



6 – 30 October
Edinburgh

DANCING WITH
COLOURS, WHIPPING
WITH WORDS
**DARIO FO AND
POLITICAL THEATRE**

A ONE-OFF FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL
POLITICAL PERFORMANCE AND ART

Dancing with Colours, Whipping with Words Dario Fo and political theatre

Dario Fo is a living legend. For this unique Festival, we are delighted to be welcoming Dario to Scotland for the year of his 90th birthday. We hope that this will be a wonderful opportunity both for existing fans to be inspired all over again by Dario's work and influence, and for those who are new to his work to see how Dario's humour, his humanity, and his political fire make his work relevant to everyone.

Playwright, actor, comedian, singer, theatre director, stage designer, songwriter, painter and political campaigner; and on top of all this, Dario Fo is arguably the most widely performed living playwright in world theatre. Recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Literature, his plays, including *Can't Pay? Won't Pay!*, *The Virtuous Burglar*, *Mistero Buffo*, *Trumpets & Raspberries* and *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, have been translated into 30 languages and performed across the world.

Dario Fo and his late wife and partner in life and work – feminist writer and actor **Franca Rame** – forged a new style of riotous farce and popular theatre which took as its subject the burning political and social questions of the day. Their work influenced Scotland's – and the UK's – own proud tradition of popular political theatre.

Dancing with Colours, Whipping with Words celebrates Dario and Franca, along with today's artist-activists; people who make theatre which challenges authority with satire, anger and humour.

The Festival includes the first UK exhibition of Dario Fo's paintings, a conversation with Dario himself, and a programme of performances and ancillary events related to our themes of **politics, satire, feminism and activism**.

Produced by Eleven. Funded by Creative Scotland and supported by the Italian Cultural Institute with venue partnerships with The Lyceum, the Traverse and the Scottish Storytelling Centre.



@elevenonair #Dario90

PROGRAMME



A CONVERSATION WITH DARIO FO



DARIO FO EXHIBITION

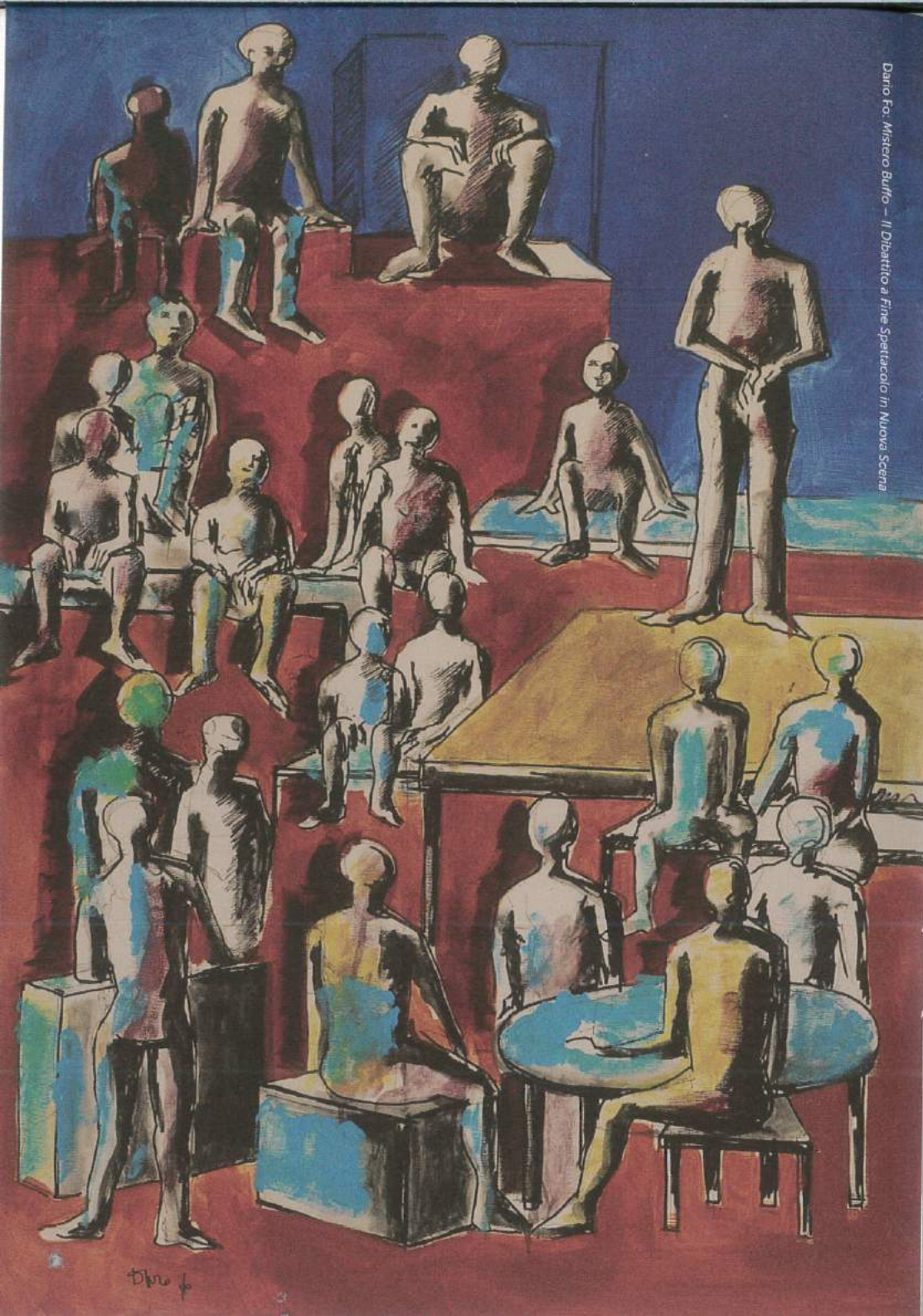


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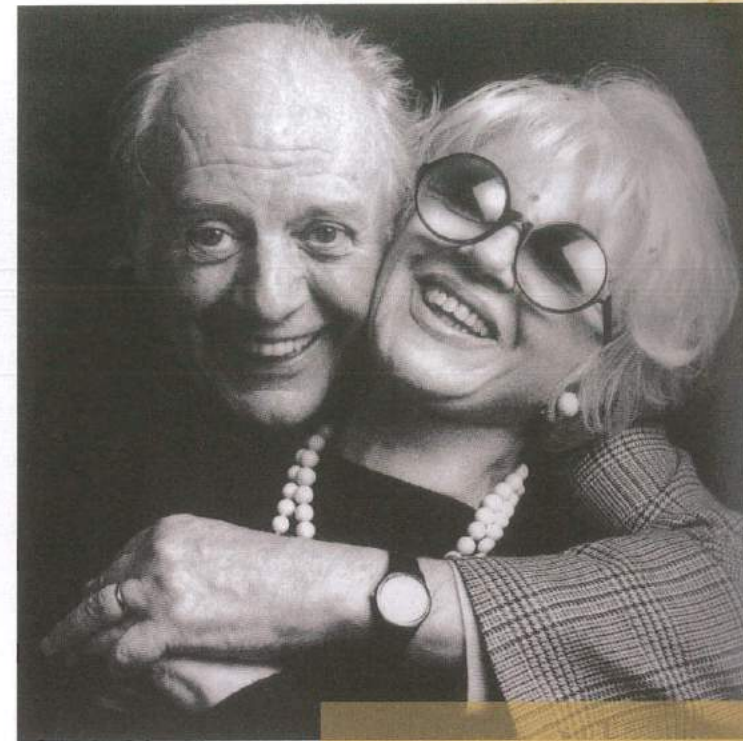


MARK THOMAS

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Dario Fo. Mistero Buffo - Il Dibattito a fine spettacolo in Nuova Scena



A Conversation with Dario Fo

The Nobel Prize winning Italian playwright on stage

Sunday 9 October, 5pm | The Lyceum

Tickets £15 / £10 concessions and Lyceum season ticket holders

www.lyceum.org.uk | 0131 248 4848

To mark his 90th birthday, Italy's best known and most provocative satirical playwright and artist visits Edinburgh for a UK exclusive conversation event.

Actor-playwright, comedian, singer, theatre director, stage designer, songwriter, painter and political campaigner. Recipient of the 1997 Nobel Prize in Literature, his plays have been translated into 30 languages and performed across the world. Dario Fo is also an engaging, charming and supremely watchable performer recognised as one of the great actors of modern theatre.

Fo will discuss his latest book, *New Tricks of the Trade*, with his biographer and translator Joe Farrell. The book is an exploration of the actor's art, told using stories from Fo's 70 year theatrical career and illustrated with his drawings and paintings.

Don't miss the chance to see a theatrical master live on stage.

EXHIBITION



Dario Fo: Mistero Burfo – Storia Della Tigre

Dario Fo's work as a visual artist is little known outside Italy, but it was art not theatre that he studied in his youth. His first paintings date from the 1940s, and he has worked in many styles, producing portraits, landscapes, fantasy works, politically committed works for today and others inspired by Italy's great masters or by mythology. Fo's visual art shares many of the qualities of his writing – exuberance, radicalism and anger combined with a love of storytelling. This is the first UK exhibition.

6 – 30 October | ADMISSION FREE

The Lyceum, Scottish Storytelling Centre, Italian Cultural Institute

Italian Cultural Institute

82 Nicolson St, Edinburgh EH8 9EW
0131 668 2232

Monday 14.00–17.00
Tues–Thurs 09.00–17.00
Fri 09.00–12.00

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

30b Grindlay Street, Edinburgh EH3 9AX
0131 248 4848

Thu 6 – Sat 8 Oct 11am – 7.30pm
Sun 9 Oct 11am – 5pm
Tue 11 Oct – Sat 15 Oct 11am – 7.30pm
Thu 20 – Sat 22 Oct 11am – 4pm

Scottish Storytelling Centre

43–45 High St, Edinburgh EH1 1SR
0131 556 9579

Monday – Saturday 10am – 6pm
Occasionally the Centre's exhibition space is not accessible to the public because of a private function booking. Please call 0131 556 9579 to check.



Dario Fo: Mistero Burfo – Franca in La Signora è Da Buttare



IceBridge Survey Flight Over Saunders Island and Wolstenholme Fjord
NASA / Michael Studinger via Flickr/Creative Commons



A Play, a Pie and a Pint in association with Eleven and the Traverse Theatre

Breaking the Ice by Kieran Lynn

Tue 4 – Sat 8 Oct, 1pm

Fri 7 Oct, 1pm and 7pm

Traverse Theatre

Tickets £12.50 including a pie and a pint

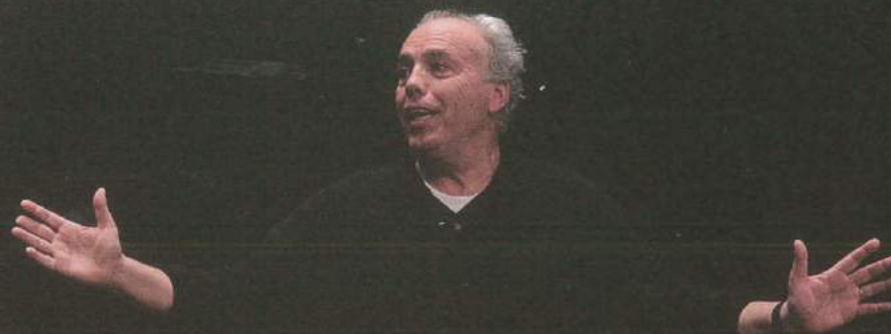
www.traverse.co.uk | 0131 228 1404

The Arctic is in danger and the only thing that can save it is bureaucracy. Frank Montgomery is the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Chief Scientific Advisor to the Arctic Council. He's at the biannual meeting of the Council in Barrow, Alaska to give the speech that will tilt the scales. The only problem is he has spilt yogurt on his suit, left his speech at the breakfast buffet and been kidnapped by militant activists. Can he make it back to the podium before it's too late?

Kieran Lynn's work for the stage includes *Pushing Up Poppies* (Theatre 503), *The Recurring Rise and Fall* (Hampstead Theatre) and *An Incident at the Border* (Finborough Theatre and Trafalgar Studios).

Directed by Tony Cownie.

A Play, a Pie and a Pint was founded in 2004 by the late David MacLennan, who also co-founded radical Scottish touring companies 7:84 and Wildcat. In its productivity, energy, creativity and unpredictability, A Play, a Pie and a Pint has clear links to the work of the Fo/Rame company.



Mario Pirovano

Francis the Holy Jester

Saturday 8 October 7.30pm

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Tickets: £10/£8/£7.50 Centre Supporter

scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk | 0131 556 9579

This is a rare opportunity to see Dario Fo's monologue, performed in English by his close friend, former apprentice and leading interpreter of his work. Mario Pirovano performs with unique zest, playing cardinals, soldiers, farmers, traders, and the saint himself, in a show without props, without scenery and with the simplest of costume.

Francis The Holy Jester draws from historic texts and folk tales to bring to life medieval Italy in classic Commedia dell'arte style, both comic and moving. Pirovano's virtuoso solo performance is for anyone who enjoys a good story lovingly crafted and expertly told with insight, vivacity and humour.

Julia Taudevin
Blow Off

Wednesday 12 and
Thursday 13 October 7.30pm
Traverse Theatre
Tickets: £16.50/£14.50/£8.50
www.traverse.co.uk
0131 228 1404

Photo: Niall Walker

I'm not going to tell you her hair colour. Her skin colour. Whether she has an almond or a heart shaped face. All you need to know, right now, is that she is a person. Walking up a street. A street that you know.

Explosive new guerrilla-gig-theatre with live music by Kim Moore with Susan Bear and Julie Eisenstein from Glasgow's indie-pop duo Tuff Love. This fierce and playful feminist work explores the psychology of extremism with haunting melodies and progressive punk riffs.

"A dynamite hour of sexual politics." ★★★★★ The Guardian

Julia Taudevin is the co-creator of *Beats* and *Chalk Farm* and writer of Mary Barbour's *Daughters* (Tron) and *Some Other Mother* (Tron/Stellar Quines).

Friday 14 October 7.30pm
Traverse Theatre
Tickets: £16.50/£14.50/£8.50
www.traverse.co.uk
0131 228 1404

Mark Thomas
100 Acts of Minor Dissent

Mark Thomas is well versed in the art of creative mayhem and over the years his troublemaking has changed laws, cost companies millions and annoyed those who most deserved to be. Now he returns to Edinburgh to do what he does best, mischief – joyously bad behaviour with a purpose.

Mark set himself the task of committing 100 Acts of Minor Dissent in the space of a year. This performance catalogues everything from the smallest and silliest gesture to the grandest confrontations and the results are subversive, hilarious, mainly legal and occasionally inspiring.

Presented by Lakin McCarthy



Photo: Steve Ullahome



Dario Fo: *La Vedova Sostituisce la Salma del Marito*

Panel Discussions

Encounters with Fo

Friday 7 October 5pm

Traverse Theatre

Tickets: £5.50 including a drink

www.traverse.co.uk | 0131 228 1404

Joe Farrell, biographer and translator of Dario Fo, and until retirement Professor of Italian at the University of Strathclyde, chairs a panel comprising Andy Arnold, artistic director of the Tron Theatre; Morag Fullerton, co-artistic director of A Play, a Pie and a Pint; writer Douglas Maxwell and Frances Rifkin, director of Implicated Theatre at the Serpentine Gallery. They will discuss their own encounters with the theatre of Dario Fo, and reflect on the impact of Fo's work on Scottish theatre.

Dario Fo and Political Theatre in Scotland

Thursday 13 October 6pm

Traverse Theatre

Tickets: £5.50 including a drink

www.traverse.co.uk | 0131 228 1404

Olga Taxidou, Professor of Drama at the University of Edinburgh, chairs a panel comprising playwright Peter Arnott; David Greig, playwright and artistic director of the Royal Lyceum Theatre; Professor Federica Pedriali, Head of Italian at the University of Edinburgh and Dr Linda Mackenney, Head of English at George Watson's School and writer on Scottish popular theatre. The panel will discuss the relationships between the theatre of Dario Fo and the traditions of radical political theatre in Scotland.

WORKSHOP

The Second time as Farce

Olly Crick and Frances Rifkin

Wednesday 12 October, 10am – 4pm

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Tickets: £20/£10

scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

0131 556 9579

"History repeats itself. The first time as tragedy, and the second time as farce."

Karl Marx

This one-off workshop is an invitation to learn, explore and then empower yourselves to create your own contemporary and relevant comic farce.

A collaboration between two experts in their fields, the workshop is suitable for all performers, theorists and activists. Frances Rifkin, who trained and worked with Augusto Boal, will lead the opening session focusing through Boal's Image Theatre. Olly Crick, a practitioner and published author on Commedia, will lead the second section, using Masks to add definition and comic agency to the subject matter developed in the workshop and the Commedia form to embody the chosen themes into a dramatic format.

Frances Rifkin is the initiator of the Dario Fo Edinburgh exhibition and Artistic Director of Implicated Theatre, based at the Serpentine Gallery. Olly Crick is a UK based Commedia practitioner who has co-authored *Commedia dell'Arte, a Handbook for Troupes* with John Rudlin (2001) and co-edited *The Routledge Companion to Commedia dell'Arte* (2015).

Please wear comfortable clothes you can move in.



Dario Fo: *Mistero Burlo – Il Primo Arlecchino*

REHEARSED READING

I Mother

Performed by Maria Oller

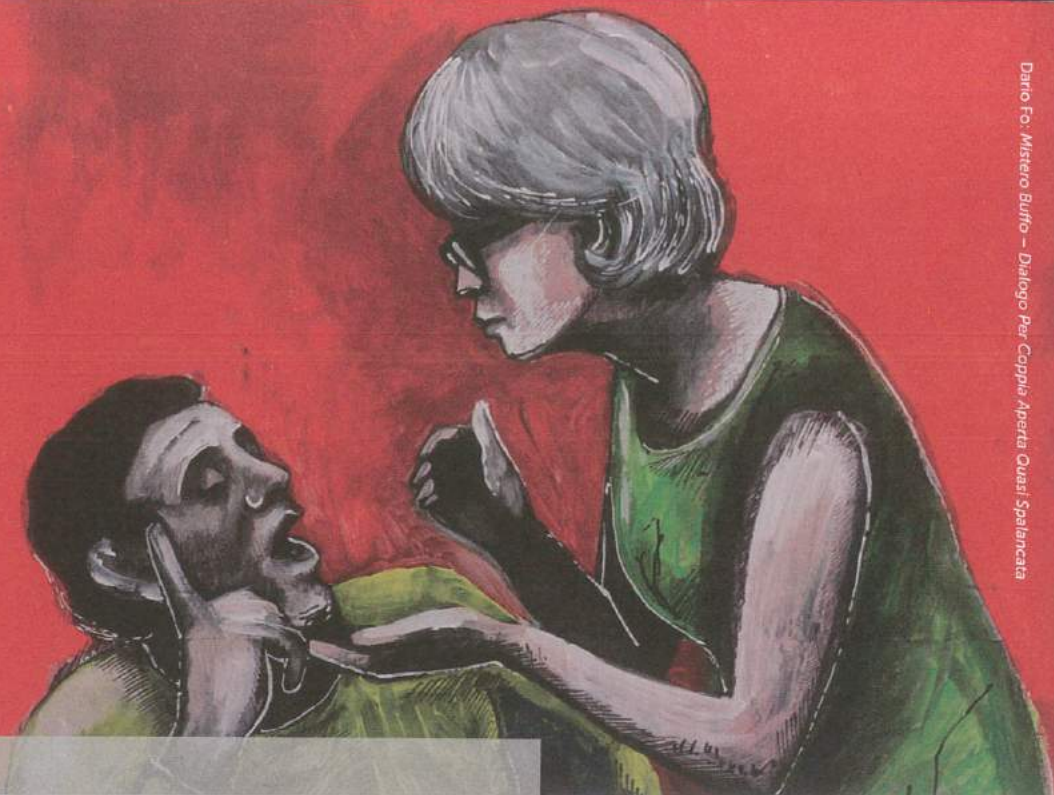
Written by Morna Pearson

Directed by Caitlin Skinner

Traverse Theatre
Fri 7 October 4pm

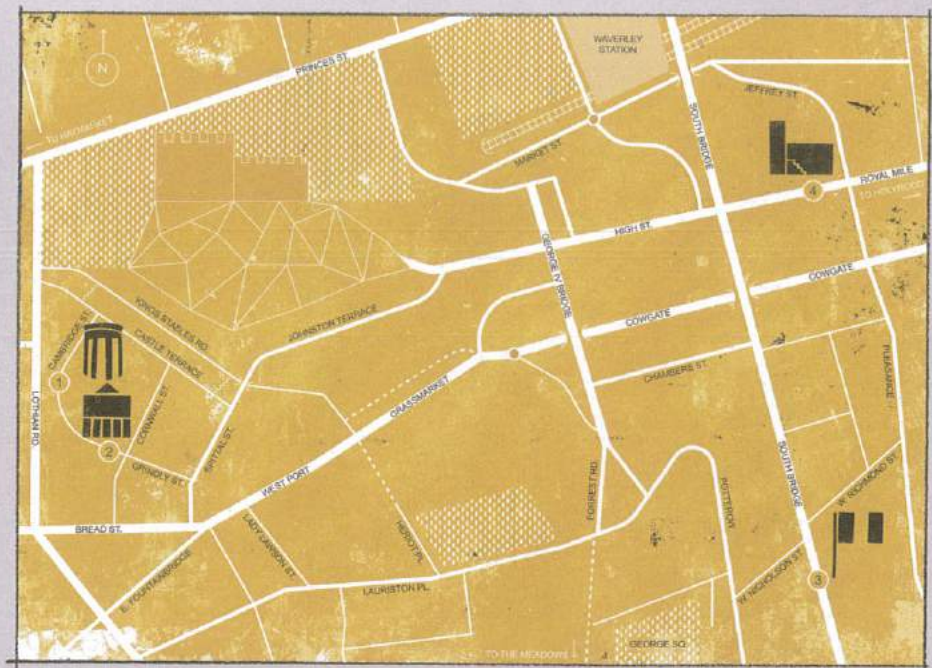
Inspired by Franca Rame's *The Mother* and by recent events, *I, Mother* takes place a few days after a local terrorist attack. The terrorist happens to be the son of Mother. Mother escapes the intrusive press camped on her doorstep by scaling her neighbour's fence in the back garden. Her neighbour's living room is where she takes refuge and explores her emotions as she watches the tragedy unfold on TV. Eventually she struggles to keep touch with reality.

I, Mother is a new play currently in development. This work-in-progress performed reading is part of a research and development process and the audience will be invited to give written feedback following the performance.



Dario Fo: Mistero Buffo – Dialogo Per Coppia Aperta Quasi Spalancata

Map: David Lemm



Funders & Supporters

Eleven Produced by Eleven www.elevenhq.com

Directors: **Rupert Thomson, Anu Selva-Thomson** Producer: **Verity Leigh**

Project initiated by **Frances Rifkin** and co-curated by **Joe Farrell** and **Frances Rifkin**, in partnership with **Mario Pirovano**.

Funded by Creative Scotland and supported by the Italian Cultural Institute with venue partnerships with the Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, the Traverse and the Scottish Storytelling Centre.



Luminate is an annual festival that takes place across the length and breadth of Scotland each October, offering the chance to celebrate creativity, share stories and to explore what ageing means to all of us.

Media Partner:



1 Traverse Theatre
10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh EH1 2ED
0131 228 1404
traverse.co.uk



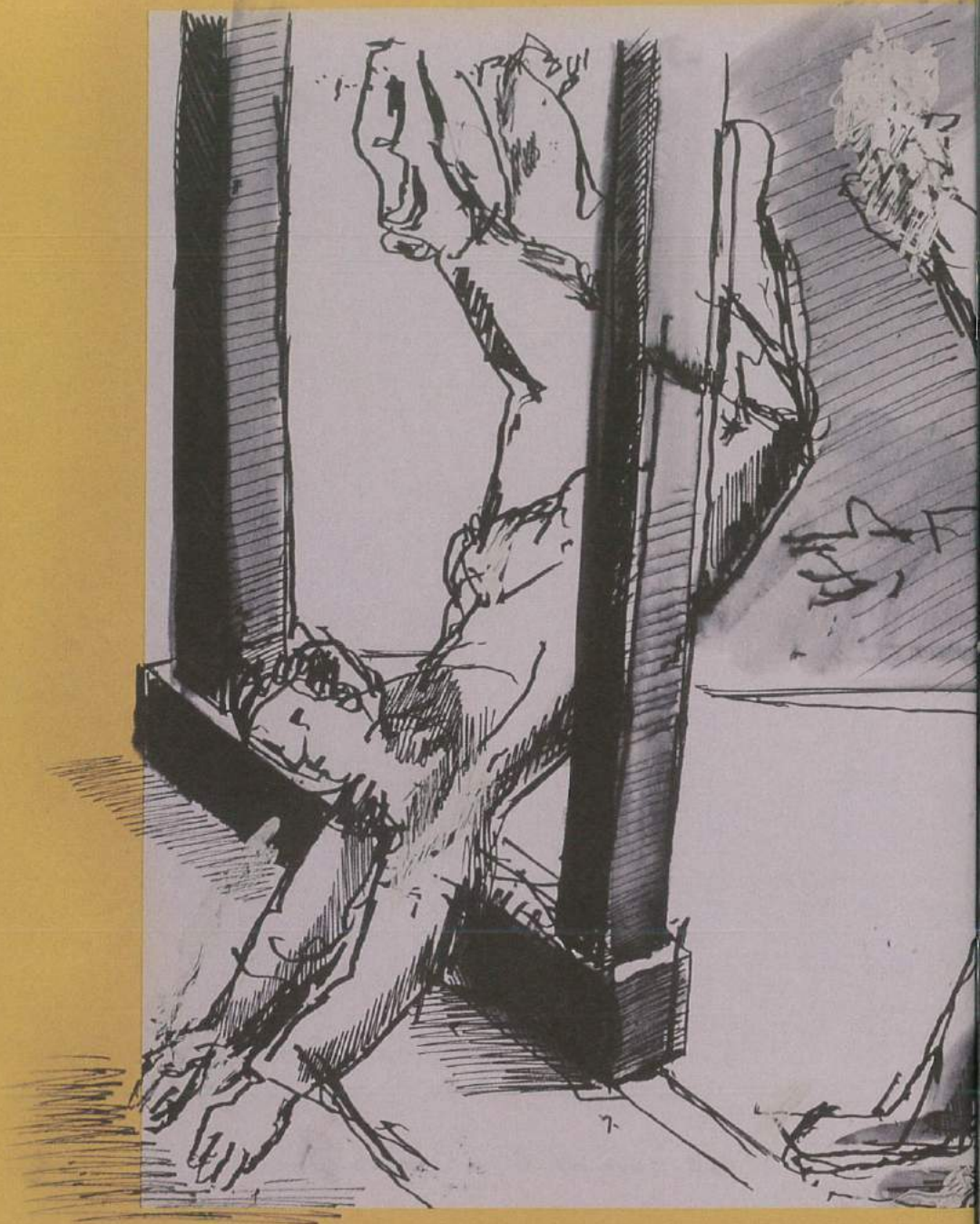
2 Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh
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lyceum.org.uk



3 Italian Cultural Institute
82 Nicolson St, Edinburgh EH8 9EW
0131 668 2232
iicedimburgo.esteri.it



4 Scottish Storytelling Centre
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0131 556 9579
scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk



Cover image: Dario Fo: *Mistero Buffo – Morte Accidentale di un Anarchico*

Dario Fo