



INTERNATIONAL / WORLD THEATRE

An evening with Italian playwright

ROBERTO CAVOSI



Roberto Cavosi. Photograph courtesy of the artist.

Featuring readings from his plays

BEAUTIFUL MARLA (BELLISSIMA MARIA)

Translated by Patrick Hazzard with Jane House

A MARRIAGE OF ARRANGEMENT (MARESCIALLO BUTTERFLY)

Translated by Anita Guerra

EPIPHANY NIGHT (NOTTE D'EPIFANIA)

Translated by Jane House

Directed by JANE HOUSE, Artistic Director, Jane House Productions

NEW YORK CITY, MAY 7th, 2007, 6:30 P.M.

MARTIN E. SEGAL THEATRE CENTER, THE GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY

Presented by The Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, The Graduate Center, CUNY

- Welcome* DANIEL GEROULD; FRANK HENTSCHEK (MESTC)
- Opening Remarks* SILVIA GIAMPAOLA, Attachee for Cultural Affairs —Music, Theatre, and Dance, Italian Cultural Institute, New York.
- Readings from* **BEAUTIFUL MARIA (BELLISSIMA MARIA)**
A MARRIAGE OF ARRANGEMENT (MARESCIALLO BUTTERFLY)
NOTTE D'EPIFANIA (EPIPHANY NIGHTS)
- Cast* DAVIDE BORELLA*
 TOBIAS BURNS
 JULIA CHAN
 PATRICK COHEN*
 LORETTA REZOS*
 STU RICHEL*
 CRISTINA PRONZATI
 YELENA SHMULENSON*
- *Member of the Actors' Equity Association
- Music* by Alfred Santoloci, composed for plays by Roberto Cavosi
- Slide show* Edited by Jane House from photographs of plays by Roberto Cavosi
- Q & A with ROBERTO CAVOSI, JANE HOUSE and PAOLO VALESIO
 Simultaneous Translator, YVONNE MATTEVI
- Reception to follow*

BIOGRAPHIES

ROBERTO CAVOSI, actor, playwright, director, screen, radio, and television writer, has been writing plays and television and radio scripts for almost twenty years. His plays include *Der Grosse Mausprozess von Glurns*, a musical (1991); *Luna di miele* (1993); *Rosanero* (1994); *Il Maresciallo Butterfly* (1995 also translated into French for a production at Théâtre de l'Oeuvre, Paris and recorded for Radio 2, Italy); *Le Tentazioni di Erodiade* (2000); *Bellissima Maria* (2002); *La Passione secondo Maria*, a contemporary opera with music by Alfredo Santoloci (2004); and *Notte d'epifania*, which was produced in March 2007 at Teatro Piccolo Eliseo, Rome. Cavosi has also written for radio and television. His awards include the 1993 Concorso IDI and the 1996 Biglietto d'oro AGIS for *Rosanero*; the 1995 Giuseppe Fava Prize for *Il Maresciallo Butterfly*; the 2001 Hystrio prize for career achievements; the 2001 Riccione Teatro Prize for *Bellissima Maria*; the 2001 Diego Fabbri Prize for the expression of humanitarian values; and a Special Mention in the 2002 "Europeo di Varsavia" prize for *Il pellegrino* (The Pilgrim), an episode of *Teatrogiornale*, a radio show he conceived that aired for over three years and for which he wrote over 200 scripts.

JANE HOUSE, actress, translator, and director, founded Jane House Productions in 2000 to make available to American audiences the rich array of Italian drama, through premier dramatic readings. Presentations have included works by Eduardo De Filippo, Natalia Ginzburg, Dacia Maraini, Luigi Pirandello, Manlio Santanelli, and Raffaele Viviani. Jane House earned her doctorate from the Ph. D. Program in Theatre at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

PAOLO VALESIO has been Giuseppe Ungaretti Professor and Chair of Italian Literature, Columbia University, since 2005. He is also professor emeritus, Yale University, where he founded and coordinated "Yale Poetry Group," and founded and directed the *Yale Italian Poetry* (YIP), a journal, which is now published as *Italian Poetry Review* at the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, Columbia University. He has published five books of criticism, fourteen collections of poetry, two novels, one collection of short stories, a novella, and a drama in verse, which has been staged in Italy. His areas of teaching and research include the literature of the 19th and 20th century, rhetoric in its connection with literary analysis and with spirituality, as

well as comparative approaches to contemporary Italian literature, and the theory and practice of creative writing.

CAST

DAVIDE BORELLA (Marco / Max) NYC theatre: “Le Giullarate” from Dario Fo’s *Mistero Buffo*; Gabriele D’Annunzio in *L’Innocente*, *The Italians of New York*; *Idiots Delight* (Actors Company Theater); *The Ghost Composer* (Neighborhood Playhouse); *The License* (Miranda Theater); *All Nudity Shall Be Punished* (New York Theater Workshop); Film: *The Pink Panther*, *Life Is Beautiful* (Roberto Benigni). TV appearances include *The Sopranos*, *As the World Turns*, and *The Late Show with David Letterman*. AEA, SAG.

TOBIAS BURNS (Luca / Marco) writer, actor, and singer, is a recent graduate of Harvard University. Theatre credits include the Hasty Pudding Theatricals and most recently *Arts Nouveaux—Une Célébration* with the Xoregos Theatre Company in NYC.

JULIA CHAN (Stage Directions, Valeria) is a New York-based actor. She recently graduated from Harvard University and is beginning an MFA at the New School for Drama in the fall.

PATRICK COHEN (Patrick) A graduate of Providence College, Patrick is most well known as Tom in the new hit web series *We Need Girlfriends*, available now on I-tunes or at www.weneedgirlfriends.tv. Other credits include independent films, TV appearances on all four NY Soaps, and various NY and regional theatre.

LORETTA REXOS (Maria) Chicago theatre: Strawdog Theatre (ensemble member), Appletree Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Greasy Joan & Co., About Face Theatre. Other regional: Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Fort Worth Shakespeare in the Park, Lakeside Shakespeare of Michigan. California Musical Theatre: American Musical Theatre of San Jose (*Chess*; *No, No Nanette*; *Grand Hotel*) and Theatreworks (Josephine). AEA.

STU RICHEL (Marshall Fanti / Rocco) Regional theatre: *Proof* (Redhouse), *Holiday* (San Jose Rep) and *Twilight of the Gods* (Shadowland). TV: *30 Rock*, *As the World Turns*, *One Life to Live*. Film: principal roles in 15 indie features, including *Friendship Hotel*, *Red Cockercoaches*, and *Hiding Divya*. In earlier lives: a corporate attorney and combat photographer with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam. AEA, AFTRA, SAG.

YVOTTE MATTEVI (Simultaneous translator for discussion), a graduate student in the Comparative Literature Program, CUNY Grad Center, teaches Italian at Hunter and NYU, a member of Frizzi and Lazzi theatre company which promotes Italian culture. Ph.D. in second language instruction, SUNY—Stony Brook, and wrote her dissertation on using theatre as a teaching tool. 2005 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching for staging Verga’s *In Portineria* in Italian with students.

CRISTINA PRONZATI (Irina) Trapdoor Theatre, Chicago; American Conservatory Theatre; Eugene O’Neill Theatre Center. Recently in NYC Eleonora Duse in *L’Innocente*. Film: *Rendez-Vous*, which she wrote, produced, and directed; *The Fallen* (“Audience Award” and “Best Director” at Milan International Film Festival, 2005), *Life Is Beautiful* and *The Age of Innocence*. TV (AMC): *Into Character (Loretta Lynn)*. SAG.

YELENA SHMULENSON (Arevik) Five seasons with Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre, two seasons at the Ellis Island Theatre, *Bronx Express* (Fringe NYC), Frank (“Klezomatics”) London’s *A Night In the Old Marketplace*, *Lady of Copper* (tour). Off-Off Broadway: *Flowers for Algernon* and *The Lilac Minyan*. Film: *The Good Shepherd*. Yelena is fluent in five languages.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Julia Chan, Silvia Giampaola, Ana Martinez, Judith Roberts, Tom Rowan, Alfredo Santoloci, and Valentina Valentini

The Martin E. Segal Theatre Center (MESTC), The Graduate Center, CUNY, is a non-profit center for theatre, dance, and film affiliated with CUNY’s Ph.D. Program in Theatre. Originally founded in 1979 as the Center for Advanced Studies in Theatre Arts (CASTA), it was renamed in March of 1999 in recognition of one of New York City’s outstanding leaders of the arts. The Center’s primary focus is to bridge the gap between the academic and professional performing arts communities by providing an open environment for the development of educational, community-driven, and professional projects in the performing arts. As a result, MESTC is home to theatre scholars, students, playwrights, actors, dancers, directors, dramaturgs, and performing arts managers, as well as both the local and international theatre communities. The Center presents staged readings to further the development of new and classic plays, lecture series, televised seminars featuring professional and academic luminaries, and arts in education programs, and maintains its long-standing visiting-scholars-from-abroad program. In addition, the Center publishes a series of highly regarded academic journals, as well as books, including plays in translation, all written and edited by renowned scholars. <http://web.gc.cuny.edu/mestc>

Executive Director, Daniel Gerould
Director of Administration, Jan Stenzel

Director of Programs, Frank Hentschker
Assistants to Director of Programs, L. Weintraub, J. Chan

Italian Cultural Institute—New York

The purpose of the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, New York is to strengthen the cultural links between Italy and the USA by promoting academic exchanges, organizing visual arts exhibitions, sponsoring the translation of Italian books, promoting Italian studies, and supporting various events dealing with Italian music, dance, cinema, theatre, architecture, literature and cuisine. http://www.iicnewyork.esteri.it/IIC_Newyork

The Graduate Center, CUNY, of which MESTC is an integral part, was founded in 1961 as the doctorate-granting institution of The City University of New York, the nation's largest urban university system. Here 4000 students and over 1700 faculty scholars, drawn from throughout the CUNY system and New York City's leading cultural and scientific institutions, join in the shared enterprises of teaching, learning, researching, and expanding the boundaries of knowledge. In this environment of intellectual discovery and exchange, twenty-eight research centers and institutes augment over thirty doctoral programs in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

Ph.D. Program in Theatre, The Graduate Center, CUNY MESTC is affiliated with the CUNY Graduate Center Ph.D. Program in Theatre, whose faculty includes distinguished professors, holders of endowed chairs, and internationally recognized scholars. Faculty members edit MESTC publications, working closely with the doctoral students in theatre who perform a variety of editorial functions and learn the skills involved in the creation of books and journals. One of the leading doctoral theatre programs in the United States, the Ph.D. program in Theatre at CUNY Graduate Center trains future scholars and teachers in all the disciplines of theatre research.

The MESTC Publication Wing produces both journals and individual volumes. Journals include *Slavic and Eastern European Performance* (SEEP), *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre* (JADT), and *Western European Stages* (WES). Books include *Four Melodramas* by Pixérécourt (edited by Daniel Gerould and Marvin Carlson—both Distinguished Professors of Theatre at the CUNY Graduate Center), *Zeami and the Nob Theatre in the World* (edited by Japanese Theatre authorities, Professors Benito Ortolani and Samuel Leiter), *Contemporary Theatre in Egypt* (which includes the translation of three plays by Alfred Farag, Gamal Maqsoud, and Lenin El-Ramley), *Four Works for the Theatre* by Hugo Claus (the foremost contemporary writer in the Dutch language), *The Heirs of Molière* (four representative French comedies from the death of Molière to the French Revolution that are edited and translated by Marvin Carlson), *Seven Plays by Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz* (edited and translated by Daniel Gerould), *The Arab Oedipus: Four Plays* (edited by Marvin Carlson), *Theatre Research Resources in New York City* (edited by Amy Hughes, Senior Editor Marvin Carlson) is the most comprehensive catalogue of New York City research facilities for theatre scholars, and *Comedy: A Bibliography of Critical Studies in English on the Theory and Practice of Comedy in Drama, Theatre and Performance* (edited by Meghan Duffy, Senior Editor Daniel Gerould). Upcoming publication: *BAiT-Buenos Aires in Translation: Four Plays* (edited and translated by Jean Graham-Jones).