work: Oliviero Ponte di Pino, Gabriele Vacis, Roberto Piumini, Marcello Gallucci, Marco De Marinis.

Raul Iaiza, October 2021
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(1) With the support of the *Grotowski Institute* (Wroclaw, Poland), Teatro La *Madrugada* (Milan, Italy) developed a project on the issues and possibilities of acting training: *Regula contra Regulam*. The project had two annual *Open Sessions* in Brzeinka, with Torgeir Wethal (Odin Teatret, Denmark) as its pedagogical tutor. It was on the side of the *Open Sessions* that the "Close Sessions", the Research Program on the Performing Arts of Laudesi, were planned.

(2) Two clarifications. First: the teamwork in the different phases was composed of about 7/9 performers, the list of participants therefore includes the different generations over the decade. Second: Laudesi was the occasion of many meetings with artists, masters, collaborators of great value. Here is an incomplete (so partly unfair!) list: Mario Barzaghi, Ujwal Bhole, Patrick Fassioti, Jaroslav Fret, Else Marie Laukvik, Eliseo Parra, Iben Nagel Rasmussen, Lorenzo Sangalli, Torgeir Wethal, Dawid Żakowski, Grzegorz Ziółkowski.