

**Neon**

ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE



The **NEON Cultural Association** was founded in Catania in 1989.  
The founders were **Piero Ristagno** and **Monica Felloni**.

#### **NEON | the vision**

The right of diversity and happiness for everyone, no one excluded.

#### **NEON | the mission**

Building civilization through the relation that feels the limit as horizon, the confine and the limit as abundance of life.

#### **NEON | the thought makes reality**

NEON works in order to contribute, through Theatre, to the creation of a society based on respect for identity and life dignity, through an approach to diversity focused on relation and common wellness.



Now more than ever, we can feel the necessity to move towards that direction, overthrowing that mental blocks which, sometimes, do not allow seeing who is with us. The matter consist in modify the way of thinking towards an optic focused on relations. An evolution itinerary in which all of us have a central and responsible role to guarantee the right of happiness for everybody, no one excluded.

NEON works in this perspective, having as main point of its activity is the relationship between thought/ word/ action.

If we can think and speak together, the action will emerge together. There is not before and after, a hierarchy order, even if, usually, that is what happen.

What others think becomes fundamental; in a dialogue, the word of the other gives birth to a thought. In talking, listening, in looking for comprehension, there can be the decision of doing together, of acting together.

So, the action changes the culture. That action is the cultural action, which NEON has been conducting for almost 30 years.



## **NEON | the limit as abundance of life**

Where two ecosystem meet themselves, exactly there, at the meeting of those two systems, bugs, birds, mammals are created, being part of both systems and that, meeting in that place, they give birth to more wealth and more biodiversity.

The steppe and the woods are examples.

This issue of abundance of life happens in a place where diversities get in touch, in that territory called margin, fence, confine.

This matter – very important in farming and ecology - is a way to interpret the existence, where the different represents our opportunity to grow instead of being an occasion to separate.

Translating all this in human behavior, we should think to the extreme richness that can emerge from the meeting of people sharing love for life and living using these different behaviors, languages and expressions. From this meeting new rhythms, new times and different priorities enriching the humanity take life.

NEON theatre is not of representation, neither pulp nor pain. It is the confine, the fence, the margin, in which the resurrection, which is an awakening, happens.

It is the place of joy of people who love each other, who celebrate each other in their different way of being body and soul. NeonTheatre, through the extreme discrepancy of bodies, interprets the deploying of the sea, permitting to see the infinite drops making the wave, which meets the sand, the stone. It allows us to see every single invasion.

All NEON productions are based on the principle of recognizing, through art, the skills and capabilities of those who live in a condition of social, physical and psychological fragility and the consideration that we are all masterpieces and, as human beings, unique. Original. Extraordinary.

In its performances, NEON places on the stage actors who are "free" to act out the beauty of human beings via co-participation, **no-one excluded**.

A "path made of shapes", which focuses on the beauty of singularity and diversity, willing to acquire the culture of coexistence, with equal dignity.

**Magnifying diversity** means inventing relationships, transforming affinities, creating communities; creating theatre with disabled people demonstrates the beauty of mankind, expressing its variegated nature, the diversity of bodies and thoughts.

Behind NEON's artistic choices there is the desire to construct civility, to share a common territory through a relationship which nourishes on art and the aesthetic quality of the results achieved coincides with its moral responsibility as it pursues the aim of giving new value to the skills and capabilities of those who live in difficult conditions to exalt their rightful dignity through art.

NEON has succeeded in asserting its concept of theatre, obtaining over the years various awards, notably the "Theatres of Diversity award in November 2013, which it shared with the National Association of Theatre Critics.

At the 1st International Book Show in Turin in 2014, held in the Pavilion of the Regione Marche, the volume "NèonTeatro. La grandezza di vivere" (published by Edizioni Nuove Catarsi) was presented. The book, which is devoted entirely to the activity of NEON, was the first to be published in the "Sentiero di(f)forme" Collection (Edizioni Nuove Catarsi together with the European Magazine "Catarsi-Teatri delle diversità").



## **The Theatre and Publishing**

Through the languages of theatre and writing, the NEON Cultural Association has always worked to spread a culture based on the existential value of human beings.

Each one of us is a poem which manifests itself with all available means: the body, movement, immobility, encounters, solitude, voice, silence, emotions. Art becomes a place of discovery, where it is possible to achieve the artifice being “things” in the world.



## **THEATRICAL PRODUCTION AND PUBLISHING 2013 - 2016**

### **NESSUNO ESCLUSO (NO-ONE EXCLUDED) The Theatre of diversity**

This is a book that should be about photography. And perhaps it is. But above all it is about an experience, or rather the work, of a group of people, including our photographer, who work in an apparently diverse reality and contact (in the sense that they touch) those who in everyday life search for the vibrant harmony of feeling common and shareable. These people, who want to use different sensitivities to make their sights and smiles heard, the ones I had come to listen to, ended up by listening to my thoughts. Jessica Hauf had photographed my thoughts. How she did so, I don't know..

*Pippo Pappalardo (from the introduction to "Nessuno escluso").*

### **IL CORAGGIO È UNA COSA (COURAGE IS ONE THING)**

A book and a performance to exalt daily life by valorising Diversity.

Dario Fo wrote: "A production of life, suffering, joy and knowledge. Because only those who can talk about their condition and experience it with others can achieve a work of

art.”. *Il coraggio è una cosa* is a splendid line by Roberto Roversi and is much more than a simple phrase. It’s a way of life, a vision of existence, a challenge and also the possibility of living life fully, which comes about through a book and a performance called *Il coraggio è una cosa*.

### ***Il coraggio è una cosa – The book***

Published by NEON, Danilo Ferrari wrote it thanks to the intermediation and “translation” of Maria Stella Accolla. In a sort of diary he wrote a story not only comprising a series of questions he asked himself but also answering a number of “common” doubts about his condition.

About himself he writes: “on two feet, or rather four wheels, I find it difficult to introduce myself in a few significant words: my name is Danilo Ferrari. Perhaps that is not much to imagine me, so I’ll add that I speak a very rare language: I make signs with my eyes. It was natural for me to find this way of communicating (I have spastic-dystonic quadriplegia and no language – the brackets aren’t random but derive from the difficulty I have with hearing this diagnosis pronounced, which has always hidden what I really am).

### ***Il coraggio è una cosa – The performance***

The play is based on the poem “L’Italia sepolta sotto la neve” by Roberto Roversi. In *Il coraggio è una cosa* the director Monica Felloni gives shape to courage, that is, the by no means easy attempt to face and overcome the various crises we encounter in life, our state as human beings. An exceptional choreography connects the dialogue to music, to the spontaneous sound of a mouth organ which caresses the voice of the actors and directly involves the audience, which becomes the absolute protagonist when the images “captured” and photographed by Jessica Hauf are projected onto the backdrop of the stage. In an interpretation of Roversi’s lyrics, in *Il coraggio è una cosa*, music, script and photography interact with the actors and the audience. Of fundamental importance is the use of the body as a strong, intense, continuous physical relationship, which shows what it actually means to be close, to give life to a single body which dances in the harmonious expression of the individual imperfections of actors who alternate, change, mix together in one whole.



## **MAGNIFICAT – 25 years of the Theatre of Diversity**

*Magnificat* is a unique performance because for the first time on September 9, 2014, a company of disabled actors – and a production about the Theatre of Diversity – went on stage at the Teatro Antico in Taormina. Created to celebrate the first 25 years of the association's activity, the show is a succession of theatrical actions full of music, dance and words in a passionate but light-hearted sequence which follows the artistic path of NEON, discovering new developments. On the stage we see humankind, in all its variegated forms, which mixes with language, looks for itself in words, shows itself in gestures, coexists in relationships made of ordinary and exceptional specialities and becomes a single body only then to separate again, dancing in the silence of signs trace in space. The nucleus is communication between individuals beyond any encoding. The fulcrum of the performance is to be found in the words of Whitman – “Human bodies are words”. So the infinity of signs that the bodies on the stage express magnify the complexity of living as human beings. The poems chosen by Piero Ristagno interweave and resound in the creation of a theatrical reality in which what prevails is the sense and direction of any kind of praise: the person next to you. All deserving of attention, generous in the art of being as we appear to be. Audience participation was great and intense (over 1.000 people and a standing ovation against the magical background of the Greek Theatre in Taormina), as was the presence of the media, with national channel Rai1 broadcasting part of the afternoon dress rehearsal live during the second episode of the programme *La vita in diretta*.

## **CIATU**

A year after the big success of *Magnificat*, NèonTeatro chooses again the prestigious Ancient Theatre of Taormina to present its new 2015 production, *Ciatu* (Breath).

The show – which is part of Taormina Arte International Festival – took place on Friday August 21st 2015. Repeats of the performance are expected between the 2015 and the 2016. *Ciatu* has not linguistic limits, it is an interlace of relationships, it is an experience for actors and audience, it is an exchange of emotions through different languages on stage. *Ciatu* presents a scene-world belonging to the diversity of each actor on stage. This diversity turns into the panting in which art and nature work to generate beauty in every single form of being life. The actors, the spectators and the Theatre are together, a single entity, which inspire life, eyes in the eyes, breath in the breath and the action on stage resounds all over the audience without distances or interruptions,

giving birth to a reticulum of alive breaths. *Ciatu* is the breath of human people, which survives from the amniotic fluid and so on, until the end. It is the story of that breath.

Main narrative point of the show is the life and thought of Giordano Bruno. The human life is on stage, from the birth until the old age and human relationships, more or less content they are, interlace themselves between these temporal extremes.

Body and soul form a single deep root in Bruno, a unified thought, looking for the totality. Body and soul are not two entities, they are the person. The show registered a copious and intense participation by the spectator and by the media, which showed interest and gave high visibility to the event.

### **INVASIONI | the show**

Invasion of wheelchairs, thought, universe, hands patting, skin, words, dancing, images, climbing strings to surmount new confines and to explore the space of soul. That is what constantly happens in our existence and in this Theatre. We tell the invasion not as violent actions, of oppression, of resistance, but as mutual invasion in daily living.

The sun invades the day, the moon invades the night, the light invades always and the thought invades the day, which compose and decompose the eternity.

The actors on stage tell us about their selves, interpreting words, bodies and dreaming places, visible invasion is in the reality of the stage and invisible outside. Each of them, using their own communicative language, settled by the action of the director Monica Felloni. A composition in which the artists are the stage and the audience without barriers and the poetry, the dances, the creative action, give birth to new possible relations, soon experienced with the audience. The stage invades and is invaded and the Poetry and the Theatre are as roots invading the land and making it prolific.

Theatre that lives as in Life. In this poetry the meeting between Monica Felloni and Mustafa Sabbagh is a real alchemy. Mutual is the recognition in that space which is the border. A process in which the two visions match and their creative actions mingle in being complementary. For this production, NEON chooses Viagrande Studios; for its structural characteristics, in which the theatric action can embrace the participants in a relation always more direct and personal. NEON chooses, in this way, a "different" theatre, singular, having sizes that permit to invade and be invaded front and back, up and down, inside and outside. Without mediations. Spaces without confines in which vision/actions/diversities embrace the participants in a direct and personal direction already from the entry in the structure.

On stage for the first national on November 25<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 .



## **TRAINING AND THEATRE WORKSHOPS**

Removing the invisible dividing lines between “inside and outside”, joining up dots to reveal maps of this world and others on both imaginary and possible stages, speaking unknown languages and learning to hear – this is the path taken NEON in over 20 years with its theatre workshops.

Since 1989 NEON has held over 100 theatre workshops, focusing on bodily expression and writing poetry addressed to diverse participants. But beyond any merely therapeutic aim, the workshops help to get to know and appreciate each other, to pass through , which is not always and only that of others.

A workshop is an ideal place to explore, invent and plan concrete projects, maturing the need to discover, express, communicate, gain knowledge. It is a place where it is possible to develop a personal artistic identity, by encouraging active listening and forms of expression linked to interaction, reciprocity and co-participation.

Theatrical activity, seen as workshop activities aiming at interpersonal relationships within a group, is a valuable workspace for mutual understanding, reflection and debate for all those taking part.

Acting seen as an instrument not only for inclusion but above all for giving new value to that wealth that is difference was the starting point and point of arrival of various NEON performances and has contributed to strengthen the network of relationships the association has with various local actors.



## **THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES**

### **Antigone**

by Sophocles, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 1989

### **Cori curreri**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

with the participation of Alfio Antico

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 1989

### **I siciliani (The Sicilians)**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro del Sole - Ente Nazionale Sordomuti (National Institute for the Deaf and Dumb), 1990

### **Il sogno del marinaio (The Sailor's Dream)**

freely based on "Il marinaio" by Fernando Pessoa, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino and the Ente Nazionale Sordomuti (National Institute for the Deaf and Dumb), 1991

### **Terradaranci (The Land of Oranges)**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno, scenography by Piero Guccione

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 1991

### **Chissà se i pesci piangono (Who Knows If Fish Cry)**

freely based on the work by Danilo Dolci, directed by Monica Felloni, Piero Ristagno and Vito Minoia

Produced by the Teatro Aenigma in Urbino and the Teatro del Sole - Ente Nazionale Sordomuti (National Institute for the Deaf and Dumb), 1992

### **Il malato immaginario (Le Malade Imaginaire)**

by Molière, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro del Sole and the Ente Nazionale Sordomuti (National Institute for the Deaf and Dumb), 1993

### **I canti**

by G. Leopardi, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 1993/1994

### **La caduta della luna (The Falling of the Moon)**

freely based on "Lunaria" by Vincenzo Consolo, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro del Sole - Ente Nazionale Sordomuti (National Institute for the Deaf and Dumb), 1994

**Medea**

freely based on "Euripides" by Pier Paolo Pasolini, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 1995

**Bar New York**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 1995

**Il Re muore (The King Dies)**

freely based on the play by Eugène Ionesco, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 1996

**Studi sull' Amleto (Studies on Hamlet)**

taken from "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 1997

**Filottete (Philoctetes)**

by Euripides, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 1998

**Quello che le balene pensano degli uomini (What Whales Think of Men)**

freely based on a short story by Antonio Tabucchi, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2000

### **Canto della terra che gira (Song of the Rolling Earth)**

freely based on the poem of Walt Whitman, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2001

### **Nudi e crudi**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

with the participation of the patients of the C.T.A. S. Antonio in Piazza Armerina (EN)

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2001

### **Anfitrione (Amphitryon)**

from the play by Plautus, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 2002

### **La ruota del pavone (The Peacock's Tail)**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2002

### **Risonanze (Resonances)**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

with the participation of the patients of the C.T.A. S. Antonio in Piazza Armerina (EN)

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2002

### **Passaggio d'ali (A Passing of Wings)**

by Piero Ristagno directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2003

### **Lettere a Theo (Letters to Theo)**

by Vincent Van Gogh, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno



with the participation of the patients of the C.T.A. S. Antonio in Piazza Armerina (EN)

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2003

### **Le regioni dell'aria (The Regions of the Air)**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

with the participation of the patients of AIAS-CSR in Nicosia (EN)

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2003

### **Elegie (Elegies)**

freely based on the "Duineser Elegien" by Rainer Maria Rilke, directed by Monica Felloni and Piero Ristagno

with the participation of Felice Tagliaferri

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2004

### **Appassionati**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2004

### **Diario 2005 (Diary 2005)**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna - AIPD CT, 2005

### **La Torre (The Tower)**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 2005

### **Antigone**

by Sophocles directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2006

### **L'ombra delle parole (The Shadow of Words)**

freely based on a short story by Josè Saramago, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2007

### **Il fiore più grande del mondo (The Largest Flower in the World)**

freely based on a short story by Josè Saramago, adapted by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

with the participation of the patients of the C.S.R. in Catania

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2007

### **In nome della madre (In the Name of the Mother)**

freely based on a text by Erri de Luca, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Teatro Scalo Dittaino, 2008

### **Quando ti chiedo di Venezia (When I Ask You about Venice)**

freely based on “Le città invisibili” (Invisible Cities) by Italo Calvino and “Othello” by William Shakespeare, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2008/2009

### **Sul nascere (About to Be Born)**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

with the participation of the patients of the Opera Diocesana Assistita

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2008/2009

**Terra sconosciuta (Unknown Land)**

freely based on "Journey Towards the Unknown Island" by José Saramago, adapted by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2009

**Oltre il limite (Beyond the Limit)**

freely based on "Flying Above the World" by Angelo D'Arrigo, adapted by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2009

**Thank you Mr Down**

by Piero Ristagno and Stefania Licciardello, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2010

**L'incanto (Enchantment)**

by Piero Ristagno and Stefania Licciardello, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2011

**Neve (Snow)**

freely based on the novel by Maxence Fermine, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2011

**Il fiore, l'acqua e il bambino (The Flower, The Water, The Child)**

freely based on "The Largest Flower in the World" by José Saramago, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association and the Fondazione Auxilium, 2012

### **Illusioni (Illusions)**

by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the Compagnia Bagnati di Luna – AIPD CT, 2012

### **Il tempo della pazienza (A Time of Patience)**

freely based on “Of This World and Others” by José Saramago, directed by Monica Felloni

produced with The Parkinson’s Association in Catania

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2013

### **Messa in scena della tua libertà (Staging Your Freedom)**

by Piero Ristagno and Santino Papotto, directed by Monica Felloni

with the participation of the patients of D.S.M. in Adrano (CT)

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2013

### **Il coraggio è una cosa (Courage is One Thing)**

freely based on “L’Italia sepolta sotto la neve” by Roberto Roversi, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2013

### **Magnificat**

texts chosen by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Production to celebrate 25 years of NèonTeatro

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2014

### **Ciatu**

texts chosen by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2015

**INVASIONI dedicato a Mustafa Sabbagh**

texts chosen by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

with the participation of Mustafa Sabbagh

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2016

**BOXEURS**

texts chosen by Piero Ristagno, directed by Monica Felloni

Produced by the NEON Cultural Association, 2017



## **MEDIA**

### **Online magazines and newspaper**

More than 100 online magazines had already published news and articles about NEON activity. Most of it are web newspapers, which focus on themes linked to the regional territory. National web magazines represent also a huge part of it, above all concerning all NEON activities realized out of Sicily or for most important ones.

### **Press agencies**

NEON events were also subjects of different Press agencies, furthermore promoted into national platforms such as Adnkronos, Ansa, Italtpress, Reuters.

### **Broadcasting**

NEON news are reported by several radio broadcasting and regional and national televisions such as Rai 1, Rai 3, Rai Sport, Italia 1, Rete 4.

## **Social**

In the last semester of 2014, NEON made a renovation plan concerning its online appearance, to improve the visibility of its activities and to increase its relationships with the external world.

The new website is online from June 26th 2014.

Statistics, last updated in September 2016, are reporting a good placement into Google (index: 216), with a significant increase in accesses.

Our website is also connected with the strategic use of the most important social media: Facebook, Twitter, G+ and YouTube, where there is a channel entirely dedicated to all the audiovisual documents that can be consulted also into our website.

On Facebook, NEON keeps a daily activity, which helped to increase likes until going beyond, today, 3.500 likes, with 2.600 daily visits.

The main themes of posts concern the website update, the press review, the activities of the association and the promotion of new productions.

The same activities are repeated also on Twitter.

In the last days of May 2015, it has been created also an Instagram account, which reached 277 followers in a few days.

**Further information, photos, videos and a press review are available on:**

**[www.associazioneculturaleneon.it](http://www.associazioneculturaleneon.it)**