

DANIELE FINZI PASCA

was born in Lugano in 1964.

In 1983 left for India to work as a volunteer with the terminally ill. On his return to Switzerland founded the Teatro Sunil.

In 1984 wrote and directed the show “*Rituale*”. The text of the show “*Viaggio al Confine*” was published by Edizioni Casagrande, Bellinzona, and a few years later was translated into German and produced and published by the Mo Moll Theatre under the direction of Gian Gianotti. Wrote and directed “*Dialoghi col Sonno*” with which the Teatro Sunil made its first international tour, featuring Maria Bonzanigo and Pedro Sarubbi.

During a short jail sentence as a conscientious objector, completed the trilogy dedicated to the *Fuga* which was presented in full the following year. A part of this trilogy was the show *Icaro*, a monologue for an audience of one, with which Daniele took part in numerous international festivals. *Icaro* is being performed in six languages in more than fifteen countries and has been seen by more than 100,000 people.

Together with Silvia Priori founded the Teatro Blu at Brescia. Wrote and directed *Arianna* for this group. On the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the Swiss Confederation was selected to take part, as a Ticinese writer, in a literary project in Jura. During this period wrote a collection of short stories *Come acqua allo specchio*, later published by Edizioni Casagrande. The dance show *Passo Migratore* was based on one of these stories. In the following years wrote and directed various shows: *Naufragando* for the Teatro Blu, *Dialoghi col Sonno* translated into German and performed at Linz and *Percossi Obbligati* for the Teatro Sunil.

Icaro was awarded the “Premio Florencio” for the best foreign show by the Theatre Critics Association in Montevideo. Completed a second monologue with the title *Giacobbe*, a show which followed the same structure as *Icaro*.

Wrote and directed *1337 Déjeuner sur l'herbe* in two versions, Italian/French and Portuguese. Subsequently, together with Dolores Heredia, directed a third version of this show in Spanish, in which he also took part. Wrote and directed the show *Patria*. After a stay in Ethiopia, where he took part in a project for the integration of orphans through the theatre, created the show *Aitestás* in which he was again accompanied by Dolores Heredia. A year later The National Association of Mexican Critics awarded this show the Premio Seki Sano for the best foreign show. Wrote and directed *Brutta canaglia la solitudine*, which was produced by the Teatro Sunil together with the Manicomics group of Piacenza. In 2000 wrote and directed *Visitatio*, a co-production between Teatro Sunil and Carbone 14 of Montreal. Also wrote and directed the shows: *Viaggio al Confine*, *La scala senza Pioli*, *Isole Pellegrine*, *Avvoltoi della speranza*, *Richiami*, *Polifonica*, *Storie per vincere la Notte*, directed by Dolores Heredia, and *Umbriel*, directed by Jordi Vilardaga.

Developed his own personal interpretation of traditional clownery which he has periodically presented in courses and workshops in more than ten countries. Among others has held courses at:

The Academy of Dramatic Arts at Geneva
University Centre for Theatre Research “Lume” in Brazil
The Dramatic Arts Academy in Asuncion
The National Theatre School of the INBA in the City of Mexico
The Ninth World Convention of Theatre Groups in Ayacucho in Peru
The Cirque du Soleil and the National Circus School in Montreal.

In recent years has written and directed *Te amo*, a production of Poramor Producciones and Teatro Sunil, featuring Ana and Dolores Heredia, and two shows for the Cirque Eloize of Montreal: *Nomade - At night, the sky is endless* and *Rain - Comme une pluie dans tes yeux*. *Nomade* opened in 2002 and has met with enormous success in Paris, London, Vienna, Montréal, Athens, Rotterdam, Beirut, Hong Kong etc, with more than 500 performances. Forthcoming tours will include, among others, Milan, Rome, Madrid and Toronto. *Rain* is a production of CAMI (New York), Spectra (Québec) and Les Productions Eloize (Montréal). The show opened in 2003 at Irvine, California, and has had great success in New York and San Francisco, as well as receiving the *Best Touring Production of the Year Theatre Award* in Great Britain.

In 2003 the Cirque du Soleil asked him to write and direct their new itinerant show, *Corteo*, which opened in April 2005 and which is at present on tour in North America.

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