



Associazione Giochi Antichi

Presents

TOCATÌ

International Street Games Festival

(Tòca-a-tì: the festival takes its name from the Veronese dialect and means "it's your turn")

9th edition

23, 24, 25 September 2011

Verona – City centre

PRESS RELEASE

Verona will be the world capital of traditional game during the three days of Tocatì, International Festival of Street Games, organised by the Associazione Giochi Antichi with the collaboration and the support of the Municipality of Verona - Culture Department.

This ninth edition of the Festival will host **the first World Congress of ITSGA (International Traditional Sports and Games Association)**, an intercontinental organization that brings together leading experts in the game world.

To mark the occasion, the Festival this year the Festival has abandoned the traditional formula of having one country as a guest with all his games, and chose to invite **some of the world's most spectacular traditional games**, such as jumping rope acrobatics practiced in Taiwan (**Tiàoshéng**), the game of the ball thrown with the hips according to the Aztec tradition, still widespread in Mexico (**Ulama de Cadera**), the choreographed dance-fight with music of Brazil (**Capoeira**), the African masterful fight (**Kabubu**) from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the ancient Persian discipline of **Zurkhaneh**, fitness of body and spirit in Iran, the intriguing game of the Portuguese tiles (**La Malha**) and an ancient Viking game launch still practiced in Sweden (**Varpa**).

In addition there will be **games from all regions of Italy** to highlight the recurrence this year of 150 years of national unity. For instance, there will be: **Stud** (Abruzzi), **Aching** (Emilia Romagna), **Tiro col bastone** (Puglia), **Zuni** (Trenton Alto Adige), **Laver** (Friuli Venetia Giulia), **Peril** (Lombardy), **Bije** (Piedmont), **Noci** (Liguria), **Trampoli** (Marche), **Pljocke** (Molise), **Lotta S'istrumpa** (Sardinia), **P'zz'cantò** (Basilicata) and **Burea S'gepera** (Veneto).

Groups of passionate players, who want to illustrate and to share customs, traditions and games from their region, will fill the streets of one of the most beautiful cities in the world (for the occasion vehicles will not be allowed to circulate in the city centre for three days) and **the public will be able to discover and play about fifty games**.

"Traditional games, World Heritage" is the title of the conference open to all that will be held after the ITSGA Congress, where sociologists, anthropologists and teachers of sports history of the various continents will illustrate the situation of their countries, in the presence of the UNESCO delegate, **Pilar Àlvarez-Laso**, assistant director for Human and Social Sciences. In this respect, it is worth remembering that **the traditional game was declared "UNESCO element of Intangible Cultural Heritage"** back in 2003 (*International Charter of the Traditional Games*).

For three days in the **Forum of the Play Culture** (Cortile Mercato Vecchio), the public will be able to meet many game associations, players, authors of books related to these issues and enjoy a selection of game themed collections coming from Italian **ethnographic museums**.

A large area in the Nogarà square will be dedicated to the associations and institutions that turned games to a profession (recreation centres, Play bus, experts in museum education, etc.) and here the children will find a special welcome area and some game workshop.

A photo exhibition in the old church of San Giorgetto will show the traditional Italian games (photos by Vittorio Canisi).

Piazza dei Signori will be named for the occasion “**Piazza Mondo**” (“World Square”) and the public will be given the opportunity to explore the cultural and artistic traditions of four different continents in the suggestive atmosphere of a truly special environment; meanwhile on the stage many artists coming from various countries will perform their traditional songs, dances and games. Parallel to this, another performance of some **Italian music artists** chosen in collaboration with the *Rete Italiana di Cultura Popolare (Italian Network of Popular Culture)* will be staged at Lungadige San Giorgio. Various meetings and conferences will take place in different parts of the city, featuring a series of presentations given by acknowledged experts in different fields of research: the director **Carlo Mazzacurati**, the historian **Franco Cardini**, the play therapist **Stefano Bartezzaghi**, the psychologist **Anna Oliviero Ferraris**, the philosopher **Duccio Demetrio** and the psychiatrist **Gustavo Pietropolli Charmet** (with regard to this latter presentation, the famous game theories of the now deceased psychoanalyst **Françoise Doltò** and of her daughter, the writer and paediatrician **Catherine Doltò**, will be illustrated in detail).

PLEASE NOTE THAT:

- **Games will be played eight hours a day** as a show for the public. The public will be able to participate in the games and learn more about traditional games thanks to the players who will be at their disposal to transmit their experience and their passion.
- In addition to the scheduled shows there will be many enjoyable moments, with **street concerts, aperitifs and tastings in squares and inns**.
- Visitors will be offered the chance to visit Verona from the river Adige with a special **rafting service**.
- In the festival restaurant and in the “Osteria del Gioco” people will be able to try **typical wines and products from the region together with other international dishes** that will allow them to dive themselves into a new world of flavours.

SOME INFO ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Born in 2003, the festival has achieved great success from the very start and every year it has been dedicated to a different Country (**Spain** in 2006, **Croatia** in 2007, **Scotland** in 2008, **Greece** in 2009, **Switzerland** in 2010), each representative of its own games, music and dance traditions. In addition to this, the festival has always paid a great deal of attention to environmental and sustainability issues, ensuring the adoption of **renewable energy supplies**.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE 8th EDITION

250,000 visitors in three days

468 volunteers working in the staff organization

250 Italian and foreign players

130 Italian and foreign musicians and dancers

28 speakers involved in conferences and meetings

ORGANIZERS

The festival is conceived and organized by the **Associazione Giochi Antichi (AGA)** in collaboration with the **Municipality of Verona** and with **Veneto Region**. Partner of this year edition is the *European Traditional Sports and Games Association (ETSGA)*. The initiative is under the patronage of **MIBAC**, of **UNICEF**, of the **Italian Touring Club**, and of the **University of Verona**. Among the sponsors is **Banco Popolare**. Associazione Giochi Antichi aims at protecting and enhancing the traditional game, which has been recently declared a UNESCO element of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (2003).

TRAVEL OFFERS

For tourist information please see: Consorzio Verona Tuttintorno, website www.veronatuttintorno.it

INFO

Website- www.tocati.it

In case of rain- the festival will be held in an alternative indoor location.

Ticket- free entrance

Disabled- a special reception is planned to ensure access to some games.

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