

# STORMO® rEVOLUTION





## THE PROJECT

**STORMO® rEVOLUTION** is a long-standing project based on the development of harmony within groups of people. Its core is an open workshop, during which the conditions created let collective intelligence emerge. The journey begins with activities designed to expand attention, gradually opening the level of listening and interaction among the participants, who quickly find themselves spontaneously applying the same movement rules used by flocks of birds to migrate, by preys to survive and by large groups to organize.

This process triggers a surprising physical joy in the participants and, as a consequence, wonder and involvement in the observers. Originally devised as a performance project, as it evolved, **STORMO® rEVOLUTION** has revealed various facets and applications, ranging from artistic to training contexts, encompassing education and science. The proposed experience also lingers afterwards, in people's daily lives, leaving emotional and sensorial traces related to harmony and collaboration: we discovered this by asking some of the participants to share their impressions, that you can find at this [link](#).

The project tangibly develops active listening through nonverbal communication: a simple relationship mode, physical, immediate, that allows to look beyond the boundaries associated to roles, social classes, culture, language and nationality. **STORMO®** reveals resources buried in the memory of the body, allowing not only the individuals to discover themselves as part of a group, but also the group to perceive itself as a single self-regulated entity.

The truly innovative feature is the absence of an established leader: the lead goes steadily and rapidly from person to person, and it totally dissolves in the collective will. Just like in nature, it creates a condition in which any initiative to impose one's will is not accepted.

The scientific dimension of the project is proving to be every day more interesting: **STORMO®** has been perceived as an **emergent human behaviour**. In systems theory this is an unexpected phenomenon that does not belong to any of the components of the system, but which emerges from their mutual relationship.

In 2015 we organized a scientific session in collaboration with both the physicist Hugues Chaté, a world authority in the study of collective movements at all levels, and Gilles Tredan and Matthieu Roy, computer scientists of the University of Toulouse (LAAS – Laboratoire d'analyse et d'architecture des systèmes, CNRS Toulouse). The aim of the session was to measure the harmony the project generates in groups of people: we have created an informative video presented at the Curiositas festivals in Paris, which you can watch [here](#).

**STORMO®** is open to connections with many other disciplines ranging from Social Sciences to Design, from Biology to Architecture. Because of its nature and its objectives, it is an evolving project, developed through periodic research sessions and performances organized in collaboration with existing and new partners.

Links: [Scientific session's video](#) | [Vimeo album](#) | [Interviews](#) | [Project's page](#) | [Facebook](#)

## WORKING METHOD

**STORMO®** is a versatile and flexible format, designed to be always focused on the participants. The project is developed through **sessions**, with specific objectives: independent sessions, research, and sharing with the community; in companies, experience and team awareness development; in schools, training in developing harmony and relationships; festivals, urban performances.

**Participation** is open to all, regardless of age or physical condition; no prior experience is required. Participants are guided towards the necessary state of mind and physical awareness: thanks to exercises and games borrowed from the theatre experience, the group begins to organize itself in a harmonious way and participants discover “by themselves” what the work is about.

We try, in fact, to keep all the information and directions extremely simple, favouring a practical approach over a theoretical one. The body becomes an information vehicle in a simple and natural way: people find themselves listening to each other and interacting, the mind thus quiets down and leaves room for group movement. The aim of **STORMO®** is, as we said, to develop a collective intelligence, a dimension in which individuals share a physical language based on relationship.

**STORMO®** is developed during a workshop open to all and it consists of 3 elements:

- > **Recreational activities** (rhythm and reaction based games, simple street games) in order to create a relaxed and cooperative atmosphere in a pleasant and funny way;
- > **Listening and attention:** activities aimed at developing attention towards others, their positions in space and the group as a whole;
- > **Flight:** starting by working in pairs, participants learn to lead one another (one person leads, the other follows). This simple principle is then extended to more people and finally to the whole group, allowing the creation of an exciting emotional experience.



## TECHNICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

**For each session we ask our partners:**

- > to support us in communicating the call to participate;
- > to identify the locations;

**For the workshop we ask for:**

- > a good quality, powerful enough audio system;
- > a large, empty space, suitable for the number of participants;

**For the performance:**

- > a good quality, powerful enough audio system;
- > a large space to house it: urban, industrial, a large closed empty place;
- > management of any permit or authorization.



## PARTNERS

In Italy, the project was developed in collaboration with:

- > [CampoTeatrale](#) – acting School and Theatre Company, active in the sector of drama training since 2000;
- > [Politecnico di Milano](#) – the largest University in Italy operating in the scientific-technological field. It offers Engineering, Architecture and Design courses.
- > [Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia “Leonardo Da Vinci”](#) – (National Museum of Science and Technology “Leonardo Da Vinci”)– the largest Science Museum in Italy and one of the most important in Europe and in the world;
- > [Assab One](#) – exhibition space managed by Elena Quarestani, active in Milan since 2002;
- > [AVTurné](#) – cultural project focused on performing arts management (production, tour management, administration, distribution and promotion in connection with artists, companies, theatres, public and private institutions);
- > [IT Festival](#) – the first Independent Theatre Festival in Milan;
- > [Centro Culturale Valtorto/Panda Project](#) – theatre company based in Ravenna. Their research focuses on the role of the artist, the audience and the performance as a receptacle for irony and provocation;

Our main international supporters are:

- > [La Diagonale Paris-Saclay](#) – project for dialogue between science and society associated with the largest University Campus in Europe;
- > [La Fabrique de Théâtre](#) – headquarters of the Provincial Service for Performing Arts in Hainaut (Belgium), it hosts performances, concerts, residential workshops, cultural events and activities, as well as providing space for training and rehearsals;
- > [Bothnia Biennale](#) – collaboration project between institutions, groups, associations and individuals belonging to the artistic community of Bothnia, initiated by the Centre for the Promotion of Finnish arts;
- > [Notte Europea dei Ricercatori](#) – initiative run by the European Commission since 2005, it involves thousands of researchers and research institutions all over European countries every year. The goal is to create opportunities for interaction between researchers and citizens in order to spread scientific culture and professional researchers’ knowledge in an informal and stimulating environment.

**STORMO®** is a project created in 2010 and presented for the first time during the [Danae Festival](#). It has been further developed to its present format and renamed **STORMO® rEVOLUTION** in 2013.

We have led dozens of sessions in different countries with the overall participation of **more than 700 people** aged between 6 and 63. In Milan, the Company’s hometown, there is an actual community that actively participates to the sessions contributing to the development of **STORMO®**. Their feedback has helped us not only to develop the format but also to understand the effective value of our proposal. Often they have surprised us with their simplicity and clarity: if you have not already done so, you can see them [here](#). From the [project’s web page](#) you can access all material and links.

