



Francesca Aquilino
Italian Cultural & Community Center
events@iccchouston.com or 713-524-4222 ext. 4

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 30, 2014

**A GREAT FUTURISTIC EVENING
BY MASSIMILIANO FINAZZER FLORY**

WHAT: A homage to Italian Futurism. Massimiliano Finazzer Flory plays the role of the movement's founder, Filippo Tommaso Marinetti. In an effervescent monologue, which uses the words of Marinetti and other Futurist ideologues such as Giovanni Papini, Finazzer Flory, in a frock coat bringing to mind the formality of the era, conveys the essence of the movement, which reacted against any mediocrity or conformity.

We are not done talking about futurism in the US... indeed in addition to the exhibition currently held at the Guggenheim Museum there is going to be a play that's addressing the topic.

The show in Houston is organized in collaboration between the Consulate General of Italy in Houston, Cathy and Giorgio Borlenghi, Hotel Granduca, University of St. Thomas, Acqua di Parma and The Italian Cultural & Community Center. Filippo Tommaso Marinetti and the movement he started will be celebrated at the Cullen Hall - University of St. Thomas, 4001 Mt. Vernon.

The tour, will touch several American cities. The first "Gran Serata Futurista" (Great Futurist Evening), starring Massimiliano Finazzer Flory, will take place in Washington on May 12, and then Dartmouth, Philadelphia, Chicago, New York, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles.

The show comes directly from Piccolo Teatro di Milano where it was a success. The play tells the story of Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, and it is a mixture of acting, contemporary dance and a projection of images of art works. The performance, which lasts 70 minutes and a few seconds, is in Italian, but there are also English supertitles for non-Italian speakers. "Futurism", explains Finazzer Flory in Italian daily newspaper *Corriere della Sera* (August 11, 2013), "celebrated life, of which man is the foremost masterpiece and energy the foremost work of art. But what energy do we see today? We live in a time which unites us all politically in the name of transformation and conformity. And so, as Papini would say, opening the windows is no longer enough: we must have the courage to knock down a few doors. Better to disturb the peace than play the compliant chimpanzee".

This is the third consecutive year that Finazzer Flory brings a show to the US. In 2011-2012 he came with *I Promessi sposi* (The Betrothed), in 2013 he brought *Pinocchio, storia di un burattino* (Pinocchio, the story of a puppet), and now it's the time of *Gran Serata Futurista*. This play is about movement, energy, mechanical splendor, and unconstrained imagination. Finazzer Flory voices the *Manifesti Futuristi* (Futurist Manifestos) of Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, because with no Marinetti there will be no Futurism. And just in the style of the futurists, Finazzer Flory "attacks" those who live in the past as they are "just like the sick or the prisoners who see the past as a healing balsam and the future as prison bars..."

WHO: Italian Cultural & Community Center
Consulate General of Italy in Houston
Hotel Granduca
University of St. Thomas
Acqua di Parma

WHEN: **Tuesday, June 3, 2014**
7:00 p.m.

WHERE: University of St. Thomas - Cullen Hall

PRICE: Free admission

ON-SITE

CONTACT: Ufficio Culturale - culturale.houston@esteri.it - Tel. +1 713 337 7815
###