

# the champion and the mosquito

epic and itinerant open-air show for actors and audience by bike



with

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a creation of

**Faber Teater and Mario Chiapuzzo**

in partnership with

**Fondazione Circolo dei Lettori, Torino  
Museo dei Campionissimi, Novi Ligure**

text and direction

**Mario Chiapuzzo**

bikes

**Museo dei Campionissimi, Novi Ligure**

under the auspices of

**FCI (Federazione Ciclistica Italiana)**

costumes, masks, banners, bike processing

**Faber Teater**

english version by

**Nirupama Nityanandan and Mario Chiapuzzo**

▶ [full video](#)

▶ [teaser](#)

Everyone is on a bicycle in this a-typical show, riding across space and time on the river of the Twentieth Century. The characters are Guides of Time, all with balinese masks, who take the spectators by the hand accompanying them through the life and times of an extraordinary cycling champion, Fausto Coppi.

The Twentieth Century runs under their wheels... then the sprint of one Guide passes through the platoon carrying a new date. Then another, and another again. Moments in Coppi's life and historical facts hit each other like poetically propelled news, from one station to another, tightening and dilating time, making everyone exist only in the present tense.

In the stations, the most memorable feats are played, such as the climb up the Galibier in the Tour de France and other victories and defeats, up to the final meeting between Fausto Coppi and the small African mosquito which stung him. Everyone has their place in this epic ride!

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## Director's notes

The stage-stalls relation is of two types: one fixed, in the stations where we perform, the other in motion and interactive, during the pedaling of the platoon of spectators from one station to another. We create the scene background of the stations with our Bicyclelectics equipped with Sashimonos, the banners of the medieval Japanese knights. Music is also portable, fixed or on the move, music is always with us.

The characters are Time Guides belonging to the "Bondres" family, the comic masks of the Topeng theatre in the island of Bali, in Indonesia. But they have a universal alphabet, common to popular masked comedies and storytellers from all over the world. These characters are also cousins of the artisans of Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream and also relatives of the circus' clowns, of the town criers and the passionate fans who have always followed the cycling races.

The masks are made of papier mache in Faber Teater's workshop and all are copies of original wooden "Bondres" characters from the balinese Topeng. The costumes has been created with fragments of clothes collected from all the historical periods and countries crossed by the Guides.

The mosquito character is part of an interconnected poetic world. We wanted to use this special perspective that the new generations have. Young generations that are born with the awareness of the planet as a common place of life in which everyone has the same responsibility.

The imagination of the spectators is our Holy Grail and we take great care of it. Finding it again and again was an happy experience of cleanliness, of rediscovering the roots. The imagination has to be conducted with the right words, in the right order, with the right gesture acting. Poetry is involved, not logic.

So, the show may become quite an initiatory itinerary for audience of every age.

# TECHNICAL SHEET

All-ages show, by bicycle, scooter, unicycle... or running.  
Maximum number of spectators: 80-100 people by bicycle.

## Scenic space

Wandering street show in 4 stages (the second stage needs to be flat).  
Cycling route to be agreed, minimum 2.5 km (first ride minimum 1.5 km).  
Minimum height for the passage of bicycles with banners: 3 m.  
Open [here](#) the schematic sheet.

## On-the-spot inspection and rehearsal

On-the-spot inspection in presence or virtual (before the day of the show) to choose the route.  
The day of the show 5h before the performance for collective inspection, bike set-up and test (with study of the orientation of the sun respecting the needs of the masks and the public).

## Duration

70-90 minutes, depending on the length of the route and the number of spectators.

## Dressing room

A room adjacent to the start of the show for dressing room and costume preparation (with electricity, toilets and showers). The venue will be used from the beginning of the set-up to the end of the dismantling.

## Stage management

A person by bike is required to liaise with the company during the on-the-spot inspection and the show.  
Eventual assistance from the municipal police or the traffic police in case of road closures.  
An assistant on the square for the second stage.

## Technical needs

The company is independent, the show happens in daytime with natural light.

