

## **MOTIVES:**

Emilio Vassalli Prize goes on even in this difficult situation which is having a strong economical impact on the world of arts. We hope to give a little sign of hope for the future with our proposal of support to new productions.

As well as last year, it's been once again impossible for us to encapsulate in one winner the variety of artistic proposals we received, so we have decided to award the prize ex aequo to two acts: i4 Elementi company with the show "Mr. Ping Pong" and Roman Skadra with the show "Absurd Hero".

The show "Mr. Ping Pong" has been rewarded for the choice to combine an original research on movement, objects handling, juggling with non-circus tools such as table tennis rackets and balls, with a research on the clown, connected with the world of sports, in which athleticism is stretched to the limit and becomes perfection turning athletes into new idols. Mr. Ping Pong starts from this proposition and, with his "physique du role", leads us into his comical world of bounces, smashes and serves, where technique doesn't end in itself but blends with the character, thus producing an original show of circus clownery.

The uncommon and expert use of live music is really interesting and greatly appreciated.

We have decided to award the show "Absurd Hero" for the all-round and original research into a single tool, the walking globe, that is used not only as a traditional circus tool, but becomes itself a story-teller in the show.

The globe becomes a wrestling rival or it talks to Roman as if it were a character of its own, or again it shapes the actor's body giving life to new shapes and figures until the actor turns into a modern Atlas bent under the weight of the World on his shoulders, exhausted by a task which might prove too much for him. We have also appreciated the fine comic quality originating from the relationship between man and tool and based on little movements and surreal situations.

We would like to thank all the artists who took part in the competition by sending us their material. It has not been easy to choose the winners because this year we received such high-quality and artistically varied material.

We hope that we will have the chance to watch your performances in festivals and shows in the future and that this Prize can give you an encouragement to keep on working also in this difficult time.

The commission of Emilio Vassalli Prize

Marco Borghetti  
Stefano Locati  
Loredana Mazzola  
Alessandro Vallin  
Ida e Pierluigi Vassalli

