
Antonio Pizzo

contacts:
ITALIA – Piazza Emanuele Filiberto 7- 10122 Torino
Cell./Mob. Italy ++39 339 2587693
Tel. Home Italy ++39 011 19508948
Tel Office +39 011 6702712
mail: antonio.pizzo@unito.it
antonio.pizzo@gmail.com
www.cirma.unito.it/pizzo

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

I was born in Naples in 1966.

I got a degree in Modern Literature at University of Naples “L’Orientale” in 1991.

From 1993 to 1996 I attended the Ph.D. in Modern and Contemporary Theatre in the conjoined Ph.D. Programme between the university of Naples and Salerno (attained in 1997).

In 1999 I got a three years full time research grant at University of Turin (Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione)

Since the 2001 I am **Associate Professor in Theatre and Drama at University of Turin.**

Since I attained my degree, and I have been always interested in joining practice with theory. In fact, my very first approach to theatre has been practical. Although I have worked both as actor and director in young fringe theatre productions in Naples, I finally decided to dedicate my attention at the research. Italian academia is almost completely detached by the practice, and this is why I would like to move where I can work together both with directors, actor, artists and scholars. In the last year I have tried to approach the practical stage once more: therefore I wrote and Italian adaptation of the Arabian Nights (title: I fiori delle mille e una notte) for the stage (presented in Turin 10, 11 and 12/06/2005); I have participated to the design of a “virtual set” for a concert at Teatro Regio di Torino (Title: Le olimpiadi, 19/09/2005). Nevertheless, I have developed a curriculum in theory and history of theatre and drama, trying to pay more attention to the stage production rather than to literature and texts. I am very skilled in managing cultural organizations, developing academic programs and working in team (for four years I have been organization manager for a film and theatre festival at San Giorgio a Cremano (NAPLES): Premio Massimo Troisi). I also believe that interdisciplinary approach to theatre is a good way to improve my research and that is why in the last three year I have been involved in joined project with computer science scholars on theatre and drama.

PRESENT ACTIVITIES

- **Teaching at University of Turin**
- **(academic program on arts, film and new digital media)**
 - **Theatre and Multimedia** - undergraduate course at the School of Media and Arts (DAMS) - The course wants to provide a wide angle survey about the relation between virtual reality, cyberspace, artificial intelligence and theatre performance. First we trace a short phenomenology on how the Avant-gardes have faced the problem of human being as medium of art on stage (from Maeterlinck to Futurism), then we point out how new digital languages challenge the notion of actor and space in the works of well acclaimed artists (Marce li Antunez Roca, Blast Theory, Moti Roti, Stelarc, Builder Association, etc.)
 - **references:** during my classes, I present slides shows and video example of contemporary theatre productions, and discuss with the students essays and document by Maeterlinck, Jarry, Craig, Marinetti, Depero, Prampolini,
 - **Procedural Drama** - postgraduate course in New Media – The course illustrate different typology of synthetic agents and artificial characters. I discuss a number of key concepts in virtual storytelling, from narrativity to cross-media, from interaction to believability. All along the course I make specific references to playwriting techniques. During the classes the students are committed to a collaborative project, in which they have to create a chatterbot in aiml.
 - **references:** an aiml reference textbook; *The art of dramatic writing*, by Lajos Egri; *Story*, by McKee; *Avatar of Story* by Marie Laure Ryan; *Hamlet on the Holodeck* by

Janet H. Murray; Cybertext bu Espen Aarseth; *Computer as Theatre* by Brenda Laurel; *The language of new media* by Lev Manovich.

- **Member of the Board and Coordinator for the Master in Writing for TV and Multimedia.** School of the Virtual Reality & Multimedia Park, Turin, Italy. (<http://www.edu.vrmp.it/>).
- **Founder and coordinator of Officine Sintetiche**, a work lab in Performing Arts and New Media in Turin (<http://www.officinesintetiche.it>). The project has carried out performance with Marcel li Antunez Roca, Konic Thtr, and now is working with Ali Zaidi (motiroti).

• Research

- **Cyrano** (Cyber Relational Autonomous Narrative Operator), a project about virtual characters and interactive presentation of dramatic events. The research has produced a model (*Drammar*) that formalizes the notion of drama in a computational theory (www.cirma.unito.it).
- **DramaTour**, a project that applies the rules of film editing and scriptwriting to the Museum environment within a server-client wireless architecture and user localization. The research has produced a working example of interactive museum guide in a given environment (www.cirma.unito.it).
- **Vernacular drama in Naples** at the end of the eighteen century. The research aim to define feature which were peculiar of a famous vernacular theatre company (Teatro San Carlino) and the influence of its two main actors/writers (Antonio Petito and Eduardo Scarpetta) on modern Italian Stage (www.eduardo-scarpetta.it).

FURTHER INFORMATION

- I believe that interdisciplinary approach to theatre and entertainment is a good way to improve my research and that is why in the last three year I have been involved in joined project with computer science scholars on theatre, drama and film. (since three years I have been collaborating with the on line magazine www.noemalab.org – see section ideas). In the last five years I have been studying and teaching writing techniques for films and digital entertainment.

BOOKS

Materiali e macchine nel teatro di Remondi e Caporossi (Napoli: I.U.O., 1992).

Teatro e mondo digitale (Venezia: Marsilio, 2003).

Antonio Petito, *‘Na gran cavalcata: l’ultima commedia*, Antonio Pizzo, ed. (Napoli: Guida, 2004).

Il Giardino dei ciliegi di Cechov per Peter Brook (Pisa: ETS Edizioni, 2004).

Scarpetta e Sciosciammocca: nascita di un buffo, (Roma, Bulzoni, 2009)

PAPERS

Espressing Silence: The theatre of Remondi and Caporossi, in "Western European stages" (New York: City University of New York, 1998) vol.10, n. 1.

Il cinema tra comicità e dialetto, in "Catalogo Premio Massimo Troisi" (San Giorgio a Cremano, Napoli: 1998).

Il dibattito sul teatro dialettale in Italia, in "Il Castello di Elsinore", (Torino: Costa & Nolan, 1999) n. 35.

Quando Calibano è un guappo napoletano, in "Ariel" (Rome: 2000) anno XV, gennaio-aprile, n. 43.

Verso l’attore artificiale, in "La Valle dell’Eden" (Torino: Costa & Nolan, 2000) n. 5.

Tradizione, tradimento, traduzione. Percorsi della nuova drammaturgia napoletana, in “Il Castello di Elsinore” (Torino: Costa & Nolan, 2001) n. 41.

Drammaturgia procedurale, in “Anomalie” (Parigi: Anomos, 2001) n. 2 anno (integrally translated in English and French)

Una mazziata mancata, in Roberto Alonge , ed., *Frammenti di un discorso sullo spettacolo: per Roberto Tessari* (Torino: DAMS, 2003).

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Rossana Damiano, Vincenzo Lombardo, Fabrizio Nunnari, Antonio Pizzo, *Ontological Domain Coding for Cultural Heritage Mediation*, in *Formal Ontologies Meet Industry*, edited by Stefano Borgo, Leonardo Lesmo, in “Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence and Applications”, Volume 174, 2008, ISBN 978-1-58603-871-7.

Rossana Damiano, Vincenzo Lombardo, Antonio Pizzo, Fabrizio Nunnari, *DramaTour: Character-enacted Dramatized Presentations on Mobile Device*, presented at Guide Mobili Virtuali 2006, Turin.

Rossana Damiano, Antonio Pizzo, *Emotions in Drama Characters and Virtual Agents*, presented at ' AAAI 2008 Spring Symposium Series', March 26–28, 2008 at Stanford University, California, published in "AAAI Technical Report Spring Symposium", 2008.

Vincenzo Lombardo, Fabrizio Nunnari, Rossana Damiano, Antonio Pizzo, Cristina Gena, *The canonical processes of a dramatized approach to information presentation*, in "Multimedia Systems", Springer, Berlin, 2008.

Rossana Damiano, Cristina Gena, Vincenzo Lombardo, Fabrizio Nunnari, Antonio Pizzo, *A stroll with Carletto. Adaptation in drama-based, interactive tours with virtual characters*, User Modeling and User-Adapted Interaction 18 (5), Springer Netherlands, November, 2008, pp. 417-453, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11257-008-9053-1>.

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WEB

Teatro e multimedia - www.noemalab.org

Short invective on Theatre and Virtuality - www.noemalab.org

Identity, Transformation, and Digital Languages: a conversation with Ali Zaidi - www.noemalab.org

Introduction to Drama and Artificial Intelligence - www.noemalab.org