

GILBERTO CONTI

3 Kings Celebration - The Urban Rite in a Rio de Janeiro slam (favela) - facing low support from the state, crime, religious intolerance and poverty

3 kings folia is a rite brought from Portugal to Brazil and got influenced by African, Natives cultures,... . The research focuses on the challenges(poverty, criminality, religious intolerance) of that urban rite inside a slum in Rio de Janeiro, and how the resistance makes the group stronger. Also how the governments don't support those groups with public grants leaving them really unattended.

The 3 kings celebration is a traditional rite brought from Portugal to Brazil and has influences from African, Natives cultures and other European immigrants that reached Brazil during 5 centuries. Speaking about my research in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the study focused on the Santa Marta slam where the masters and conductors of that Urban rite always tried to resist different problems and challenges to keep their performance alive. That rite was brought to this slam 60 years ago by the immigrants from the countryside of Brazil

Also, some of those groups live in slums and very poor areas that have civil wars and high criminality, and the choice for music and art can help a lot of young people to not be exposed to criminality, but one of the hardest wars is the war against poverty.

The work of those directors includes rehearsal, clothes, masks, musical instruments, and knowledge passed from family to family for generations and are part of our most important connection with the formation of country and culture. . The Folia is alive and for sure got the influence of the new generations and still survived, still having the problem of religious intolerance, crime, and police violence. The support of the Brazilian government to the artist is close to zero but those groups still survive and keep their tradition and also nowadays the number of kids participating, of their school to create new participants, is growing and it shows that this rite is strong and alive.

Also I can develop an exhibition of giant masks inspired by that rite.



Bio: Gilberto Conti comes from a culture of street carnival from Rio de Janeiro and from his childhood he performed with masks and the fantastic world of the rite and carnival. His grandfather was a street puppeteer and from 25 years he has his group called ioio puppet theatre and masks where made more than 100 performances and workshops around the world. Based in Prague, Czech Republic, studied his master degree at DAMU, Prague Theater Academy. Worked with names as Peter Schumann of Bread and puppets in New York and Petr Matasek, puppeteer of Czech Republic in DAMU, and others. Presented in Congres of IFTR- Shanghai, Ireland CATR- Canadian Association Theatre Research, SIEF – Folklore Association- Finland. He is making his PhD in Charles University in department of Theatre Studies, teaching subjects of masks and rites. To this day play the theater and teaches acting classes with puppets and masks in several European countries, Brazil, Indonesie, Cape Verde, Canary Islands, Madeira Island, Israel, Macau, etc. Develops a research in cardboard and paper giant masks teaching and preparing artist around the world, during coronavirus is developing a project called Paper Memory, teaching in Capy Verde Schools, Angola, Brazil and Macau