

Press release

VENICE AND THE TURKS

10th performance of the project *Venice Revealed* for the Befana Regatta: Venice and the Turks

Ateneo Veneto, Venice

Free admission, January 6th 2015

From 5.00 pm videos of previous performances; From 6.00 pm art, live music and reading performance

The beautiful Ateneo Veneto, was the historic place that hosted the 10th performance of the project *Venice Revealed*, created by the writer **Alberto Toso Fei** and the artist **Elena Tagliapietra**. The performance, which revealed, among other, hidden stories about *Venice and the Turks*, took place on Tuesday, 6th January, during the Befane Regatta, and was realized in collaboration with Ateneo Veneto.

Alberto Toso Fei told how takes place the Regatta of the Epiphany in the Grand Canal for over thirty years, by the old members of the Bucintoro (the oldest rowing club in the city) which for the occasion dress from "befane" (Befana is an old woman who brings sweets and coal to children). He also spoke about the custom, in some parts of the laguna and in the rural triveneto, to build bonfires to burn the *vècia* (old woman), called *Maràntega* in the Venetian language. It has also been the occasion to remember the history of the Ateneo Veneto, the oldest venetian cultural institution, and the role it had in 1848, during the revolutionary movements and relations between Venice and the Turks, that gave rise to numerous "turchesche" legends still living in the streets of the city.

As usual, all the stories was presented together with the performance of **Elena Tagliapietra** who created a pictorial composition on the body of a young dancer, inspired by the stories told simultaneously by Toso Fei. During this performance the official musician of the project, **Mattia Corso**, performed live on bass playing some of his pieces.

This 10th event, one of the last of the whole project *Venice Revealed*, opened the third and final consecutive year of appointments having as main subject Venice and its traditions.

Venice Revealed wants to remind the deep customs of the city during the main holidays, in occasion of Redentore (Pescheria di Rialto, *Venice and the Plague*), and the Historical Regatta (Squero of San Trovaso, *Venice and Gondola*), Festa di San Martino (Forte Marghera, *Venice and Horses*), the famous Carnevale (Telecom Future Centre, *Venice and Carnival*); for Natali di Venezia (Gran Teatro La Fenice, *The Birth of Venice*), for Festa del Bocolo (Piazza San Marco, *A Rose for Venice*), the Festa della Sensa (Venice Arsenale, *Venice and the Sea*), during the 71st Exhibition of Cinema (Blue Moon, *Venice and the Cinema*) and the Burano Regatta (Burano, *Venice and its islands*).

The project *Venice Revealed* is produced in collaboration with **Vela spa**, and with the organizational support of **2erre Organizzazioni**, and with the patronage of the **Culture Department of the City of Venice**. It will present, over the next months, the last three artistic and literary performances scheduled across the calendar on the most important holidays in Venice. Next event, "*Venice and the Mask*" will be presented during the Carnival, February 5th, 2015 at the Auditorium Santa Margherita. www.veneziarivelata.it