

ROBERTO BENIGNI

TuttoDante



TuttoDante (Everything about Dante) with Roberto Benigni

It's a "one man show" centred upon the Divine Comedy by Dante Alighieri which stars Roberto Benigni. He is on stage for about one hour and half, combining current events and memoirs of his past narrated with an ironic tone, to then begin a journey of poetry and passion through the world of the Divine Comedy.

The show had its debut in June 2006 in the beautiful Roman theatre of Patras in Greece, where Benigni read and explained the canto of Ulysses, canto XXVI of the Inferno, in front of a fascinated audience.

In July 2006 the show has been held on 13 evenings in the magnificent Square of Santa Croce in Florence, where a stage has been set up right beside the statue of Dante in front of the basilica, upon which Benigni recited a different canto each evening. The piazza has been set up with chairs and stands totalling 4,200 seats, which were all filled each and every night, by a heterogeneous audience, showing enthusiasm and stadium-like support.

All 13 shows were filmed and transmitted by the national TV station Rai uno throughout December 2007/March 2008 attracting an extremely vast audience. The shows have also been produced and sold as DVDs, obviously breaking all sales records for a theatrical show.

After the success in Florence, TuttoDante went on tour and has been represented in numerous Italian piazzas, arenas, and stadiums, for a total of 130 shows, with an audience estimated to have reached one million spectators, of whom 120,000 in Rome only. Over 10 million more spectators can be added to these, who have watched the TV show "Il V° dell'Inferno" ("The 5th of Hell"), transmitted by Rai uno on November 29th, 2007, with re-runs on Rai International on the successive days.

TuttoDante is a unique event in the history of drama, a fascinating voyage that extends from current events to the Divine Comedy, from moments of pure comedy to moments of breathtaking poetry.

These are some of the comments made by the press and other media:

"A gigantic exultation" (La Nazione)

"Benigni has been able to enchant ... the audience, leaving it in ecstasy, speechless, perhaps surprised by such emotion" (La Repubblica)

"Climbing through the ages, he miraculously combines yesterday with today, current events with poetry, anger with laughter" (Corriere della Sera)

"The show is uniquely exciting... the satire and irony is crushing... but it is unexpectedly suspended to deviate towards the dantesque world, taking the audience by the hand and by the heart to accompany it through the words of the divine Poet" (L'Unità)

"Roberto Benigni comments on Dante like a great theologian" (Il Messaggero)

"Through Benigni's interpretation, Dante becomes an overflowing river" (La Stampa)

"Benigni's popular readings have been for Italy one of the rare, authentic cultural events in the past few years" (TG1)

"A small miracle, considering the amount of people Benigni has approached to the Divine Comedy" (Variety)

And, judging from the sell-outs occurring at every stage of the tour, from the long applause and standing ovations that conclude every evening, "a small miracle" may have really occurred, because as Roberto Benigni said:
"the poetry is not only in who writes but especially in the ear of whom listens"

The affection, the appreciation and enthusiasm demonstrated by the audience towards this show has made Benigni state: It's been an incredible work, I'll treasure this experience as one of the sweetest, most popular, and emotional memories of my life.

TuttoDante is produced by Melampo Cinematografica, organized by Lucio Presta, with the executive production of Arcobaleno tre; it is currently in the process of preparation to cross the national borders, to undertake a journey that will bring Roberto Benigni and Dante around Europe, the United States, Canada, and South America.

For further information:

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