

**The Spazio Teatro No'hma Teresa Pomodoro
is pleased to present the show**

**Journey by sea and land
in search poetry and beauty**

Artists involved:

Fabrizio Rocchi: actor
Marta Zito: actress
Michele Gorlero: singer and performer
Giulia Maffei: dancer
Olaf Olguin as Dancer
Jacopo Paone: choreographer
Jerome: pianist and music coordinator
Carlo Gilardi: percussionist
Luca Lima: guitar
Josse Renda: painting in progress

Texts:

texts in Portuguese

Mar Novo – Manuel Rui (1941 -)
Prelúdio (Alda Lara 1930-1962)
Caminho do mato (Agostinho Neto 1922 – 1979)

Text in italian

Lettera al Padre – Teresa Pomodoro
Il mare è tutto azzurro – Sandro Penna
La libertà – Giorgio Gaber
Il mio canto libero – Lucio Battisti

Viaggio per Mare e per Terra alla ricerca di Poesia e Bellezza is the show with which the Spazio Teatro No'hma Teresa Pomodoro in Milan, directed by President Livia Pomodoro, takes part of the Luanda Biennial (Angola) 2021 with the aim of telling and emphasizing the encounter between two cultures that are only apparently distant: the Italian and the Angolan.

It is a multidisciplinary project that brings together musical, poetic, symbolic suggestions, dance and live painting in the logic of intercultural dialogue through the protagonists of the new generation and freedom as awareness through the arts.

To achieve this artistic and cultural melting-pot, the show combines the suggestion, coming from the Angolan repertoire (not only a tribute but a reason for knowledge and cultural exchange) with performative elements of the contemporary Italian and European tradition.

To enrich everything, a live painting performance by Josse Renda, a student of the Brera Academy of Fine Arts.

The choice to involve young artists capable of interpreting and sharing the values of cultural exchange in a current and modern perspective is fundamental. This is how the original musical arrangements of songs of the African and Italian tradition are born, which take on new life through a mashup capable of emphasizing their characteristics, while the dance performance marches the importance of a common and universal language: that of the body.

Among the texts chosen and interpreted by the young actors: *Mar Novo* by the contemporary Angolan poet Manuel Rui, *Caminho do mato* by Agostino Neto, *Il mare è tutto azzurro* by Sandro Penna, *La Libertà* by Gaber and *Lettera al Padre* by Teresa Pomodoro, a text focused on the search for beauty.

The expressive frame is given by the union / contrast between sea and land, proposed in a poetic and expressive key not only as boundaries of ideal union between the Mediterranean and Africa, but also as a dichotomy between the free world or ideal (sea) and land, made of mothers, children, hopes but also fears.

The show opens with **Mar Novo** by Manuel Rui, poet, novelist and theatrical writer, considered by some as the chronicler par excellence of post-independence Angola. The text is interpreted in Portuguese and the poly-instrumental musical accompaniment provides alternation of sounds that recall percussion and guitar but are diluted and made more contaminated by the piano, creating a suggestion of musical syncretism of particular uniqueness, as if to signal an ideal border that is overcome and trampled on the borders of the Mediterranean.

Angolan poetics contextualizes the testimony of beauty through the word of **Teresa Pomodoro**, a tribute to the importance that culture plays, first as awareness, and then as a shared tool in the development of a model society, able to guide human emancipation and spread its values. This section is followed by a choreographic interpretation of dance on a music specially selected by step by step. At the sea the

contrast with the land is accentuated by a suggestive poem by **Alda Lara** entitled *Prelude* which is a dialogue addressed to the Mae Negra (Black Mother). A mother who speaks, however, of an abandoned land, of young people who grew up and gone far away and of the need to find an answer to this absence.

The narrative symbolism from sea and land passes to the conceptual and finalistic one, for screenplay and direction, of "freedom", creating a strong and incisive combination between Mondo Nuovo and Libertà, which can be pursued through awareness and beauty. Wanting to enhance also the Italian Song as a distinctive element of the national cultural heritage, in tracing the transition towards the pursuit of freedom and at the same time pursuing the reference to the "Milanese" repertoire, it seemed interesting to insert **La Libertà** by **Giorgio Gaber** as a song / poem and in reference to this (also wanting in alternation) a suggestion from the Angolan repertoire, found in the **Caminho Do Mato** by **Agostino Neto**. This is also a real sung poem, which, if we want, albeit with a different sound, rejoins Gaber's version as if to provide the other look of the world on the same theme.

The performance closes with the short poem by **Sandro Penna** "**The sea is all blue**" that in very few verses and with a simple language, but with a strong meaning, speaks of the calm of the sea that contains a scream of joy, like an emotion difficult to express.