

WINNERS

a multimedia music action by Fabrica and Brisbane Festival

At the Centre Pompidou in Paris on October 22 2006.

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 that had its European Premiere at the Centre Pompidou in Paris within the exhibition ***Fabrica: les yeux ouverts*** from October 6th to November 6th 2006. 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, were actively involved in the creative process. The celebrated Australian percussion group **TaikOz** performed for their first time in Paris, together with the **Dresdner Sinfoniker**.

The development and use of avant-garde communication technologies formed a particularly important part of the WINNERS project. **The performance integrated 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 Centre Pompidou presented the European Premiere of WINNERS on 18 October 2006 as part of the music program of the Fabrica exhibition *Fabrica: les yeux ouverts*.

Grand Salle at 08.30 pm

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