



Thursday 24 October 8.30 p.m.

## POETRY CONFERENCE

# Pedagogia Povera: get afflicted with wonder

By and with Antonio Catalano



Antonio Catalano offers a poetic encounter to talk about childhood as the age of wonder. Children are educators, philosophers and poets, they teach us to be there and nowhere else, to get rid of superstructures, to be amazed, to play and to create with simple, poor, essential materials.

Childhood is a suspended, light, timeless place that drives us to get in touch with other souls, in order to live with fragility, tenderness, vulnerability, understanding.

Indeed, childhood inspired the levity of the great painters of the twentieth century: Paul Klee invited visitors to his exhibitions to go to kindergartens to understand the essence of the world.

Pedagogia Povera is the praise of the "fool", who still knows how to be amazed. It's an invitation to "lose ourselves with our eyes in the infinite skies, to not fear exploring that planet no eye can see, to give ourselves over to the whisper, the vertigo, to surrender to the moon, howling in the woods, mimicking the fish, moving our arms like wings, to feel free in inhabiting imaginary worlds: those worlds that are beside us, that take us by the hand and accompany us, cradling us in the abandonment of childhood, where words were not yet full of meaning, but full of the sounds of wind, rain, of shouts, of cries of joy".

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In collaborazione con

Antonio Catalano

After years on the Italian experimental theatre scene, Antonio Catalano, together with Maurizio Agostinetti, scenographer and graphic artist, Luciano Nattino, writer and director, and Lorenza Zambon, actress and writer, founded the theatre company Casa degli Alfieri, a research organisation in the arts field, based in their own house-theatre in the heart of Monferrato.

In 1999, his major interactive art project, UNIVERSI SENSIBILI, was born, debuting with the installation "Armadi sensibili" at the Venice Biennale.

Since then, the artist has moved away from traditional concepts of performance, focusing instead on creating artistic and festive encounters that engage visitors of all ages, aiming to inspire poetry, emotion, and wonder. He has been working on new large-scale installations and art projects in co-production and collaboration with major national and international organisations, including *Piccolo Teatro in Milan*, *Teatro delle Criciole in Parma*, *Teatro Kismet in Bari*, *Festival Teatralia in Madrid*, *Centro Cultural de Belem in Lisbon*, *Teatrum na Sepukhovke in Moscow*, *Festival Sobrevento in São Paulo, Brazil*, *Festival Excentrique in Orléans*, *Festival La Montagne Magique in Brussels*.

In addition to creating many 'Universi sensibili' (imaginary worlds filled with poetry, celebration, wonder) across Europe, he also writes, tells, and sings stories, both sonical and silent. He has gathered these stories, along with his drawings and sketches, in several publications and in two CDs produced with Matteo Ravizza and other musician friends. From 2013 to 2019 he created SPAZIO D'ARTE MAGOPOVERO an exhibition, creative, and artistic space where he showcased the poetic journeys and works created over the years around the world, hosting numerous events, workshops, and performances.

Antonio Catalano is promoting the poetic movement of 'Pedagogia Povera' worldwide, which encompasses educational, workshop, narrative, and performance activities.

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#### INFORMATIONS

Reservation +41 (0)79 646 16 14

Online: [www.teatrosanmaterno.ch](http://www.teatrosanmaterno.ch)

FREE ENTRANCE

Teatro San Materno is accessible to wheelchairs (non-electric) and people with disabilities.