

FONDAZIONE PRADA PRESENTS "ATTRAVERSO I MURI DI BRUMA", A DANCE PROJECT BY BILLY COWIE FROM 28 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2016 IN MILAN

Milan, 26 September 2016 – Fondazione Prada will present "Attraverso i muri di bruma" (Through Walls of Mist), a choreographic project conceived by Billy Cowie for its Milan venue. Developed in collaboration with Civica Scuola di Teatro Paolo Grassi, whose director is Giampiero Solari, "Attraverso i muri di bruma" will involve 11 newly-graduated dancers of the Course in Dance Theatre, led by Marinella Guatterini, advisor to the project. The performances which are open to the public will take place from Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 September 2016, from 8:30 to 10:30 pm. Admission is free, upon reservation.

"Attraverso i muri di bruma" is the second performing arts project to be hosted by Fondazione Prada with the intention of expanding its cultural program and exploring other instruments of research beyond visual arts. Moreover, this project represents not only an important opportunity for collaboration with a group of young dancers, but also with a renowned educational institution such as Civica Scuola di Teatro Paolo Grassi, which has hosted the Course in Dance Theatre since 1986, well known for training and further specialization of choreographers, performers and contemporary dancers.

Billy Cowie, a Scottish choreographer, musician, writer and visual artist, acclaimed worldwide for his stereoscopic performances and video installations, has conceived a site-specific project that includes music, video projections and live choreography for the spaces of Fondazione Prada. In this regard Cowie says: "As I wrote in my book *Anarchic Dance* (2006) – 'the regulation black box space of so much performance is not only flat in terms of visibility it is physically flat as well. One obvious answer to the ubiquitous black box is the site-specific dance work where the choreographer can indeed use the vertical dimension—stairs, balconies, hills, etc.—and where a wealth of visually interesting contexts can inform the work.' I could have been writing then about this piece for the amazing spaces of Fondazione Prada where there is indeed a wealth of spaces and visual textures". According to this vision, "instead of passive captives the spectators became explorers seeking out the best vantage points, moving with the dancers, leaving when they have had enough, returning when they want more, bringing their friends, talking even!".

The title "Attraverso i muri di bruma" (Through Walls of Mist) refers in part to the poem *Sei es So* (Let it be) by the German poet Silke Mansholt, visual designer of the project, who co-authored with Cowie the texts of the work which also includes some poems by Federico García Lorca. The title refers even to the twilight world of the 3D dance, a handcrafted technology that Cowie has been developing since 2002, achieving sophisticated and poetic outcomes.

In the first part of "Attraverso i muri di bruma" seven events will happen simultaneously: *Noche de Quatro Lunas* (a dancer will perform a duet with a tree accompanied by a poem

by Lorca), *Retrospettiva* (a screening of 3D films by Cowie such as *Art of Movement*, *Jenseits*, *Tango de Soledad*, *t'es pas la seule*, and *Under Flat Sky* to be presented at the Cinema), *Casa di Nebbia 1* (a large 3D projection of dance on the external wall of the Sud gallery), *Danza di Paura* (two dancers' performance on the balcony of the Haunted House), *BEH!* (a four dancers' interactive choreography held on the ground floor of the Biblioteca with a text exploring the subtler nuances of the Italian language), *Herz* (a performance held on the terrace of the Nord gallery, accompanied by the song *Herz*), *Casa di Nebbia 2* (the same choreography of *Casa di Nebbia 1*, but performed live within the Nord gallery).

The second part of "Attraverso i muri di bruma" will be held in the courtyard between the Cinema and the Podium buildings. The audience will be invited to gather in the space to attend a final event where the eleven dancers will perform in front of the mirror walls of the Cinema. A series of unison ensemble works using the Mansholt Lieder (sung by Rowan Godel) will be interspersed with solos employing the same texts translated in Italian.

**Press contacts**

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**Information for the public**

Access to “Attraverso i muri di bruma” is free. Booking is required by calling +39 02 56 66 26 13, from Monday to Friday, from 10 am to 6 pm. Tickets can be collected at the entrance of the venue on the evening of the performance, from 8 to 8.30 pm. It is possible to book up to 4 tickets at a time. Please note that there is no assigned seating. The audience will be able to move freely inside the venue for the entire duration of the performances.

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**“Attraverso i muri di bruma” – credits**

A project by Billy Cowie presented by Fondazione Prada, in collaboration with the Civica Scuola di Teatro Paolo Grassi, directed by Giampiero Solari.

Music and Choreography: Billy Cowie  
Advisor: Marinella Guatterini  
Texts: Silke Mansholt, Billy Cowie, Federico García Lorca  
Poem Translations: Sabrina Fraternali  
Dancers: Chiara Aru, Sebastiano Geronimo, Giacomo Goina, Luciano Ariel Lanza, Erica Meucci, Flora Orciari, Daniele Podda, Luana Rossin, Francesca Siracusa, Loredana Tarnovschi, Cecilia Maria Tragni (newly-graduated dancers of Course in Dance Theatre of Civica Scuola di Teatro Paolo Grassi)  
Singers: Rowan Godel, Daphne Scott-Sawyer  
Designs: Silke Mansholt  
Costumes and Props: Enza Bianchini, Nunzia, Roberto Manzotti  
Rehearsal Assistant: Loredana Tarnovschi  
Technical Assistant: Gabriele Gerets Albanese  
Production: Fondazione Prada

**Billy Cowie – biographical notes**

Billy Cowie is one of the UK's most established dance makers, having choreographed over twenty works for his company Divas Dance Theatre which toured Northern Europe extensively in the 1990s and numerous commissions for other UK dance companies including Mantis, Transitions, High Spin, Intoto and Extemporary Dance Theatre.

His dance films include *Motion Control* and *Beethoven in Love* (both for BBC2); *Break* and *Tango Brasileiro* (both made for Channel 4). A book about this work including 3 hour DVD entitled *Anarchic Dance* was published in 2006 by *Routledge*. Cowie's first novel *Passenger* was published by Old Street and has since been released in Italian and French under the titles *Due in Uno* and *L'incluse*.

More recently his 3D dance pieces have been installed in 33 countries (including retrospectives in Sao Paulo, Kyoto, New York, Bucharest, St. Petersburg) on six continents. In Italy his works have been presented at Teatro a Corte festival in Turin since 2010. Awards include the Jury Prize at FCDIDL 2013 (Festival Culturel International de la Danse Contemporaine), Czech Crystal Golden Prague Award, Delegates Prize at IMZ (International Dance Screen Festival 2007) in Hague. His *Art of Movement* (commissioned by the Kyoto Experiment Festival in Japan) combines 3D projected dancers with real live performers who are indistinguishable from each other and has had over 60 performances in 12 countries.

In 2014 he was commissioned by Museum of Art, Kochi in Japan to make *Under Flat Sky*, whereas *Tangos Cubanos* was commissioned by *Danza Contemporanea de Cuba* premiering in Havana in February 2015. His most recent work, *Shakespeare Needs You*, commissioned by Festival Bo:m, premiered in 2016 in Seoul, Korea. Billy Cowie will open the second edition of the Dance Theatre Festival "Morsi" of Civica Scuola di Teatro Paolo Grassi on 17 October 2016 in Milan.

[www.billycowie.com](http://www.billycowie.com)