

Gadda è teatro | Scholarship is engagement

Unique scholarly prize spearheading new way for academia to engage with the wider community – with the backing of Nicola Benedetti

In this initiative by **Edinburgh University** awards are not just awards. They are the catalyst for community participation and involvement.

Scots-Italian violin virtuoso Nicola Benedetti is backing up a new scholarship scheme based at Edinburgh, the **Nicola Benedetti Scholarship Fund**.



As part of the initiative, the **Italian Department at Edinburgh** is bringing the British Premiere of **Fabrizio Gifuni's** award-winning Italian show **Gadda Goes to War** to the **Traverse Theatre, Friday 21 & Saturday 22 September**, to coincide with the first **Gaddus Scholars** summer school.

The show, in Italian, with English surtitles, is based on Carlo Emilio Gadda's WWI diaries and anti-Mussolini writings. The show, which has taken Italy by storm, has won **all the major Italian awards of 2011**, including a double **Ubu Prize for Best Actor** and **Best Show of the Year** and the **Federico Fellini Prize**. *Gadda Goes to War* has had **121 performances in one season** and now comes to the Traverse sponsored by the Edinburgh Gadda Projects.

On both nights there will be a pre-show talk introducing the play. On Friday only, there will also be a post-show discussion, chaired by playwright **Ann Marie Di Mambro**, with the participation of screen writer **Sergio Casci**, actor **Fabrizio Gifuni**, playwright **Nicola McCartney**, theatre director **Laura Pasetti** (Piccolo Teatro Milan) and **Federica Pedriali**, Professor of Italian at Edinburgh and Project Director.

On Saturday, the pre-show will be complemented by a **multimedia installation Hybridity**, created by the **International Junior Winners** of the Edinburgh Gadda Junior Prize, six Scottish and six Italian boys and girls. As part of the Award Ceremony for the Prize, Susanna Grazzini will receive her **Nicola Benedetti Scholarship**, the fourth such award since 2011. The new **Italian Diaspora Project** funded by the **Carnegie Trust** and the **Montecassino 2013** event, as part of that initiative, will be announced at the Award Ceremony. "This project showcases what's strongest about education", **Nicola Benedetti** comments, "education mobilises people to achieve their best".

The Edinburgh Gadda Prize 2012
Edinburgh 2012 Events | 20-22 September

Gaddus Scholars
Scottish Storytelling Centre
On becoming militant
Edinburgh University
International Gadda Juniors
Stills Gallery and Traverse Theatre
L'ingegner Gadda va alla guerra
Traverse Theatre
Award Ceremony
Traverse Theatre

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www.gaddaprizo.ed.ac.uk
www.fabriziogifuni.it

summer school | inaugural lecture | junior installation | british premiere | awards

"The idea behind the project is quite straightforward", **Professor Federica Pedriali**, the Project's Director, states, "The show is simply unmissable, and the other events, including the Awards Ceremony, all in turn exploit and generate a stage".

Ultimately, the best ambassadors for the initiative will be those twelve **International Gadda Juniors** who in the two days prior to the Saturday events will work together to create an installation from their own prize entries, short stories and other media portfolios, in homage to the hybridity of

contemporary art forms – all to the motto: **if Gadda is theatre, scholarship must be engagement.**

next events – No-Where-Next | War-Diaspora-Origin, Montecassino Abbey, 4-5 May 2013.
forthcoming book – Gadda Goes to War. A Translation Plus, Edinburgh University Press, 2012

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