

Speakers in the Humanities in association with  
Tabla Rasa Gallery is proud to present  
**Celebrating the Century-old  
Manteo Sicilian Marionette Tradition in New York**  
A Lecture, Film Presentation and Brief Marionette Demonstration



by Award-winning TV Producer-Writer-Director and Historian, Tony De Nonno  
Sunday afternoon December 5, 2010 from 12:30 – 2 P.M. at the

**Tabla Rasa Gallery**  
224 48th Street (between 2nd & 3rd Avenues)  
Brooklyn, New York 11220  
Seating is Limited  
Please R.S.V.P.  
[info@tablarasagallery.com](mailto:info@tablarasagallery.com)  
718 833-9100

to this entertaining and engaging event which is  
**FREE** and open to the public.

**Tabla Rasa Gallery** -- invites "children of all ages" and cultures in Brooklyn and throughout the greater New York Metropolitan area to a very special celebration of the glorious Sicilian American Marionette Tradition on Sunday afternoon December 5, 2010 from 12:30 – 2 P.M.

**Tabla Rasa Gallery** in association with the Speakers in the Humanities program of the New York Council for the Humanities, proudly announces that award-winning Award-winning, TV Producer-Writer-Director and Historian, Tony De Nonno will take audiences on an enlightening journey into the acclaimed Century-Old Papa Manteo Sicilian Marionette Theater tradition in New York brought to our shores in 1908. For more than a century, five generations of the Manteo family have performed episodes from "*Un Avventura d'Orlando Furioso*" (the epic adventures of the knight Roland in defense of Charlemagne's empire) with life-sized marionettes. This distinctive art form of marionette theater emerged in Sicily in the early nineteenth century, though the tradition of performing the Orlando cycle with marionettes dates back to the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

One of the highlights of this engaging presentation will be a demonstration of one of Papa Miguel Manteo's hand-made knights being brought to life. Audience members will see how the marionette, resplendent in its suit of armor, struts, walks and talks and engages in battle-ready combat stances with chivalrous aplomb. Several of the 'children of all ages' in attendance will be given the opportunity to experience manipulating the puppet.

Mr. De Nonno will conclude his presentation with the screening of his award-winning, nationally broadcast PBS Network documentary about the Papa Manteo Marionette Theater tradition in America. In "It's One Family: Knock on Wood," we meet puppeteers Mike and Aida Manteo, their children and grandchildren, a family bound together by a Sicilian folk tradition that spans a century in New York. On stage, Orlando woos Angelica in the court of Charlemagne, as the entire family works together to entertain audiences across America. "Merle English in Newsday at the time of the film's nationwide premier on PBS, characterized the documentary as... "a charming portrait of a Sicilian family in Brooklyn whose life work is creating life-size marionettes in the style of the Middle Ages. Producer Tony De Nonno has created a gentle old-fashioned film, a look into lives rooted in the Italian Renaissance"-- and oh, the caring, the tender respect for craft in this family."

Speakers in the Humanities –

This program is funded by New York State Council for the Humanities a state-affiliate  
of the National Endowment for the Humanities

Refreshments will be Served-- Seating is Limited-Reservation are essential to this entertaining and  
engaging event which is free and open to the public.

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For info about the artist Documentary Filmmaker and Speaker in the Humanities, Tony De  
Nonno... please visit the following sites:

<http://db1.spiderline.com/exec/search?a=17063&c=1&q=Tony+De+Nonno&submit=Go>

and

[www.denonnoproductions.com](http://www.denonnoproductions.com)



**Papa Mike Manteo marionettes were in a storefront on Stillwell Avenue in Brooklyn for more than thirty years, In 1982 he was given a National Heritage Award for his contribution to American culture. In 1986 Papa Mike Manteo received an Award of Honor for Arts and Culture from Mayor Edward I. Koch.**

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Please credit Tony De Nonno, Photographer for the photos

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#### About Tabla Rasa Gallery

Tabla Rasa Gallery is located in the burgeoning art destination of Sunset Park, Brooklyn. The outlier gallery is known for their consistently stunning exhibitions. Within the 4000 square foot turn of the century carriage house, the gallery exhibits primary and secondary market artwork by emerging, mid-career, and established artists, in all media, including painting, sculpture, installation, drawing, print media, digital, film and video.

The gallery is located two "D" or "N" express subway stops from Manhattan to 36th Street Station, plus one "R" stop to 45th Street (or a just few short "R" stops beyond Park Slope).

Exhibitions are free and open to the public. It is recommended to call 718.833.9100 for events and schedule updates.

#### Directions to Tabla Rasa Gallery

Subway: From Manhattan, take D or N to the Brooklyn 36th St. station plus one R stop to 45th St.

Driving: Tabla Rasa is on 48th St between 2nd and 3rd Aves, Brooklyn.

Ample street parking is available.

Please visit [WWW.TABLARASAGALLERY.COM](http://WWW.TABLARASAGALLERY.COM) for Gallery Hours and Exhibitions.