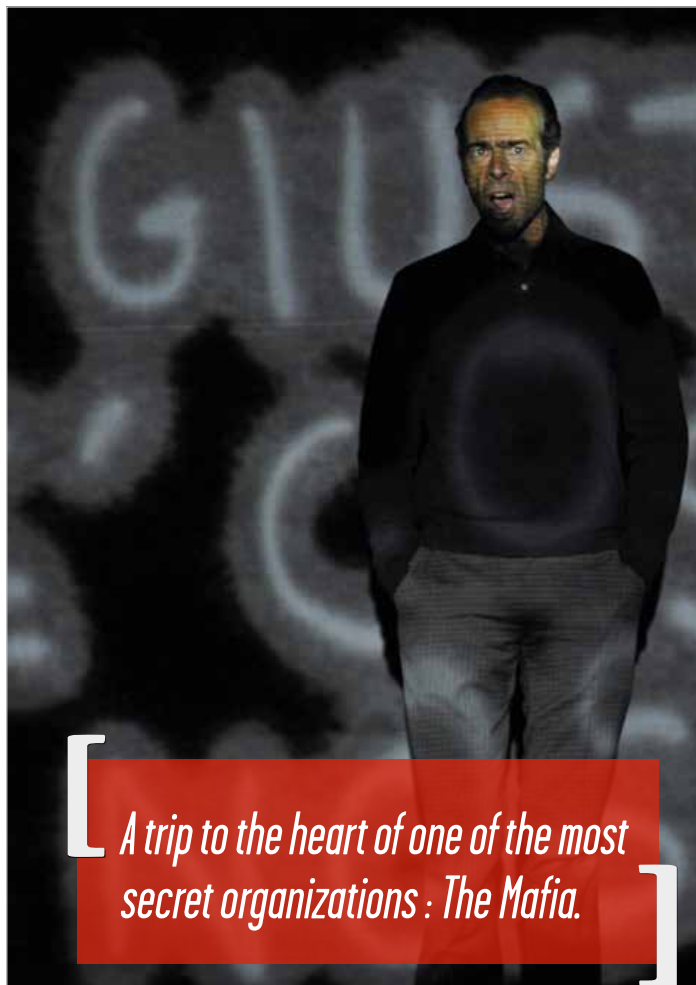


press release

production les déchargeurs / le pôle
in agreement with woh productions ltd



*A trip to the heart of one of the most
secret organizations : The Mafia.*

theater words of honour

parole d'onore / parole d'honneur

show in english, french and italian

attilio bolzoni & marco gambino

author ATTILIO BOLZONI / director DARIA BATTILANA /
lighting designer GIORGIO PALMERA / performer and
multivisual artist GABRIEL ZAGNI

with MARCO GAMBINO

length 50 min

6:00 pm from tuesday to saturday
from february 12th to march 23th
&

february 16 th 6:30 pm

théâtre du rond-point

2 bis avenue Franklin Delano Roosevelt - 75008 paris

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THE PLAY

Words of Honour is a stage adaptation of *Parole d'Onore*, the best-selling book by award-winning Italian investigative journalist Attilio Bolzoni; published in Italy in 2008. It's a fascinating voyage into the darkest alleys of one of the world's oldest and most secret criminal organisations - The Mafia. *In their language, everything means something. Even the details that seem less relevant, the gestures that accompany the words, or sometimes replace the them. Even silence.*

Using the real words of the bosses, *Words of Honour* charts the lives of some amongst the most powerful mafia don's.

Toto Riina, Tommaso Buscetta, Michele Greco, and many others will come alive, for the first time in a theatre adaptation and will speak their truth from the beginning to the end..

WRITER'S INTENT

These are voices that come from a different world. I have listened to them for thirty years in my own Sicily and I have recorded them all on my notebook. Parole d'Onore tells the story of the mafia which recounts itself by searching in its darkest avenues. The bosses come alive with their thoughts and feelings. They tell us what they think about family and friendship about God and sin. A very special breed of criminals which reveals itself through a language which is not just a code but also a constant exhibition of power. Words of Honour.

Attilio Bolzoni

STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Mafia Bosses, depicted like caged beasts, are revealed through the eyes of an investigative journalist. Marco Gambino embodies different characters, who are mainly protagonists of the Mafia world. Black and white images, projected on a screen and at times on the actor, collaborate to communicate the emotions hidden between the lines of the complex and hermetic language of this "very special breed of criminals".

Manuela Ruggiero

EXTRACT

Journalist - *These are voices that come from a different world. They rise, threatening, and stun you. Sometimes they are evasive, apparently innocuous, but sometimes they are purposely full of premonition. They always hide something. They are always delivering a message. In their language, everything means something. Even the details that seem less relevant, the gestures that come with the words, or sometimes replace them. Even silence. It's an eerie chorus which I found in my notebook. Those words and those conversations have now become my notes. These are the Mafiosi who are telling us about the last half century of their own Sicily.*

shepherd

Buscetta - *I was made a man of honour when I was very young, almost a kid. It doesn't happen that one day you wake up and say From today I'm going be part of Cosa Nostra. Cosa Nostra would appoint a Man of Honour only after having tested, tested and tested him.*

Riina - *A megghiu parola e chidda cca nun si dici. (The best words are the unspoken ones). It is easier for the "pentiti" to accuse Riina, so they can have in return more money, more villas, more benefits.*

Mutolo - *When we have to decide on removing someone or approaching someone, we always arrange that same event: schiticchio or schiticchiata.*

Michele Greco - *Humanity has been ruined by certain type of movies, violent movies, porno movies, that kind of thing. This informer, for example, Totuccio Contorno, if only he had watched Jesus of Nazareth instead of The Godfather, he wouldn't be making such accusations and I wouldn't be here, but sadly Mr Contorno is a fan of Marlon Brando...*

Mutolo - *Women live well within the Mafia, women are attracted by the Mafia until they are burnt by pain. Until then they live very well indeed inside it. I raised her your honour. Rosaria was my blood, my breath. Rosaria was the only clean thing I had. Rosaria... I wanted to take her to the altar, I wanted her forever. I would only think about her, my Rosaria.*

BIOGRAPHY

ATTILIO BOLZONI / writer

Attilio Bolzoni is a Sicilian journalist who started his career working as a crime reporter for Palermo's newspaper L'ora. He spent 25 years of his life writing about Sicily and its own Mafia. He is the author of many reportages on Southern Italy, but his stories have also covered regions like the Balkans as far as Kabul, and Magreb up to Baghdad. He is the author together with Giuseppe d'Avanzo of *La giustizia e' Cosa Nostra* (Mondadori 1995); *Rostagno, un delitto fra amici* (Mondadori 1997) and *Il Capo dei Capi* (Bur Rizzoli 2007). He has published together with Saverio Lodato *C'era una volta la lotta alla mafia* (Garzanti 1998). His latest book *Parole d'onore* (Bur Rizzoli 2008) will be translated by Macmillan in 2010. Bolzoni is 2009 winner of E' giornalismo an award created by Indro Montanelli, Enzo Biagi and Giorgio Bocca.

MARCO GAMBINO / actor

Marco Gambino is a Sicilian who has been living in London for more than twenty years. His theatrical debut took place in Palermo with Gruppo Teatro Novecento, with Spirito Allegro by Noel Coward. It was in Great Britain however where he developed his technique. In London he attended courses at the Actor's Centre and Webber Douglas and began to work in the theatre. He also started to

search

perform both in Italian and English. He had his first roles in *Siren* by David Williamson, *Search and Destroy* by Howard Korder, *Futuristic Soiree*, *Il Minotauro* and *Venire a Venezia* by Paolo Puppa. Later, together with Ernesto Tomasini, Marco made his debut as a playwright and took the lead role in *Camurria*, a one act play which opened at Riverside Studio, London, in June 2008.

More and more involved in Social Theatre, in 2008 Marco put on stage *Words of Honour*, an adaptation from the original book by award winning journalist Attilio Bolzoni. The play is a collection of the Mafiosi's thoughts told in the Mafia's jargon. *Words of Honour* had its world premiere at the Edinburgh Festival in August 2009 and subsequently moved to the London stage at the Jermyn Street Theatre, in Piccadilly Circus, registering 4 weeks of sold out performances. The play had its Italian debut at Piccolo Eliseo in Rome, and then toured a number of Italian cities such as Milan, Venice, Pavia, Palermo, and Florence.

In 2011, together with Manuela Ruggiero and Carolina Artegiani, Marco founded the theatre company Woh Productions.

A music lover, Marco has recently teamed with American violinist Gil Morgenstern. Their duo *Ars Vincit Omnia* is an original combination of music and words in dialogue with each other, exploring a range of literary and artistic themes.

His parallel activity as a movie and television actor has seen Marco working with various international directors and filmmakers including Tony Maylam (*The Journal of a Contract Killer*), Tom Tyckwer (*The International*) and Giacomo Campiotti (*Mai più come prima*, *La guerra sulle Montagne*, Giuseppe Moscati). His appearances on Italian television include *Il Capo dei Capi*, *Squadra Antimafia* and, more recently, the TV miniseries *Maria di Nazareth*.

DARIA BATTILANA / stage designer

While attending the course of Stage Design at the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome started many collaborations in movies and theater. Enriched by her experience in creating sets for exhibitions, installations for festivals, parties and summer events.

She spent the past two years in Barcelona and Madrid, where she worked with a theater company and attended a special course of editorial illustration.

For some years now Daria has a working relationship with the non-profit organization Fotografi Senza Frontiere. Back to Rome, where she still lives and works, she continued her career working in theater, film and illustration.

MANUELA RUGGIERO / director

Manuela Ruggiero has a degree in Drama from DAMS, Bologna and she trained both as an actress and director at Paolo Grassi Drama School in Milano. In theatre she worked with: Bob Wilson, Nanni Garella, Giampiero Solari, Pippo Delbono, Yuri Altschiz, Wanda Monaco Westerståhl, Massimo Navone. For two years she was Artistic Director of Uranusmoon theatre company, based in Rome with which she staged *Amalek*, *Dorian Grey Picture*, *The rules of the game*. Other theatre credits

staplebar

include : ***Goodbye Billie Holiday*** (playwright, director, producer), ***Rome; Words of Honour, The Mafia Exposed*** (Jermyn Street Theatre, London, at Assembly Hall, Edinburgh and Piccolo Eliseo, Rome); ***Normal*** (Teatro Technis, London). She was consultant of the director for the musical Rex Roman ***The Pink Floyd Show***, written and directed by Simon Ash. Manuela is known to the Italian public for her role as actress in the tv series ***Un Posto al Sole*** (Valentina), Centovetrine and Casa Vianello. Manuela is part of the Young Vic Genesis Directors Project and she is a founder member of Woh Productions.

GIORGIO PALMERA / lighting designer

Giorgio Palmera was born in Rome in 1968, where he currently lives and works. He is mainly a social photographer, and, supported by the European Union and Non-Governmental Organisations, he has reported from the Middle East, Africa and Central America.

Between 1996 and 1998 he spent a lot of time in Nicaragua, where he came up with the idea of running photography workshops for street kids. On the back of this experience, in 2002 he created the group Fotografi Senza Frontiere, serving as its founder and president. Photography workshops followed in Algeria, with the Saharawi population, in Palestine and Uganda. His photojournalism reports have been published in National Geographic Italia, Newsweek, Le Monde Diplomatique and L'Internazionale.

GABRIEL ZAGNI / performer and multivisual artist

Gabriel had been writing music since 1990. Between 1995 and 1999 lives in New York where performs his music and collaborates with several artists, among them Arto Lindsay, Uri Tzai, Vini-cius Cantuarina, Andres Levin, Ewyind Kang, Daniel Perlin, Diego Cortez.

In 1998 tours as a guitar player in Arto Lindsay's Band performing in Knitting Factor, Tonic, Lisbon Expo, Lugano Jazz Festival and Italy. Back to Italy in 2001 he writes musical scores for cinema and theatre and begins to work for Interact srl, a multimedia company based in Rome. Gabriel, a musician and song writer is also a compulsive photographer and had his first exhibition of his paintings on april 2009 in Florence.