



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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**TITLE: INTRA-CULTURAL THEATRE:
PERFORMING THE LIFE OF BLACK MIGRANTS TO ITALY**

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ABSTRACT: T

Theatre constitutes a community in the sense that Bidy Martin and Chandra Mohanty attribute to that tension between “being home” - “the place where one lives within familiar, safe, protected boundaries” - and “not being at home” - “a matter of realizing that home was an illusion of coherence and safety based on the exclusion of specific histories of oppression and resistance, the repression of differences even within oneself.”

Based on this assumption, my paper will analyze the stage creations of the Ravenna-based theatre company Teatro delle Albe which since the late 1980s has given birth to a hybrid identity made of Afro-Romagnole constituencies. Through a theatre of pedagogy and practice, and a keen outreach program towards political and cultural institutions both in Italy and Senegal, the theatre of Teatro delle Albe resists the dominant and reductive representation of Africa (and African migration towards Europe), escapes from possible post-colonial pitfalls, and envisions a unique and effective co-habitation between people of different national / ethnic origins, but equal intents.

By means of intra-cultural encounters, Teatro delle Albe creates a movement of (re)finding that which is different from the self, in that seemingly eternal fight for the humanization of the dispossessed, to put it in Augusto Boal’s words.

AUTHOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Raffaele Furno is Professor of Performance Theory and Theatre History at Arcadia University – the College of Global Studies – Rome Campus. He was a Fulbright Scholar at UC Berkeley, where he received s M.A. in Asian Studies. Since then he has obtained a PhD in Performance Studies from Northwestern University. Furno also teaches courses on literary adaptation and translation of plays. He is a theatre practitioner, founder of the group Imprevisti e Probabilità for which he serves as resident director. He creates site specific performances in archaeological areas, and shows based on a mix of traditional texts and creative writing pieces. He is artistic director of the Theatre Festival Deviazioni Recitative in Formia.