

# Ermanna Montanari

## Hardness of Stone

Milestones are commemorative slabs. They are planted in our mental cemetery, ghosts that visit us; like roses in the garden.

### **Saint Catherine of Siena**

*only private matters interest me because  
history was never made of them*

### **Angela of Foligno**

*although sadness and joy from without  
may seep into me a little  
there is nevertheless in my soul  
a small chamber*

*where neither happiness nor sadness  
nor any delight in virtue  
nor satisfaction about  
anything that has a name  
can enter*

### **Simone Weil**

**Aldo Capitini**  
*the heresy of the persuaded*

### **Ivan Illich**

**Hroswitha of Gandersheim**

*sick with religion*

### **Saint Augustine**

*I torment myself  
I seek the measure of myself  
I have become for myself a sterile land  
that makes me sweat abundantly*

### **Friedrich Nietzsche**

*notes of madness*

**Dionysus and the Maenads**

Ermanna Montanari behind a wall of granite stones in the performance *Alcibiade di Alcibiade*. Photo: Enrico Pedrigoli



**Sappho**

**William Shakespeare**

**Alfred Jarry**

1.61 metres, *ubuniversal*

**Fyodor Dostoyevsky**

**Charles Baudelaire**

**The Authors of the Bible**

**Lucretius**

**Eleonora Duse**

**Hippolyte Clairon**

*how much study to stop being ourselves*

**Carmelo Bene**

*Love me! It's a lot, you know,  
it's a lot if we've saved our eyes.*

**Totò**

**Sergei Eisenstein**

**Vsevolod Meyerhold** who taught  
theatre to peasants and workers

**Antonin Artaud**

*my eyes*

*on what horrible spectacle*

*you will open upon dying*

**Jerzy Grotowski** who taught me

the beauty of being tone deaf

**Maria Callas**

**Giordano Bruno** who is still burning

**Georg Büchner**

*you move along the path*

*from the idea to the work*

*on your knees*

**Ernst Bloch**

spirit of utopia

**Gustav Mahler**

the little red rose

**Georges Bataille**

the joints that get disconnected



**Pier Paolo Pasolini**  
 still a rebel today when they want  
 to make a saint of him  
**Federico Fellini**  
 incredibly local  
**Elsa Morante**  
 who sings of the Happy Few  
 and the Many Unhappy  
**Colette**  
 the 158 centimetres of her cut-off plait  
**Carl Theodor Dreyer**  
 without whom there would have been no  
 Joan of Arc by Falconetti  
**Renée Falconetti**  
 without whom there would have been no  
 Joan of Arc by Dreyer  
**Saint Francis of Assisi**  
**Jacques Maritain and Raissa Umanshoff**  
 the alchemical couple  
**Antoine Saint-Exupery**  
 the little prince  
**Søren Kierkegaard**  
 masks and pseudonyms  
**Janis Joplin**  
**Jimi Hendrix**  
**Isadora Duncan**  
**Camille Claudel and Auguste Rodin**  
 their jealousy  
**Tina Modotti**  
**Pavel Florenskij**  
**Buster Keaton**  
 the apocalypse of what is very common  
**Jean Vigo**  
 archetype of the non-school  
**Luis Buñuel**  
**Orson Welles**  
**Emily Brontë**  
*Heathcliff is more me than me*

**Omar Khayyam**  
*Alas, the essence of Life  
 has slipped from my hands*  
**Frida Kahlo**  
*I Dream Dream Dream Dream Dream  
 Dream Dream I am dying of Dream*  
**Gandhi**  
**Father Lorenzo Milani**  
**Renzo Montanari**  
 my patriarchal grandfather  
**Nora Minotti**  
 my witch grandmother  
**Beatrice Cenci**  
**Marina Cvetaeva**  
**Hannah Arendt**  
 bold common sense  
**William Blake**  
*if there were no fools  
 we should have to be them ourselves*  
**Dante Alighieri**  
**Alberto Giacometti**  
 the difficulty of making a head  
**Vincent van Gogh**  
*people who do not believe in the Sun  
 are like atheists*  
**Artemisia Gentileschi**  
**Sandro Botticelli**  
**John Donne**  
 the body as a book of love  
**Friedrich Hölderlin**  
*there where danger lies  
 that which saves us grows*  
**Hildegard of Bingen**  
*with his bones  
 man shares the hardness of stone*

ERMANNIA MONTANARI (Italy)  
 founded Teatro delle Albe with Marco  
 Martinelli, Luigi Dadina and Marcella  
 Nonni, in 1983, and since then she has  
 worked in the company as writer, actress  
 and set designer. Since 1991, Ermanna  
 Montanari has published in magazines such  
 as *Lapis*, *Riga*, *Il Semplice*, *The Open Page*,  
*Teatro e Storia* and *Lo Straniero*.

Donkey head in stone from the performance *Sogno  
 di una notte di mezza estate*. Photo: Enrico Fedrigoli