

La possibilità del Teatro

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From December 9th to December 14th, one could attend the exceptional event that took place at Era di Pontedera Theatre, Italy: “La possibilità del Teatro – un incontro di riflessione e confronto (*The Possibility of Theatre, an Encounter of Reflection and Confrontation*)”. The first volume (out of 4) of the Italian edition of Grotowski’s Collected Texts, under Carla Pollastrelli’s careful survey, was released, in a beautiful format, at the Casa Usher Publishing House. On that occasion, Fondazione Pontedera Teatro together with the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards organized an International Meeting devoted to the topics emerging from the early texts of Grotowski’s. A number of lectures and round tables gathered famous personalities of the world of Theatre, a large number of critics, directors and theatre makers who have read, have known or have been close to Jerzy Grotowski and his heirs.

Besides the exceptional quality of the performances and concerts given by the two groups of the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards, led by Thomas Richards and Mario Biagini, the company of these wonderful people and artists was overwhelming. We thus thank Roberto Bacci, the director of The Fondazione Pontedera Teatro, Carla Pollastrelli and the whole team for making this real human and theatrical meeting possible.

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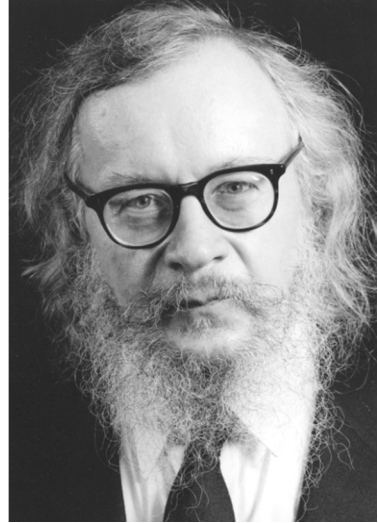


At the encounter in Pontedera with Mario Biagini, Renata Molinari, Carla Pollastrelli and Roberto Bacci (photo Ștefana Pop-Curșeu)



At the encounter in Pontedera with Georges Banu, Goffredo Fofi, Piergiorgio Giacchè, Thomas Richards and Mario Biagini (photo Ștefana Pop-Curșeu)

The Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski was founded in 1986 in Pontedera, Italy at the invitation of the Centro per la Sperimentazione e la Ricerca Teatrale of Pontedera, Italy (now: Fondazione Pontedera Teatro). It is here that for the last thirteen years of his life Grotowski developed a line of performance research known as Art as vehicle, which he continued until his death in 1999. Within this creative investigation, he worked very closely with Thomas Richards whom he called his “essential collaborator,” eventually changing the name of the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski to include that of Richards. During these thirteen years of intense practical work, Grotowski transmitted to Richards the fruit of his lifetime research, what he referred to as “the *inner* aspect of the work.” Grotowski entrusted Richards and Mario Biagini, a key member of the Workcenter team since its beginnings, as the sole legatees of his Estate, which includes his entire body of written work. Grotowski specified that this designation constituted a confirmation of his “family of work.” Since 1999, acting as the Workcenter’s Artistic Director and Associate Director, respectively, Richards and Biagini continue to develop the Workcenter’s line of performance research. Today, the Workcenter is comprised of 18 artists from 9 countries.¹



¹ See <http://www.theworkcenter.org>.

