

Piccolo Opera Festival

is pleased to inform that registration is now open for selections for admission to the new

ADVANCED TRAINING COURSE FOR STAGE MANAGERS - ASSISTANT STAGE DIRECTORS

**Borgo Live
GO! Borderless Opera Lab**

Gorizia AY 2025/2026

Project "Mille anni di storia al centro dell'Europa: Borgo Castello crocevia di popoli e di culture" (One thousand years of history at the centre of Europe: Borgo Castello, crossroads of peoples and cultures) CUP F88F22000000007

PNRR funding -Next Generation EU, for PNRR pilot project M1C3 Measure 2 Investment 2.1 line A approved by decree no. 70/GRFVG of 03.01.2024

Applications must be submitted by 20 January 2026.
Enrolment and attendance of the course is totally free of charge

Informations

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**GO!
BORDERLESS
OPERA
LAB**

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**Finanziato
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**MINISTERO
DELLA
CULTURA**



**REGIONE AUTONOMA
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA**





CALL FOR SELECTION

1. THE ORGANISATION

Piccolo Opera Festival, established in 2007, is a member of Italiafestival and Opera Europa and is now recognised, also internationally, as an original and emerging organisation within European opera festivals.

With the project GO! Borderless Opera Lab included in Borgo Live, Piccolo Opera Festival wants to address the need to create a next-generation European musical theatre, coordinating with similar national and international projects.

Higher education for musical theatre is at the heart of this project and it aims to provide students with the necessary experience and skills to achieve job placement.

2. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE AND TRAINED PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

The course is aimed at advanced training of the role of Assistant Stage Director/ Stage Manager, a figure with multi-faceted skills: they coordinate and supervise day-to-day work during rehearsals, manage the work of their collaborators, and are responsible for stage safety and the management of related activities. In their role as Assistant Stage Director they manage contacts between the departments (costumes, stage design, make-up) and ensure that all material necessary on stage is present. They follow the direction and note it on their score, and ensure that the preparation (makeup and clothes) of performers is carried out on schedule.

3. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications for selection are open to both Italian and foreign candidates, including non-EU citizens, who:

- have reached the age of 18;
- have completed compulsory education.

The following shall constitute preferential (but not mandatory) qualifications:

- Secondary school diploma in music or dance;
- Conservatory Diploma;
- Degree in Visual, Musical and Performing Arts (DAMS);
- Art School Diploma;
- English Language (FIRST or CAE) and Computer (ECDL) certificates.

If the candidate has previous work experience or extracurricular experience in the world of the performing arts consistent with the professional profile covered by this course, this will also be taken into account, although not constituting a preferential qualification.

Foreign candidates are required to have a basic knowledge of Italian.

Non-EU candidates must, at every stage of this course, comply with current immigration laws.



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4. DURATION AND VENUE OF THE COURSE

The course will be held in Gorizia at Palazzo Strassoldo, Piazza Sant'Antonio 2.

The course will consist of 600 hours of training, approximately 400 hours of teaching and 200 hours of project work. The course will last four months, with approximately 20 hours per week.

Classes will begin in February and conclude in May. Project work and the internship will primarily take place in June.

5. TRAINING PROGRAMME

Course attendance is full-time and compulsory. Therefore, the course is incompatible with other study, professional and/or artistic commitments of an ongoing nature.

Any artistic leave for external productions, auditions and competitions shall be authorised in advance by the Academy Management.

A certificate of attendance shall not be issued if a student's absences exceed 30% of the scheduled course hours.

The training programme includes both classroom lessons and workshop activities, the purpose of which is to confront students with the complex production mechanism of the opera house.

Classroom lessons:

Formal analysis and reading of the score; History of theatre; History of musical theatre; History of theatre direction; Theoretical and practical elements of Stage Management; Technical analysis; Study and construction of the production plan; Elements of stagecraft; Elements of lighting engineering; Elements of costume, make-up and hairstyling; Elements of phonics; Elements of IT for live performance; Introduction to the work environment; Safety training standard pursuant to Legislative Decree 81/2008; Technical English for theatre and performing arts; Effective communication and group management.

Masterclasses:

Special emphasis is placed on masterclasses held by industry professionals such as directors and stage managers, which are scheduled throughout the year.

Project Work:

Active experimentation project aimed at testing the applications studied in an artistic production context. Students may be involved in projects and productions by Piccolo Opera Festival in 2026.

Activity and internship opportunities at opera houses:

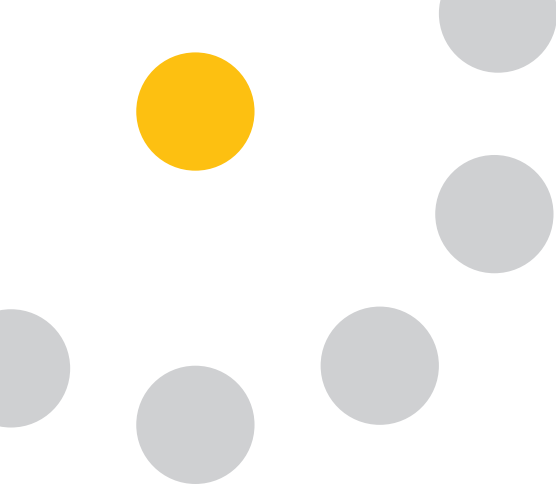
Fondazione Teatro Lirico Giuseppe Verdi in Trieste and Slovenian National Theatre in Ljubljana have offered to host particularly deserving Academy students with internships within their respective artistic programmes.



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6. TEACHING STAFF

The teaching staff is composed of highly qualified artists and industry professionals. Their names shall be published on the official website.

7. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

This course is limited to a maximum number of 10 students.

8. CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registration and attendance of the course is free of charge.

9. APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AND SUBMISSION DEADLINES

The application for admission to the selection process must be submitted no later than January 20, 2026.

Admission to selection is subject to acceptance of all the provisions contained in this call.

The statements made in the application form and its attachments may be verified by Borgo Live and Piccolo Opera Festival at any time. Should they be proven false, the candidate shall be immediately excluded from selection (and, in the case of successful admission, from the course).

The following documents must be attached to the application under penalty of exclusion:

- registration form (downloadable online) containing all personal data;
- curriculum vitae;
- cover letter;
- copy of a valid identity document (identity card or passport);
- copy of the candidate's Italian health insurance card;
- one digital photograph.

Non-EU citizens must provide a copy of their residence permit.

Should they be proven false, the candidate shall be immediately excluded from selection (and, in the case of successful admission, from the course).

10. EVALUATION OF CURRICULUM AND SELECTION TESTS

Admission to selection tests is subject to the submission of all the documents requested above.

11. SELECTION

Selection is based on the evaluation of the candidate's curriculum vitae and motivation.



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12. CANDIDATES ADMITTED TO THE COURSE

Admitted candidates will receive a written invitation indicating the course start date and time, along with a schedule of the first lessons.

The course will begin approximately February 9, 2025.

By the start of the course, non-EU citizens admitted to the course must prove that they comply with current Italian immigration law.

In particular, they must have, if required by law, an entry visa to study or work, or a residence permit to study or work valid for the entire duration of the course. They shall also send a copy of the aforementioned documents to the Academy.

13. CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

The Management and teachers hold regular meetings to evaluate students, their improvements and any obstacles along the way. Students' progress towards professional completeness is monitored in workshops and field learning activities. A certificate of attendance is issued to candidates who complete the course by attending no less than 70% of the total number of training hours.

14. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

In compliance with the obligations provided for by European Privacy Regulation EU/2016/679 (GDPR) and by Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 (Personal Data Protection Code) we hereby inform candidates that Associazione Culturale Piccolo Opera Festival A - with registered office in Via Spessa n. 1 - 34070 Capriva del Friuli (GO) - VAT number 02524820301 and tax code 94105880309 - as Data Controller processes the personal data that concern candidates and that have been or may be provided to us - by the same candidates or third parties - during their relations with our organisation.

The processing of data, freely provided by candidates or otherwise collected, is carried out in compliance with the privacy regulations in force. It is based on the principles of correctness, lawfulness and transparency and carried out in compliance with the principles of relevance, comprehensiveness and non-excess.

Capriva del Friuli, Monday, December 4, 2025

Artistic director
Gabriele Ribis

Coordinator
Vanessa Codutti



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