

La MaMa

Experimental Theatre Club

presents

La Commedia Divina (The Divine Comedy)

By Teatro Patologico

Adaptation, Dramaturgy, and Direction:
Dario D'Ambrosi



Ellen Stewart Theatre
66 East 4th Street, NYC, 10003
November 20-22, 2025

Teatro Patologico's

The Comedy Divine

Freely Adapted From Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy

Adaptation, Dramaturgy, and Direction:

Dario D'Ambrosi

Cast:

Rosa Enginoli, Paolo Vaselli, Ilaria Serrato, Fabio Bischetti,
Fabio De Persio, Andrea Ferrari, Nicolo' Fronticelli, Baldelli,
Alessio Pescina, Silvia Sorcini, Andrea Scrimieri.

Set Design And Costumes: Raffaella Toni

Assistant To Set Design And Costumes: Gaia Caponi

Light Designer: Danilo Facco

First Assistant Director: Ilaria Serrato

Assistant Director: Matteo Binetti – Miriam Antonacci

Coordination: Alessandro Corazzi

Organization And Communications: Ines Berg

Organization Secretary: Francesca Granata

Thanks to:

Italian Institute of Cultura in New York, Claudio Pagliara,
Restaurant "Via della Pace", Restaurant "Serafina",
Fabio Granato, Claudia Gerini

SCENES

- *Lucifer descends to the center of the earth*
 - *Lucifer opens hell to the damned*
- *Charon helps Lucifer keep order in Hell*
 - *Dante arrives in Hell*
 - *Dante knows the damned*
- *Virgil accompanies Dante in Purgatory*
 - *Beatrice meets Dante*
 - *Dante and Beatrice in Paradise*

For 40 years, the **Teatro Patologico** has been working with determination to prove that drama therapy can be an effective treatment for mental health needs and challenges.

On June 12, Dario D'Ambrosi, founder and president of the Pathological Theatre, presented the first scientific results at the United Nations, confirming the psychological and physical benefits of drama therapy for people with mental and physical disabilities. To expand the study and apply it to a greater number of pathologies and clinical cases, we need financial resources and strategic alliances. Supporting this research means contributing to real change in the treatment of cognitive differences.

Our show, *The Divine Comedy*, is proof of what many consider impossible: people with severe psychiatric conditions learning discipline, emotional control, and expressive skills, while performing in a second language, all thanks to drama therapy. In many parts of the world, these people are still forced to stay on restraint beds and in straightjackets. Thanks to D'Ambrosi's method and drama therapy, we prove that drama therapy can be a resource for people of all abilities to learn, work, perform, and above all, fully participate in society. They are no longer on the margins, but an integral part of the world.

Italy was the first to close its asylums and today, thanks to the Teatro Patologico and the University of Rome Tor Vergata, it is the first in the world to launch a university course dedicated to people with mental disabilities.

Your contribution helps to support our work as we encourage the World Health Organization to recognize drama therapy as an official psychiatric treatment.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, on behalf of our artist and their families!

We warmly invite you to visit us in Italy:
We promise it will be an experience you will never forget!

Please continue to support us and follow our journey at
www.teatropatologico.com

Dario D'Ambrosi, is one of the most prominent Italian avant-garde artists, creator of the theatrical movement known as Teatro Patologico (Pathological Theater). As an actor, director, and playwright, his performances depict the thoughts and behaviors of the mentally ill. For over thirty years, he has been one of the most intriguing theatrical phenomena on the national scene.

From a very young age, he showed a great passion for theater combined with an interest in studying mental illnesses, to the point of having himself committed for three months at the Paolo Pini Psychiatric Hospital in Milan to closely observe the behavior of psychopaths. From these two passions, the formula of his theater was born, later defined as “pathological theater” by one of the first critics who ventured into the space on Via Ramazzini in Rome to witness his early works. The performances of Teatro Patologico aim to explore madness—the real madness of the ill—with the purpose, as D'Ambrosi himself states, of “restoring dignity to the mad.”

After staging his first performances, D'Ambrosi moved to New York at just nineteen years old, where he met Ellen Stewart, founder of Caffè La MaMa, who introduced him to theater with his monologue *Tutti non ci sono*, which remained on stage for months. It was the late 1970s, and Caffè La MaMa represented the ultimate avant-garde artistic laboratory, a meeting place for artists such as Robert De Niro, Andy Warhol, Lou Reed, and many others. Dario D'Ambrosi continued to be deeply involved in the theater, becoming a member, presenting various performances, and directing the 1989 theater festival *L'altra Italia*. *Tutti non ci sono*, *La trota*, *I giorni di Antonio*, *Il ronzo delle mosche*, *Allucinazioni da psicofarmaci*, *Cose da pazzi*, *Il principe della follia*, *Il nulla*, *Frusta-azioni*, and *Un regno per il mio cavallo* (based on *Richard III* by Shakespeare) are some of Dario D'Ambrosi's most significant works, which he has written, directed, performed, and presented in major Italian cities, in New York, and also in Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Detroit, and across Europe in Barcelona, Amsterdam, and Munich.

For years, D'Ambrosi has also worked as an actor in cinema and television. In 1997, he appeared in the TV film *Don Milani*, alongside Sergio Castellitto. He was one of the protagonists of the TV drama *Racket*. He later worked alongside Anthony Hopkins and Jessica Lange in Julie Taymor's film *Titus*. He played Angelo Lupi in *Padre Pio* by Giulio Base and Commissioner Monti in *Uno Bianca* by Michele Soavi. He was among the protagonists of the film *Almost Blue* by Alex Infascelli. In the film *Terra di nessuno* by G. Giagni, alongside Ben Gazzara, he played Lucigni. He also worked in Michele Soavi's TV series *Il Testimone*. He portrayed the Flagellator of Christ in Mel Gibson's acclaimed film *The Passion of the Christ* and played Chief Inspector Canton in the TV series *Romanzo Criminale*.

D'Ambrosi made his directorial debut in cinema with a film produced by Gianfranco Piccioli for Hera International, titled *Il ronzo delle mosche*, starring Greta Scacchi as the female lead, Dr. Nalia.

In 2010, he released his film *L'uomo gallo*, featuring Celeste Moratti, Luca Lionello, Lorenzo Alessandri, and Alberto Di Stasi.

He wrote and directed *I.N.R.I.*, a feature film shot in the United States and produced by Pathological Performance Inc. In 2024, his film *Io sono pò matto e tu?* was released, starring Claudio Santamaria, Edoardo Leo, Vinicio Marchioni, Claudia Gerini, Stefania Rocca, Stefano Fresi, Marco Bocci, Raoul Bova, and 30 young actors with physical and mental disabilities from the Teatro Patologico's Permanent Company.

Since 2016, he has founded the world's first university course in "Integrated Theater of Emotion" in collaboration with the University of Rome "Tor Vergata" and the Department of Psychiatry directed by Prof. Alberto Siracusano. This academic program is entirely dedicated to people with physical and mental disabilities.

D'Ambrosi presented the course at the United Nations headquarters in New York on June 14, 2017, during the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. At the same venue, on December 4, 2017, he directed the theatrical performance *Medea* for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. In 2018, at the Embassy of Italy at the UN headquarters in New York, he received the prestigious UN DESA award for the work of Teatro Patologico, particularly for the establishment of the world's first university course in "Integrated Theater of Emotion."

On November 6, 2017, in Florence, D'Ambrosi received the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Italy Award from Kerry Kennedy, daughter of Robert F. Kennedy. This honor was awarded for his work in founding the first university course in "Integrated Theater of Emotion." The course was also presented at the Italian Cultural Institute in Tokyo on September 29, 2017, and at the European Parliament in Brussels in May 2018.

On December 21, 2018, at the Capitoline Hill in Rome, he was honored by Mayor Raggi with the prestigious Roma Capitolina award for founding the world's first university course in Integrated Theater of Emotion.

On June 13, 2019, at the United Nations in New York, during the Conference of the State Parties 1 Billion Voices, he presented Teatro Patologico. On June 26, 2019, he received the title of Emeritus Honorary Professor from the Rector of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata," Prof. Giuseppe Novelli, at Teatro Patologico. This title recognized his 40 years of work, during which he has guided approximately 1,700 individuals with various mental disabilities. On June 16, 2022, he presented Teatro Patologico's scientific research at the United Nations (UN) in New York.

On November 23-24, 2024, with the Permanent Company of Teatro Patologico—composed exclusively of young actors with physical and mental disabilities—he will, for the first time in history, open the 2024/2025 season of the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma with *Il Sogno di Simon Boccanegra*.

**A full program with information on this
production can be found on the
*La Commedia Divina – (The Divine Comedy)***

**In addition you can scan the
QR code Poster located in the theatre lobby for
access to detailed information on this program.**

LA MAMA



RESTORE A BUILDING REMAKE A WORLD



Rendering: 74 East 4th St.

La MaMa's historic, landmark building at 74 East 4th Street underwent an urgently needed complete renovation and restoration to preserve the historic façade, create building-wide ADA accessibility, and provide much needed performance, exhibition and community space for decades to come.

La MaMa, founded by Ellen Stewart in 1961, has been on east 4th Street since 1967. La MaMa embraces every person in its community and is legendary as the place where new artists of all nations, cultures, races, and identities are given opportunities. It is the place where art begins.

To learn more about the renovation, or to make a donation please visit www.lamama.org/remakeaworld

La MaMa Staff

Richie Adomako
Digital Marketing & Strategy

Erick Alonso
Marketing Manager

Armando Arias
Building Superintendent

Braulio Basilio
Box Office Supervisor

William Electric Black
Poetry Electric Curator

Niels Blumel
Crew

Murielle Borst-Tarrant
The Andrew W. Mellon
Foundation Playwright in
Residence

Marc Bovino
Graphic Design

Rocco Candela-Michelus
Crew

Santiago Casares
Front of House

Theo Cote
Photographer/Videographer

Filippo De Capitani
Facility and Rentals Manager

David Diamond
La MaMa Umbria Coordinator

Gilberto Diaz-Flores
Front of House

Nick Freedson
Front of House

Kaori Fujiyabu
Deputy Director of Development

Mary Fulham
Managing Director

Michal Gamily
Coffeehouse Chronicles Curator

Kylie Goetz
Head Archivist /Director of Digital
Collections

Gloria Gomez
Technician

Goldstein Hall PLLC
Attorneys

Denise Greber
Director of Artistic Operations

J. Fern Gregorio
Front of House

Miriam Grill
Education Outreach Coordinator

Piruz Haney
Archive Digitization & Metadata
Specialist

Bryce Harnick
Lighting Supervisor

Kristen Ivy Haynes
Front of House

John Issendorf
Director of Audience Development

George Landau-Pincus
Archive Digitization & Metadata
Specialist

Diego Las Heras
Sound Supervisor

Thomas Linehan
IT Support

Ali Molaei
Front of House

Sarah Rae Murphy
Associate Producer

Christian Neal
Front of House

Sophie Nie
Sound Technician

Nicky Paraiso
Programming Director-The Club
La MaMa Moves! Curator

Beverly Petty
Producing Director

Violeta Picayo
Associate Producer

Pearse Redmond
Technician

Federico Restrepo
Puppet Series Producing
Director

Jack Reynolds
Assistant Technical Director

Johanna Ring
Institutional Giving Manager

Mateo Rodriguez-Hurtado
Great Jones Reception

Will Rossiter
Technician

Sam Rudy Media
Press Representative

Kiku Sakai
Accounts Manager

Jane Catherine Shaw
Great Jones Reception

Melissa Slattery
Capital Accounts Manager

Studio Jg Lecat/Jean-Guy Lecat
Theatre Consultant

Shigeko Suga
Archive Associate

Mark Tambella
Technical Director

Ursula Tinoco
Resident Artist

Juan Pablo Toro
Front of House

Martin Valdez
Building Superintendent Asst.

Madai Valdez
Porter

Avery Vang
Front of House

Taylor Wood
Individual Giving Manager

Mia Yoo
Artistic Director

Sasa Yung
Front of House

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES ART HAPPEN

We thank our supporters who are indispensable to La MaMa as we continue to expand and strengthen our artistic community. You help make space for artists to create and share new stories, present diverse perspectives, and keep us all connected in our 64th Season!

64th Season Sponsors (7/1/25 - 6/30/26)

Bloomberg Philanthropies, Doris Duke Foundation, Howard Gilman Foundation, Mellon Foundation, Radio Drama Network, and The Shubert Foundation



Public support provided by:

National Endowment for the Arts, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Governor, and the New York State Legislature, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.



July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

**LA MAMA GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES THE
GENEROUS SUPPORT OF:**

\$100,000+

Anonymous
Booth Ferris Foundation
Doris Duke Foundation
Ford Foundation
Howard Gilman Foundation
Mellon Foundation
National Endowment for the Humanities
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
New York State Council on the Arts
Melina Brown / Radio Drama Network
The Shubert Foundation

\$50,000-\$99,999

Donald Capoccia and
Tommie Pegues
National Historical Publications
and Records Commission

\$25,000-\$49,999

Jody and John Arnhold
The Lily Auchincloss Foundation

\$25,000-\$49,999 (continued)

Mertz Gilmore Foundation Cheryl
Henson / The Jim Henson
Foundation
Holland & Knight LLP
The Jerome Foundation
Steven B. Malkenson/ Malkenson
Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Lise Olney and Timothy W. Fulham
The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels
Foundation
Trust for Mutual Understanding
Venturous Theater Fund of the Tides
Foundation
The Estate of Harold C. Walker

\$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous
Nicole Ansari and Brian Cox
Frank Carucci and David Diamond
Marta Heflin Foundation
Matthew Hall / Goldstein Hall PLLC
Wendy vanden Heuvel / Distracted
Globe Foundation/ JKW
Foundation
Ima Miller Trust
Midnight Theatricals
Leslie Morioka
Polish Cultural Institute

\$10,000-\$24,999 (continued)

Brian Snyder / Granny B&P
Foundation / Beatrice Snyder
Foundation
Richenthal Foundation
Cosmo Roe
The Spingold Foundation
The SQA Foundation

\$5,000-\$9,999

Axe-Houghton Foundation
Dance Service New York/Dance NYC
Eugene "the poogene" Chai
Fiordellisi Williams Family
Foundation
Alice and Jon Flint
The John Fulham Family Fund
A. Guettel and C. Smith Charitable
Fund
The Harkness Foundation for Dance
Karen Hauser and Warren Leight
The Hyde and Watson Foundation
van Itallie Foundation
The Curtis W. McGraw Foundation
The McMahon Family Foundation
Jen Kruse
Sarah Lederman
Mary McMahon
Margaret H. Parker
Estelle Parsons

\$5,000-\$9,999 (continued)

Richard Pinner
 The Québec Government Office in
 New York
 Peter Rider and Glenn Hill
 The Jerome Robbins Foundation
 Ophelia and William Rudin Family
 Foundation
 Sam Rudy
 Wynn Salisch
 Deborah Tolman and Luis Ubiñas
 Liangtee Tue

\$1,000-\$4,499

Arthur Adair
 Lucy P. Allen and John Rhodes
 The American LGBTQ+ Museum
 Page Ashley
 Christina A. Back
 Winsome Brown and Claude Arpels
 The Witter Bynner Foundation for
 Poetry
 Roger Cacchiotti and
 Stephan Kennard
 Peggy Chane
 Jacqueline Chu
 Jane and John Comfort
 Robert Croonquist
 Mary Crowley
 Claudia Doring-Baez
 Frederic Duchac
 Jacqueline Elias
 Farview Foundation
 The Felder Foundation
 Elise Frick and John Garraty
 Robert Goldberg / Yorke Construction
 Company
 Laurie Goldberger and Leslie Kogod
 The John Golden Fund
 Jill Hanekamp
 H.B. Henson Fund / The Puppet Slam
 Network
 Buck Henry and Irene Ramp
 Charitable Trust
 Gerald Herman
 Kim Ima
 Kevin Jennings
 Jackie Judd and John Papanek
 Joan Kane
 The J.M. Kaplan Fund
 William Kelley and Juan Escobar
 Rob Laqui
 Lucille Lortel Foundation
 The Earle I. Mack Foundation, Inc.
 Aran Maree
 Wiley McCarthy
 Robert B. Middleton
 Mary Mullin and Frederick Lough
 Matthew Nasser
 Carol Ostrow

\$1,000-\$4,499 (continued)

The Mr. Pancks' Fund at the Chicago Community
 Foundation
 Mary Parker and Damon Smith
 Christy Pennoyer / The William C. Bullitt Foundation
 Sol Reischer
 Robertson Foundation
 The James E. Robison Foundation
 Joan A. Rose
 Glenn Rose
 Sara Rudner
 Karla Saavedra
 David Sedaris
 Marc Shaiman and Louis Mirabal
 Kenneth Silverman
 Moira Smith / M&T Bank
 Howard and Sarah D. Solomon Foundation
 Spiderwoman Theatre Workshop Inc.
 The Acción Cultural Española
 Hillary Webb
 Michael Witkin
 Bon Yagi / T.I.C. Restaurant Group
 Candice and Joel Zwick

La MaMa is deeply grateful for the support of the Estate
 of Harold C. Walker.

Board Of Directors

Frank Carucci
President

Donald A. Capoccia
Vice President

Joan Rose
Vice President

Steven B. Malkenson
Treasurer

Richard Pinner
Secretary

Byung Koo Ahn
 Eugene (the poogene) Chai
 Jane Friedman
 Mary Fulham
 Timothy W. Fulham
 Matthew Hall
 Kevin Jennings
 Jennifer Kruse
 Rob Laqui
 Wynn J. Salisch
 Luis A. Ubiñas
 Scott Wittman
 Mia Yoo
 Joel Zwick

To receive information regarding upcoming events at
La MaMa or to make a donation, please go to lamama.org

La MaMa, 66 East 4th St., New York, NY 10003

If You Like It, Share It
We want to hear from YOU!

SEARCH FACEBOOK.COM:
LA MAMa EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LAMAMAETC
FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @LAMAMAETC
FOR TICKETS

VISIT LAMAMA.ORG OR CALL 212-352-3101

NOW PLAYING

**Ready For Company and Other
Family Tales**
Nov 6-23, 2025
The Downstairs Theatre

The Divine Comedy
Nov 20-22, 2025
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Osni the Flare
Nov 20-23, 2025
The Downstairs Theatre

**La MaMa Kids:
You Have Arrived**
Nov 22-23, 2025
Community Arts Space

Silent Green
Dec 4-7, 2025
Community Arts Space

COMING SOON

Protest Song
Dec 4-21, 2025
The Club

**From the Other Side
Reimagining Theatre From
The Balkans, Edition 1.0**
Dec 4-14, 2025
Ellen Stewart Theatre

Oklahoma Samovar
Dec 5-21, 2025
The Downstairs

**La MaMa Kids:
Winter Wonderland**
Dec 13, 2025
Community Arts Space

Birth + Carnage
Dec 19-21, 2025
Ellen Stewart Theatre