

## **Genesis of Regeneration: A theatrical masterpiece that will open your eyes**

(Sara Tiberini)

A solo show. “Genesis of Regeneration” by Beppe Allocca and Roberta Provenzani will take you on a journey through the fascinating world of recycled textiles — now more than ever, a good reminder of the significance of recognizing and promoting eco-friendly practices.

“Genesis of Regeneration” was awarded alongside 21 other productions at the 2023 Rome Fringe Festival, where it was honored with the prestigious *Spirito Fringe* award for the play’s innovation and creativity. Thanks to this achievement, “Genesis of Regeneration” will also be staged in the United States as part of the Italian Theater Festival in New York, taking place from April 29th to May 13th, in five different theaters located in Manhattan, Queens, Bronx and Staten Island.

But who are the *cenciaioli* in the play? What does “recycling textile scraps” mean? Why is the city of Prato so important? At the heart of the play is Beppe, a theatrical artisan, as he likes to define himself, whose journey across Italy becomes a mesmerizing odyssey through markets and fairs. “Genesis of Regeneration” is a solo show that talks about the *cenciaioli* from Prato, artisans that since 1850 have recycled second-hand clothing to obtain new textiles; a transformative process that becomes a metaphor for the resilience of the human spirit and the ability to breathe new life into discarded elements. The audience will learn without even realizing it. Commandment number three: you shall not waste any part of the garment.

The play narrates the story of the *cenciaioli* and how recycled textiles are produced step by step. The quick-paced “Genesis of Regeneration” investigates the main subjects of our contemporary fashion industry, such as overproduction, attention to textile materials, fast fashion and eco-friendly solutions. The play promotes environmental awareness and encourages the audience to reflect on their actions and the consequences they may have on the environment, fostering greater commitment to eco-friendly practices. Everything is narrated through stories that are connected to other stories: what is the connection between Eden and recycling? Or between Moses and cashmere? Many other characters will take turns on stage: from peasants to the Sun King, from artisans to buttons and seams, and even renowned authors such as Curzio Malaparte and Friedrich Nietzsche. “Genesis of Regeneration” echoes the themes of the most influential textbook in our history, the Bible. The narrative structure mirrors the biblical triptych of Genesis, Exodus, and the Last Judgment. In the last one a Divinity, along with its faithful assistant, will be tasked with judging and determining the fate of all the garments produced by humanity throughout history. The Genesis segment can be considered a revelation because it serves as a metaphorical creation story that celebrates the cyclical nature of life, where infinite possibilities arise from the act of regeneration.

In addition to his work as an artisan, Beppe Allocca has another passion: theater. That is why he enjoys defining himself as a “theatrical artisan”. He loves stepping on the stage without having to play a part, and the audience can sense it while watching the play. Onstage, Beppe remains true to himself, never changing his demeanor. This authenticity allows him to

deliver a captivating performance to the spectators, effectively conveying the message of the play. He explains with a smile and a sense of enjoyment, entertaining his audience with accessible, engaging, and humorous language. The dialogue reflects both the complexity of the themes addressed and the characters' emotions.

The sound in "Genesis of Regeneration" expertly sets the mood, establishing the atmosphere and reinforcing the play's central theme. Music and sound effects are strategically employed to emphasize the key moments, heightening emotions, and crucial transitions in the narrative. Similarly, the lighting plays a crucial role in creating visual interest, establishing the mood, and guiding the audience's focus on the stage, contributing to convey shifts in time, location, and emotional tone.

The set is ingeniously crafted to reflect the themes of recycling and regeneration. A minimalist approach with versatile, modular elements symbolizes the adaptability and transformative potential of recycled materials; in so doing not only does it reinforce the play's message of sustainability but also serves as a visual testament to the profound impact of regeneration.

A spectacular and extraordinary solo show that will bring you joy and knowledge. Welcome to "Genesis of Regeneration".