

LUCA SCARZELLA | BIOGRAPHY

In 1986 Scarzella graduated in Philosophy, from the Department of Aesthetics at the Statale University of Milan, with a thesis on Russian formalism and the cinema of Dziga Vertov. Between 1987 and 1997 he collaborated on a regular basis with **Studio Azzurro**, a studio factory in Milan with an international reputation in the field of video art. In 1998 he opened **StalkerVideo** an independent video production laboratory in which he alternated activity as a director with experimental work on the projection and realization of video dramaturgy for music theatre. In 2009 he creates **Vertov - video and new media**, a new productive reality for continuing and experimenting his work.

The exploration of the possible relationships between video and space (architectural, theatrical, museum), the research of a new kind of dramaturgy in the sense of video linked with the 'explosive' language of synchronized programming and new dynamics that are designed by interactive systems, together with the strengthening of the close connections between sound and image are the focus of his current work and research.

THEATRE

With Studio Azzurro he collaborated on the video direction of **Camera astratta** produced with the Giorgio Barberio Corsetti Company (Documenta8, Kassel, 1988), and on **Kepler's Traum** a video opera with music by Giorgio Battistelli (Festival Ars Electronica, Linz, 1990). Later, still working with Studio Azzurro, he furthered visual experimentation in the area of musical works directing **Delfi** with vocal and musical concepts by Moni Ovadia and Piero Milesi, (Festival Suoni e Visioni, Milano 1994), and for **Striaz** an itinerent night-time work for chorus and 12 video installations with music by Luca Francesconi, (Mittelfest, 1996).

In 1993 he started a collaboration with the stage director Daniele Abbado with whom on the one hand he works on the use of new video technology in multimedia stage performances such as **Fiume di Musica**, music by Piero Milesi (Romaeuropa Festival, 1993), **Frammenti sull'Apocalisse** music by Nicola Sani (Centro Videoarte, Ferrara, 1994), **Dokumentation n. 1** with music by Helmut Ohering (Spoleto Festival, 1996), **Laborintus 2** by Luciano Berio (Teatro Carlo Felice, Genoa, 2001), **Jr Butterfly** by S. Saegusa (Tokio Bunka Kaikan 2004); and on the other on visual concepts for lyric opera works such as **Tosca** (Teatro Regio, Turin, 1995), **Freischütz** (Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Rome 1998), **The rape of Lucretia** (Teatro Carlo Felice Genoa, 1999 -Teatro de la Maestranza Siviglia 2002 -Teatro Real, Madrid, 2007) **Tannhäuser** (Accademia di Santa Cecilia, Rome 2001), **Lohengrin** (Teatro Comunale di Bologna 2002 - Teatro Eskalduna Bilbao 2004) **Jeanne d'Arc au bucher** (Teatro Massimo di Palermo 2003 - Granada Festival 2003), **Re Pastore** (Teatro delle Muse, Ancona 2003), **Il prigioniero/Volo di notte** (Teatro Comunale in Florence 2004 - Abbiati Award), **Così fan tutte** and **Don Giovanni** (Filarmonico Verona - Teatro Valli Reggio Emilia - San't Paul Chamber Orchestra USA, Thessaloki, Greece 2006), **Oberon** (Theatre du Capitole, Toulouse 2011), **Tosca** (Hyogo,

Performing Art Centre, Osaka, 2012), **Nabucco**, (Teatro alla Scala, Milan - Royal Opera House, London, 2013 - Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona 2015) and a new **Tosca** (Korea National Opera, 2016). With Daniele Abbado and Giuliano Corti he is the co-author of the theatre piece **Majakovskij-l'incidente è chiuso** with Lucilla Morlacchi (Suoni e Visioni, Milan 1999).

In the past years he collaborates also with Roberto Andò creating and directing videos for **La Memoria dell'offesa** -Ullmann, Mahler, Schoenberg (Teatro Massimo, Palermo, 2002), **Der Fliegende Holländer** (Teatro Massimo, Palermo 2003), **Sette storie per lasciare il mondo** music by Marco Betta (Teatro Bellini, Catania 2006, Teatro Palladium, Rome 2012), **Cavalleria rusticana/Edipo re** (Teatro Regio, Turin 2007), **Il castello di Barbablu'** (Teatro San Carlo, Naples 2008), **Winterreise** (Teatro Comunale, Florence 2009), **Il quadro nero**, video-opera with music by Marco Betta inspired at the painting "La Vucciria" by Renato Guttuso (Teatro Massimo, Palermo 2015, Teatro dell'Arte, Milan 2016), **Turandot** (Shanghai Grand Theatre 2018), **Winter Journey** music by Ludovico Einaudi, libretto by Colm Toibin, (Teatro Massimo, Palermo, 2019, Teatro San Carlo, Naples 2020).

He has managed video direction for productions including **La Clemenza di Tito**, directed by Denis Krief (Teatro Comunale Ferrara 1998), **Il Viaggio a Reims**, directed by Luca Ronconi (Rossini Opera Festival 1999), **Sadkò**, directed by Egisto Marcucci (Teatro La Fenice Venice, 2000), **Simon Boccanegra**, conducted by Claudio Abbado and directed by Carl-Philip von Maldeghem, (Teatro Comunale Ferrara, 2001 - Teatro S. Carlo Naples, 2003) **Attila** (Teatro Comunale Florence, 2002) and **Ascanio in Alba** (Teatro alla Scala, Milan, 2006), both directed by Franco Ripa di Meana, **Don Giovanni** directed by Damiano Michieletto (Teatro La Fenice, Venice 2010), **Tosca** directed by Lukas Hemleb (Opera Kiel 2015) and with the director Federico Grazzini **Der Fliegende Holländer** (Teatro Ponchielli, Cremona 2013), **Turandot** (Opéra de Nice Côte d'Azur, 2014, Opera de Toulon 2019), **Nabucco** (Opera di Roma - Terme di Caracalla 2016/17).

In 2002 he also realized, in collaboration with the musician Michele Tadini, the video-opera **Unheimlich** for the opening of the Mittelfest in Cividale del Friuli. In 2005 he directed the video of **Romeo and Juliet** by Prokof'ev, choreography by Giorgio Mancini, for the 68° Festival del Maggio Musicale of Florence.

He has produced videos for drama theatre such as **Old time** by H. Pinter directed by Roberto Andò (Ert- Modena, Teatro Stabile di Catania 2004, Piccolo Teatro, Milan 2005), **Le Talisman** by H. de Balzac directed by Dominique Pitoiset (Teatro Stabile, Turin 2004), **Il Maestro e Marta** directed by Walter Pagliaro (Teatro Stabile di Catania, 2005), **Salmodia della Speranza** by David Maria Turoldo (Milan Cathedral, 2005), **Progetto Miracolo a Milano**, direction Daniele Abbado, (Teatro Valli, Reggio Emilia, 2007), **La leggenda del santo bevitore** direction André Ruth Shammah (Teatro Franco Parenti, 2007), **Natura morta per i diritti civili** by Roberto Andò with Isabelle Huppert (Mittelfest 2007) and **De Profundis** by Oscar Wilde, director Riccardo Massai (Spoleto Festival 2009).

Prima del silenzio with Leo Gullotta, direction Fabio Grossi (Teatro Eliseo, Roma 2013), **Conversazione con Tiresia** by and with Andrea Camilleri, direction Roberto Andò (Teatro Greco di Siracusa 2018), **Knives in Hens** by David Harrover, direction André Ruth Shammah (Festival di Spoleto, Teatro Festival Napoli, Teatro Franco Parenti 2019)

In 2010 he created the videos for **Carmen Replay**, a ballet by Compania Nacional de Danza commissioned by Teatro Real de Madrid with music by David del Puerto and choreography by Tony Fabre (Teatro de la Universidad Carlo III, Madrid), **Sandglasses** performance installation for 4 cellos, video and live electronics, music by Juste Janulyte (Vilnius Gaida Festival, Holland Festival, MaerzMusik Berlin, Warsaw Autumn Festival, Festival Musica Strasburg, RomaEuropa Festival, Sydney Festival, Musicadehoy-Madrid, Flagey Brussels), **Conversations with Chomsky**, music

by Emanuele Casale and direction by Francesco Micheli (Aperto Festival, Reggio Emilia). In 2011 he realizes the videos for the stage videoinstallation **Death and the Maiden** by Franz Schubert collaborating with Balletto di Roma (Mittelfest, Civitanova Danza, Teatro Comunale, Vicenza).

Last theatre works : Project and video direction in **Akhnaten** opera by Philip Glass in a semi-stage version (Festival MiTo, 2015, Lingotto Auditorium, Turin - Teatro Strehler, Milan), technical video direction in **Il quadro nero** a video-opera by Roberto Andò and Marco Betta inspired at the painting "La Vucciria" by Renato Guttuso (Teatro Massimo Palermo 2015, CRT, Milan 2016), **Tosca** directed by Lukas Hemleb, (Opernhaus, Kiel 2016), **Nabucco**, (Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcellona 2017, Royal Opera House, London 2016, Teatro alla Scala, Milan 2013-16), **Tosca** (Performing Art Centre, Seul 2016) and a new **Tosca** (Korea National Opera 2016) all directed by Daniele Abbado, and with director Roberto Andò **Turandot** (Shanghai Grand Theatre 2018), **Conversazione su Tiresia** (Teatro Greco, Siracusa 2018), **Winter Journey** music by Ludovico Einaudi, libretto by Colm Toibin, (Teatro Massimo, Palermo, 2019, Teatro San Carlo, Napoli 2020). A new production of **Nabucco** directed by Federico Grazzini (Opera di Roma, Terme di Caracalla, 2016 and 2017) and **Knives in Hens** by David Harrover, direction Andréé Ruth Shammah (Festival di Spoleto, Teatro Festival Napoli, Teatro Franco Parenti 2019)

EXHIBITIONS AND VIDEO INSTALLATIONS

Fabbrica del Vapore (2002), video installation with 9 synchronized projectors created for the new city of the arts in Milan. **The equipped double skin**, with Studio Azzurro, interactive video installation realized for an architecture of Bernard Tshumi (Salone del Mobile, 2003). **Tullio Pericoli-portraits**, project inspired on the work of the great artist during his personal exhibition (Spazio Oberdan, Milano 2002). **City Life** with NI03, video scenario for 4 synchronized programs for the presentation of the new area in Milan designed by the architects Hadid, Liberskind and Isozaki (2005), **Conflicts**, video scenario for 6 synchronized programs for the exhibition, coordinated by Pierluigi Nicolini, on crucial districts across the panorama of architectural projects in Italy today (S.Sofia, Salerno, 2005), **Eco** integrated installation for video, sound and dance, music by Michele Tadini, dance Enzo Procopio and Maddalena Borasio. (Rec Festival Reggio Emilia, 2006), **Aida**, interactive journey through the opera of Verdi (Milan, Museo Teatrale alla Scala 2006). **Ah Mimì mia breve gioventù**, interactive journey through the world of Puccini and the opera La Bohème (Palazzo Borbone, Viareggio, 2007).

Between 2008 and 2009 he realizes the multimedia project of three exhibitions such as **Chocolate - from Maya to the XX century** (Fondazione Ferrero, Alba), **Karajan. Life, Art. The years at La Scala**. (Milan, Museo Teatrale alla Scala), **Guido Crepax, Valentina, The Form of times** (Triennale Bovisa, Milan). For the Biennale Musica of Venice he creates **Exit_01**, workshop on integration between music world and new technologies (2008) and **Exit_02**, video installation inspired on "Body of sound".(2009).

In 2011 he wins, as advisor of Studio Arco and Scape Architettura, the International Design Competition for **Meis, Museo dell'Ebraismo Italiano e della Shoa** in Ferrara, in which he will direct the multimedia project. He also created, together with Archivio Mulas, the videoinstallation **Ugo Mulas-Campo Urbano** for the Milanese exhibition **Fuori! Arte e Spazio Urbano 1968/1976** (Museo del '900, Milan). In 2013 he realizes the multimedia project in 1913-2013 **A hundred-year-old treasure** an exhibition for the 100th anniversary of the Teatro alla Scala Museum. In 2014 he realizes the multimedia project in **Fabriano Anniversaire du papier 1264-2014**, an exhibition for the 750th anniversary of the greatest Italian paper mill at Istituto Italiano di Cultura in Paris. Nel 2015 he realizes

a permanent video-intallation for the Museum of the Science and the Technique in Milan for the exhibition **Food People**, in 2016 the video project for the exhibition **Riccardo Muti - The years at La Scala** (Teatro alla Scala Museum) and **What's up Milan**, a video-intallation for Regione Lombardia, at the Italian Pavillion at Mipim in Cannes. In 2017 he relized the multimedia project and the videos for the exhibition **Spartacus - slaves and masters in Rome** (Ara Pacis Museum, Rome), the multimedia project for the exhibition **Incantesimi**, on 25 historical costumes made by Teatro alla Scala, (Royal Palace, Milan) and a videoinstallation for the exhibition **La luna è una lampadina - 50 anni IED** (Triennale di Milano). In 2018 he realized a permanent video-intallation for the new **Sestini Museum of Photography** in Bergamo. Nel 2019he relized the multimedia project and the videos for the exhibition **The Emperor Claudius - Messalina, Agrippina and the shadows of a dynasty** (Ara Pacis Museum, Rome).

VIDEO

Although the main focus of Luca Scarzella's work is producing video and images for stage productions he also has a large body of film work which, if commercial commissions are excluded, extends even further into the world of art. In 1991 he won the Filmmaker Prize with the short film **Passaggi**. In 1993 he directed the documentary **Fluxus/Zaj**, a vote of recognition from the twenty artists involved, it was presented at the Art Venice Biennale. During this period he made numerous portrait documentaries with Studio Azzurro for the **Fondazione Mudima** about contemporary artists like Wolf Wostell, Nam June Paik, Yoko Ono, Arman and many others. Between 1995 and 1996 he made more than 30 works about art for Canale 5 for TV programs such as **L'angelo** and **Corto Circuito**. In 1998 and 1999 he made numerous documentaries about art for broadcast on **Flash** Raisat Art.

Other works of these years include: **Ciclico Gerundo** document on the work of the artist Giuliano Mauri, **The evolution of the matter** dedicated to the English sculptor Tony Cragg, **Experimentum Mundi Video** about the works of the composer Giorgio Battistelli (finalist at Prix Italia) , **L'Ebreo che ride** about the work of Moni Ovadia for the publishing house Einaudi, and **Carlo Maria Giulini-a portrait** a documentary about the great conductor for Suisse Television. In 2004 and 2005 he made two works that straddle dance and art, **Codice Aperto** with the choreographer Enzo Procopio which was singled out in numerous international festivals, and **Varanam on nava Rasa** an exploration of Bharatanantyan, a ritual dance form in the south of India, with the dancer Nuria Sala Grau. In 2008 he directs **Integra-fusing music and technology**, the making of a dvd for a European project commissioned by the Conservatory of Birmingham that focuses on development of new technologies in electronic music and acoustic instruments during live performances in contemporary music. In 2010 took part at the 5° *Rome International Film Festival* with his documentary **Inge Film**, a portrait of the international publisher Inge Feltrinelli. In 2013 he realizes the video **Suite Bergamasque**, music by Debussy with Gloria Campaner at the piano, investigating the challenges and possibilities of video making in classical music performances, shown at Petruska/Rai 5. Nel 2015/2016 he realizes other two video with the pianist Gloria Campaner on Skrjabin's music: **Etude op.2 nr.1** and **Vers la Flamme op.72** both produced by Borletti Buitoni Trust in London, **The heart of stone**, a video on the work of the sculptor Pinuccio Sciola (Sky Art) and **See the sound**, committed by MDI Ensemble and Fondazione Cini, a documentary on the famous German composer Helmut Lachenmann (dvd produced by L'enprinte digital, Paris and broadcasted on Rai 5 and Sky classic).