

2011 - October 26 San Rufino

35 Dancers coming from different schools of Umbria presented THE TABLE OF SILENCE PROJECT, a public tribute and prayer for peace to honor the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in Assisi, conceived by choreographer Jacquelyn Buglisi and Italian artist Rossella Vasta. The choreography has been specially adapted to San Rufino square in Assisi by Buglisi Dance Theater principal Dancer and Director of the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, Virginie Victoire Mecene. Wednesday October 26, 6:40PM, ending at 7:00PM on the Plaza of the San Rufino Cathedral in Assisi, Italy.

This site-specific ceremonial event was originally created for 100 dancers from the New York City dance community, entitled "*The Table of Silence Project*," commemorating the tenth anniversary of 9/11. Participants were dancers from Buglisi Dance Theatre, The Juilliard School, the Martha Graham Center of Contemporary Dance and others.

As described by the choreographer, "*The Table of Silence Project*" represents the common threads of humanity which unite all mankind into a single force with common goals and aspirations, regardless of race, culture or religion. Through this event we wish to achieve the dual purpose of celebrating and honoring peace through listening - a united moment of silence - a call for peace in our world from NYC's community of artists." (Jacquelyn Buglisi)

The Table of Silence ceremonial-dance event has been brought to Italy to honor the 25th anniversary of the gathering in Assisi of all religious leaders, initiated by Pope John Paul II. The choreographic vocabulary of gestures designed by Buglisi for the Lincoln Center ceremonial event on September 11 has been adapted to the site-specific design of San Rufino.

To welcome the visit of Pope Benedict XVI in Assisi, a few events have been planned at the Cathedral of San Rufino on the 26. Before the Table of Silence Ceremonial Event, Padre Enzo Bianchi from the "Comunità di Bose lectured on the subject "Pilgrims of Truth, Pilgrim of Peace".

For this event Virginie Mecene trained 35 dancers from local schools in Umbria (Corciano, Todi and Assisi) in a workshop held at the Pieve International School in Corciano (Perugia). The dancers were coordinated by Francesca Primavera, director of School of Dancing Spring in Corciano (Perugia).

Wellknown American Percussionist Paula Jeanine Bennett came from New York to play and direct the music of the Table of Silence ceremonial-dance, playing with the Italian flautist Andrea Ceccomori (who also with her performed at the Lincoln Center) and the Mezzosoprano Damiana Pinti.

The site-specific work derives its title from Rossella Vasta's sculpture of 100 white terracotta plates representing a symbolic banquet table uniting all of humanity. This moving meditation of dancers becomes the personification of the banquet table.

On October 22 "*The Table of Silence Project*" has also been performed at Syracuse University/NY in a workshop held by Jacquelyn Buglisi.

Sponsors of the Table of Silence Project are Fausto Bizzirri of the Bizzirri ceramic factory in Città di Castello where Vasta's sculpture-dishes have been realized, and Alessandro Gherardi of the homonymous fashion factory from Città di Castello, where the costumes have been realized.