



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 17, 2010
Contact: Liza Green, liza@stolenchair.org, (646)441-0645

**Stolen Chair Theatre Company participates in
WORLDWIDE
“Commedia dell’Arte Day”
February 25, 2010**

On **February 25, 2010**, simultaneous **Commedia dell’Arte** events will occur all around the world as theatre companies, scholars, students, and audiences celebrate this 500-year old comic tradition, which has inspired popular culture from Shakespeare to Seinfeld. This worldwide festival is being promoted by the Italian cultural association **SAT** and organized by **Faction of Fools Theatre Company** in Washington, DC.

Theatre companies--large and small--will produce shows and education programming in the style of Commedia dell'Arte using traditional character types and scenarios. On Feb 25th, events will occur in hundreds of cities as diverse as Boston, Barcelona, Bangkok, and Beirut. The flagship event will be in Bologna where SAT and *La Fraternal Compagnia* will host an international conference of prominent European scholars and performers.

Stolen Chair Theatre Company brings the celebration to **New York** by offering a workshop to introduce performers to this beloved theatrical style:

Introduction to Commedia with Jon Stancato

Location: Space on White, 81 White St, New York, NY 10013

Date/Time: Feb 25, 7-10pm (EST)

Cost: \$45

RSVP: <http://www.stolenchair.org/education.html>

Event Description: Students will receive an intensive introduction to the characters, masks, lazzi, and scenarios of the commedia. By workshop's end, all students will be ready to improvise scenes in duets and trios with four of the most popular masked characters: Harlequino, Dottore, Pantelone, and Brighella. No experience necessary.

Jon Stancato, Stolen Chair's Co-Artistic Director, has been directing and teaching commedia dell'arte to all ages and skill levels throughout the tristate area since 2004. He has trained in commedia with The Roving Classical Commedia University and Dan Chumley & the SF Mime Troupe, as well as in the techniques of Jacques Lecoq. For three years, he has produced Maestro Antonio Fava's NYC commedia masterclasses. He is the resident commedia dell'arte instructor at Fordham's High School of the Arts.

Chosen as “10 to Watch in 2010” by *Broadway World* and “Best of Manhattan” by *New York Press*, **The Stolen Chair Theatre Company** is an award-winning collaborative theatre laboratory dedicated to the creation of playfully intellectual, wickedly irreverent, and exuberantly athletic original works. Proudly plundering the pop culture of the past half millennium, Stolen Chair’s work recycles and reinvents old genres and stories to discover new ways to challenge and delight contemporary audiences. Under the artistic direction of playwright Kiran Rikhye and director Jon Stancato since it was founded in 2002, the company has created twelve critically-acclaimed original works including the absurdist noir *Kill Me Like You Mean It* and the Weimar child’s-play cabaret *Kinderspiel*, both published by United Stages. Their 2005 silent film for the stage, *The Man Who Laughs*, was published in the anthology *Playing With Cannons: Explosive New Works from Great Literature by America’s Indie Playwrights*. In addition to support from The Field, the company’s programs are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.