



IL FIN, LA MERAVIGLIA

## A 30-year-long story

Studio Festi is an artistic project and production centre bringing into being shows and grand installations, which have become internationally renowned for their poetry and aesthetics.

Founded in 1982 by Valerio Festi and Monica Maimone, Studio Festi operates from its main offices in Velate (Varese), its workshop in Venegono Superiore (Varese) and, in 2010, it set up a branch in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Studio Festi's artistic activity covers three main areas:

- Outdoor shows
- Installations of lights, also called architectures of light due to their unique features
- Video mapping and video projections
- Concerts for fireworks with live orchestra

A common feature of all of its work is that it is specifically tailored to suit any type of celebration or occasion, from city festivals to commemorations, from exclusive private parties to the opening of sports events.

The poetry characterising Studio Festi's work is linked to a reinterpretation of traditional city festivals through the invention of stage machines that take inspiration from the Italian Baroque while yet retaining a modern taste as well as through the use of aerial dances, the projection of images on buildings and giant screens to create stage setting and dramaturgical elements, and through the representation of ancient rituals like that of the Italian "parata" (parade).

Studio Festi has organized large-scale celebrative events in many Italian cities as well as internationally, events which have become a benchmark in the industry.

The realization of the *Festino di Santa Rosalia* for 3 consecutive years (1995-1997) in Palermo as well as the staging, in 1991 and 1992, of *Antigone delle città* commemorating the 1980 Bologna terroristic attack, have had a key role in defining Studio Festi's dramaturgical and aesthetic approach.

The ground-breaking character of Studio Festi's work has also had to do with the so-called *architectures of light*, presenting many innovative aesthetic and technical features. An example of that is the one designed for the commemoration of the Kobe earthquake, commissioned every year since 1995.

In the field of fireworks, Studio Festi has taken inspiration from the aesthetics, the techniques and the typology of Baroque-style pyrotechnical shows, combining them with live classical music performances. A famous instance of this artistic development has been the 1999 Saint Peter's square concert performed by the *Accademia di Santa Cecilia* Orchestra, and conducted by Myung-Whun Chung, in occasion of the inauguration of the restoration work of the façade of Saint Peter's Basilica.

The name of Studio Festi is to be associated, moreover, to the opening ceremonies of great sports events, amongst which that of the Turin XX Winter Olympics, where Studio Festi was responsible for the realization of the segment *From Renaissance to Baroque*, that of the 2008 UCI Cycling World Championships in Varese as well as the opening ceremony of the 2009 FINA Swimming World Championships in Rome.

## Studio Festi in the World

- *La luce italiana*, installations of light in occasion of *Italy in Houston 1987*, for which Valerio Festi received an award from the American institute of Architects.
- *Antigone delle città*, Bologna, 1991 – 1992. A show commemorating the victims of the Bologna train station terroristic attack on 2 August 1980.
- *Incanti e memorie*, 1994. A series of 10 shows, produced to promote Trentino's territory and heritage.
- *Festino di Santa Rosalia*, Palermo, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2001
- *Carnevale dell'eccesso*, Milano, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999
- *Kobe Lights Architecture*, Kobe, 1995 – 2010. Architecture of light in commemoration of the victims of the 1995 Kobe earthquake, visited by 6 million people every year.
- *I pianeti*, by Gustav Holst, Spoleto, 1998, a gala concert/show to mark the opening of the 41° *Festival dei Due Mondi*. The show was replicated in the following occasions:
  - Valencia, 2002, Eclèctic - Festival de Verano de la Ciudad de las Artes y las Ciencias
  - Bilbao, 2002
  - Mexico, Festival Internacional Cervantino 2009, itinerating show in 6 different squares.
- *Concerto per fuochi d'artificio*, Roma, 1999, *Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia* Orchestra, conducted by Myung-whun Chung, Saint Peter's Square, Vatican City , in occasion of the inauguration of the restoration work of the façade of Saint Peter's Basilica, in the presence of John Paul II.
- *La città della luce* –Decorative lighting of the doors of the city of Bologna , 1999
- *Tokyo Millenario*, Tokyo, 1999 – 2005. Architecture of light.
- *Titanomachia*, Catania, 1999, New Year's Eve Show.
- *La Creazione*, by Franz Joseph Haydn, Spoleto, 2000, concert/show for the opening of the Jubilee, *Festival dei Due Mondi*
- *L'ultimo angelo. Un'elegia per il paradiso perduto*, Spoleto, 2000
- *La luce degli angeli*, Moscow, 2001. Show in Theatres Square
- *La festa del cielo*, Tokyo, 2001, opening ceremony/show of *2001 Italy in Japan*
- *Heaven and Earth*, Beijing, 2002, Architecture of light in Di Tan Park
- *De los àngeles y de la luz*, Bogotá, 2002, Closing ceremony of the dell'VIII Festival Iberoamericano de teatro de Bogotá
- *Robe de Lumière*, Paris, Galeries Lafayette, 2002 – 2010 Architecture of light, which has become a landmark of *ville lumière*
- *Christsmas de-light*, Istanbul, Akmerkez shopping mall, 2003 - 2008, Architecture of light.
- *Fuochi di gioia e di allegrezza*, Rome, 2003, concert for fireworks in honour of John Paul II for his 25th year of his papacy.
- *Of Angels and Light*
  - Sydney, 2004, Sydney Festival-Sydney Olympic Park
  - Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2004

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- *Il Mandarino Meraviglioso* by Béla Bartók, *L'apprendista stregone* by Paul Dukas, *Quadri di un'esposizione* by Modest Mussorgsky (orchestrated by: Maurice Ravel), concert-show for the opening of the Festival dei Due Mondi 2004, Spoleto
- *La caída de los ángeles*, Bogotá, 2004, X Festival Iberoamericano de teatro de Bogotá
- *Fuochi di gioia e di allegrezza*, Bilbao, 2004
- *Cabalgata de Reyes*, Madrid, 2005, 2006 2008, 2009
- *The Dancing Sky*, Adelaide, 2006, Adelaide Festival of Arts.
- *Il Tempo si rinnova*, Beijing, 2006, opening ceremony/show of *2006 year of Italy in China*
- *Dal Rinascimento al Barocco*, Turin, 2006, portion of the Opening Ceremony of the XX Turin Winter Olympics.
- Special Olympics European Youth Games, Rome, 2006, opening ceremony
- "Columbus Day Parade", New York, 2006
- *Indovini di nuvole*, Mexico, itinerating show, Festival Internacional Cervantino 2006
- *Smart Night*, Bologna, 2006
- *Fenerbahçe Spor Kulübü 1907 - 2007*, Istanbul. Celebrations for the club's 100th anniversary that included: architectures of light, shows at the stadium, parade for Bagdad Caddesi
- *Il sogno di Assol*, Saint Petersburg , 2007, show in occasion of the traditional Scarlet Sail Festival.
- *La nascita della bellezza*, Rome, 2007, the show was part of the celebrations for Valentino Giovanni's 45-year-long career. The evening is part of Valebtino: the last emperor, the feature documentary produced and directed by Matt Tyrnauer.
- *Deluge*, Laikipia (Kenya), 2008. Show produced in collaboration with Fondazione Ipazia – Art for the environment, under the auspices of the Environment Ministry.
- *The Beauty of Harmony*, Macao , 2008. Water show, 100 days before the beginning of the Beijing Olympics.
- *Munich Revue*, Bavaria-Munich, 2008, celebration for the 850° anniversary of the city's foundation.
- *La Città giardino sul tetto del mondo*, Varese, 2008, opening ceremony of the UCI Road World Championships
- *The Dancing Sky*, Singapore, 2008
- *Le rideau se lève*, Damascus, 2008, opening ceremony-show of *Damascus: Arab Capital of Culture 2008*.
- *Sinfonia degli oceani*, Rome, 2009, opening ceremony/show of the 2009 Swimming World Championship in Rome.
- *Italian Harmony*, Adana, 2010, opening performance 12th State Theater- Sabanci International Adana Theater Festival 2010
- *Celebration of beauty*, Singapore, 2010, Formula 1 Singtel Singapore Grand Prix
- *An introduction to Italy*, New York, 2010, Columbus Day Parade
- *Opening ceremony Chinese cultural year in Italy*, Roma 2010, artistic light show at the Colosseum, at the presence of Prime minister Wen Jiabao.
- *Opening ceremony* of the Olympiyskiy Stadium, Kiev, 2011

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- *Naturalia Artificialia*, Antalya, 2011, 2nd International Theatre Festival
- *Ocean Symphony*, Adana, 2011, opening performance 13th State Theater- Sabanci International Adana Theater Festival 2011
- *The Waters of the Seas*, Singapore, 2011, Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix
- *Ensaio Sobre a Beleza*, Rio de Janeiro, 2011, opening ceremony of Momento Italia Brasil
- Galeria de Luz, Curitiba, 2011, Architecture of light installation