

WINNERS

a multimedia music action by Fabrica and Brisbane Festival

WINNERS is a multimedia music project created by Fabrica Musica and Brisbane Festival. The project explores - through music and performance - the culture of victory - the common political and social tendency to categorize people, nations, cultures and human issues as winners and losers. This theme is expressed through the intimate, personal recounts from the victims of five locations who witnessed catastrophic events of conflict, attack and senseless violence (New York, USA; Sharpeville, Johannesburg, South Africa; Dresden, Germany; Ayutthaya, Thailand; Wallatina, South Australia), as well as through the contributions of people who are suffering from an illness with a fatal prognosis. Those interviews were realized through the collaboration with the Palliative Care Centre at Turin's S. Giovanni Battista Hospital, the Beth Israel Medical Centre in New York and the Palliative Care Unit Centre Hospitalo- Universitaire of the Red Cross in Lyon.

WINNERS belongs to the tradition of Fabrica projects centered around social topics and it is another endeavor to place artistic and technological research within the context of social issues.

Andrea Molino and **Lyndon Terracini** are the **artistic directors** of the project. Andrea Molino, composer and conductor of the work, is head of Fabrica Musica. Lyndon Terracini, who directed the show, is artistic director of Brisbane Festival, which presented the World Premiere of WINNERS as part of its 2006 program

WINNERS is a global project. Different languages and disciplines complement one another to build a new form of communication. Music, video, theatre, arts, design and new communication technologies amalgamate to become an integral part of the project..

Fabrica's young artists, from the different fields of art and communication, have been actively involved in the creative process. The celebrated Australian percussion group **TaikOz** and **The Queensland Orchestra** also participated in the World Premiere performance.

The development and use of avant-garde communication technologies form a particularly important part of the WINNERS project. **The performance integrates audio/video links with musicians, singers, performers and video excerpts out of interviews,** in which the theme of "winners and losers" is particularly prevalent.

Five locations have been chosen for their symbolic connection to an historical event. The specific selection of musicians of these countries creates a strong dramaturgical statement.

SHARPEVILLE, South Africa. In 1960, during a non-violent demonstration, the police killed 69 coloured people, including women and children, and wounded approximately 180. The date of this massacre is now known as the UN Human Rights Day for Africa, and was chosen by Nelson Mandela to mark the signing of the new South African Constitution, becoming also a symbol for the present Reconciliation process.

AYUTTHAYA, Thailand. The ancient capital of the Siamese Kingdom, site of the most beautiful city in the world (with approximately one million inhabitants in 1700), was attacked and conquered in 1767 by the Burmese. It was re-conquered by the Siamese, lost again and again re-conquered. The city at that point was so damaged that the Siamese had to relocate the capital to Bangkok. The ruins of Ayutthaya are now a fascinating open air museum.

DRESDEN, Germany. In February 1945 World War II was almost over; nevertheless, the “German Florence” was bombed to the ground by the Allied Forces. The attack killed more than 20,000 people and completely destroyed the town. Since then, a sometimes misused debate about the justification of such an attack has ensued.

NEW YORK, USA. The terrorist attack which destroyed the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001 has become a globally recognized catastrophe, with resonance of international impact, whose emotional and symbolic meaning reaches far beyond the event as such.

WALLATINA, South Australia. As part of the British atomic weapons testing program (1953-57), the arid rangelands of Wallatina, South Australia were subject to the detonation of nine major nuclear bombs, and 700 “Minor Trials”.

The radioactive exposure of these tests was extensive and dense radioactive clouds traveled far, causing much sickness and death of surrounding communities (which were predominately aboriginal and recruited servicemen).

The Brisbane Festival presented the World Premiere of WINNERS on 22 July 2006 as part of its festival program. The project will then tour internationally with a core ensemble and will incorporate and respond to the “place of presentation” wherever possible.

F A B R I C A