

# VITA NUOVA

Bollettino bilingue della Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia Inc.

## 50th Anniversary, celebration time!



*Executive Committee*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

We would like to share with you the President's speech to highlight all our various activities. Enjoy!

50th Anniversary President's Speech  
Wednesday 10th December, 2014  
Balcony Room, Parliament House, Adelaide

Carissimi ospiti, rinnovo il benvenuto datovi stasera dal nostro Andrew Antenucci.

Dear honoured guests, our hosts, Minister Zoe Bettison and Minister Tony Piccolo, our Italian Consul Signora Orietta Borgia, and Mr Vincent Tarzia, Member for Hartley, representing the Leader of the Opposition here tonight, it is truly a pleasure to be here tonight as the President of the Dante Alighieri Society of S.A. As you have heard, the Society has a long and honoured history, one that we are celebrating here tonight, that would not have been possible without the passion that moved every volunteer to dedicate their time to promoting Italian language and culture in our State. I would like to read you a message we have received from the Dante Alighieri Head Quarters in Rome:



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Chi siamo?  
La «Dante Alighieri» ha lo scopo di tutelare e diffondere la lingua e la cultura italiana nel mondo ...

*(Articolo 1 dello Statuto della Società Dante Alighieri)*

Rome, 10th December 2014

President,  
Distinguished guests  
Dear members of the Dante of Adelaide and  
friends of Italy,

*Today we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Dante Alighieri of Adelaide. This is not simply an occasion to celebrate, but an important moment in which to reflect on the valuable work carried out by the Committee of the Dante of Adelaide since 1964. During this time so many members have been able to experience “the world in Italian” more fully and to participate in the numerous activities organised by the Dante of Adelaide.*

*Over these 50 years, many successive Committee members have unselfishly and passionately promoted the Italian language and culture in Australia, in accordance with the Head Office of the Dante Alighieri.*

*My wish to you all is that today’s celebration is a joyous occasion which, at the same time, allows us to reflect on the responsibility represented by the Society of which we are all a proud part, and on the future challenges that await us.*

*Congratulations and best wishes!*

*Dr Alessandro Masi  
General Secretary*



*From left:  
Mrs Orietta Borgia, Hon Zoe Bettinson MP,  
Dr Luciana d’Arcangeli (D.A. President),  
the Hon Tony Piccolo.*

As present caretaker of the Society I wish to celebrate our successes with a view to the future challenges Dott. Masi referred to, and would like to illustrate the kind of activities that the Dante Alighieri Society has been organising and will be organising in the future.

I shall start with the latest addition, one that we have the past President Dr Giancarlo Chiro to thank for and that we hope will continue for many years to come, and that is the educational role in the Italian Language and Culture Project in Schools as Managing Institution (or Ente Gestore) for Italian Government funds destined to the support of teaching of Italian Language and Culture in South Australian schools. Last year we took 8 native speaker assistants to 14

State and Catholic schools and supported the teaching of well over 1,500 students; this year we concentrated our efforts with 5 Language Assistants in 11 State and Catholic schools reaching around 1,000 students. The Italian Consulate in Adelaide, the State Education Department and the Catholic Schools Office have been instrumental in helping us set up and run these projects and we hope to be able to repeat the success reaped so far next year.

In the past two years we have supported the creation of a Bilingual Project at the Norwood Morialta Secondary School, as well as assigning an Italian Language Assistant to the school and we intend to continue to give our full support to the project in future.

Next year will be the 750th anniversary of Dante Alighieri’s birth and to celebrate the event we have created the primary and secondary schools competition “Buon compleanno Dante” to mark the occasion. To pay homage to Dante’s memory we have asked the students to unleash their creativity and enter this competition with a class project with a project (a poster, a recording, a sculpture, paintings, photographs or even a photograph of a dedicated pizza or cake). Two projects per primary/secondary level per school are allowed and the work will be exhibited at Carnevale, when the prizes for the three best works will be formally announced.

Our presence at and collaboration with Carnevale is more extensive. We have a stand there every year where we promote our activities, but we also collaborate with storytelling in Italian for children in the Kids Corner and with presentations for adults: this year we presented Spaghetti Westerns, next year we will be presenting “An Italian’s story: Alberto Sordi in Australia. The Italian view of migration to Australia in Bello onesto emigrato Australia sposerebbe compaesana illibata, also known as A Girl in Australia (Luigi Zampa, 1971) between irony and tragedy.”

The Society is after all known for its love of Italian cinema as one of its main activities is the Cineforum, where we present and screen a film from March to November, at Flinders in the City. The 2015 Cineforum is dedicated to “Pane, amore e... cinema italiano!” or “Bread, love and... Italian cinema!” with films centering on what we are best known for “food” and “passion”. We also organise groups to attend the Italian Film Festival and as of this year the Dante

Alighieri Societies of Australia have become the cultural sponsor the Festival – another great step in the right direction!

We take this love of Italian cinema to the community via radio programs on Radio italiana 5RTI 531AM. We started with a 1-hour Monday program “Parole di cinema”/ “Words on cinema”, which ended in February, and are continuing now on a Wednesday with the 2-hour program “I soliti sospetti”/ “The Usual Suspects”. We also access the radio’s programs to talk about our activities on a monthly basis. Also, on Radio Italia Uno we have volunteers presenting the program “Pronto qui canta Italia”/ “Hello, this is Italy singing”. On SBS Radio Italian one of our volunteers presents the Friday morning cinema review program “La febbre del sabato sera”/ “Saturday Night Fever” and has also contribute episodes on their program “Dalla Dolce vita alla Grande bellezza: il cinema italiano si racconta”, “From Dolce Vita to Great Beauty: Italian Cinema speaks of itself.



*From left:  
Mr Mario Bellanova (Italian Baritone)  
with Maestro Jeff Kong*

In 2013 the Dante Alighieri Society of S.A. sponsored the seventh biennial conference of the Australasian Centre for Italian Studies (ACIS), organised by Flinders and UniSA universities from 4 to 6 December 2013, that saw around a hundred scholars meet in Adelaide to discuss the future of teaching of Italian Language and Culture in Australia and to share their research – and that Grace Portolesi kindly opened for us. In particular the Society and its members participated in the community event dedicated to the screening of the documentary “Terramatta” (2012) by Costanza Quatriglio and to the Q&A session that followed with the producer Chiara Ottaviano, the voiceover actor Roberto Nobile, the curator of the book Luca Ricci, and the son of the author Giovanni Rabito. The evening was intended to create a bridge between the local Italian teaching universities and the community and it was a great success, with numerous members and other attendees.

We also host a number of public lectures on Italian cinema, theatre, literature, language, food, wine

and any other topic of interest by “intercepting” all experts that are willing to come to us to share their knowledge, and book launches that are of interest. Recently this has been possible through a strong collaboration with the University of South Australia and Flinders University and lately also the Istituto di Cultura Italiana di Melbourne.

Music is another passion that inspired us to have dedicated events every year that go under the title of “An Evening with the Stars of the Opera”. With the help of State Opera of South Australia – as you heard we have had apologies as they are all busy with the proms, that I invite you to enjoy – we present to our community their Italy inspired operas. We recently invited Dr Joseph Talia, founder of Melbourne City Opera and Medal of the Order of Australia, to talk to us about the history of opera and Verdi’s Otello at the Italian Centre. In 2015 we will present Mozart’s Don Giovanni – who can’t forgive a rake, especially if the libretto is Italian! – and, on a totally different tone, Verdi’s Requiem. The very positive feedback we have from attendees on the presentations, on hearing directly from the artistic directors and choir masters what inspired them, and the singers’s first hand impressions on characters is fuelling a love of opera lirica that we hope will live on. Last year we joined forces with the Italian Cultural Association, ARIA-SA, John Davis Music and the Italian Chamber of Music to offer the concert ‘Tutto Verdi’ in Adelaide’s beautiful Elder Hall, on North Terrace. We hope to be able to offer more concerts to all music lovers in the future, and perhaps to offer scholarships, as we have done in the past, to worthy singers and musicians to further their studies.

This year we took a step into a different direction and hosted Valentina Vannicola’s photographic exhibition “Dante’s Inferno”. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and our numerous sponsors for making this and every other, very successful event possible, and in particular I would like to thank Serafino Wines for their invaluable support over the years. With the help of dottoressa Lina Panetta and her Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Melbourne we hope to replicate this success soon. A success due also to the incredibly knowledgeable and accessible lecture offered by Prof. Diana Glenn of Flinders University, who presented our third Lectura Dantis to a large captivated audience speaking on “Dante’s Commedia: An audacious cammin”. We now hold these lectures once a year for everyone interested, on top of our free monthly bring-your-own Commedia readings, organised by our Circolo Divina Commedia study group, under my guidance. We are still nice and warm in Dante’s hell, if anyone cares to join us!

Our Society also runs adult Italian language courses but we do not wish to double anyone's efforts in this area, so in 2015 we will be launching year long co-branded WEA-Dante Alighieri Society courses specifically designed to lead to the PLIDA exams and certifications, that is certificates of proficiency in Italian as a Foreign Language that are officially recognised by the Italian Government and Universities. We hope that everyone wishing to study and work with the language or in Italy will be interested. It will also be a great opportunity for Professional Development for teachers of Italian, as we will also provide an official ADA attendance certificate for their efforts.



*The Hon Tony Piccolo.*

Of course we encourage everyone to use their Italian, no matter how much or how little they speak, and we invite all our members and friends to join us in our social get-togethers to spend an evening of food, fun and music together. We change clubs and venues every year, and in 2015 we have a lunch and film planned at the San Giorgio La Molar club to acknowledge the start of the First World War on 24 May, and on the 13th June a Buon Compleanno Dante! dinner at the Toscana Club – where else? – to celebrate Dante's 750th anniversary of his birth together with all the other Dante Alighieri Societies of Australia. If people cannot join us in person they can do so online: our website [www.ladantesa.com](http://www.ladantesa.com) has reached 20,000 "hits" this month, and our very active Facebook page "Dante Alighieri

Society of SA Inc." has reached over 350 "Likes" in just a few months.



*Dr Luciana d'Arcangeli with Mr Eugene Raggianti*

We have more in store for you, and we are working on actively attracting younger members, but I feel this has already given you an idea of our activities in Adelaide and beyond in actively and strategically promoting Italian language and culture in Australia.

I would like to stress that all the work of the Dante Alighieri Society of S.A. would not be possible without the commitment and dedication of a group of hardworking individuals, without the partnership of the many associations and institutions you have heard me mention before, and without donations. We could not have come this far without the support of the Italian institutions, un sentito grazie alla Signora Orietta Borgia, and certainly our presence here tonight is testament to the support we have at our own State level, both in government and opposition – grazie once again to our hosts Minister Bettison and Minister Piccolo, so we must continue to build on our 50 years of passion for Italian language and culture.

When I left Europe to come here six years ago I would have never dreamt of standing here as an Italian, as a new Australian, and as the President of the Dante Alighieri Society of South Australia. I am truly honoured and thank you for the opportunity, for the support support you have afforded me and the Society, and for sharing our love for Italian language and culture. I hope it will continue in the future. Grazie.

Dr Luciana d'Arcangeli  
President  
Dante Alighieri Society of S.A. Inc.

# SPECIAL AWARDS

Many gifts have been presented on the night to thank our passionate supporters and collaborators.

A print of piazza Santa Croce in Florence by the Roman artist Amelia Buzzi Puccini was presented to Minister Bettison, Minister Piccolo, the Italian Consul Signora Orietta Borgia. The square represented in the print is named after the Basilica that sits beautifully in its centre. Many of Italy's much loved men are buried in what is the largest Franciscan church in the world, including Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Fermi, Galileo, Foscolo, Marconi, Alberti, Rossini and the list goes on, so much so that it is also known as the Temple of the Italian Glories. If you look closely you will see a statue of Dante Alighieri (sculpted by Enrico Pazzi) next to the church; however, the father of the Italian language is not buried there, he is still an exile, even though his name has echoed throughout Florence and the world for over 700 years. We hope that his name will echo in the offices of our recipients from now on. We also presented a copy of the Divina Commedia in Italian and one in English, with a bookmark from Amelia Buzzi Puccini, to the recipients of our Certificates of Appreciation:

- 1) Maestro Mario Bellanova, for his service in promoting Italian culture in SA.
- 2) Ms Gyllian Godfrey, Project Manager - Languages (Secondary) at DECD, for his service in promoting Italian language and culture in SA.
- 3) Maestro Jefferey Kong - Deputy Head of School and Head of Music at Brighton Secondary School, for his service and dedication in promoting Italian language in the school, and more in general Italian language and culture in the State.
- 4) Mr Eugene Raghianti, Carnevale Manager for his service and dedication in promoting Italian language and culture in SA, in particular, but not only, for the Italian Carnevale he manages.
- 5) Maestro Timothy Sexton - Artistic Director and CEO of State Opera SA, for his service and dedication in promoting Italian culture, and particularly opera, in SA.
- 6) Ms Anne Spencer, Languages Consultant with Catholic Education South Australia, for her service in promoting Italian language and culture in SA.

We also awarded our Certificates of Recognition to:

- 1) Cavalier Joseph Baldino - former Dante Committee member, for his service and dedication in promoting Italian language and culture in SA, many of our events have been a success thanks to his help.
- 2) Emeritus Professor of Italian Antonio Comin, as the first Chair of Italian in the State, for his service and dedication in promoting Italian language and culture in SA.
- 3) Prof. Diana Glenn - Professor of Italian and Dean, School of Humanities and Creative Arts, for her service and dedication in promoting Italian language and culture in SA, especially for her wonderful Dante lectures that she so generously dispenses to our members and all Dante lovers.
- 4) Ms Grace Portolesi, Chair of SA's Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, for her service and dedication in promoting Italian language and culture in SA, and in particular for her efforts in avoiding the closure of the Italian Consulate in Adelaide.
- 5) Associate Professor Angela Scarino - Associate Professor in Applied Linguistics in the School of Communication, International Studies and Languages at the University of South Australia where she directs the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures, for her service and dedication in promoting Italian language and culture in SA.

Finally, to Grand'Ufficiale Dr Carmine De Pasquale, life member and ex-President of the Dante Alighieri Society of SA, for his service and life-long dedication in promoting Italian language and culture in SA. Without his fundraising efforts as a student, that allowed the creation of a Chair of Italian at Flinders University, and his renewed efforts in the new millenium to revamp our Society many of us would not be here today.

Un sentito grazie from all our Committee and our members.



# ONCE UPON A TIME

La storia della Società Dante Alighieri risale al 1889.

The Dante Alighieri Society was founded in 1889 by a group of intellectuals in Italy, led by Giosuè Carducci, who strongly believed in a unified Italy. The mother society is in Rome, in the beautifully frescoed Palazzo Firenze, and its current president is Bruno Bottai. The principal aim of the society according to its constitution is: “tutelare e diffondere la lingua e la cultura italiane nel mondo, ravvivando i legami spirituali dei connazionali all'estero con la madre patria e alimentando tra gli stranieri l'amore e il culto per la civiltà italiana”

in English, to protect and spread the Italian language and culture around the world, keeping alive the spiritual links between Italians abroad and their mother country, and promoting the Italian language and culture to non-Italians.

There are over 500 committees worldwide of which over 400 are outside Italy. There are more than ten committees in Australia alone and the Adelaide Dante Alighieri Society whose work we are celebrating tonight is one of them.

The history of La Dante in South Australia dates back to the 1960s, a time when Italian was rarely taught in schools. In 1964 the inaugural committee was established, with Dr Giorgio Masero as founder and long-time President.

At that time the Dante Alighieri Society was the only place where children of Italian background could study the Italian language. The society held Italian lessons out of school hours, taught by Italian-speaking teachers with little or no training, as there were no formal courses offered. Books were sent by the Central Dante Society in Rome, and classes were often in the teachers' home or garage or anywhere people could meet. Alongside the courses of Italian language, the Dante offered a space to discuss aspects of



culture and experiences of travel to Italy, and to attend Musica Viva music recitals and opera performances. It also served as a lobby group in promoting the Italian language and culture, and it was at the forefront in the establishment of a Chair of Italian at Flinders University.

In the 1970s, the Dante purchased a property on Portrush Road, establishing the “Italian Cultural Centre Dante Alighieri” which contained a library of books and audiovisual material, and employed a full-time librarian. It also housed a number of newly formed organisations, such as the Radio e Televisione Italiana, the South Australian Association for Teachers of Italian, and the Coordinating Italian Committee. Unfortunately all good things come to an end and the property was sold some decades later. The Society cut back its programme for a while but was recently reinvigorated with a new committee formed in 2007.

In the last 7 years the Dante Alighieri of South Australia has re-established itself as the primary Italian cultural organisation in the State.

# IL NUOVO COMITATO



Sono Luciana d'Arcangeli, la vostra Presidente, e vi ringrazio del caloroso benvenuto e della fiducia dimostratami votandomi. Sono romana e ho studiato e vissuto in molti posti diversi, tra gli altri spiccano l'Italia e la Scozia, dove ho passato dieci anni prima di venire qui, nel novembre 2008, per diventare una nuova australiana. Sono stata invitata ad insegnare lingua e cultura italiana all'Università di Flinders, e questo mi ha permesso anche di condividere e coltivare questa mia passione con l'intera comunità attraverso le attività della Società Dante Alighieri del South Australia.

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Mi chiamo Beatrice Barbieri, vicentina di origine e milanese di adozione, ho 26 anni e mi sono trasferita ad Adelaide nel 2013. La passione per la cultura Italiana e per le rime dantesche è nata tra i portici dell'università Statale di Milano, dove ho conseguito una Laurea in lettere e realizzato alcuni cicli di incontri su autori come Buzzati, Pavese, Baudelaire e, primo fra tutti, Dante. L'opportunità di collaborare con la associazione Dante Alighieri è stata quindi un sogno diventato realtà. A partire dal settembre dello scorso anno faccio parte del comitato nel ruolo di Segretaria e partecipo al Programma Assistenti di Lingua per la Società Dante Alighieri in qualità di Language Assistant presso scuole primarie e secondarie del territorio.

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Sono Natasha Marona e sono una professionista del settore immobiliare e da anni sono impegnata con la DA in vari ruoli. Mi piace avere le mani "in pasta" e quindi mi trovate coinvolta nel Cineforum e nell'organizzazione di eventi ma lavoro volentieri dietro le quinte, nella gestione quotidiana della Dante perché è importante continuare a sostenere e diffondere la lingua e la cultura italiana nel South Australia.

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Mi chiamo Ciro Pipolo, sono nato a Napoli e residente in Australia dal 2006. Laureato e membro del CPA Australia, sono appassionato di cinema musica e sport. Amo viaggiare, specialmente in crociera e la vacanza ideale sarebbe una crociera nel Mediterraneo. Seguo fedelmente il Circolo Divina Commedia e collaboro con il comitato in qualità di Tesoriere da giugno 2014.

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Mi chiamo Giovanni Cusano, e sono nativo di Olvignanello, nella provincia di Caserta. Collaboro con la Dante Alighieri SA da diversi anni e il mio interesse principale è la storia. Sono infatti autore di una serie di libri e dvd, in italiano e inglese, sui principali monumenti e fatti storici del Sud Australia e sono tutt'ora impegnato in diversi progetti per far conoscere ai recenti immigrati la storia di questo paese che a partire dal 1952 è diventata la mia seconda patria.

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Mi chiamo Giuliana Otmarich e sono una nuova faccia del Comitato. Per ora sto familiarizzandomi con i vari servizi offerti dalla Dante Alighieri del Sud Australia. In seguito vorrei partecipare alla coordinazione dei corsi di lingua italiana dato che il mio lavoro è sempre stato nel campo dell'insegnamento delle lingue. Sono anche appassionata di cinema e di musica e spero di poter aiutare anche in queste sfere di attività della DA.

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My name is Kate and I am interested in Opera and all things Italian. Please feel free to join us at our twice annual "Evening with the Stars" events. They are fabulous and you, your family and friends will be most welcome. The stars are wonderful, the evening full of interesting anecdotes and the most convivial company, topped with a delicious Italian style supper and wine as an accompaniment. Please keep watching this space for details of our upcoming operas Don Giovanni and Verdi's Requiem, tentatively scheduled for Monday 4th May and Monday 17th August 2015 respectively. Buon natale a tutti. Have a fabulous festive season.

# IL NUOVO COMITATO



Mi chiamo Maria Russo e sono originaria di un paesino del Sud Italia. Arrivata in Australia all'età di vent'anni, ho lavorato come sarta e commessa in un negozio di abiti da uomo, mantenendo sempre accesa la passione per la lingua e la cultura italiana. Quando ho scoperto l'esistenza della Dante Alighieri mi sono subito iscritta perchè trovo che sia l'associazione che più di tutte promuove la lingua italiana in Australia.

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#### Coordinatore Programma Assistenti di Lingua

Mi chiamo Alessandro Vecchiarelli, sono nato a Roma 50 anni fa e vivo in Australia dal 2008. Sono sposato, con un figlio di 15 anni e la mia grande passione è sempre stata il cinema. Da qualche anno presento una trasmissione radiofonica per Radio Italiana 531 di Adelaide, a cui dall'inizio del 2014 si è aggiunta una rubrica bisettimanale per SBS Radio Italian Program. Mi occupo anche di educazione e da aprile 2014 sono il Coordinatore del Programma Assistenti di Lingua per la Società Dante Alighieri del Sud Australia, sono estremamente felice di mettere le mie capacità e la mia esperienza al servizio della bellissima comunità italiana del Sud Australia.

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#### Webmaster DA

Sono Stefano Bona e sono nato a Milano e cresciuto in Brianza vicino a Lecco. Sono ad Adelaide dal 2009 - e spero per sempre. Insegno italiano alla Flinders University e alla University of Adelaide, ma il lavoro principale è un dottorato di ricerca sul cinema italiano, e specificamente sui film girati in Cina da registi italiani. Dal 2011 mi occupo del sito internet della Dante SA, che celebra proprio in questi giorni quota "20,000 visitatori" e sono molto felice di poter contribuire nel mio piccolo alla diffusione della nostra lingua e cultura a ventimila chilometri da casa.



#### Membro co-optato

Sono Silvia De Cesare e da soli cinque mesi insieme a mio marito ci siamo trasferiti ad Adelaide dalla Sardegna. Per caso o coincidenza sono venuta in contatto con l'associazione Dante Alighieri. Quando ero bambina mio padre mi leggeva e spiegava la Divina Commedia, che è diventato il mio primo amore letterario... così - non per coincidenza - ho dato la mia disponibilità all'associazione. Oltre all'opportunità di essere in contatto con la comunità italiana di Adelaide, questa esperienza mi permette anche di non perdere le mie radici 'culturali' e di aiutare a promuovere la nostra straordinaria cultura. Sto studiando per poter insegnare English e Italiano alle Secondary Schools, sperando di poter trasmettere ai giovani australiani la passione per la nostra lingua e cultura.

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#### Membro co-optato

Sono Luigi Masciantonio sono un nuovo membro del Comitato Esecutivo ed ho deciso di mettere la mia lunga esperienza nella comunità italiana di Adelaide al servizio della DA in quanto credo fermamente nella diffusione e celebrazione della Lingua e della Cultura italiana.

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#### Membro co-optato

Mi chiamo Annarita Capurso e ho risposto alla "chiamata alle armi" della DA, che ha sempre bisogno di volontari che aiutino nei settori più diversi. È bello lavorare con il Comitato perché è al servizio della comunità ed è stimolante sentirsi coinvolti e riscoprire la propria "italianità".



# IL PRESEPE NAPOLETANO

Il presepe nasce come rappresentazione di alcuni passi del Vangelo relativi alla venuta al mondo del Salvatore. In particolare, vi trovano spazio Il Mistero, ovvero la nascita del Bambino, l'Annuncio, ovvero l'apparizione di un angelo ai pastori, l'adorazione dei Magi e il Diversorium, l'albergo dove Maria e Giuseppe avevano cercato invano riparo.

Il presepe napoletano può sembrare invece una cosa diversa. Altro non appare se non uno squarcio della Napoli del Settecento. I volti, le attività, i costumi sono quelli dell'epoca, parti di una capitale affollata e variopinta. E allora vi troviamo il pescivendolo, il macellaio, la venditrice di pollami, la lavandaia e tanti altri.

I primi presepi furono realizzati a partire dal XIV secolo e erano commissionati da chiese o conventi. Nel Seicento ci fu la prima innovazione e il presepe allargò il suo scenario. Non venne più rappresentata la sola grotta della Natività ma anche il mondo profano esterno.

Il secolo d'oro per il presepe napoletano è il Settecento dove i committenti non erano più solo gli ordini religiosi ma anche i ricchi e i nobili. A quel tempo, questi gareggiavano nel fare i presepi, cosa che promuoveva l'industria e diede anche un'opportunità ai poveri di vedere vari esempi di presepe sparsi per la città. All'inizio le statue



erano fatte di marmo, ma i materiali cambiarono nel legno, nel ferro filato ricoperto di stoffa fino alla terracotta che è il materiale preferito da tutti i costruttori.

A Napoli in Via San Gregorio Armeno (foto sopra) si possono comprare materiali e personaggi tutto l'anno. È una meta turistica visitata da migliaia di persone. I costruttori Napoletani hanno allargato i personaggi del presepe ad includere persone del mondo di oggi. È possibile trovare statuette

di Maradona, Barak Obama e qualche hanno fa c'era anche Silvio Berlusconi nell'atto di essere mozzato la testa.

La mia passione per il presepe viene da mio padre, che ha sempre allestito un presepe in casa nostra.

Non c'è voluto molto per prendere le redini da mio padre e diventare lo scenografo per il mese di Dicembre, ed ogni volta che lo faccio mi viene in mente Edoardo De Filippo nella commedia "Natale in casa Cupiello" la cui unica preoccupazione è di allestire il presepe per Natale mentre il figlio adolescente per dispetto fa finta di non avere alcun interesse.

Ci sono voluti anni e vari viaggi a Napoli per riuscire ad acquisire i pezzi necessari per una bella scenografia, ma quello che preferisco è la preparazione e la progettazione.



e dopo un anno così intenso...



### Donate to the Dante Alighieri Culture & Education Fund

All donations over \$2 to the Dante Alighieri Culture and Education Fund are tax deductible. All funds are used to support our many exciting projects which will revitalize the love of Italian Language and Culture in South Australia.

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