

THE COLORS OF REASON

A theatrical performance about Franca Helg: “the great dame of architecture”

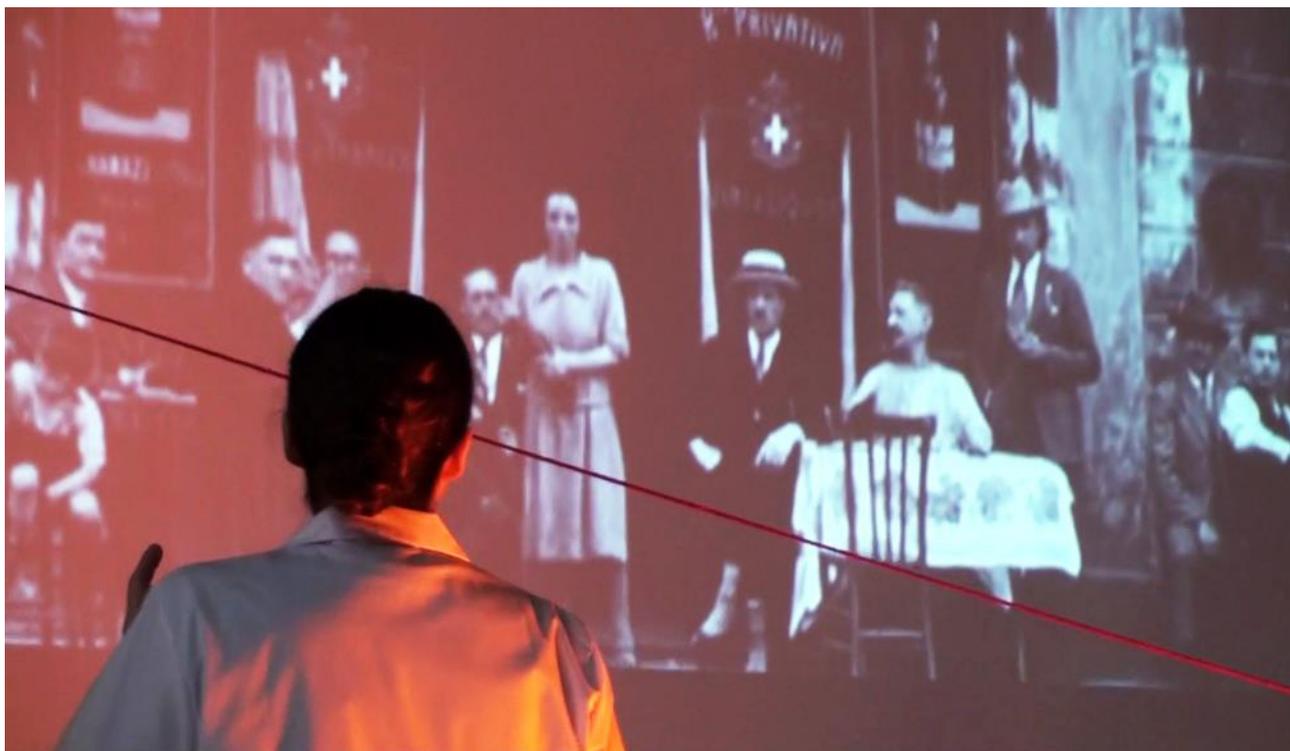
Written and directed by Paola Albini

Interpreter: Tiziana Francesca Vaccaro

Scenography: Lorenza Pambianco

Video: Paola Albini Contribution: Tilbe Kucukonder

After the Italian and international success of the theatrical performance “The Courage of Your Own Time” which narrates the Modern Movement during the years before the war, here’s the second part dedicated to Franca Helg (1920-1989) again written and directed by Paola Albini and presented in Sala Alessi, Palazzo Marino in Milano on 8th March 2017.



The Colors of the Reason is a theatrical performance dedicated to one of those great women who stand behind a great man.

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Franca Helg represents a very interesting figure, a great example of emancipation who made her way in a male predominant world, participating to many of the most successful projects of the Albini Studio which made great Milan and achieved an international level” – says Paola Albini, author and director of the play.



“In a period which forced women to procreate as it was their primary duty, Franca Helg is a mother in another way. She’s a mother for her students, for her work and for her projects which she used to hold on her knees like little kids”.

“Franca’s strong personality, rapid and concise, doesn’t accept the rules in a passive way, aware of the importance of knowing how to re-elaborate the received teachings”.

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“Research and design practice are a single entity for Franca Helg. She’s convinced that architecture is an “experience of reality” and that life and architecture permeate each other”. Franca Helg pursues with dedication in her profession until 1989, year of her death.

A touching story, an example of courage, grace and determination which suggests that everyone, independently from differences of genre, can and must follow his own inclinations in order to create a mark in the world.

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PRODUCTION:

The text is supported by pictures and videos of that period in order to depict the political and cultural environment during the post-war years.

The performance is structured with music, words and actions finalized to build a spatial dimension which is drawn by the actress little by little with a red thread.

DURATION: 1 hour

ADDRESSED TO: architects and general public, young people, women and lovers of the theatre or of the culture in general.

SOURCES: personal scripts, lessons and letters from Franca Helg, interviews to ex-students, colleagues and relatives. Some short cues are taken from the book "The great dame of architecture" written by Antonio Piva and Vittorio Prina.

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Among several projects in which she took part together with Albini (she becomes his associate in 1952, building the Albini-Helg Studio, which then becomes partner in 1962 with Antonio Piva and three years later also with Marco Albini), they should be mentioned: the Milanese Underground, the set-ups from different exhibitions (Contemporary decorative art and Italian architecture exhibition in Stockholm in 1953, exhibition about the 18th century and international exhibition of Arts and Customs, Palazzo Grassi in 1954, exhibition dedicated to Delacroix, XXVIII Venice Biennale...) and projects for private villas (Corini house in Parma, etc.).

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