

Shen Wei, the performance of *Carmina Burana* enchants the San Carlo Theatre

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Ovations accompanied Shen Wei's "Carmina Burana" performed at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples. The infectious enthusiasm of the audience and ten minutes of applause greeted the American choreographer, of Chinese origin, and the dancers at the end of the world premiere performance.

The staging included thirty-two dancers of the Ballet of Teatro di San Carlo, directed by Alessandra Panzavolta, and seven soloists of Shen Wei Dance Arts, while the music was performed by the Orchestra, Chorus and Children's Choir of "Massimo Partenopeo," the San Carlo Opera House. The celebrated choreographer's staging was inspired by the beauty of Carl Orff's music, the composer of "Carmina Burana," but also by the sea and the classical sculptures in the city of Naples, where he stayed for several intense months of work on the opera project. Shen Wei personally conceived and designed the production, its sets, costumes and choreography, with solos, duets and ensemble pieces created around the two motifs that drive Orff's masterpiece: life and the eternal return of the seasons, and the Wheel of Fortune, which governs the fate and destinies of individuals.

The antiquity and authenticity of "Carmina" has been translated by the choreographer as an invitation to contemporary man, in a culturally poor world dominated by business, to recover harmony with nature and with the values of life in order to rediscover a more intimate and absolute beauty.

