



# Advance Program Notes

*BLEU!*

Compagnia TPO

Thursday, May 29, 2014, 7 pm

Friday, May 30, 2014, 7 pm

Saturday, May 31, 2014, 10 am, 3 pm, and 7 pm

These Advance Program Notes are provided online for our patrons who like to read about performances ahead of time. Printed programs will be provided to patrons at the performances. Programs are subject to change.

*ArKtype presents*

## Compagnia TPO

*BLEU!*

*in co-production with Teatro Metastasio Stabile della Toscana*

**Artistic direction:** Francesco Gandi and Davide Venturini

**Choreography:** Anna Balducci

**Performers:** Cristina D'Alberto and Luca Tomao

**Visual environment:** Elsa Mersi

**Sound environment:** Spartaco Cortesi

**Computer programming and interactive systems:** Rossano Monti

**Audio and video technicians:** Francesco Taddei, Niccolo' Gallio, and Alberto Martino

**Costumes:** Fiamma Ciotti Farulli

**Props:** Livia Cortesi

**Management:** Valentina Martini

**Executive Producer, U.S. Tour:** ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann

**Associate Producer, U.S. Tour:** ArKtype / Jenny E. Goelz

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# *Program Notes*

## **BLEU!**

Taking the classical mythology of the Mediterranean as a starting point, *Bleu!* explains the meeting between a sailor and a sea nymph. The story begins when the nymph drops a pearl into the sea, which the sailor has to find. The sailor sets off on an adventure-packed voyage across the sea, transforming this story into an odyssey of discovery and knowledge.

## *About the company*

### **Compagnia TPO**

Compagnia TPO was founded in Prato, Italy, in 1981 as a children's theatre company devoted to creating works that are highly visual and multidisciplinary in the use of music, dance, art, sculpture, digital media, computer technology, lighting, and sound. TPO is an award-winning, internationally recognized company that believes in creating dance/theatre works for children that are visual and conceptualized moving paintings, which use movement, artistic objects, mechanical and digital devices, and the interplay of lighting, all geared to a child's eye.

In 1999, Davide Venturini and Francesco Gandi became the artistic directors of TPO. With the emerging technology that has evolved, TPO has grown more and more in the use of digital technology; graphics; video; and how to combine these elements with the more traditional art forms of dance, theatre, and music.

TPO has created new methods of interaction between performers, the audience, and stage spaces by applying computer sensors and triggers to images and sound, and they have found new ways to collaborate with a variety of artists, including dancers, actors, directors, musicians, engineers, designers, writers, and illustrators, to create new works. These concepts have created fame and a reputation for TPO throughout Europe, Australia, the United States, South America, and Canada.

### **ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann, Executive Producer, U.S. Tour**

A producer of acclaimed international projects and tours, ArKtype's work has been seen worldwide, including projects with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Yael Farber, Peter Brook, Jay Scheib, Julie Taymor, Yaron Lifschitz, Dmitry Krymov, and Victoria Thiérree-Chaplin. Recent premieres include Big Dance Theater & Baryshnikov Productions' *Man in a Case*, currently on tour across the U.S., and the off-Broadway and Australian premiere of Nalaga'at Deaf-Blind Theater's *Not by Bread Alone*. Additional projects include Rude Mechs (Austin); Theatre for a New Audience; Big Dance Theater; Aurélia Thiérree (Paris); Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen; Circa (Brisbane); Lisa Peterson & Denis O'Hare; Compagnia T.P.O. (Italy); Erth (Sydney); Sam Green w/ yMusic & Yo La Tengo; Joshua Light Show; and World/Inferno Friendship Society. Upcoming premieres include Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen's *How To Be a Rock Critic*. More information at [www.arktype.org](http://www.arktype.org).

# *Biographies*

## COMPANY BIOS

### **Davide Venturini** (*director*)

Davide Venturini studied sociology at Cesare Alferi University in Florence. He has been with Compagnia TPO since 1983, where he has directed productions with an eye to the pedagogical aspects of art and, in particular, the processes of visual communication, emphasizing the value of images, and the use in theatre of hi-tech devices. He currently holds the posts of Compagnia TPO author and artistic director.

### **Francesco Gandi** (*director*)

Francesco Gandi studied at the DAMS Academy in Bologna. Since 1987 he has conducted his research activity with Compagnia TPO in the roles of author, director, and actor. His works typically make prevalent use of images, props, figures, and, in his latest productions, technology. He currently holds the post of president of the TPO Cultural Association.

### **Elsa Mersi** (*digital design*)

Elsa Mersi works in the fields of performing arts, computer graphics, and the Web, using a multidisciplinary approach. Her work focuses prevalently on research and experimentation in new ways of interpreting the relationship and interaction that link performer, image, and space. She also conducts research into new languages and systems of computer-based projection.

### **Spartaco Cortesi** (*sound design*)

Spartaco Cortesi works on audio productions in multimedia projects, using mainly electrical instruments and audio software. He has five albums to his credit, two of which were solo under the pseudonym of Yellowcake, published in the late '90s by KK Records, the seminal Belgian electronic music label. He has worked with Compagnia TPO since 2000.

### **Rossano Monti** (*computer engineering*)

Rossano Monti is a self-taught computer specialist, attending courses in computer engineering in Pisa until 2001. Since 1995 he has been a sound engineer and graphic artist for the Bonton group both live and in studio, contributed to the sTRANO network group, and taught computer know-how. He has been with Compagnia TPO since 2002, dealing with programming and software, computer systems management, and staging the performances.

### **Cristina D'Alberto** (*performer*)

Cristina D'Alberto was born in Turin in 1989 and started studying classical ballet with Claire Jahier. In 2006 she has worked with the Molecole company for Heket production. In 2007 she moved to Florence to attend the Opus Ballet professional course of contemporary dance. From 2008 she worked with such coreographers as Rosanna Brocanello, Daniel Tinazzi, Ioris Petrillo, Gabriella Secchi, German Jauregui, and Corinne Lanselle.

# *Biographies, continued*

## **Luca Tomao** (*performer*)

Luca Tomao started studying dance in 1993 and attended a professional course at Teatro Greco Dance Company (2005) and at Centro Regionale della danza del Lazio (2006). In 2005, he joined Teatro Greco Dance Company, and he is also involved in many performance of Florence Dance Company. He works as dancer in TV shows and film, and he participated in musicals and operas with both Teatro del'Opera di Roma and Roma Opera Musical.

## **Francesco Taddei** (*sound/video console*)

Francesco Taddei graduated from the School of Higher Musical Education in Saluzzo, Italy, after having attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Carrara, studying multimedia arts. He works both as a graphic designer and in his own recording studio as a sound technician for concerts and theater productions. He has been working with Compagnia TPO since 2007.

## **Niccolo' Gallio** (*sound/video console*)

Niccolo' Gallio earned his qualification in digitalization and sound documents and as a studio technician at RAI in Florence, Italy. He works as a sound technician at the Maggio Musicale and as sound manager for Ambasciata di Marte. He also specializes as a front-of-house and stage sound technician, both in the studio and on film sets.

## **Alberto Martino** (*sound/video console*)

After graduating in 2006 with a degree in philosophy, Alberto Martino began work immediately as technician. He received a master's in lighting design, with a concentration in drama and opera. He works with some of the most prestigious event services in Tuscany, Italy, and with Teatro Metastasio Stabile della Toscana di Prato.

## **Livia Cortesi** (*scenography assistant*)

Livia Cortesi graduated in stage design at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Florence, Italy. She has worked with Compagnia TPO since 1992, dealing with sets and items for all shows and workshops. At the same time, she works freelance with theatres, film, and set workshops.

## **Valentina Martini** (*management*)

Valentina Martini received a degree in foreign language studies in 2001 and in PROGEAS (organizing events) in 2004; she achieved the European professional qualification for planning performing arts in 2002. She has participated in internships at the Department of Culture of the town of Prato, Italy, and she has worked jointly with the University of Florence on devising a long-distance training program. She has handled distribution and organization for Compagnia TPO since 2004.