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## **La Gaia Scienza. Una notte sui tetti (1977)**

with Giorgio Barberio Corsetti, Nunzia Camuto, Marco Solari, Alessandra Vanzi, Enrico Ragusa  
sole performance: Rome, via Flaminia 259, December 17, 1977.

## **La Gaia Scienza, Una notte sui tetti (1977). Presentation**

by *Stefano Scipioni*

The performance of *Una notte sui tetti*, set within a series of *assaults*, called *Iniziativa di ii* (the plural form of *io*), on the city of Rome, took place between December 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 1977. The participants in these exploits were exponents and artists of the Roman experimental theater of that era, close to Beat '72: Del Re-Nesbitt, Mario Romano, Gianni Dessì, Il Carrozzone. La Gaia Scienza did its performance on December 17<sup>th</sup> at Via Flaminia 259 (home of two members of the group), in two phases: the first in the apartment and the second on the roof.

The performance space was based on the ambiguity between inside and outside, private and public. The apartment floor of the rooms, painted blue, created significant interference with the sky of the terrace, in a continual swing between high and low, lightness and gravity. The choice of space was dictated by the group's continual quest to create a sentimental education made of encounters between bodies, spaces and lights. The apartment's interior, thanks to the relationship between Enrico Ragusa and Giorgio Barberio Corsetti, was the setting for the generational clash between the old school of acting and the changing needs of young groups, which ends in a mutual misunderstanding, threatened by a sense of death and repressed violence. The two couples Corsetti-Camuto and Solari-Vanzi, get free of the claustrophobic space, to the notes of Édith Piaf, of an apartment room and take to the roofs and terraces, modern jungles made of bricks, television antennas and narrow places, in the throes of a euphoric youthful impulse towards life, made of precipitous falls and prolonged expectations, under a tragic neon lighting. Angst is combined with naive purity; the problem of death is intertwined with the life force of youth.

This performance contains the thread of the group's poetics, as described by Nico Garrone in *La Repubblica*: "that of a sentimental education, the discovery of oneself and others in the midst of a crowd, in the diffuseness of a trip, a collective event, one's first traumatic impact with the world."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> N. Garrone, *Col trapezio in terrazza la vita vista dai tetti*, in «La Repubblica», December 27, 1977.