

PANTHEATRE

Myth and Theatre Festival 2025
July 1st to 13
Malerargues, Southern France

Death and Anarchy

Editorial #4 **Terms & Strategies**

Enrique Pardo

Editorial #4 **EXTRACTS**

How to steer reflections and performances towards the **MAGIC** dimensions of both **Death** and **Anarchy**? Both are “colossal” topics that can easily take us for never-ending rides. Remember José Lezama Lima’s sobering quote: “The thump of a coffin hitting the ground, is something perfectly serious.”

He considered **colossal** to be much more than a matter of size (giant) and that any object, gesture or event, could be colossal if and when it achieved its **figuration**, that is: *meta* qualities of a magical, animistic, mytho-poetic kind, and thereby acquire fetishistic power and presence. (Is that not performance !?)

After the 2021 **Superstition** Festival, Xavier Papaïs, enjoined us to read James George Frazer’s **Psyche’s Task** (1909). It became the 2022 Festival theme. The most striking were the chapters dedicated to the rituals performed to shield and protect the widow or widower of the deceased spouse. Extraordinarily insightful and practical networks of **care**, often radical - not to ever meet the gaze of the deceased. The dead could become evil enemies.

Some words on **Anarchy**, and particularly on the book that propelled Anarchy to the fore : Christine Malabou’s *Au Voleur!* (PUF, 2022), translated as *Stop Thief! Anarchism and Philosophy*, (Polity, 2024). Two strong points: first, her reflections on the Greek root **arkhé** in anarchy, and therefore, by corollary (and contrast) in archetype. Second, most important, the quality of Malabou’s *sympathy* towards Anarchy - the affective yet acute and even stern quality of her... benevolence. A performative lesson.

PS1 The image of Caravaggio is contextual, not necessarily topic: we will work with the genius *chiaroscuro* of his lighting and the drama of his artistry (and life).

PS2 We are dropping Trump as a ‘magical’ rubric. He *grabs* far too much attention.

PS3 But, on the other hand, we are not attracting enough participants! A few great ones have inscribed, but few. We are prepared to barter. **Write to us.**

Enrique Pardo, Malerargues, May 13 2025

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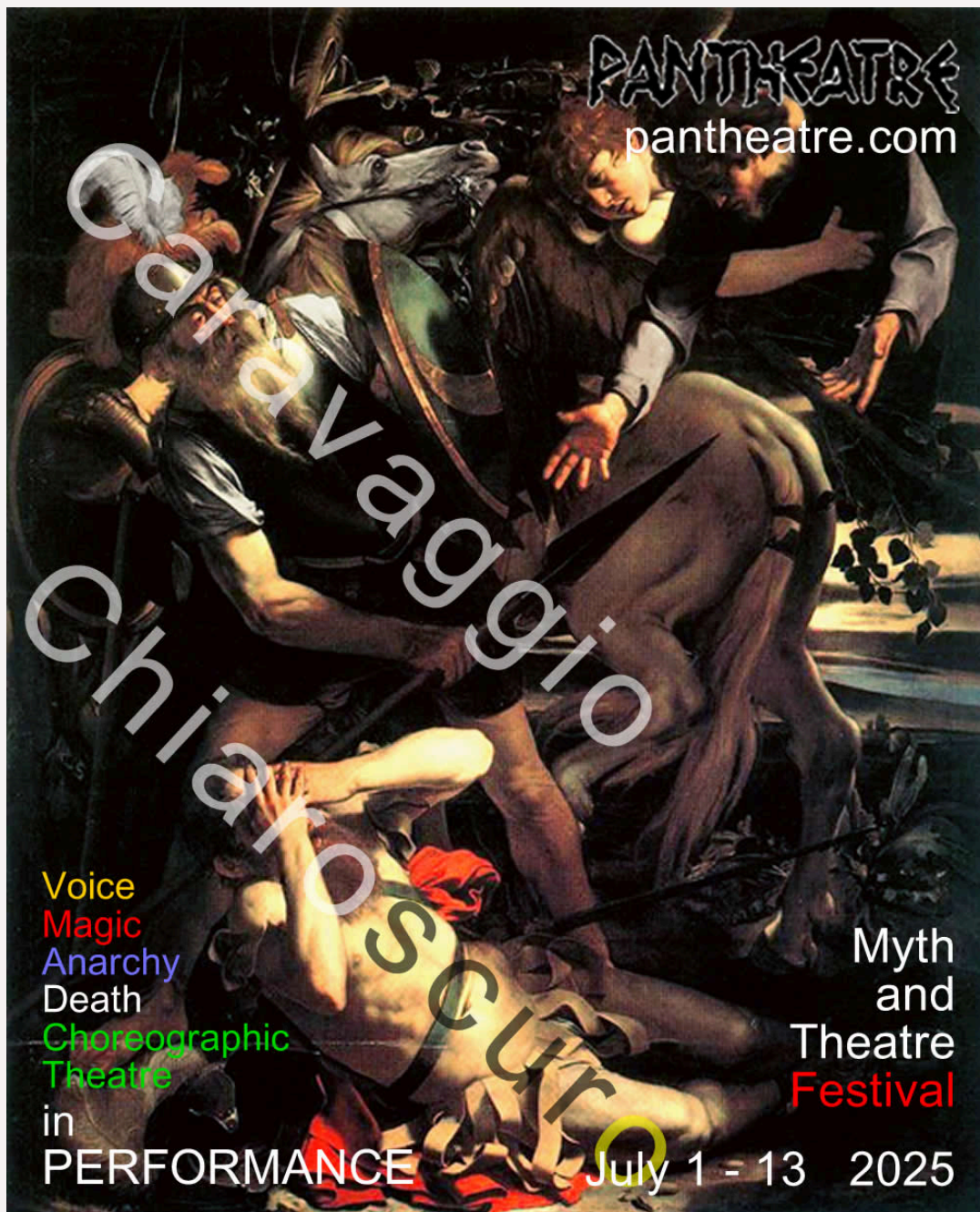


Image: Caravaggio, The Conversion of Saint Paul on the Road to Damascus. Dazzled, he falls from his 'high' horse - Graphics: EP - See a reproduction of the original and an excellent article by Carla Pietrobattista. [LINK](#)

UPDATES - REMINDERS - NOTES

REMINDER. This is a thirteen-day residential festival devoted to the links between **PRACTICE and THEORY**. Practical workshops in the mornings; vocal and singing work in the afternoons; lectures, master classes and performances evenings.

Note. **Xavier Papaïs** will be joining us - a connoisseur and appreciator of Anarchy. We have invited **Sonu Shamdasani**, historian of psychology; **Véronique Taconet**, to talk about her journey through madness. **Delphina Fabrini**, who certainly knows 'her' Caravaggio. **Nick Hobbs** (performer, empresario, musicologist will give two Music lectures (Death and Anarchy). And a dozen other artist friends will be attending, teaching and performing. A first full program draft will soon be published (next newsletter°.

Note. Participants are advised to chose and bring a working text, learnt by heart. The work starts with that choice. Check **ADVICE and EXAMPLES**

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FESTIVAL INSCRIPTION

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PANTHEATRE

Direction Enrique Pardo and Linda Wise

Collaborators

Annie Murath - Pantheatre Chile

Debora Ballardini, New York / Brazil - Organisation & Social Media,

Daniela García, Malerargues, Paris, Chile

Eloïse DeNayer, Paris - Newsletters

Querena / Mexico - Social Media

Francisco Blanes, Argentina - Videos & Virtual Library

Studio DTM, 6 rue de la Folie Méricourt 75011 Paris

Malerargues / Roy Hart Centre - Southern France

+33 (0)7 70 55 22 56 & WhatsApp

The Myth and Theatre Festival is organized in collaboration with

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Studio DTM, Paris 11 &
Malerargues / Roy Hart Centre, Gard
pan@pantheatre.com
pantheatre.com

