

Laura Biagi, Ph.D.
Art, Teaching, Tourism

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Resident of Paris (1994 and 1995),
of New York City (1997 and 2004),
and of Florence (2007 and)
Languages: Italian, English, French

ACADEMIC RECORD

- 2004** Ph.D. in Performance Studies (New York University; Advisor: Professor Richard Schechner).
Title of Dissertation: *Spider Dreams: Ritual and Performance in Apulian Tarantismo*.
- 1999** Master of Arts in Performance Studies (New York University; Advisor: Professor Fred Moten).
- 1998** Laurea Magna Cum Laude in Foreign Languages and Literatures (University of Siena, Italy).
Title of Thesis: *A Universal Language: Meredith Monk's Performance Art*.
- 1992** High School Diploma in Foreign Languages (Istituto Toniolo, Siena, Italy).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2008-2009** Vassar College (New York): Professor of Italian Folklore, Professor of Italian Language.
- 2007** New York University in Florence (Italy): Professor of Italian Folklore (Department of Music).
- 2001** Vassar College, New York University (both in New York and Italy): Annual Guest Lecturer (topics: Italian Folk Music and Dance).
- 2004** Apulia Language School, Lecce, (Italy): Professor of Italian Language and Culture (EC.Co Program).
- 1998-2002** New York University, New York City: Teaching Assistant - Graduate Assistant (Departments of Italian Studies and of Voice Studies).
- 1997-1998** Vassar College, New York: Language Fellow (Department of Italian).

AWARDS

- 1994** "Erasmus" Fellowship (University of Paris, France)
- 1997** One-year "Italian Language and Culture Fellowship" (Italian Department, Vassar College, NY)

INTERNSHIPS

- 2008** Museum of the History of Science, Florence, Italy (Focus: the relationship between art and science in Florentine Renaissance).

CULTURAL TOURISM

- 2007- 2008**
- License as a Tourist Guide for the city of Florence (Italy). Specialization: "Art and Science in Florence"
- 2004**
- License as a Tour Escort.

TRAINING IN THE ARTS

2001

- Studies theatre, anthropology, performance art and improvisation with Professor Richard Schechner, New York.
- Studies folklore and museum studies with Professor Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, New York.
- Studies theories of the avant-garde with Professor Allen Weiss, New York.
- Studies "Deep Listening" and composition with composer and educator Pauline Oliveros, New York.
- Studies ritual and comparative religion and becomes Minister of the Ministry of Maat with Reverend Ione Sonam Lhamo, New York.

2000

- Studies frame drums with U.S. Master Glen Velez.
- Studies Italian folk music with Giovanna Marini at the Musica Popolare of Testaccio in Rome.
- Studies tarantella music and dance with Cinzia Villani (voice) and Ada Metafune (dance), Lecce, Italy.

1998

- Studies performance art, experimental theatre and composition with performance artist Meredith Monk, New York.

1996

- Sings in the Academy Gospel Choir, a gospel choir directed by Gianna Grazzini and based in Florence, Italy.
- Studies jazz singing with Fabrizia Barresi, Brazilian percussion with Francesco Petreni, and musicology with Marcello Piras, Association Siena Jazz, Italy.

1994

- Is the receiver of an Erasmus scholarship that gives her the opportunity to live in Paris for a year to music, French and Anglo-American Literature at the University of Paris, France.

ARTISTIC WORK

2008

- *La Danza del Sole*, a dance performance created in collaboration with Cesare Bartalesi for *Australia*, an art exhibit on the theme of art and astrology. *PaRDeS*, Center of Contemporary Art, Mirano, Venice.

2007

- Performs during the festival *La Città Aromatica* her own original compositions (with Silvia Bolognesi on the double-bass and Ettore Bonafè on percussion), Siena, Italy.
- *Voices from Home*, a performance of Italian folk songs and vocal improvisation is hosted by: the Department of Italian Studies at Vassar College (NY); the Cantabile Choirs of Kingston in Kingston, Ontario; and the 2007 National Choir Directors Association in Miami.
- *Dreams of Dead Insects ovvero canti funebri di una piccola bambina selvatica*, a collaboration between sound and image with Japanese film and video director Yosuke Taki. Hosted as work in progress by Caffè Fandango, Rome.

2006

- *Da mille serenate...* concert-lecture. Vassar College (NY), New York University (NY and Florence), Gallery at Deep Listening Space (NY).
- Writes part of the sound-track for *Innesti*, a video by Italian artist Andrea Montagnani. Part of a series of art installations "Scatole della memoria". Teatro dei Varii, Colle di Val d'Elsa, Siena.

2005

- Sings in one of the tracks in *Rex Xhu Ping*, a CD by U.S. artist Al Margolis/If, Bwana (Pogus Productions N.Y. P21038-2).

2004

- *L'AURA*, new solo concert, LoopHouse Art Center, San Cesario di Lecce, Southern Italy.

2003

- *Lullabies and Dreams*, performance of folk Italian and Indian music, in collaboration with U.S. flutist Steve Gorn, Gallery at Deep Listening Space, New York.

2002

- *Italian Dreams*, performance of music, dance, and tales, in collaboration with Italian-American storyteller Gioia Timpanelli, Gallery at Deep Listening Space, New York.

2001

- Works as an actress, dancer and singer with the company Yara Arts Group in the piece *Circle*, directed by Virlana Tkacz, performing in Circle at La MaMa theatre of New York City.

2000

- Participates in the street performance *Not in My Name*, with The Living Theatre, Times Square, New York.

1998

- Sings in the performance *Where Have All the Bootboys Gone?* by director Zack Fuller, Judson Church, New York.

PUBLICATIONS

2006 **ARIA** (Carrozze Records) **Music CD**

Ph.D. Dissertation

2004 *Spider Dreams: Ritual and Performance in Apulian Tarantismo and Tarantella*. NYC: New York University.

Articles

2003 Laura Biagi and Karen Luëdtke, *Estadanza - un corso sui tre balli della taranta* [Estandanza – a course on the three taranta dances]. (Nardò: Besa) – 50% collaboration

Conferences

2002

- Participates as a singer and researcher of Salentine folk music at the *Global Weekends: Mediterranean Festival and New York World Festival*, two Mediterranean folk music and dance festivals sponsored by the American Museum of Natural History and the Center for Traditional Music and Dance of New York.

2000

- Presents her research on museums for the blind at the conference *Uncommon Senses: An International Conference on the Senses in Art and Culture*, Montréal, Canada.

Interviews

2004

Spider Dreams, Laura Biagi with Costanza Pintimalli, in *Tarantismo e Musicoterapia*. University of Florence, Italy.

2001

Un'italiana a New York [An Italian in New York], Laura Biagi with Angelica Alemanno. Interview on-line on www.caffeeuropa.it

Translations

2004

Agathe by Paul Valéry from French to English for the photography book *l'Incanto* by Marialba Russo. (Milano: Skira Editore).

2000

Translates articles from English to Italian for the on-line review *Music and Anthropology: Journal of Musical Anthropology of the Mediterranean*, n.5.

1999

Book of Days, script of the film by Meredith Monk, from English to French (New York: The House Foundation for the Arts).

B.A. Thesis

1999

Meredith Monk's Performance Art (Library of the University of Siena, Italy).

VOLUNTEER WORK

2006

Casa Cares, a retreat center in Reggello, Florence, Italy.

2002-2004

Gallery at Deep Listening Space, in Kingston, NY, USA.