



MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY

Montclair State University

Montclair State University Digital
Commons

2017-2018 Women Innovators in the
Performing Arts

PEAK Performances Programming History

11-16-2017

Le Sorelle Macaluso (The Sisters Macaluso)

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming

PEAK Performances at Montclair State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/peak-performances-2017-2018>



Part of the [Theatre and Performance Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Office of Arts + Cultural Programming and PEAK Performances at Montclair State University, "Le Sorelle Macaluso (The Sisters Macaluso)" (2017). *2017-2018 Women Innovators in the Performing Arts*. 5. <https://digitalcommons.montclair.edu/peak-performances-2017-2018/5>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the PEAK Performances Programming History at Montclair State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2017-2018 Women Innovators in the Performing Arts by an authorized administrator of Montclair State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@montclair.edu.



U.S. Premiere!

Emma Dante/Compagnia Sud Costa Occidentale

Le Sorelle Macaluso
(The Sisters Macaluso)



Photo credit: Carmine Maringola

November 16–19, 2017

Alexander Kasser Theater

**Arts + Cultural
Programming**



**MONTCLAIR STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Dr. Susan A. Cole, President
Daniel Gurskis, Dean, College of the Arts
Jedediah Wheeler, Executive Director, Arts & Cultural Programming

U.S. Premiere!

Emma Dante/Compagnia Sud Costa Occidentale

Le Sorelle Macaluso **(The Sisters Macaluso)**

Written and directed by **Emma Dante**

Performers **Serena Barone, Elena Borgogni, Sandro Maria Campagna, Italia Carroccio, Davide Celona, Marcella Colaianni, Alessandra Fazzino, Daniela Macaluso, Leonarda Saffi, Stephanie Taillandier**

Lighting Design **Cristian Zucaro**

Armor Design **Gaetano Lo Monaco Celano**

Administrator **Sandra Ghetti**

Assistant Director **Daniela Gusmano**

International Management **Aldo Miguel Grompone**

Coproduction: Teatro Stabile di Napoli, Théâtre National (Bruxelles),
Festival d'Avignon, Folkteatern (Göteborg),
in collaboration with Atto Unico/Compagnia Sud Costa Occidentale,
in partnership with Teatrul National Radu Stanca—Sibiu.

With the support of the Program Culture of the European Union.

CITTA IN SCENA
CITIES ON STAGE



Cultura

English supertitles by Montclair State University student Marta Russoniello,
supervised by Dr. Marisa Trubiano and Dr. Teresa Fiore (Italian Program,
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures).

Supertitles operated by Simona Renieri-Kane.

Arts & Cultural Programming | Peak Performances gratefully acknowledges the invaluable collaboration with the Inserra Chair in Italian and Italian American Studies and the Italian Program (Department of Modern Languages and Literatures) at Montclair State University.

The Inserra Chair is an endowed position devoted to the promotion of Italian culture with particular emphasis on its meaning and relevance in the international scene, and especially in the U.S. and in New Jersey, as a result of people's migrations and the exchange of ideas, practices, and goods over the centuries.

Duration: 70 minutes, no intermission.

In consideration of both audiences and performers, please turn off all electronic devices. The taking of photographs or videos and the use of recording equipment are not permitted. No food or drink is permitted in the theater.

Program Notes

The characters involved are gathered together mourning the death of a family member and preparing for the funeral. Members of the family, both living and dead, are presented without distinction as the story unfolds.

This piece is inspired by a short story a friend once recalled to me. His grandmother, delirious from disease, one night called out screaming, "Am I alive or dead?!" Her daughter replied, "Alive, you're alive!" The mother responded, "Yes, alive! I've been dead a long time, and you didn't tell me so as not to scare me."

The scene is empty and dark. Suddenly a body lunges on stage from the obscurity. It is a woman. Adult. Scarred. Behind her appear faces of both the living and the dead in mourning attire. This group advances toward us with a sure step. A dancing woman joins this procession. The sisters Macaluso appear as a flock of birds suspended between the earth and the sky. In a state of confusion between life and death.

The family is composed of seven sisters there to reminisce, to cast blame, to dream, to cry, and to laugh about their own stories. We are at the funeral of one of them. At the border between here and there, what is and what was, for now and evermore, spirits are ready to take away the deceased.

This is a family in transition from lightness to dark. A young father appears to his daughter in her fifties, a mother grasps her husband in an eternal embrace. The remnants of dreams are suspended in loneliness and the deceased are boldly in front of us.

—*Emma Dante*

About the Artist

Emma Dante (Writer/Director) was born in Palermo, Italy, in 1967. She graduated from the National Academy of Dramatic Art in Rome with degrees in Dramaturgy and Direction. She founded the Compagnia Sud Costa Occidentale in 1999. She has received various prizes and awards. In 2001 she received both the Scenario Prize for the show *mPalermu* and the Lo Straniero Prize for emerging director. In 2002 she won the Ubu prize for best playwright. In 2003 she won the Ubu award for *Carnezzeria* for best play. In 2004 she won the Gassman award for best director as well as the National Association of Theater Critics prize for dramaturgy and direction. In 2005 she was awarded the Golden Graal prize for best director of a play for *Medea*.

Dante wrote and directed *Le Sorelle Macaluso*, which premiered at the Teatro Mercadante di Napoli and was co-produced by the National Theater of Brussels and the Avignon Festival. *Le Sorelle Macaluso* went on to win the Le Maschere award for best show of the year, the Critics Prize, and the Ubu award for direction and best performance in 2014.

Dante has produced work presented at La Scala and the Teatro Massimo di Palermo, among other venues.

About the Company

Compagnia Sud Costa Occidentale was founded in Palermo in August 1999 by Emma Dante. After years of being forced to hide due to strong indifference on the part of local institutions and theaters, in April 2008 the company took root in Palermo in a basement on via Polito, behind the former cultural site Cantieri Culturali della Zisa. The house, called the “Vicaria,” is a former shoe factory. In addition to offering theater classes through a permanent lab, the Vicaria has developed important debates, exhibitions, performances, meetings, and events that have freed it from the official flag of representational theater. It is no coincidence that the associates participating in the activities were, above all, ordinary citizens rather than those in the know.

Compagnia Sud Costa Occidentale has never been funded by public money and has always lived off of sales revenues from the shows self-produced or produced by other theaters. It is composed of actors coming from different experiences who are confronted with projects where a single show is never stopped, never ending or ever resuming, but widening and narrowing as the case may be. Its way of doing theater does not hold prisoners and is always open to those direct infections that give a sense of intellectual freedom. Different people with different specifics and talents came close to the company’s approach and have temporarily shared the tiring and rigorous exploration of its theater, allowing the beating heart of the company to be even stronger and more compact.

The starting point of the company’s research arises, essentially, from sin and from the worst that the actor has to offer as an act of love. The actor is called to say it entirely, without shame, in order to overcome that sense of ridicule that hinders the creative encounter. And above all, the actor is invited to forget about the ego, that predominant and vulgar ego that pushes away from the true objective of art: the need for a profound reflection on life.

Compagnia Sud Costa Occidentale does not care about the result; the “show” is just the point of arrival of a paradoxical reinterpretation of reality that becomes language, where the sign is not the message, the map is not the territory. A show is a “theorem

of the lie,” where a sign is used to lie, to play, is an expression of the liar’s paradox: “What I’m doing is not what I’m doing.” It is essential for the company to discover the ribs, to apply its talent to an artistic process and train every day to make this life experience available to its performers. They want to enter consciously into a process of authorship to generate words before pronouncing them.

Founder Emma Dante says, “I do not like actors who know how to play, nor the artists who identify themselves with their idea of doing art. I play with theater as if I played my life! For me, the artistic gesture of greatest value is the offering of one’s own misery and dignity. Etty Hillesum wrote, ‘The only thing that counts is to humbly offer one’s own self as a battlefield.’”

Staff

Office of Arts & Cultural Programming

Executive Director **Jedediah Wheeler**

Executive Producer **Jill Dombrowski**

Business Manager **Stephanie Haggerstone**

Production/Facility Manager **J. Ryan Graves**

Cultural Engagement Director **Carrie Urbanic**

Media and Marketing Director **Amy Estes**

Director of Audience Services **Robert Hermida**

Program Administrator **Brett Wellman Messenger**

Technical Director **Colin Van Horn**

Audio Visual Engineer **Erik Trester**

Master Stage Electrician **Andrew R. Wilsey**

Box Office Manager **Jeffrey Wingfield**

Cultural Engagement Assistant **Hannah Rolfes**

Media and Marketing Assistant **Melissa Bilecky**

House Manager **Maureen Grimaldi**

Graphics **Patrick Flood/Flood Design**

Press **Blake Zidell & Associates**

Program Editor **Susan R. Case**

Program Design **Bart Solenthaler/Bart&Co.**

Production Run Crew **Christopher Ollo, Ian O'Loughlin, Corin Wright**
Program Assistant **Ava Deutch**

College of the Arts

Dean **Daniel Gurskis**

Associate Dean **Ronald L. Sharps**

Assistant Dean **Linda D. Davidson**

Director of Administration **Marie Sparks**

College Administrator **Zacrah S. Battle**

Art and Design **Livia Alexander**

John J. Cali School of Music **Jon Robert Cart**

School of Communication and Media **Keith Strudler**

Theatre and Dance **Randy Mogleston**

Broadcast and Media Operations **Nick Tzanis**

University Art Galleries **Teresa Rodriguez**

The **Office of Arts & Cultural Programming** (ACP) enhances the cultural, creative, and academic life of the Montclair State campus and the broader community. Its signature program, Peak Performances, features innovative works by international contemporary artists of exceptional merit, and by the next generation of great artists training at Montclair State University's College of the Arts. Through its Cultural Engagement program, ACP offers master classes, workshops, lectures, and discussions designed to deepen participants' understanding of the aesthetic, cultural, and social contexts of the performances presented.

ACP gratefully acknowledges our student staff and volunteers:

Peak Ambassadors **Brian Lanigan, Emily Leddy, Waverley Leung,**
Hailey Nichols, Lauren O'Brien

Assistant House Managers **Zsaira Davis, Steven Ruiz**

Box Office Representatives **Alexis Amore, Jamie Bacher, Jose Baez,**
Peace Biyibioku, Carrie Bohn, Nicole Casey, Lydia Dlugosz, Noelle Florio,
Ameer Gonzalez, Georgia Ikeachumba, Kaitlyn Karlstein, Duha Tahboub,
Angelica Ubiera, Tashae Udo, Cierra Williams

Ushers **Carlos Andrade, Joshika Andersson, Beatrice Bermudez,**

Michael Borrás, Ariadna Camayo, William Collins, Tatiana Copeland,
Dominic Croce, Andrew DeSisto, Lisa Devereaux, Jenna Eberhardt,
Dana Galassa, Yarixa German, Cesar Gonzalez, Adriana Guerrero,
Valerie Jaretsky, Azariah Johnson, Jonathan Johnson, Andre Lebron,
Waverley Leung, Gabriel Lillianthal, Jeffrey McClellan, Ivy Meyer,
Brooke Olsen, Joseph Respicio, Angela Rosado, Carol Rotella,
Andrew Russel, Therese Sheridan, MaryRose Spinella, Templar Wright,
Journie Zarate

Programs in this season are made possible in part by funds from:

The National Endowment for the Arts



The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts



New England Foundation for the Arts' National Dance Project, with lead funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation



Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation



Peak Patrons: Mark Adamo, Adam Adams, Linder Andlinger, Joseph Canderozzi, Julie Cerf, Kara Cross, Alison and James T. Cirenza, Joanna Conrad, Alyce Dissette, Elisabeth Gitelle, Brian McDonough, Frank Niccoletti, Mark Peroff, Rebecca Sager, Martin Wechsler

To view our complete season and for more information, visit peakperfs.org.

Find us on 

 @peakperfs

 @peakperfs