

# JRC-IHCP Science & Art Days

Monday 28 April 2008 16.00

Amphiteatre, JRC-Ispra

## Science: facts through fiction\*\*

Scientific Seminar by Prof. Carl Djerassi

Tuesday 29 April 2008 14.30

Ville Ponti, Varese

## ECB 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event\*

including the Performance of "Oxygen",  
a two act play by Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffmann,  
staged by Isabella Gregor

Wednesday 30 May 2008 19.00

Ville Ponti, Varese

## Oxygen\*\*

a two act play by Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffmann,  
staged by Isabella Gregor

\* by invitation only

\*\* registration required, please register  
by email to [ihcp-contact@jrc.it](mailto:ihcp-contact@jrc.it)

 **JRC**  
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Institute for Health and Consumer Protection

# Science on Stage

Celebration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Accomplishment of the European Chemicals Bureau

## A staged rehearsed reading in English of the two-act drama

# Oxygen



By Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffmann  
'Stage of Art' McGregor's Production - Director: Isabella Gregor

**Ville Ponti**  
Piazza Litta 2, Varese  
29 April, 16.30  
and 30 April, 19.00

The Nobel Committee has decided in its centenary year (2001) to give the first "retro-Nobel" to the discoverer of oxygen which marked the beginning of modern chemistry. Three chemists lay a claim to that discovery: Antoine Laurent Lavoisier, Joseph Priestley, and Carl Wilhelm Scheele. The play gives an inside look at the politics and passions in science then and now. It opens in Stockholm, Sweden, 1777 - the year oxygen was discovered - and introduces Lavoisier, Priestly, and Scheele through their wives. The Nobel Committee of 2001 discusses the selection of the awardees. The action shifts from one century to the other, as do the actors, who play dual roles in 1777 and 2001. And, as the plot develops, we see the role of Madame Lavoisier emerging as one of the protagonists of the story.

The world premiere of Oxygen took place in 2001 in San Diego and has since then been followed by representations and adaptation worldwide and in many languages including German, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian. The play is written by the world famous authors Carl Djerassi and Roald Hoffmann - both in their role as scientists, Djerassi known as the "Father (Mother) of the Pill" while Hoffmann received the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1982 - as well as in their role as authors - Djerassi has written several successful novels and plays, while Hoffmann is renowned for his poetry.

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For information [ihcp-contact@jrc.it](mailto:ihcp-contact@jrc.it)

### The 'Stage of Art' McGregor's Production

Fru Pohl / Ulla Zorn  
Mrs. Priestley/Astrid Rosenqvist  
Mme Lavoisier  
Mr. Priestley / Ulf Svanholm  
Lavoisier / Bengt Hjalmarsson  
Scheele / Sune Kallstenius  
Director  
Director's Assistant

Astrid Herbach  
Katharina Stemberger  
Ursula Strauss  
Howard Nightingall  
Michael Smulik  
Jeff Sturgeon  
Isabella Gregor  
Sarah Hartmann