



ASSOCIAZIONE CULTURALE



# AUTUNNO NERO

Festival Internazionale di Folklore e Cultura Horror

PROJECT 2008





## WHAT IS AUTUNNONERO

After the great success of its first two editions, the Cultural Association “Autunnonero” confirms for the third year the *International Festival of Folklore and Horror Culture “Autunnonero”*, offering a new season of high level events about folklore, horror, science fiction and fantasy. An itinerary of meetings, exhibitions, concerts and shows throughout the most evocative places of Western Liguria and their ancient traditions and legends.

The International Festival of Folklore and Horror Culture Autunnonero aims to promote the interest for heritage, folklore and traditional arts as the ancestral roots of horror, science fiction and fantasy. The Ligure territory has a natural propensity to fantasy and horror which comes from the heritage of its dark and twilight stories. It represents the other side of the famous light and colors of Western Liguria and Côte d’Azur.

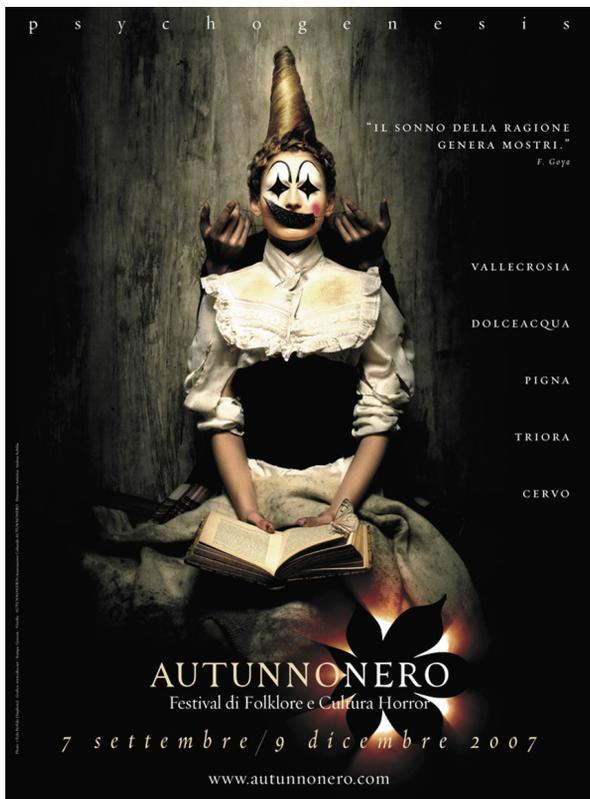
Every town of the Ligure inland and coasts has a core of folk legends and traditions, often not well known by people. Autunnonero wants to bring them to light, marking the folklore aspects they share and bringing to surface the elements which make every single place unique.

## WHO, WHERE, WHEN

*Autunnonero* (= “Black Autumn”) is organized by the Cultural Association “Autunnonero” - Folklore, Heritage and Culture. This Association, whose aim is to promote folklore as a way to rediscover the historical and cultural world heritage, was created by young professional people who wanted to realize a brand-new event, founded on a new interpretation of the concept of “link”.

Starting from the intertwined relationship between horror and folklore, the Association aimed to look for every possible secret link between different fields of knowledge, media and arts. The result was the birth of an original Festival which put as its primary object the creation of an infinite net of links between folkloric and fantastic aspects of movies, theatrical plays, music, comics, art, fiction, ect.

The first edition of the Festival was held in *Triora*, the old *village of the witches*, well known because of the famous witch trial occurred in the XVI century. The second edition involved 4 more medieval villages in a net of mysterious, eerie places such as the *Doria’s Castle* (XII century), or the *church of San Bernardo* in Pigna (XV century). The third edition, from september to december 2008, will keep some of the old location, moving other events to Genoa in order to gain more visibility.



## AUTUNNONERO 2007: PSYCHOGENESIS

Psychogenesis was the title given to the main subject of the second edition of the Festival Autunnonero. It was a complex structure of events and sub-events held in several evocative locations of the Western Liguria's Inland.

The guest star of Psychogenesis was the eclectic *Dave McKean*, writer, illustrator, designer, conceptual artist and film director. Using the original plans of the Doria's Castle of Dolceacqua, Dave McKean and the art director of the Festival created together a special show fitted to the Castle. The result was a unique exhibition of McKean's paintings, comic pages, photographs and sketches.

Dave McKean himself participated in the Festival, meeting his fans in a special weekend dedicated to him.

Autunnonero 2007 comprehended a total of 14 "thematic weekends", 5 exhibitions, 7 concerts and 3 big shows held in 6 locations, with the participation of more than 80 guests. It was a great success of public and critics and became one of the most important events of the Italian fall season.

## AUTUNNONERO: A THEMATIC FESTIVAL

Autunnonero is a *thematic* Festival. Every year the organizers choose a *subject* about *folklore*, *horror*, *science fiction* and *fantasy* and realize a cultural itinerary from it in order to examine its peculiarities closely.

The creation of this itinerary is pursued with accurate investigations and attention to the consistency and organicity of the final result. The organ deputed to watch over the contents of the Festival and to find the best way to elaborate them is the *Scientific Committee* of Autunnonero, which includes some of the best Italian writers, academics, artists, filmmakers, musicians, comic drawers and journalists.

In the general topic, Autunnonero finds some sub-topics destined to become the structure of the Festival. These sub-topics represent the core of the so called "thematic weekends", the basic frames of a complex formula whose peculiarity is to draw a wide range of public.

As for the previous editions, Autunnonero presents a new subject for 2008.

While in 2006 it was about returning ghosts with "*Masks of the Otherworld. The Myth of the revenants in contemporary folklore and horror*" and in 2007 about madness with "*Psychogenesis*", 2008 will be dedicated to the "*Twilight Zone*".

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# THE TWILIGHT ZONE

**T**wilight Zone is the word commonly referred to an indefinite zone of passage between two conditions, almost always determined by the absence of concrete references.

The most known of these zones is the *Grey Line*, the imaginary line which divides the light from the darkness on the earth's surface. Inside this expanse it is never daylight nor night. It is a place in which the normal rules are not admitted. Let's just consider the moment between waking and sleeping. Everybody of us experienced that strange feeling of disorientation when top becomes bottom and bizarre images and sounds suddenly appear.

It is a liminal state which needs to be passed through in order to reach another world.

The Twilight zone is a neutral area between two borders, a land of no one, a holy place forbidden to those who have no knowledge of it. It is a threshold, a door which allows to reach several dimensions and from which anyone or *anything* can come to our world.

The Halloween night, for instance, is considered one of the moments in which the veil between the world of the living and the world of the dead (or fantastic creatures) becomes thin and the passage through the two dimensions is easier.

*"There is a fifth dimension beyond that which is known to man. It is a dimension as vast as space and as timeless as infinity. It is the middle ground between light and shadow, between science and superstition, and it lies between the pit of man's fears and the summit of his knowledge. This is the dimension of imagination. It is an area which we call "The Twilight Zone".*

Rod Serling "The Twilight Zone"

