

Dario Fo and Franca Rame: A Couple's Biography Through Italian History

Dario Fo and Franca Rame were two of the most important figures in Italian theater and politics in the second half of the 20th century. Their work was often controversial, but it was always innovative and thought-provoking. They were also a couple in life, and their relationship was a source of strength and support for them both.

Early Lives

Dario Fo was born in 1926 in the town of Sangiano, Italy. His father was a railway worker and his mother was a homemaker. Dario showed an early interest in theater, and he began writing and performing puppet shows as a child. After graduating from high school, he moved to Milan to study architecture. However, he soon dropped out of school to pursue his passion for theater.



Dario e Franca. La biografia della coppia Fo-Rame attraverso la storia italiana by Andrew Beresford

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Franca Rame was born in 1929 in the town of Villasanta, Italy. Her father was a shoemaker and her mother was a housewife. Franca also showed an early interest in theater, and she began performing in plays as a child. After graduating from high school, she moved to Milan to study acting. She met Dario Fo in 1951, and they married in 1954.

Theater Career

Dario Fo and Franca Rame founded their own theater company in 1953. They called it the Compagnia Fo-Rame. The company's work was often satirical and political, and it quickly gained a following. In 1968, the company was banned from performing in Italy because of its anti-government stance. However, Fo and Rame continued to perform their work in other countries, and they became even more popular.

In 1973, Fo and Rame returned to Italy and resumed their work. They continued to produce innovative and thought-provoking theater that pushed the boundaries of what was acceptable. They also became involved in political activism, and they often used their theater work to speak out against social injustice.

In 1997, Dario Fo was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his work. He was the first Italian to receive the prize since Luigi Pirandello in 1934.

Political Activism

Dario Fo and Franca Rame were both active in politics. Fo was a member of the Italian Communist Party, and he often used his theater work to

promote communist ideals. Rame was also a political activist, and she was often involved in campaigns for women's rights and social justice.

In 1973, Fo and Rame were kidnapped and tortured by right-wing extremists. The attack was an attempt to silence their political activism. However, Fo and Rame refused to be intimidated, and they continued to speak out against fascism and oppression.

Personal Life

Dario Fo and Franca Rame were married for over 60 years. They had three children together. The couple was known for their close relationship, and they often worked together on their theater projects.

Franca Rame died in 2013 at the age of 84. Dario Fo died in 2016 at the age of 90. The couple's legacy continues to live on through their work and their commitment to social justice.

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