



BELLALUNA PRODUCTIONS

3207 Adanac Street, Vancouver, BC V5K 2P2

e: info@bellaluna.ca

www.bellaluna.ca

For Immediate Release!

>THEATRE<

January 23, 2008



THE BEST ITALIAN VARIETY SHOW - EVER!

Created and performed by the BellaLuna Ensemble

Vancouver, BC. TBIVSE has played all over BC and is back by popular demand!

Put on your spaghetti-stained tracksuit and get ready for a good dose of splashy Italian entertainment as BellaLuna brings 'THE BEST ITALIAN VARIETY SHOW-EVER!' to Granville Island's Winterruption Festival. Catch the show at Playwrights Theatre Centre (1389 Cartwright St, Granville Island, Vancouver)

February 23rd at 4PM & 8PM. Tickets only \$15 available at the door.

This quartet of Professional Italian-Canadian Performers (Susan Bertoia, Louis Chirillo, Stefano Giulianetti and Marco Soriano) takes a fresh and energetic approach to Italian culture in this larger-than-life comic variety show featuring comedians, game shows, masked characters, sexy dancers, opera divos and hosts bigger than their own egos.

BellaLuna's distinctive humorous voice provides an alternative cultural perspective to de-mystify the more elaborate Italian traditions. BellaLuna was last seen in October 2007 at UBC's Frederic Wood Theatre where they premiered FUTURISTI! the avant-garde theatre of the turn-of-the-century Italian Futurists.

TBIVSE was last seen in 2005 and 2006, when audiences all over BC were treated to this eclectic greatest hits package. The show has delighted Italian and non-Italian audiences alike in Trail, Kamloops, Campbell River, East Vancouver and North Burnaby, so don't miss your chance for a second helping!

INGREDIENTS:

- Four Professional Actors
- Over 35 Characters
- An abundant helping of Italian Culture
- A dash of Canadiana
- A pinch of satire
- A good dose of cheese

Mix with Audience and Serve
Serves all ages and cultures

"BellaLuna weaves a very funny and fast-paced show that moved the audience to laughter and tears."

- Ian Forsyth, Shadbolt Centre for the Arts

Additional show info, photos and videos at www.bellaluna.ca

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Media Contact: Stefano Giulianetti 604-321-1080



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SHOW FACTS

THE BEST ITALIAN VARIETY SHOW - EVER!

CREATED & PERFORMED BY:

BellaLuna Ensemble

Susan Bertoia, Louis Chirillo, Stefano Giulianetti, Marco Soriano

SHOW STYLE:

THEATRE :: Comedy :: Variety show with mock-celebrity hosts, songs, sketches, game shows and more

INGREDIENTS:

- Four Professional Actors
- Over 35 Characters
- An abundant helping of Italian Culture
- A pinch of satire
- A good dose of cheese

DO I NEED TO BE ITALIAN TO GET IT?

Performed in English with some Italian, it's family-friendly fun for all ages and cultures.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Encouraged! But not too much...

CAST FACTS:

Susan Bertoia

Nominated for a Jessie for playing a 70-year old woman

Marco Soriano

Soon to be touring Theatre Replacement's "Bio Boxes" across North America

Louis Chirillo

Has worked on virtually every episodic TV show filmed in Vancouver

Stefano Giulianetti

Jessie Award winner with Axis Theatre's "The Emperor's New Threads"



RUNNING TIME:

60 minutes (no intermission)

SHOW HI-LITES:

- Game Show: "The Mr. Italia Super Challenge"
- The Immigrants and their stories
- Italian Canadian Heritage Moments

INSPIRED FROM:

- Growing up in Italian Families (...lots of material there)
- Italian TV Variety Shows

OFFICIAL WEBSITE:

www.bellaluna.ca



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FUN FACTS



SUSAN BERTOIA

ITALIAN HERITAGE REGION: Friuli

FAVORITE ITALIAN FOOD: Polenta e Toccio (cornmeal with red meat sauce)

FAVORITE NON-ITALIAN FOOD: #29 (Beef Broccoli)

STATUS: Married to a half-Italian (but at least that half is Friulano)

FAVORITE ITALIAN SAYING: “O mangia la minestra o salta la finestra”

FUN FACT: Susan was Miss Friuli 1987



STEFANO GIULIANETTI

ITALIAN HERITAGE REGION: Tuscany

FAVORITE ITALIAN FOOD: Pizza & Pasta (tie): Often together

FAVORITE NON-ITALIAN FOOD: All-you-can-eat sushi

STATUS: No longer living at home...Sorry Maaa!

FAVORITE ITALIAN SAYING: “I’ll come visit later maaa”

FUN FACT: Owns a white 1983 Vespa (150 PX)



MARCO SORIANO

ITALIAN HERITAGE REGION: Abruzzo/Molise

FAVORITE ITALIAN FOOD: Salsiccia

FAVORITE NON-ITALIAN FOOD: Thai Curries

STATUS: Single and looking!

FAVORITE ITALIAN SAYING: “Ma sei pazzo?!” (are you crazy?!)

FUN FACT: Has seen Madonna in concert TWICE!



LOUIS CHIRILLO

ITALIAN HERITAGE REGION: Campania

FAVORITE ITALIAN FOOD: Pizza Margherita

FAVORITE NON-ITALIAN FOOD: There’s a *non-Italian* food?!

STATUS: Still Breathing

FAVORITE ITALIAN SAYING: “In questa vita si fa uva”

FUN FACT: His cat Rocco DJ’s his own radio station: “Rocco’s Musica! Musica!” at www.live365.com/stations/baciagalou



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ABOUT BELLALUNA

BellaLuna, Italian for “beautiful moon”, is an interactive theatre company that creates physical, comic theatre in a variety of unique venues. Drawing inspiration from current affairs and basing the style in the traditional masked Italian theatre of *Commedia Dell'Arte*, we strive to produce entertaining work that transcends language barriers and challenges the audience to engage in the performance.

RECENT SHOWS

In October of 2007 BellaLuna premiered FUTURISTI! At UBC's Frederic Wood Theatre, bringing the turn of the century Italian Futurist theatre movement to Vancouver. The company also is often seen at festivals around BC such as Fair in the Square (Coquitlam) and Whistler Summer Festival with their Roving *Commedia* Characters. In 2005 and 2006 audiences in Trail, Kamloops, Campbell River, East Vancouver and North Burnaby were treated to The Best Italian Variety Show - Ever! to great audience acclaim.

THE NAME

BellaLuna had its beginnings in and around the late 90's when Vancouver's Italian community approached Susan Bertoia to help produce more Italian language Theatre. The name was an inspiration from an American/Italian film “*Moonstruck*” in which the grandfather takes his dogs out for a walk on a ‘crazy’ night, and as he looks up at the full moon (his hand raised in the gesture to signify \$#%&), he says ‘Ma che bella luna!’ (My, what a beautiful moon). It stuck.

BellaLuna has gestures for every occasion and the idea of being a bit ‘mad’ when there is a full moon often parallels the life of a theatre artist: it's always up and down!

THE WORK

While primarily focused on the lively form of traditional Italian mask theatre **Commedia Dell'Arte**, BellaLuna also endeavors to push the boundaries of physical theatre in a modern setting, drawing on current events, comedy and the impulse of the audience on any given night.

Traditionally, the crowd-pleasing *Commedia* troupes played to thousands, relying on their exceptional physical skills, quick comic timing, and sharp satiric wit to bring familiar, broad characters to ebullient life. BellaLuna welcomes you to join with us in honouring that tradition.

BellaLuna strives to mingle the Excitement of 'Cirque Du Soleil', the Satire of 'This Hour Has 22 Minutes' and the Spice in a great plate of Spaghetti Puttanesca.

THE PEOPLE

Through BellaLuna's various incarnations, there have been many performers who have carried the BellaLuna flag (literally). Currently, the core ensemble of performers consist of Susan Bertoia (Artistic Director & Performer), Stefano Giulianetti (Managing Director & Performer), Marco Soriano (Associate Director & Performer), and Louis Chirillo (Associate Director & Performer).

Past players have included Darlene Brookes, Noah Drew, Aaron Freschi, Sabrina DiFonzo, Tamara McCarthy, Andrew Olwine, Laura DiCicco, Gerald Vanderwoude, Beverly Bardal, Guy Fauchon and James Crescenzo.



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ENSEMBLE BIOGRAPHIES



SUSAN BERTOIA A Vancouver based professional theatre artist, actor and teacher Susan is Artistic Director of BellaLuna. Select theatre performance credits include: Futuristi (BellaLuna); Alice: A Wonderland (Western Canada Theatre); Enchanted April (Arts Club Stanley Theatre); Dear Santa (WCT); Jessie nominated performance in Over the River and Through the Woods (WCT/Richmond Gateway); Lagoon of Lost Tales (Boca Del Lupo); The Last Adam (Primavera Productions) and co-founder of the all-women circus, *Cirque Poule*. Theatre creation/writing credits: Plum + Other Colours (BellaLuna); I Came to Tell (La Luna Productions). Direction Credits: Other Freds (Only Animal Theatre); A Dark Tale (Templeton School) and countless BellaLuna Ensemble productions. Current teaching credits: Adjunct professor (Mask and Commedia) UBC Theatre program; secondary school mask performance workshop leader; Artist-In-Residence at schools. Accolades: Gordon Armstrong Theatre Artist Award (Honorary Mention); Training includes: BFA *Theatre* UBC, Advanced Commedia Studies (Milan, Italy & Dell'Arte School, California), Mask Making (D.Sartori -Italy); One Yellow Rabbit Summer Intensive; International Voice Workshop with Richard Armstrong.



STEFANO GIULIANETTI Managing Director of BellaLuna Productions, Stefano is fluent in English, Italian and French. He is currently touring BC in Axis Theatre's Jessie Award winning show The Emperor's New Threads written and created by Peter and Melody Anderson. His extensive touring career of late has included The Best Italian Variety Show - Ever!, Axis Theatre's Shalakazap!, and Kaleidoscope's The Boy Who Learned To Fly, where he performed on Aerial Silks, juggled and grew a beard. Other highlights include BellaLuna's FUTURISTI!, Western Canada Theatre's productions of Alice: A Wonderland and Dear Santa and Hoarse Raven's Tony n' Tina's Wedding playing a total of nine roles over four years. Film and TV credits include the Features Hollowman 2, The Lizzie McGuire Movie and Almost America, TV series Millennium, Sketch Troop, The Collector, Ivan Reitman TV Pilot Cooking Lessons and a myriad of TV Commercials. He has also garnered various credits teaching, producing and promoting theatre and events.



MARCO SORIANO Since obtaining his BFA from Simon Fraser University in 1997 and his teaching degree in 1998, Marco has performed on stage, screen and in the classroom. Most recently, you may have seen him in BellaLuna's FUTURISTI!, the titular role in Zastrozzi (Enlightenment Theatre) and Bio Boxes (Theatre Replacement) for the Push and High Performance Rodeo Festivals. Other highlights include Beauty and the Beast and Alice: A Wonderland (Western Canada Theatre), Angels in America Parts 1 & 2 and Corpus Christi (Hoarse Raven), Shear Madness and Griffin and Sabine (Arts Club), You Are Here (Horseshoes and Handgrenades), The Last Stand, The Lagoon of Lost Tales and The Suicide (Boca Del Lupo), and the Emcee in Cabaret (DSR). Film and TV appearances include: The Reaper, One Week and Impulse, DaVinci's City Hall, Too Cool for Christmas, and The L Word. You can also see him in Scary Movie 3 and as Biff Naked's sleazy, dancing, ex-boyfriend in her Leo Award winning music video "Tango Shoes". Apart from being a Theatre Artist, Marco is also a certified teacher and a Gemini...



LOUIS CHIRILLO A graduate of SFU, Louis' theatre work includes performances in BellaLuna's FUTURISTI!, Chekov's The Seagull, Sam Shepard's States of Shock, as well as performing the one-man, A Report To An Academy by Franz Kafka. Louis has also performed with Battery Opera (Hinndi Finndi Hogemonay in Old Guang Zhou and Spektor), Hoarse Raven Theatre (Tony n' Tina's Wedding), the Burr Theatre (Spider's Web, Charley's Aunt and Harvey), Primavera Productions (The Last Adam) and with Rick Dobran in his Jessie award-winning play, The Best Restaurant in the World. Ever. Louis' television credits include appearances on Cold Squad, Andromeda, DaVinci's Inquest, The Chris Isaak Show, Dark Angel, Stargate and Dead Zone. In addition, Louis is the voice of Ken Kelley in Being Ian on YTV.



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REVIEWS AND COMMENTS

DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT, TAKE THEIRS...

*“Thank you so much for a **heart warming and wonderful**, thoroughly enjoyable performance. The audience thought you were a blast! You made all kinds of connections with the Italian traditions and very representative of the way we are! **I could not stop laughing. My wife, who is Canadian (no Italian background) could not stop laughing.** I talked with many of the others, older and newer Italian Canadians and they said that they did not have such a good time for a very long time.”*

- Tony Fantillo, President of the Campbell River Italian Cultural Society

*“The Best Italian Variety Show - Ever! offers a unique opportunity to experience Italian culture through the eyes of a young, energetic, first generation Canadian Theatre Company. Using mask, movement, text and music, TBIVSE comedically explores themes of immigration, stereotype, loneliness, and [...] weaves **a very funny and fast-paced show that moved the audience to laughter and tears.***

- Ian Forsyth, Arts Services Mgr - Shadbolt Centre For the Arts

*“**So wild and funny!** You guys were just great!”*

- David Jones, Artistic Director of Rock Paper Scissors

*“**Molto professionale e sicura** la presentatrice Susan Bertoia e ben riuscita l'animazione della serata fatta dai gruppi Public Dreams, Mortal Coil e BellaLuna Productions, che ad un certo punto...tre spiritose vecchiette che ingaggiavano battute con il pubblico.”*

*“The host Susan Bertoia was very **professional and engaging**. The evening, which included Public Dreams, Mortal Coil and BellaLuna Productions, was a success as three spunky old ladies captivated the audience.”*

- Gigi Proitti, L'Eco D'Italia (Italian Language Newspaper)

*“The Vancouver International Comedy Festival was thrilled with the spontaneous, **quick witted** street performances of BellaLuna. The audience, and indeed the merchants on Granville Island, really enjoyed the humour and skills of these **talented artists.**”*

- Wayne Specht, Artistic Director, Axis Theatre