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Science in the lime-light

Pisa 's 'Ludoteca Scientifica' exhibit pleases visitors

Ten thousand visitors in five weeks have flocked to the 2008 edition of the 'Ludoteca Scientifica' the noteworthy Pisan exhibit featuring experiments, workshops and games. More than 1,700 people from all over Tuscany and at least 15 other Italian regions have lined up at Pisa's 'Vecchi Macelli' the central exhibition space immersed in lush green landscape to see the show that will be open until Saturday, May 10.

Exhibit creators Nadia Ioli Pierazzini and Marco Massai can't hide their satisfaction about the success of that last six editions.' 'We are very pleased to see the children and young people who came here on field trips returning with their families to see the show,' says Nadia Ioli Pierazzini. 'Many people who've come this year, visited last edition as well.'

The Ludoteca features 50 experiments, presented by 40 young entertainers whose light-hearted and dynamic talents create an informal and fun atmosphere designed to stimulate curiosity toward the fascinating world of scientific research. The exhibit is being sponsored by the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio of Pisa , Miur, Ego-Virgo and the University of Pisa 's Orientation Department. It is being executed thanks to personnel from the Physics Department, the IPCF-CNR and the INFN.

The six Galileo-inspired itineraries are pleasing visitors across the board. 'People are very impressed about the link that exists between the telescope that Galileo invented in 1600 and the Glast space telescope that will be launched by NASA on May 16,' explains Pierazzini. 'There a profound connections between history and modern research.'

'The show's robotics workshop has also been very successful,' says Massai, 'It allows visitors to see tiny robots made with easily recyclable material. The show spotlights how they are able to overcome obstacles.' Don't miss two robots called 'Romeo and Juliette' who engage in a 'love-dance' thanks to numerous sensors and artificial intelligence. The Ludoteca is open from Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm and on Sundays and holidays from 2pm to 7pm. Reservations are recommended; please call 050/3153776 (Mon.-Fri. 9am-12pm and 2m-4pm). Visitors must reserve a space in order to attend individual workshops. For more information visit: www.ludotecascientifica.it.

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