



Francesco



il Musical

la Repubblica
"Nel Musical di Francesco
la devozione è poesia".
Alvise Sapori

CORRIERE DELLA SERA
"San Francesco, il Musical
commuove Assisi...
immerso di applausi".
Maurizio Porro

LA STAMPA
"Squisite invenzioni della
"Copia Pescucci-Ferretti".
Masolino D'Amico

Il Messaggero
"Sorprendente, fantastico...
e davvero incredibile".
Patrizia Saladini

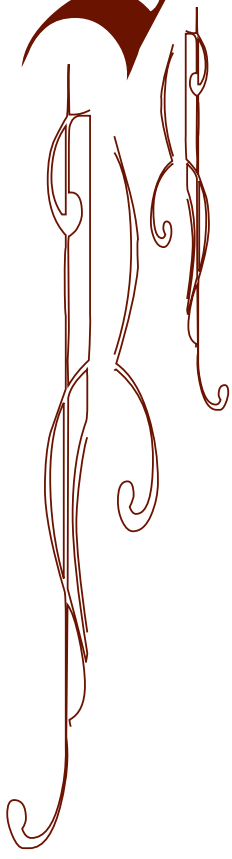
il Giornale
"Il Francesco di Cerami
vuole l'immortalità".
Enrico Groppali

IL TEMPO
"Emozioni tra danza
e flash-back".
Tonino Scaroni

L'Unità
"Francesco, il Musical.
Un Successo".
Antonella Marrone


"S. Francesco Superstar.
Kolossal da palcoscenico".

Show Concept et History



The life of Francesco told in dramatic form to enlighten and inspire persons throughout the world was first envisioned by Francesco's creator Richard C. Leach who sought to bring the story of Francesco to life for all audiences via the musical art form. Dick Leach's passion for this creation began in 1986 and attained acute form in 1997 after a tour of Assisi in the wake of the earthquakes which devastated the area. In cooperation with the city of Assisi, a theater (the Lyrick Theater) was built specifically to house Francesco for all those who come from throughout the world to hear his story as well as for all those tourists interested in viewing an absolutely unique spectacular which happens to be about a world revered poet/philosopher and saint. Concurrently, a group of renowned artists were gathered for the work of creating the finest show possible for the stage. The show was put into a format appealing to eclectic audiences, from the spiritually motivated to those interested in excellence in music and drama, to those interested in a very extraordinary human story, this show delivers over a spectrum of interests as we travel the episodes of Francesco's life.

The show was produced and opened in 2000 to critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences throughout the season. In the hiatus of the season, plans were made to strengthen the already formidable work, and to make it more mobile for touring. However, the original creator of the show passed away just at the crest of completing the accomplishment. Since that time the show has been dormant, awaiting the proper circumstances to be restaged: those circumstances now exist to work with the original creative team and bring Francesco to new life.



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The Creative Collaborators



Vincenzo Cerami, *Writer - Oscar Winner*

Vincenzo Cerami has had an extensive literary career as a poet, novelist and dramatist for the past 30 years and is one of the most celebrated contemporary artists of Italy today. Mr. Cerami has worked prolifically in theater, cinema and television. Mr. Cerami is perhaps best known internationally for his work on "Life is Beautiful" which garnered seven Oscar nominations and three Academy Awards.



Benoit Jutras, *Composer*

French-Canadian composer, Benoit Jutras, has been Music Director and Principal Composer for the world-renowned and critically acclaimed Cirque du Soleil including the shows: "O," "La Nouba," "Mystère," and "Quidam," which is currently touring Australia and Singapore. Benoit's newest non-Cirque production "Le Reve" was produced in collaboration with

director Franco Dragone for Steve Wynn's new megaresort in Las Vegas. Benoit's extensive credits also includes film and television soundtracks, most recently "Far Side Of The Moon" for Robert Le Page.

Dante Ferretti, *Production Designer - Oscar Winner*

Dante Ferretti has worked with the foremost directors of our generation including Federico Fellini, Jean Jacques Annaud, Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola. Mr. Ferretti has received a number of rewards for his work including six Oscar nominations and an Academy Award for his work on "The Aviator."

Gabriella Pescucci, *Costume Designer - Oscar Winner*

Gabriella Pescucci has worked on a number of acclaimed productions with a wide range of artists such as Roland Jaffe, Sergio Leone and Federico Fellini. Ms. Pescucci has received a multitude of awards which includes an Academy Award for her work with Martin Scorsese on "The Age of Innocence."

Capturing the Audience

The episodes of Francesco's early life are interwoven beautifully in episodic form by the Oscar award-winning writer, Vincenzo Cerami. We view the youthful reveler, aristocrat and soldier who transformed into a man of the greatest convictions with regard to the brotherhood of mankind and peace among all humanity as he valorously challenges the Sultan who ruled half the known world.

The central episode of the show is Francesco's trial before his family and a church tribunal, where he stands the foremost rebel, but in reality, the foremost patriot of the Christian philosophy, adhering to the strictest tenants of Christianity, sacrificing all the fruits of his former life, at the height of contemporary society, to labor in poverty for his faith.

Francesco's life as poet, philosopher and soul mate of his life-long love, Chiara are spiritedly retold as we view their life and commitment together within the societies of faith they founded. Interspersed amid all the action of the work are joyous scenes of Francesco with his followers: brothers and sisters, in a life that demanded every hardship without regard to reward, possessing merely his love of God, of nature and of humankind.

All the passages of Francesco have modern relevance as contemporary society faces all the challenges that were the theme of his life with questions of war and peace, globalism and natural conservancy, spiritual ennui and faith.





The Parallel

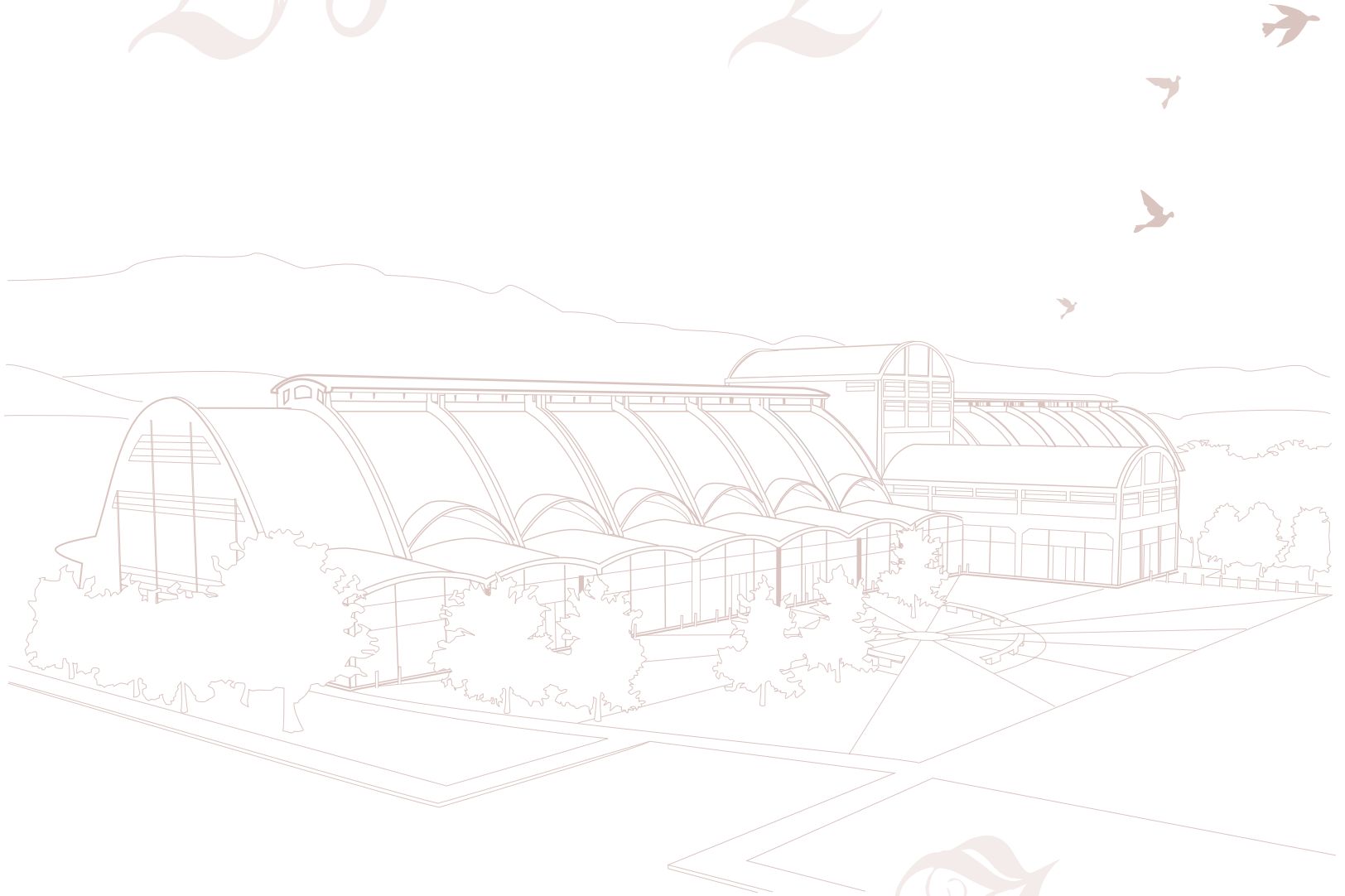
The essence of Francesco's life is made accessible by the parallel character development of the novice Leonardo, who is told of the many actions of Francesco even as he is deciding whether to join in the early days of the fellowship.

He is the oracle through which we see the brilliance of Francesco's life, philosophy and humanity. Leonardo is the everyman of the show, curious in his pursuit of life and subject to temptation even as he is pursuing a path of consciousness and virtue.

Leonardo struggles to comprehend this great man even as the audience does. The audience is illuminated by the tale viewed through Leonardo's eyes and life's circumstances.



the Lyrick Theater



city of Assisi

Songs

1. *The Brothers' Canto*
2. *Francesco's Song*
3. *The Snow Woman*
4. *War Canto*
5. *Turkish Lament*
6. *Song of the Birds*
7. *Nativity Duet*
8. *The Party*
9. *Glories of War*
10. *Battle of Perugia*
11. *Poverty*
12. *The Trial*
13. *Chiara's Song*
14. *Chiara's Vocation*
15. *Devil's Song*
16. *Brothers' Refrain*
17. *Hayfield*
18. *Stigmata*
19. *Chiara & Francesco's Duet*
20. *Francesco's Farewell*
21. *Francesco's Death*

Selected Scenes

1. *The Brothers' Canto*
2. *Francesco's Song*
3. *Turkish Lament*
4. *Battle of Perugia*
5. *Poverty*
6. *The Trial*
7. *Nativity Duet*
8. *Chiara and Francesco's Duet:*
9. *Song of the Birds*

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