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PRO KULTURA MAGAZIN
CULTURE MAGAZINE

Majede Motalebi

Writer of Hope

*Francesco Domenico Giannino
& MAGO MANTELLO*



Italian author, activist, teacher and communication expert.

He believes training and volunteering have the power to change lives and society as a whole. He enjoys writing, painting, and to dream. For more than 15 years he has participated in creating public art in the major Italian hospitals. He is the founder of nonprofit organization "Compagnia del Mantello", also he founded "Florilegio Onlus" and his first book is a novel which is its name "Colibrì e i libri nitidi".



Mago Mantello was born in 2015 when the writer had started his teaching job at the primary school. At the time he tried to explain geometry and theory of colors to the little students inspired by Bahuaus' artists! Then he created Mago Mantello to capture their attention. After a couple of months he started to write Mago Mantello's adventures "The Magic Cape" to gift joy to children in the hospitals.



These ideas made children and their families happy. Candidates agreed to launch a fundraising campaign, and it was great! They received funding to print thousands of copies of the book. Then the wonderful journey began. Now Mago Mantello is one of the most popular characters in Italian schools and hospitals.



The project is the outcome of more than 15 years of volunteering experience of the author associated with a long standing experience in schools and hospitals. “Compagnia del Mantello” is the volunteering association founded by 15 professionals (teachers, psychologists and performers) who decided to dedicate their free time to those people who are more fragile in particular children who are in paediatric units of hospitals. More than 11000 books have already been donated to children. With this numbers is the biggest example of independent publishing in Italy. The book targets more fragile children who can complete the story during the various activities.

The book is already translated in English, Slovak, Spanish, and is being translated in Russian and Polish. 2000 copies of the book were translated in Farsi, printed and distributed in Iran and the proceeds used to purchase medicines which were donated to children in hospitals involving two local no profit organisations; the project was implemented successfully in a school of the city of Florence in South Carolina (USA) and some of the paintings of the children were sent to the seat of the association in Italy; the project was presented during an international event organised by UNESCO in Dubai.



The project was born in Italy however, it aims at reaching children, and their families, around the world since it allows children to create for other children.

The story is developed using the narrative method developed by the association in cooperation with the Walden Institute of behavioural sciences of Rome with the aim to improve wellbeing of children, especially in terms of resilience.



Compagnia del Mantello delivers activities to improve the presence of children in hospitals' paediatric units in order to make their stay a bit better and easier (especially for those who need to spend a lot of time in hospital structures). In addition, the association works with schools to improve the environment and in families to improve the environment of children who suffer from diseases. This is done by performing theatre, painting or playing with children and by donating books. The association has the following purposes: contributing to the eradication of physical and psychological afflictions through culture, painting, theatre, photography and art in general; freeing people from situations of exclusions and abandonment, and re-balancing of situations of social or cultural disadvantage, with special target to younger people; promoting culture and arts as means to a interior development of individuals and communities, also for the purpose of living together peacefully.



The goal is to bring Mago Mantello to families and children so, when I teach to children and I show around MM method, I want to touch the people sensibility, in particular paying attention those living in disadvantaged situations (hospitalized, poor) and donate a book to them. So the whole process involves schools, hospitals or other types of structures and either donating the books or selling the books and donating the proceeds “for example to provide medicines”.

Francesco: "I trust when students hearing my case history they feel admiration for the chance to change the world around us with imagination and concrete actions! Every day I teach nothing is impossible and never give up! Mago Mantello project helps me to demonstrate that acting a good practice destroying barriers and school's walls."



With his activities as a teacher he intends to:

Contributing to the eradication of physical and psychological afflictions through culture, painting, theatre, photography and art in general;

Freeing people from situations of exclusions and abandonment, and re-balancing of situations of social or cultural disadvantage, with special target to younger people;

Promoting culture and arts as means to an interior development of individuals and communities, also for the purpose of living together peacefully.

The black giant of *Coronavirus* and online teaching.

All schools are closed! Teachers and students must stay in home quarantine but learning never stop!

LO ZAINO

SUL

DIVANO!



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Francesco: “Stay safe using that special time to grow looking around, out of the hectic life. Use this time starting to build your personal view on life expressing your better way to be.”





Majede Motalebi

Francesco

A Promising Writer

He always has brilliant thoughts and new ideas.

In the year 2017 I translated the book to Farsi. The book is highly regarded. Then were distributed to children's hospitals for free.

Like some artists, he doesn't just chant slogans. He feels committed to his job. Mago Mantello describes the author's mind's and mentality. Informative material that was expressed in the form of a children's book. His determination to recruit expert volunteers is admirable. By reading the book, you will find that the characters in the story each have their own characteristics. You read the story over and over again, while each time it is fresh and has something new to say and this is the magic of Mago Mantello.

Majede Motalebi

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