

L'ISOLA DELLE STORIE Festival Letterario della Sardegna / XV Edizione

Final press release

"We believe that culture making is still one of the most inviolable privileges and one of the sounder ramparts against any despotism. We have opened our doors to the readers of the future, promoting culture without any snobbery, palmarès, and provincialism. Our story speaks for us: there are so many people, who, after an edition of Gavoi Festival, rush to book a place for the following one. All those people speak for us".

The XV edition of **The Literary Festival of Sardinia – L'Isola delle Storie** ended yesterday. This year it has been dedicated to the memory of Ermanno Olmi, who still stands as a model of intellectual and man.

The intense opening event with Simonetta Agnello Hornby and Filomena Campus, main leaders of the performance-work in progress in words, music and singing *Credevo che (I believed that...)*, has been a moment of thought on the currently important theme of domestic violence; it was followed, as usual, by a rich program including about 70 events: panel discussions, presentations, performances, laboratories, exhibitions, concerts, showings and readings.

The public has crowded the streets of the village one more time this year, with recorded sold outs for most of the meetings of the program, proving the great interest for the cultural propositions of *L'Isola delle Storie*. Amongst the guest of this edition we mention Marco Damilano, Davide "Boosta" Dileo, Carlo Boccadoro, Daniela Hamai, Carolina Orlandi, Omar Di Monopoli, Francesco Abate and our foreign guests Michael Frank and Fiona Barton.

The program for teenagers and children has also been a great success. Curated by Fabio Geda with Davide Meloni and Francesca Frongia from the Association Lughené, it took place in a space in which the various generations of readers were able to relate with and talk to each other. Amongst the guests who have taken the floor at the events at the Giardino Comunale and in Casa Maoddi we mention Zerocalcare, Carlo Greppi, Sofia Viscardi, Alice Milani, Ghemon, Giacomo Mazzariol, who have also been protagonists of the new and lucky course *Fronte del Palco* which opened the Festival of Gavoi to the language of the young and the teenagers. Many others have contributed, Pierdomenico Baccalario, Manlio Castagna, Teresa Porcella, Ignazio Fulghesu, Alessio Mura. The numerous laboratories proposed, which have involved children and teenagers from 3 to 18, were all fully booked.

The attendance has been excellent also in the exhibits proposed during the Festival: the exhibition *100 Years* by the German photographer Hans Peter Feldmann, curated by Luigi Fassi and Alberto Salvadori, produced in collaboration with the Museum MAN of Nuoro; the project *SUI RAMI – il racconto* by BAM Design, *Un coccodrillo come vicino* by the illustrator Mariachiara Di Giorgio, *Prima di me* by Mook, *L'arca parte alle otto: storie, immagini, musica e film sul mondo animale* curated by the Centro di Documentazione Regionale Biblioteche per Ragazzi (Centre of regional documentation for teenagers' libraries) and Biblioteca Metropolitana Ragazzi (Metropolitan library for teenagers) and *L'isola delle storie a matita* by the illustrator Claudia Piras.

The exhibit *Intintos, Il lato oscuro degli ospiti del Festival* has been really appreciated by the audience and by the guests themselves. This is the new tile of a multi-year project dedicated by the photographer Daniela Zedda to *L'Isola delle Storie* and the community of Barbagia,

made of the guests' portraits from the other previous editions, integrated into the urban context of the village.

The social media channels have had also an increase with 15,000 followers on the official Facebook page and more than 8,000 daily views, 7,500 daily views on Twitter, 3,000 daily views on Instagram. Finally, more than 2,000 pictures have been shared on Instagram and the videos "greetings from the guests", again on Instagram, have reached a thousand of views.

Particular thanks are dedicated, one more time, to the bodies, companies and institutions who give their contribution to the realisation of the Festival every year. However, in order to go on, a Festival, needs a lot of energy and because of this, Marcello Fois, in his final greeting to the audience, has drawn the attention to the difficulties met by the organisation in the last months: *"We are now 15 years old. We want to put a stop to begging and demonstrations. Appropriate places, responsible interlocutors, convincing argumentations, certain guarantees, radical changes, definitive considerations, and, in particular right acknowledgments, substantial rather than formal, will establish whether these greetings are a "see you again" or a "farewell". For now, Thanks"*.