



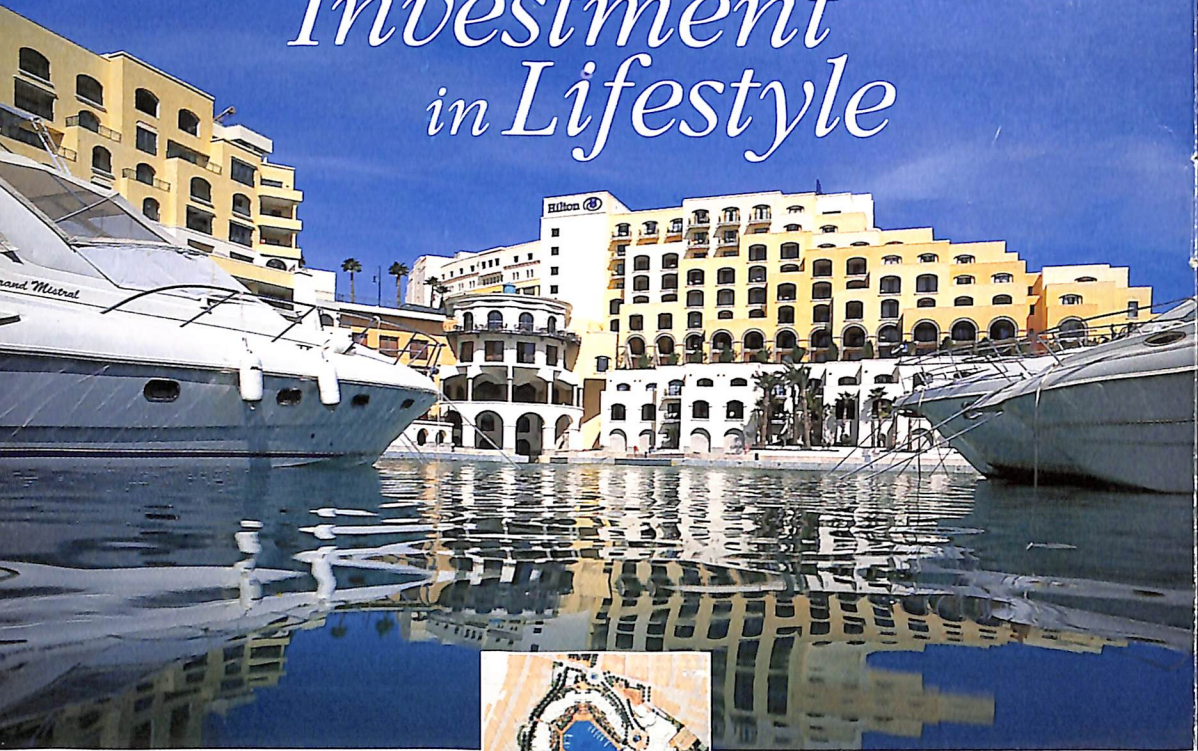
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2099

PROGRAMME 2002 - 2003

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## MANOEL BAROQUE FESTIVAL 2003



Teatru Manoel

presents

Theatre Anon

in

# THE KNIGHT OF MALTA

by

John Fletcher, Nathaniel Field  
& Philip Massinger

directed by  
Chris Gatt

Manoel Theatre  
Friday 2 - Saturday 3 May 2003

## The Manoel Theatre Management Committee

**Chairman:** John Lowell  
**Acting Chairman:** Peter Fenech  
**Members:** Peter Fenech, Chris Gatt, John R. Gatt, Maria Ghirlando, Michael Laus, Alfred Mallia, Genevieve Mamo, Alfred Spiteri, Mallia, Paul Xuereb, Kenneth Zammit Tabona  
**Artistic Director:** Tony Cassar Darien

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**Booking Office:** 116, Old Theatre Str., Valletta, VLT 07  
**Opening Hours:** Monday to Friday: 10am - 1pm & 5pm - 7pm  
Saturday: 10am - 12noon  
**Reservations:** Tel: [+356] 21 246389 Fax: [+356] 21 237340  
bookings@teatrumanoel.com.mt  
Tickets to be collected within 48 hours.  
**Payments:** Accepted by cash, cheques & credit cards  
(Quikcash; Electron; Visa; Mastercard; Eurocard)  
**Bookings:** Booking is open for the entire season.  
On the day of the performance, tickets can be purchased from 5pm up to 30 minutes after commencement.

Performances start at 7.30p.m. Mondays to Saturdays, and 6.30p.m. Sundays. Latecomers have to wait for a suitable pause in the programme before being ushered to their seats. The Verdi Room in the foyer includes a close-circuit television where one may view the performance.

The management reserves the right to alter the programme and the performance time of any production.

The Manoel Baroque Festival is grateful to its sponsors:

Malta Tourism Authority, Alliance Francaise de Malte,  
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## Manoel Baroque Festival 2003

Apart from the Neolithic temples, the Baroque period forms Malta's most important cultural and architectural heritage.

The Manoel Theatre is the perfect setting for Baroque performances - a Baroque theatre in one of the finest Baroque cities.

### Festival Programme

2-3 May - 'The Knight of Malta' - Teatru Manoel - 7.30 pm

4 May - London Baroque - Teatru Manoel - 7.30 pm

5 May - Ensemble Baroque De Nice - Teatru Manoel - 7.30 pm

6 May - Organ Recital - Metropolitan Cathedral, Mdina - 7.00 pm

7 May - Choral Concert - St John's Co-Cathedral, Valletta - 12.30 pm

7 May - 'Farinelli' - Teatru Manoel - 7.30 pm

9 May - Baroque Trio Sonatas - Gharb Church, Gozo - 6.30 pm

### Seminar

'Triumph over Death: a Baroque Celebration'

5 May - 9.00 am

St James Cavalier Centre for Creativity, Valletta.

### Walking Tours

6 May - 'Mdina' - 4.30 pm

7 May - 'Baroque Churches of Valletta' - 10.30 am

9 May - 'Baroque Gozo' - 3.00 pm

The Manoel Baroque Festival 2003 is a biannual event and a joint project of the Teatru Manoel, the International Institute for Baroque Studies (IIBS) at the University of Malta, and the Koperativa Kulturali Universitarja (KKU).

Festival coordinator: Dr. Petra Bianchi

# 'The Knight of Malta'

A Jacobean drama by  
Philip Massinger, John Fletcher & Nathaniel Field

Philip Massinger was one of the great British Jacobean dramatists, and a direct contemporary of William Shakespeare. The drama 'The Knight of Malta' was jointly written by Massinger, Fletcher & Field, and first appeared in print in 1646. It follows the pattern of their other work, mixing drama with comedy in a series of ever more incredible situations.

This play is of particular interest because it takes place in Malta, revolving around the Machiavellian schemes of the Spanish Knight Mountferrat who lusts after Oriana, the (fictitious) sister of Grand Master Valette. After she rebuts his affections Mountferrat accuses her of consorting with the Pashà of Tripoli to overthrow Malta. Valette condemns her outright but a secret lover challenges Mountferrat to a duel to defend her honour. As in many plays of the period, the main themes are those of honour, jealousy, love and nationhood.

The Manoel Theatre production of 'The Knight of Malta' by Theatre Anon will present a contemporary version of the play. Set in modern-day Valletta, it searches for the Baroque in contemporary Malta, superimposing modern political and cultural thought onto the seventeenth-century text to provide a fresh reading of the play.

## Cast list:

Mountferrat - A French Knight of the Order  
Oriana - Sister to Valette, and Wife of Gomera  
Peter Gomera - A deserving Spanish Gentleman  
Miranda - An Italian Gentleman, the Knight of Malta  
Abdella alias Zanthia - A Moor Servant to Oriana  
Valette - The Grand Master of Malta  
Norandine - A valiant merry Dane,  
Commander in chief of the Gallies of Malta  
Rocca - Servant and Instrument to Mountferrat  
Astorius - Knight of the Order  
Castorius - Knight of the Order  
Surgeon  
Velleda - Attendant on Oriana  
Gentlewoman  
Lucinda - A Turkish Prisoner

Jes Camilleri  
Liliana Portelli  
Pierre Stafrace  
John Montanaro  
Clare Agius  
Marc Spiteri

Stefan Cachia Zammit  
Marc Cabourdin  
Malcolm Galea  
Wesley Ellul  
Ben Stuart  
Louiselle Vassallo  
Faye Cachia Zammit  
Charlotte Grech

## Other parts played by members of the cast and crew.

Direction  
Design  
Costumes  
Music  
Stage Manager  
Ass Stage Manager  
Production Secretary  
Make Up  
Backstage

Chris Gatt  
Mario Borg  
Marcon Pisani  
Renzo Spiteri & Jes Psaila  
Edward Cauchi  
Ann Demarco  
Jo Tabone  
Jackie & Anton Farrugia  
Paula Fleri soler, Ray  
Sammut, Gordon Dimech,  
Felician Lanzon, Kurt  
Caligari, Damian Abela  
Silvio Scerri  
Juan Formosa

Lighting and Projection  
Fencing & Fight Choreography

# Theatre Anon

Theatre Anon is a Maltese theatre group interested mainly in the contemporary field, and consists of a core of seven actors who have worked both in traditional and non-traditional forms of theatre. Theatre Anon's main philosophy is that of creating a strong group ethos, with the development of productions undertaken jointly with or without the guidance of a 'formal' director. Theatre Anon has been involved in productions of Shakespeare's sonnets, Voltaire's Candide, and Steven Berkoff's Lunch and Harry's Christmas.

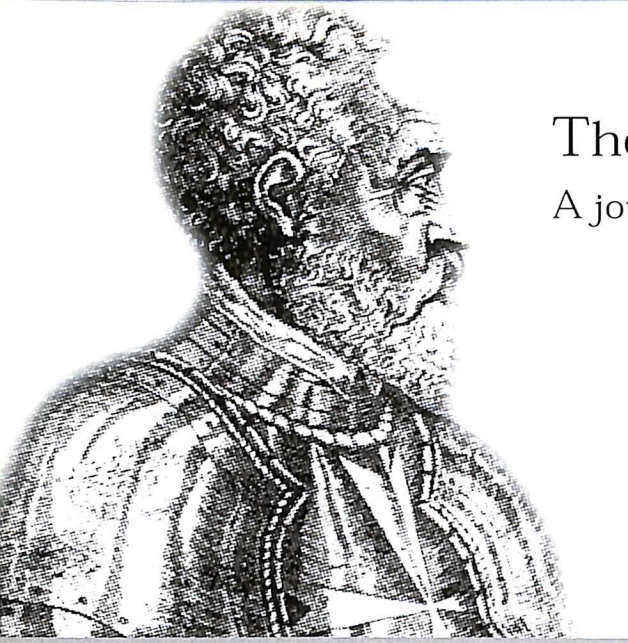
In collaboration with the Toaca Foundation (Bucharest), Theatre Anon has also staged Dorde, a Romanian folktale, under the direction of the Romanian director Nona Ciobanu. Beckett's Act Without Words, Ohio Impromptu, and Krapp's Last Tapes were staged in conjunction with Jericho Productions. The group has also worked on a script in Maltese generated by one of the members of the group on the subject of child abuse - Ir-Rewwixta tal-Patalott.

Members of the group were recently involved in a dance theatre performance forming part of Renzo Spiteri's 2000 Rhythms during the official Millennium celebrations in Malta, and their latest works include a dramatic interpretation of Franz Kafka's Metamorphosis, and David Hirson's La Bête.

The Manoel Baroque Festival is a joint project of the Teatru Manoel, the International Institute of Baroque Studies (IIBS) at the University of Malta, and Koperattiva Kulturali Universitarja (KKU).

Theatre Anon would like to thank :

MADC  
Daniel Cilia  
Nexos  
Anna Catania  
Alfred Cauchi  
St. James Cavalier Centre for Creativity



## The Knight of Malta - A journey into obsession

The Jacobean were a people obsessed - especially when it comes to theatre. Their plays are a sequence of jealous husbands, betrayed lovers, duels, murders, sex and violence - in fact not unlike our present day soap operas.

The *Knight of Malta* is no exception. A journey into the obsessed mind of a French knight Mountferrat, it is in essence an old-fashioned pot-boiler, with more Machiavellian twists and turns than a boa constrictor.

Originally performed around 1640, its particular interest for present day audiences is its examination of a war-dominated world where the decision makers are military men and where there is an almost total breakdown of the normal concepts of civilisation.

This is a brutal world where the Knights are seen as a power-hungry Order, where women are condemned to death almost at a whim and the virtues of chastity and honour are nowhere to be seen, a far cry from the images of chivalry which form much of our collective memory.

But this is hardly surprising. Jacobean dramatists took every opportunity to show the Catholic Mediterranean Society in a bad light and this play is no exception.

What is presented in this fast-moving, incident packed scenario is a corrupt society, driven by lust and revenge and boasts the hand of no less than three authors, Philip Massinger, John Fletcher & Nathaniel Field.

**Chris Gatt**

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## The International Institute of Baroque Studies

The International Institute of Baroque Studies at the University of Malta (IIBS) was set up to promote the pursuit of interdisciplinary, academic studies on various aspects of Baroque culture. It organises symposiums, public lectures, exhibitions and other activities leading to a greater appreciation of Baroque culture, with particular reference to Malta, and networks with similar centres for Baroque studies overseas.

It is currently engaged in research projects concerning Baroque art and architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries. The Institute organises MA courses on Baroque studies and short courses on the Baroque heritage of Malta and its conservation, and is also engaged in giving assistance to various bodies concerned with the restoration of Baroque buildings and artefacts. It also organises a pre-tertiary course in Baroque architecture.

Director: Professor Denis De Lucca

International Institute for Baroque Studies  
University of Malta  
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Email: [monica.floridia@um.edu.mt](mailto:monica.floridia@um.edu.mt)

Programme editor: Victor Fenech

# The Theatre Museum

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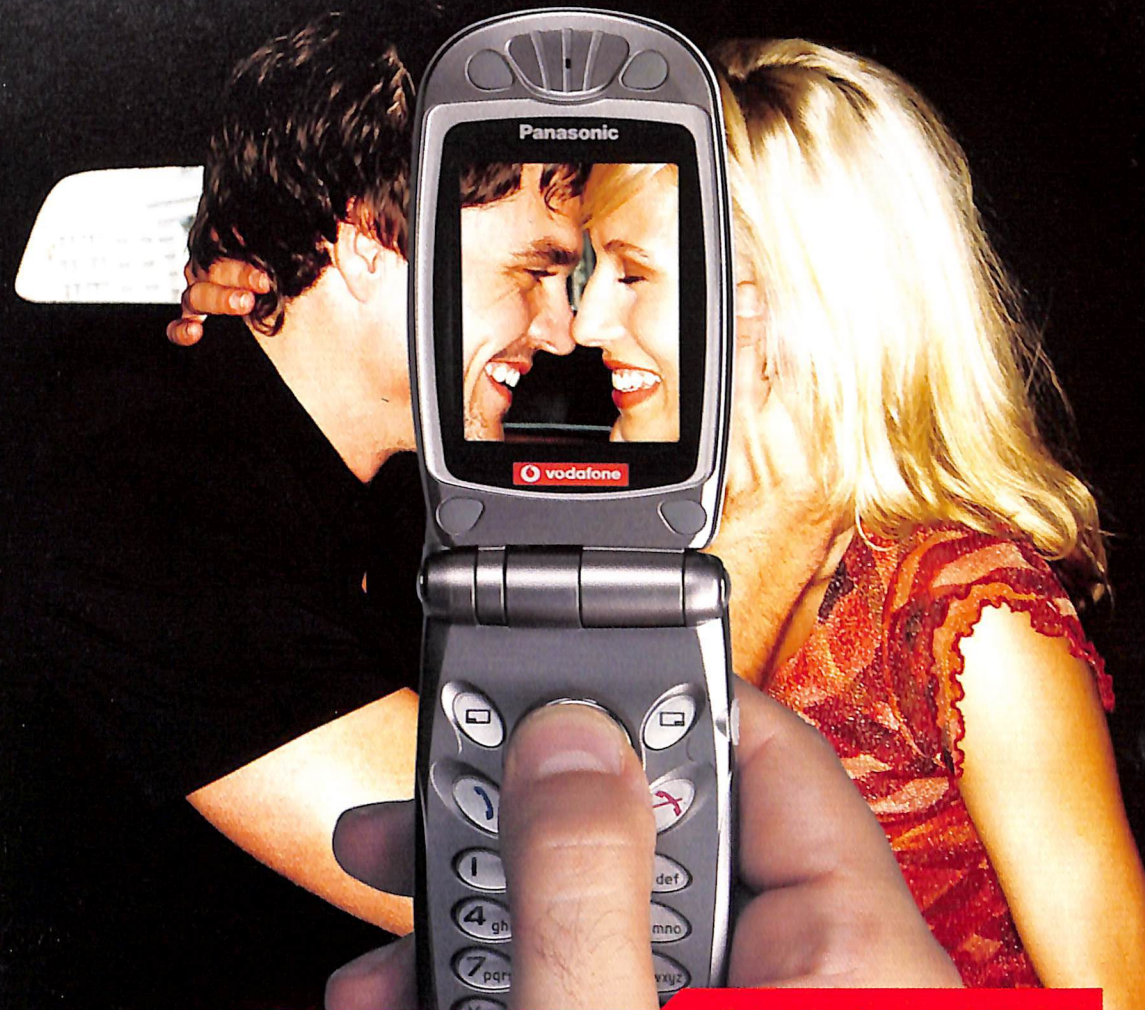
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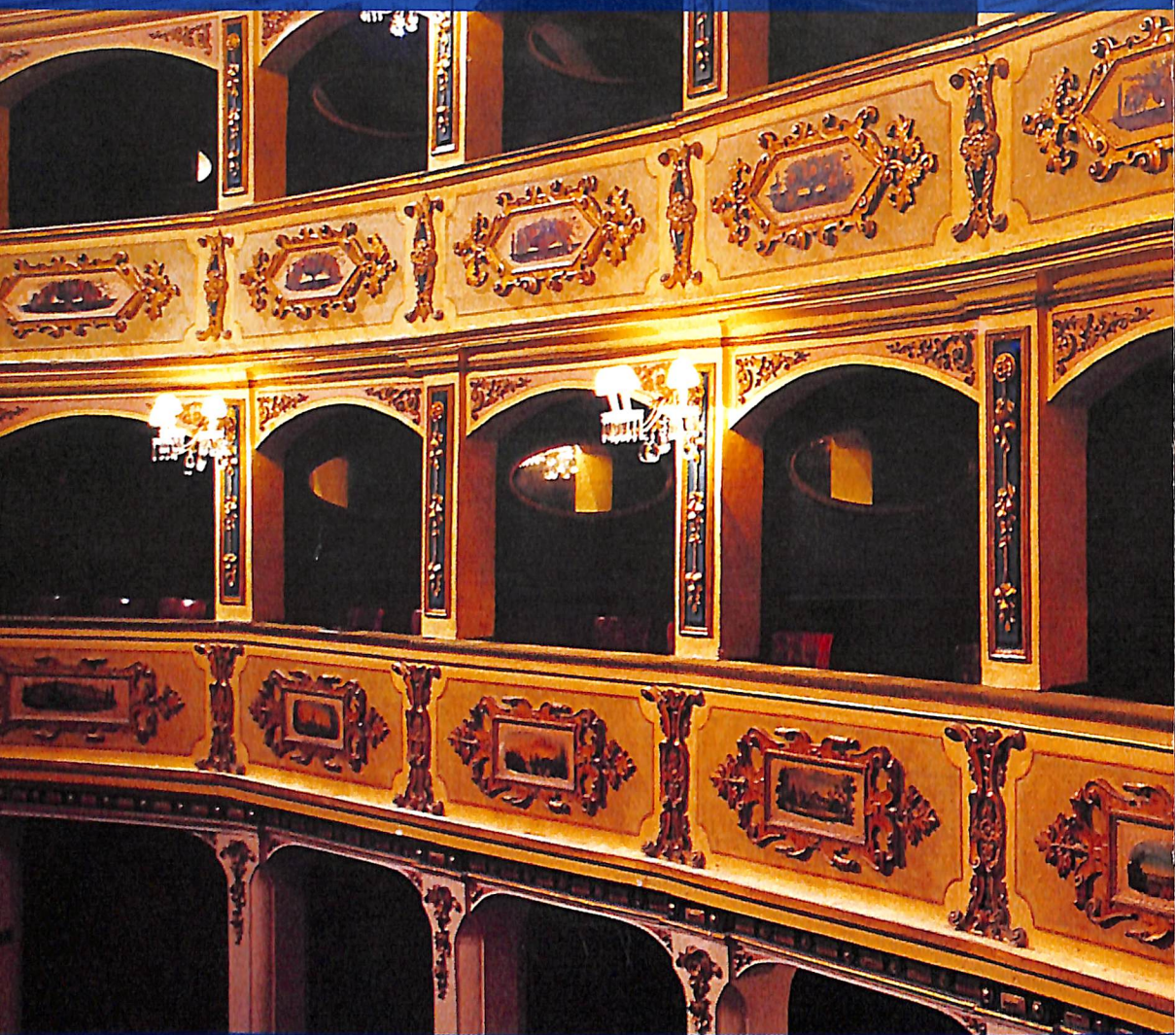
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