

COSI FAN TUTTE

2006



during the 59th Film Festival Locarno, a tree lights up and begins to get rowdy

COSI FAN TUTTE is a visual and sound installation presented as part of *Wireless*, an event organized by the Rada – Spazio per l'arte contemporanea during the *59th International Film Festival Locarno* in August 2006.

Once darkness has fallen, a leafy tree located near the castle suddenly lights up from the inside almost by magic. Within the sizzling atmosphere of the Film Festival, voices are heard from the tree itself, exclamations and shouts which become progressively louder and louder. Like sensual and insatiable pagan gods, these voices vigorously intone the expression of an act of love-making. They allow the sounds of pleasure to explode elaborately. These loud orgasms evoke love scene voice-overs simulated for the cinema, or lofty passages of an opera.

A pink-tinted lighting scheme varies amongst the tree. Like Moses' burning bush, the tree lights up for an instant, expressing its passion, then is turned off, back to the ambient darkness. Four voices have been recorded simultaneously on four independent channels: two masculine and two fe-

minine voices. Each voice then corresponds to one loudspeaker and one pair of halogen spotlights which are hidden within the leaves and branches of the tree. In this way four distinct light zones are created; the light intensity of each zone varies according to the volume level of the voice which it corresponds to. Fifty sound samples have been selected from the basic recording, which are then randomly diffuse thanks to a MAX/MSP program. The length of the silence between each sample is also random, ranging from five seconds to twenty minutes.

The voices were recorded at the Studio Nouveaux Monstres in the Contexte-Silo in Renens, featuring Beatrice Buma, Gaspard Buma, Genevieve Favre, and Antoine Petroff. By improvising, pseudo-erotic and spoof dialogues were created, sometimes even imitating animal sounds (bird, cat, cock, chimpanzee)

COSI FAN TUTTE is of course in reference to Mozart, to his opera of the same name and his frivolous reputation. Moreover, the year 2006 celebrates the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. An Italian title seemed appropriate considering the Italian-speaking location of my presentation.



strange birds seem to simulate an act of love-making in the tree as it suddenly fires