

**Press Release**

**THE NUMBERS OF THE VENICE CARNIVAL 2018**

**40,000 thousand visitors for the two flights, 11,000 thousand people for the first part of the Venetian Festival on Saturday, 700 rowers masked in the water parade of the second part, 1,000 guests at the Official Dinner Show and Ball at Ca' Vendramin Calergi and over 50 shows in theatres and museums. Mestre was also packed with events; there were 36 hours of shows, 150 performances, 270 artists and 7 show points in the city: these are the numbers of the 2018 Carnival. Numerous sponsors believed in the event.**

*Venice, February13th 2018*

Today’s **Flight of the Lion** and public presentation of the winner of the **Festa delle Marie 2018**, ***Erika Chia***, on the stage in St. Mark’s Square brought Venice Carnival 2018 to a close. This traditional event that took place in front of a packed St. Mark’s Square, kissed by the sun, is always a suggestive and emotional moment. We are getting the first feedback of a Carnival that was dedicated to the theme of playing and the circus and that for the third consecutive year has been organised by the artistic director, ***Marco Maccapani***.

"*We have recorded another successful Carnival that again has been organised with enthusiasm and commitment* - says ***Piero Rosa Salva***, President of Vela Spa - *striving, on the one hand, to better interpret the indications given by the Municipal Administration, and, on the other, to adapt the entire organisation to meet the new safety and security regulations*".

**Venice**. The new rules limiting the crowds in St. Mark’s Square to 20,000 people did not affect the success of the two great moments that have always been among the most awaited events of Carnival: that of the flight of the Angel on Sunday February 4 with **Elisa Costantini**, Maria of 2017, giving a wonderful performance, and that of the **Flight of the Eagle** on Sunday February 11 with **Renzo Rosso**, owner of Diesel, who surprised and amazed not only the audience in the square, but the whole world with his message of peace and love launched from the stage to the music of "All You need is Love" by the Beatles. Carnival started again with the successful Venice Water Festival in Rio de Cannaregio featuring this year’s **VeCircOnda** event organised by Wavents on the Saturday and the **Water Parade** on the Sunday with 700 masked oarsmen accompanying the ‘Pantegana’ up to Rio de Cannaregio.

A festival for all tastes that again involved the ‘campi’– Campo Santo Stefano, Campo Santa Maria Formosa, Campo San Polo and Campo Manin - with a huge cultural and theatrical itinerary of considerable intensity and appreciation.

**Mestre and the mainland**. The program of events held in Mestre is still expanding to guarantee a diversified and top quality offer for those who want to experience the festival on the mainland. The numbers of the **Mestre Carnival Street Show** speak for themselves: an 8-day program with 36 hours of shows, that is, an average of 20 shows per day, with a total of 150 performances and 270 artists and, in addition to the main stage, 7 permanent show venues in various parts of the city. The production staff of 15 people worked on getting a perfect result. The total turnout was much higher than the first edition, with a greater concentration over the two weekends.

**Masks play an ever-increasing role**! The best mask to win the competition, which has witnessed an increased participation, was "**Love at the time of Campari**" by a couple from Milan. And then the historical re-enactments from the **Ballad of the Masks and the Cutting of the Bull’s Head** to the fight between the **Nicolotti and the Castellani**, and the evening music with the **DJ sets**.

**The Official Dinner Show and Ball**. Once again, this year’s official Venice Carnival dinner called "**The Strange Dinner by Dr. Jack Hill and Mrs. High”** turned out to be a great success. To secure a table and show booking, sales were recorded over Vela’s entire multi-channel network (web, trade market, hotels, call centres and ticket offices), predominantly foreign visitors (not only Europeans, mainly the French, but also Arabs, Israelis, and many Russians). A total of 9 evenings of shows, entertainment and balls took place within the beautiful setting of Ca’ Vendramin Calergi, including the last one of tomorrow dedicated to Valentine's Day, recording approximately 1,000 entrances over the 9 evenings and a peak attendance on the two Saturdays.

**Culture**. The cultural program of the Carnival managed to bring the city to life with dozens of prestigious, curious and scintillating entertainment. The **8 original shows that were set up at the Museum of Palazzo Mocenigo, Casa di Carlo Goldoni and the Murano Glass Museum** were packed to their full capacity with **over 400 visitors in total**, reaching the maximum capacity that the museum rooms could accommodate in this particular format. Every evening from February 2 up to today the "*La Venexiana*" show by the **Teatro Stabile** has been sold out, in what has been - and still is scheduled until February 18! - a revelation of the 2018 cultural carnival, with a magical setting and a contemporary dramaturgy in sixteenth-century costume staged by Giuseppe Emiliani.

Also sold out were the main Carnival concerts; above all the two charity events - "*Il canto del mondo*", with Agimus Venezia and Rotary Venezia at **Palazzo Labia**; the musical entertainment of Il *Contrappunto Veneziano* at the **Sale Apollinee of the Fenice Theatre**. Over 100 enthusiastic spectators at the "*Vento*" of the **Venetian University** on shrove Thursday, as well as at **Palazzo Zenobio** for *Cabaret Satie*. Full satisfaction of the schools involved in the workshop of *Maestro Panzuto* in Mestre, who brought the Odyssey of Homer on stage in three replicas after having prepared the workshop on set design with the schools, at the **Candiani Centre**. Over 200 young people took part in the technology and innovation workshop at **Fab Lab Venezia**. An excellent response was received from the public to Lucia Schierano's puppets at the **Goldoni** foyer - with hundreds of children enthusiastic about the Allegra Harlequinade and the Doge's Treasure - and public approval also for the Furious Harlequin always on the main stage at the Goldoni. More than 100 visitors to the two special guided tours to the treasures of **Querini Stampalia**, and a full Botta auditorium for the two silent film screenings with live accompaniment. Great success also for the events in the new partner venues of the Carnival: **Alliance Française** and the **Swiss Consulate** who sold out in the three shows staged in their areas. Thousands of visitors in the 10 days of opening of the exhibition *The game*: *ingenuity, luck and agility* at the **State Archives of Venice**, with 4 guided tours by the ultra crowded curators with more than 50 participants each. An excellent response from the general public, not only in Mestre: at the **Peggy Guggenheim Collection** as well as at **Vez Junior**; the initiatives that allowed children and parents to play together in the ludens carnival were very welcome. "*The cultural program of the Carnival proves to feed a need that is increasingly felt by the Venetian citizens and tourists* - is the comment by the curator ***Stefano Karadjov*** - *to discover and be amazed by curiosity, to feel part of this extraordinary city. Every day, for 20 days, thousands of people have been able to enjoy 2, 3 or even 4 different events, in different places, enjoying their uniqueness*».

**Sponsors**: The sponsors that have supported the event has been particularly rich this year: Red Bull, Despar, Consorzio Prosecco Doc, The Merchant of Venice, Brian Dales, DFS and Lavazza.

**Output of Vela Spa ticket offices**:

• Overall during the period (February 3-13) 17 shifts were added to the sales service/ticket offices of Vela on the busiest days (first weekend and shrove week) amounting to a total of 119 additional shifts for a total of 875 additional opening hours compared to the usual shifts;

• The opening hours of the ticket offices located at the points of access to the City and in the Marciana/Rialto area such as Vallaresso (up to 00:10), Danieli (up to 00:30) Rialto (up to 01:30); Piazzale Roma instead remained open until 02:00;

• In the hours of greatest flow, the day's center, we had up to 74 branches open, of which 62 in Venice city centre and the islands alone and 12 on mainland Venice;

• During the busiest days in Santa Lucia railway station, the use of hostesses both in the morning and in the afternoon in front ticket office was scheduled to handle the queues

• The 5 IAT points (information and tourist reception) managed by Vela were made identifiable by special signs such as official information points of the Carnival.

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