

Pirandello Society of America

www.pirandellosociety.org



Global Legacies: Pirandello across Centuries and Media

All-day Conference: Saturday 16 September 2017
Hunter College, CUNY
695 Park Ave, New York City

Dear Guests,

on behalf of the Pirandello Society of America, we are excited to welcome you to the conference *Global Legacies: Pirandello across Centuries and Media*, graciously hosted by Hunter College thanks to the invaluable support of Paolo Fasoli, Chair of the Department of Romance Languages.

This one-day celebration of Luigi Pirandello highlights the rich global framework in which his works, legacies, inspirations, and ideas developed and continue to resonate. The theatre scene of New York City was integral to Pirandello's initial international success, and it was here that his prima donna, Marta Abba, established the Pirandello Society of America in 1958, dedicated to preserving his theatrical and literary legacy. It is thus fitting that in 2017, 150 years after Pirandello's birth, we have the opportunity to bring together a diverse group of scholars and performers to reflect on that legacy and celebrate the continuing vitality of the maestro's art.

Given the wide and enduring scope of Pirandello's international presence, it is hardly surprising that this anniversary overflows with such events. Globally, the academic conference series *Pirandello International 2017* is a testament of how Pirandello's legacy truly spans the world. With fifteen conferences taking place across Europe, North America, and Africa, this series coalesces around the theme of "Pirandello in a Globalized World." We are grateful to our colleagues at the *Europäisches Pirandello Zentrum e.V.* in Munich, Germany who have worked to coordinate these events, and we are proud to make our own contribution to this global effort.

But such events are not just taking place across oceans. Here in New York, one of our own board members, John Martello, has spearheaded "Pirandello 150," a theatrical and filmic celebration, with readings of theatrical works – from *Right You Are (If You Think You Are)* and *Cap and Bells* to *The Mountain Giants* – and a film series screening various adaptations of Pirandello's creations, thus ensuring that New York continues to be an essential location for the ongoing presentation and reception of Pirandello's works.

Featuring a wide range of scholars from various universities, departments, and stages of their career, we are eager to promote an academic conversation that will surely bear valuable fruits. At the same time, we are excited to feature creative work of numerous types, including the North American premiere of Anne-Marie Creamer's recent film adaptation of Pirandello's own adaptation of *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, and a staged reading of *The Imbecile* directed by Mira Felner. From the start in 1958, the Pirandello Society of America has celebrated the maestro's work not only through scholarly study and discussion but also through artistic production. We warmly invite you to participate in a marriage of those two callings that we hope will be worthy of the extraordinary legacy of one of twentieth century's most original, exciting, and transformative figures.

Welcome!

Stefano Boselli, Samantha Costanzo Burrier, Lisa Sarti, Michael Subialka

Conference Schedule

8:00-8:45 Meet and Greet

8:45-9:00 Opening Remarks

Paolo Fasoli – Hunter College, The City University of New York

Jana O’Keefe Bazzoni – Baruch College, The City University of New York

9:00-10:30 Session #1 – Pirandellian Transformations: Sources and Afterlives

Chair: Stefano Boselli – City College, The City University of New York

“Pirandello Translates Pirandello”

Giuseppe Faustini – Skidmore College

“Petrarch and Pirandello: The Sense of an Ending”

Jane Tylus – New York University

“The Metamorphoses of *The Jar*”

Andrea Baldi – Rutgers University

“Vital Images: Metaphors and Visual Thought in Luigi Pirandello’s Works”

Lisa Sarti – BMCC, The City University of New York, Fellow at Harvard University, Fall 2017

Respondent: Jana O’Keefe Bazzoni – Baruch College, The City University of New York

10:30-11:00 Break

Videoclip “150 Pirandello” – Comune of Agrigento, Italy

11:00-12:30 Session #2 – Metatheatre and Modernity

Chair: Michael Subialka – University of California, Davis

“Pirandello’s Modern Times”

Giuseppe Gazzola – Stony Brook University

“Jorge Lavelli and Pirandello: A Year with *Six Characters* between France and Argentina”

Stefano Boselli – City College, The City University of New York

“A Stage Onstage: The Meta-Theatricality of Balconies in Pirandello and Genet”
Becky Gould – Columbia Teachers College

“Luigi Pirandello as Maese Pedro in his Theatre of Puppets: A Pirandellian Reading
of Miguel de Cervantes’s Episode of Maese Pedro”
Maria (Mara) Theodoritsi – University of Ottawa

Respondent: Susan Tenneriello – Baruch College, The City University of New York

12:30-13:15 Lunch Break

13:15-14:15 Film Screening and Discussion

Treatment for Six Characters, an Unrealized Film by Luigi Pirandello (2015)
directed by Anne-Marie Creamer – University of the Arts London
introduced by Michael Subialka – University of California, Davis

14:15-14:30 Break

14:30-15:30 Keynote Address

“Pirandello and the Globalization of his Theatre”
Pietro Frassica – Princeton University

15:30-15:45 Break

Videoclip “Il poeta di Girgenti” – Salvatore Alessi / Malarazza

15:45-17:15 Session #3 – Pirandellian Humor and the Limits of Truth

Chair: Lisa Sarti – BMCC, The City University of New York,
Fellow at Harvard University, Fall 2017

“Pirandello and Satire. The Imaginary Journey of Charles Kenneth Scott Moncrieff with
Four Authors without a Character”
Stefano Giannini – Syracuse University

“Pirandellian Post-Truth: Humor and Resistance”
Laura Lucci – Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario

“Suicide Adolescents in Pirandello’s Short Stories”

Nicole Paronzini – The Graduate Center, The City University of New York

“Pirandello: Life and Form Revisited”

Filippa Modesto – Brooklyn College, The City University of New York

Respondent: John DiGaetani, Hofstra University

17:15-17:30 Closing remarks by the conference organizers

Stefano Boselli, Lisa Sarti, and Michael Subialka

17:30 Play reading: Luigi Pirandello’s *The Imbecile*

Directed by Mira Felner, Hunter College, The City University of New York

With Christopher Wilson (Luca Fazio), Guy Ventoliere (Leopoldo Paroni), Jacob Scherer (A Traveling Salesman), Peter Angelinas, Patrick Moley, Samantha Grassian, Nicolle Marquez (Reporters), and Monika Watkins (Stage Directions).

Wireless

A wireless account is available for conference participants:

username: pirandel
password: @Psa2017

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Maria Hernandez-Ojeda and Rafael Fernandez for their assistance in setting up the space and breakfast refreshments.



The Pirandello Society of America

For more information about the Pirandello Society of America, please visit our website www.pirandellosociety.org

Conference location

Attendance at the conference is free and open to the public.

The conference will take place in the Faculty Dining Room, a large reception hall with panoramic views of the New York City skyline located on the 8th floor of the Hunter West Building (indicated in orange on the map).

If you are not currently affiliated with The City University of New York, you will need to first obtain a Visitors Pass from the Visitors Center in the West Building Lobby. Simply show a valid photo ID to a Visitors Center Associate, recognizable by their purple vests, and you'll be given access to the building.



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