

# ATO



site-specific performance for children and adults in a private apartment

from and with: Alfredo Zinola and Ximena Ameri

Production of the Fondazione T.r.g. Onlus Torino  
With the support of the project Terre Comuni/Terres  
Communes Alcotra 2007-2013

Willkommen, Bienvenue,

Benvenuto,

Welcome to the project ATO.

ATO is a site-specific performance that invites the audience to enter the private world of an apartment of a family.

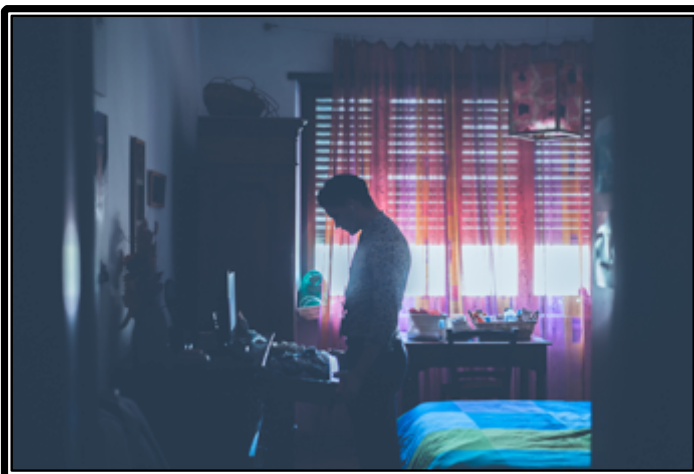
*Imagine that you are in summer and you walk around 3 pm through the rooms of an apartment. Everything is silent, everything is still, the shutters are closed and every thing is in half-light, every thing is still. Imagine that behind this stillness a photo in a frame becomes a film, that a chest of drawers tells you of a game. As if the fantasy of a child could become substance.*

ATO opens the door of an intimate space to an audience that will be leaded trough a protected an intimate journey.

Intimate is something personal, not accessible to everybody: like a diary, like a secret, like a password, like an apartment.



Each participant is asked by the performers to use an MP3 player and to listen through headphones. The MP3 player will play a text that will guide the spectator from the outside of the apartment building till the front door. The door will open and the audience will be informed from the text to enter inside and to explore the rooms and their inhabitants, to open the drawers and to identify an intimate object that can represents them somehow. The object will become their companion, to take along in the discovery of the apartment and the discovery of oneself, as in a physical and emotional journey between the outside and the inside. At the end of the journey the audience will exit. The performers will close the door and will bring the audience still listening at their headphones to watch once more from outside that apartment building, container of so many experiences. While the intimate object, the companion chosen from each one, will stay in the apartment, in a safe place, protected from the closed door.





ATO questions a very delicate and important theme: the interest for the private world of persons.

The audience that enters the apartment perceives she is penetrating an intimate ambiance, first she feels awkward, then curious. The purpose of ATO is to makes the audience asking herself what's her own definition of intimate:

"If you would be Obama,  
which one would be your  
intimate object?"

"...and if you were you?..."

Until the audience might find out that intimacy is a purely personal definition and that the only function of the apartment might be to offer a space to everyone to approach their own intimacy.



ATO is developed ad hoc for the apartment. Previous to the performance the performers propose a creative workshop of five days in the apartment with the family, to research about the site. The workshop, a unique experience for the creativity of the children, aims to produce the material that will enrich the performance. For example the text that will lead the audience through the performance, or the installations created specifically with the inhabitants of the house to reflect on the layout of the apartment itself.

ATO is a project that mixes on purpose different art fields: theatre, improvisation, visual art and the site-specific work to create a unique and unforgettable event.

## Presse

A carefree and very serious diversion (...). The curiosity about someone else's home, which inevitably leads to explore a space before unknown, leaves space for a reflection on ourselves and the way each of us lives their own "intimate".

Laura Bevione, Sistema teatro Torino.

"That awkward moment when you're invited by a performer to spend an intimate hour with (not in) female underwear in a private apartment with another 20 people rummaging through the personal space of a young family. Private/public duality, voyeuristic/performative. Definitely memorable and beautifully executed with the hosting family. Thank you."

Toni Attard, Director Zjguzajg Festival Malta.

To walk among the petals of a flower without breaking them we need to be lead by performers that moves with us in the whole path, facilitating and protecting us instant by instant the miracle of a playful and poetic communication.

E. Praloran, Eolo Journal



## Notes

Performance:

Aged: 6+

Performers: 2

Capacity: 30 persons

Duration of the performance: 1 hour

Technical requirements:

30 MP3 Player or audio guide with headphones

Creative workshop:

Duration: 5 days previous the performance

Working time:

The performers, during the workshop week, are 24 hours available. The family will decide the timing of the workshop in order to respect the rhythm of the family.

## INFO

Alfredo Zinola

Promotion.

M: [almamoretta@yahoo.it](mailto:almamoretta@yahoo.it)

T: +49 (0) 15202755844



con il sostegno dell'Unione Europea - Fondo Europeo di Sviluppo Regionale nell'ambito del Programma ALCOTRA  
(Alpi Latine Cooperazione Transfrontaliera) 2007-2013 "Insieme oltre i confini"  
avec le soutien de l'Union Européenne - Fonds européen de développement régional dans le cadre du Programme ALCOTRA  
(Alpes Latines de Coopération Transfrontalières France Italie) 2007-2013 « Ensemble par delà les frontières »





A group of twenty persons a bit disoriented in a corner of the entrance of a supermarket in Turin in a late sunny Sunday morning. At one point they start wearing headphones and diligently, and still a bit confused, they get in line behind a nice young man that guides them through Italian families doing their Sunday shopping. The group cross the supermarket car park, through the street and slips into an apartment block. The goal is, on the fifth floor, the apartment of a four persons family of which the "audience" listened to the story through the headphones. The headphones, crossed the threshold, becomes the vehicle that Zinola and Ameri will use to give the instructions for this unusual performance – play game. The apartment becomes a place for exploration and concealment, the subject of a journey of knowledge of the space and of themselves. A carefree and very serious diversion, result of a week-long residency of the two artists in this family who has chosen to challenge not only their own very private space, but also their relational dynamics. The two children of the family, also inspirations of this performance, takes part actively to this performance, that however "functions" just if the audience accept also to play and to question letting their "private" –in the same way the family does– is somehow brought to light and even violated.

The curiosity about someone else's home, which inevitably leads to explore a space before unknown, leaves space for a reflection on ourselves and the way each of us lives their own "intimate". All that, however, just in the case the audience will agree to relinquish their audience passivity to make themselves, on the contrary, as active protagonist of the performance.

*Laura Bevione Sistema teatro Torino*