

Thomas Richards and Mario Biagini from the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards in Pontedera, Italy, are Maria Shevtsova's guests this year as part of her Conversations Series. They will be at Goldsmiths, University of London on 25 November in the George Wood Theatre at 18:00. As usual, there will be a discussion with the audience following the Conversation.

Previous participants were Eugenio Barba (2005), Lev Dodin (2006) and Declan Donnellan (2007).

All practitioners, academics, students and members of the public are welcome and entry is free. The stations are New Cross Gate or New Cross on overhead trains direct from London Bridge (one stop). Please note that the East London tube line is closed. We may need to set up a booking system, so if you intend to come please contact me soon as possible on drp02rs@gold.ac.uk.

Thomas Richards is Artistic Director of the research carried out by the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards. Having begun his apprenticeship with Grotowski in 1985 at the University of California, Irvine, he came with Grotowski to Italy and has since developed principles established for 'Art as Vehicle'. In 1996, Grotowski changed the name of the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski to include that of Thomas Richards, thereby indicating the crucial role Richards was playing in the research. Richards was the main creator and doer of *Downstairs Action* (filmed by Mercedes Gregory in 1989) and of *Action*, and is the director of *The Letter*, a recent opus. He was the Artistic Director of the Workcenter project *Tracing Roads Across* (2003-2006), supported by the Culture 2000 programme of the European Union. Richards is the author of *At Work with Grotowski on Physical Actions* (Routledge, 1995) and *Heart of Practice, Within the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards* (Routledge, 2008).

Mario Biagini is Associate Director of the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards, starting his research with Grotowski in 1986 at the Workcenter. He is a key member of the Workcenter research team, a doer in *Downstairs Action*, a principal doer in *Action*, main director and principal actor of *Dies Irae* in its various incarnations, and leader of the project *The Bridge: Developing Theatre Arts*. In 2007, he began the supervision *Open Program* at the Workcenter. Mario Biagini is the co-editor (with Antonio Attisani) of the three volume *Opere e sentieri* (Bulzoni Editore, 2007 and 2008), which incorporates texts by Grotowski, 1968-1998. He is preparing *Doorways. Performing as a*

Vehicle at the Workcenter of Jerzy Grotowski and Thomas Richards in collaboration with Antioni Attisani and Lisa Wolford Wylam.

--

Professor Maria Shevtsova
Co-editor of *New Theatre Quarterly*
Professor of Drama and Theatre Arts
Director of Research and Graduate Studies
Director of the Sociology of Theatre and Performance Research Group
Department of Drama
Goldsmiths College
University of London
New Cross
London SE14 6NW
UK
Tel:+44 207 9197407
Fax:+44 207 9197413