

## “The Walker’s Autodafè”, to the Memory of Arturo Giovannitti

ISYSA, the Italian Society at Yale of Students and Affiliates, a registered society at Yale University, is organizing an event, as a part of the activities promoted by the committee for the "**Bread and Roses Centennial**" (<http://breadandrosescentennial.org/>), to the memory of Arturo Giovannitti.

Arturo Giovannitti was an Italian immigrant of the beginning of the past century who was member of the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) and led, together with Giuseppe (Joe) Ettor, the Bread and Roses strike. His controversial case became celebre around the world, attracting nationwide attention and inspiring activists who called for the guaranteeing of free speech. On January 1912, a striker named Anna Lo Pizzo was shot and killed during a police crackdown on an unruly mob. Although Ettor and Giovannitti were three miles from the scene, both were arrested and imprisoned on the charge of inciting to a riot leading to the loss of her life. On November 1912, Giovannitti spoke in defense of himself in front of the jury of the Court of Salem (MA) that decided for his acquittal. Giovannitti was also a writer and a poet. Famous is the poem "*The Walker*" that he wrote during the years of prison.

A theater company, "*La Compagnia del Teatro del LOTO*" from Molise, the same Italian region from where Giovannitti was from, produced a monologue "**L'Autodafè del Camminante**" ("The Walker’s Autodafè") dedicated to the memory of Giovannitti's life and has been invited by the committee for the "*Bread and Roses Centennial*" and by the *General Council for Italians Abroad* for a tournee in the East Coast of 4 shows (Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and New Jersey).

We are glad to announce that one of the two dates in Connecticut will take place at the *Yale Off Broadway Theatre* on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

The monologue will be introduced by a round table in which the contribution of Italian immigration in USA will be discussed and will be moderated by **Dr. Anna Iacovella** from the Department of Italian of *Yale University*. Among the guest speakers, **Prof. Robert Forrant**, President of the *Bread and Roses Centennial Committee* and Professor in *Labour, Technology and Urban and Regional Economic and Social Development* at *UMass Lowell*, **Prof. Anthony Julian Tamburri**, Dean of the *John Calandra Italian American Institute of Queens College/CUNY* and Professor of *Italian and Italian/American studies*, **Prof. Joseph Tusiani**, Professor at the *City University of New York*, writer, poet and pupil of Arturo Giovannitti and **Dr. Antonio D’Ambrosio**, Founder and President of the Association “*Pro Arturo Giovannitti*”.

The event will follow the schedule below and it is open to the public.

Because of limited amount of seats available, we encourage reservation at <http://isysaa.wordpress.com>:

Round Table	4.30-6.30 pm	<i>Linsly-Chittenden Hall, Room 102</i>
Refreshment	6.30-7.30 pm	<i>Linsly-Chittenden Hall, Room 102</i>
Show	7.45-9.00 pm	<i>Yale Off Broadway Theatre</i>

We kindly thank you for the attention and we hope you will be able to attend the event.



**ISYSA**  
*Italian Society of Yale  
Students and Affiliates*



*Picture of Arturo Giovannitti.*

**STRIKE**  
**Quash The Indictment**  
**Against Ettore & Giovannitti**

**The Spirit of Lincoln**

Fellow Workers - Citizens - Comrades

Do not let the Capitalist Editors beg the present situation for you. In the present disclosures revealing the Dynamite Planting by the Constable WOOD and his Gang of Hirelings, do not forget the real motive of the PLANT. Capitalist Editors say it was to discredit the strikers- that was only part of it- the bigger motive was TO GET EXCUSE TO ARREST ETTOR AND GIOVANNITTI. The Dynamite Planter was sent to plant the dynamite in Ettore's headquarters- only his unfamiliarity with the building caused it to be left on the other side of the partition in the cobbler's shop.

This was a week before Ettore and Giovannitti were arrested for murder. When one PLANT failed the dastardly crew put up another. They started the disturbances that led to the killing of Anna LaPizzo. The whole thing is now exposed.

Innocent men have spent 8 months in jail. Demand an IMMEDIATE special session of the court and the quashing of the indictment against Ettore and Giovannitti.

And furthermore demand of Governor Foss and your state government a thorough investigation of the conduct of Judge Mahoney, Judge Brown and Dist. Attorney Atwill who are accused of "white-washing" and shielding these criminals of wealth. Demand these things- and DEMAND THEM NOW.

If Ettore and Giovannitti are not released from jail by September 30, all the workers, whether organized or unorganized ARE URGED TO STRIKE until these innocent union men are released.

Ettore-Giovannitti Defence Committee,  
 Central Bldg. Lawrence, Mass.

*Handbill about the case of Ettore and Giovannitti.*



A picture of Joe Ettore and Arturo Giovannitti.

MERCOLEDÌ 4 APRILE 2012 ANNO 137 - N. 80

# CORRIERE

Milano, Via Solferino 28 - Tel. 02 63821  
Servizio Clienti - Tel. 02 63797310

Fondato nel 1876

Edizione Romana

In Italia EURO 1,20 | RCS

## DELLA SERA

RM1  
Roma, Piazza Venezia 5  
Tel. 06 688281

www.corriere.it

---

**Teatro Lo Spazio**

### Storia di diritti e libertà nell'America del 1912

Un grande gabbia dalle sbarre rosse, che contiene gli spettatori, ottanta alla volta. Oltre il ferro, in movimento da uno scorcio all'altro (la cella, il parlatore, il tribunale di Salem) l'attore Diego Florio è Arturo Giovannitti in «l'autodafé del camminante», regia di Stefano Sabelli, dall'11 al 16 aprile al Teatro Lo Spazio (via Locri 42/44, tel. 06 77978496), con il patrocinio della Fondazione Giuseppe Di Vittorio.

Giovannitti, emigrato dal Molise in America nel 1901, impegnato degli ideali di giustizia e libertà che gli fecero abbracciare le idee socialiste e lo videro diventare giovanissimo leader sindacale, fu protagonista nel 1912 in Massachusetts di un processo poco noto, offuscato dalla successiva clamorosa condanna di Sacco e Vanzetti. Accusato di essere il mandante dell'omicidio di un'operaia

durante lo sciopero «Bread and roses», decise di autodifendersi: un «address to the jury» così ricco di riferimenti storici, dal presidente Lincoln ai filosofi greci (Giovannitti aveva studi classici e una cultura vastissima), che ottenne l'assoluzione. «In carcere scrisse il poemetto "The walker", ed è attingendo a questo e agli atti processuali che abbiamo costruito lo spettacolo» spiega Sabelli. «Sono cresciuto alla Camera del lavoro Cgil di Campobasso - ricorda Florio - Mio padre mi portava sulle spalle alle manifestazioni. Nel trasmettere la fede di Giovannitti in un mondo nuovo ho dovuto tenere a bada l'impeto e lasciar andare le sue parole. Aveva la mia età, 29 anni, quando pronunciò la sua arringa».

**Laura Martellini**

Protagonista Diego Florio

© RIPRODUZIONE RISERVATA

A newspaper article (Corriere della Sera) about the play.

