



***OnStage!festival***  
***L'America è di scena***  
***Rome, Italy - January 21<sup>st</sup>- 27<sup>th</sup> 2019***

**OFFICIAL CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:  
FIRST EDITION OF THE ONSTAGE! FESTIVAL**

*We strongly recommend that you carefully read through the following Festival rules and guidelines before submitting your application.*

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 30<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**1. FESTIVAL MISSION AND GUIDELINES**

Created to celebrate independent American Theater in Italy, OnStage! follows in the long-running, successful footsteps of InScena! Italian Theater Festival in New York, and mirrors it across the ocean. OnStage! is the American Theater Festival in Rome. It is organized by KIT Italia, Kairos Italy Theater, and The International Theatre, in partnership with several Italian and American institutions (find the updated list on our website: [onstagefestival.it](http://onstagefestival.it))

The Festival's first edition will be held in January 2019 in Rome, Italy, across a few different venues. OnStage! will host fully staged productions of American shows (in English with Italian supertitles), readings of plays by American playwrights (with full Italian translations), and the OnStage Award for US playwrights. The winning play will receive a staged reading of its Italian translation, which will be provided by the Festival as part of the award. The calendar will also include special events, panels, lectures, and master classes. Admission to all Festival shows and events will be ticketed, with a moderate ticket price to partially cover the organizational costs.

**Submissions are now open for the SHOWS category.** This category includes full productions of any and all theatrical genres including new plays, musicals, adaptations, revivals, devised work and experimental work. See section 3 “Shows” and section 3.1 “Eligibility Requirements” for further details on eligibility requirements.

By submitting your proposal, you fully agree to the rules and regulations outlined in this document. If your proposal is selected, you will be required to sign a detailed agreement in line with these regulations.

## 2. SUBMISSION AND ENTRANCE FEES

While this is customarily a requirement of Italian theater festivals, submissions in the SHOWS category will not be required to pay a submission fee. We understand that artists and theater companies will be undertaking a substantial effort to participate in the Festival, since the Festival does not cover traveling and accommodation expenses. Therefore, OnStage has elected not to ask participants in the SHOWS category for any financial contribution. For the same reason, the Festival will also not be charging any entrance fees to artists who are selected to participate in the SHOWS category. Selected artists will be subject to a refundable security deposit (see section 3.4.1 “Deposit.”)

## 3. SHOWS

Submissions are open to full productions of theatrical shows created by professional American artists or theater companies. The submitted shows must have already been produced in the USA, but never been staged in Italy. For its inaugural 2019 edition, the Festival will select between 3 and 5 shows. Each show will be scheduled for at least 2

performances over the course of the Festival. The 2 performances may fall on the same day, as a matinée followed by an evening show, or they may be scheduled on different days.

### 3.1 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Submissions are open to all individual artists and theater companies living and working in the United States whose work is staged primarily in English.

Shows must be full-length and have already received at least one professional production. They must have been previously produced in the USA, and they can also have been produced in other countries, but never been staged in Italy.

Shows that have only previously received a workshop or university production are considered unproduced.

Submissions are open to any genre of theatrical performance, including works inspired by other works – as long as all necessary rights have been obtained. We will accept shows in English that are inspired by or based on non-American plays. We will accept adaptations from literature or novels, but not translations. A full-length video of the play is preferably in order to be considered, but not necessary. Please try to send us at least a 15 minutes video to give us a sense of the show.

As the Festival will be held in several different locations, the shows should lend themselves to being staged with minimal sets and technical elements, and be flexible with regards to loading in and out, tech needs, and rehearsal time (refer to section 3.4 “If You Are selected” for more information)

Each theater company is allowed to submit one proposal. There is no submission fee.

Unless the Festival organizers decide that a particular show does not need supertitles, all of the shows will be supertitled in Italian or presented in a bilingual version, that is to say including some parts in Italian (subject to agreement between the artist and the organization.)

The Italian translation of the show will be provided by the Festival (translation copyrights will be owned by OnStage!, according to an agreement that the playwright will be asked to

sign upon official selection.) The Festival will also be in charge of operating the supertitles during performance.

### 3.2 SELECTION PRIORITIES

Priority will be given to shows that:

- a) last no longer than 1 hour and 15 minutes
- b) are easily accessible to a broad audience
- c) are flexible with regards to loading in and out, tech needs, and rehearsal time

### 3.3 GUIDELINES TO SUBMITTING SHOWS

- Each artist or theater company must fully complete the ONLINE APPLICATION FORM which can be found on our website: [onstagefestival.it](http://onstagefestival.it)

- At the same time, each proposal must be completed by sending an email to [entries@onstagefestival.it](mailto:entries@onstagefestival.it) with the subject: SHOW + name of show, attaching:

- A short cover letter explaining why you are interested in the Festival
- Description of the show and summary of the project (no longer than 3 pages)
- Company's and artists' biographies
- A preliminary list of minimum tech requirements, including set items and large props
- Full script of the proposed project (pdf)
- Press clippings (reviews, articles, interviews from previous productions of the show)
- Written confirmation that you hold the rights to the work
- A video recording of the show, unedited and preferably full-length (the link to the video can be included in the form, or video files can be transferred via dropbox or wetransfer)
- Three pictures from the show, including credits

Only complete proposals submitted **by March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018** will be considered.

By April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the artists or theater companies selected for the first edition of *OnStage! L'America è di scena* will receive the official confirmation.

*Note – By “video recording” the Festival means an archival video recording of the piece, with sound, preferably in its entirety. As this video is used to evaluate the actual content and nature of the show and to assess its potential within the venues hosting the Festival, brief edited excerpts or trailers are not acceptable.*

### 3.4 IF YOU ARE SELECTED

All selected show will be part of OnStage! 2019's official calendar and will be presented in Rome, Italy, in January 2019 for a minimum of two performances.

#### 3.4.1 Deposit

Each selected show will be required to pay a refundable deposit fee of \$600 by April 25<sup>th</sup> (instructions to follow), which will be returned to the artists upon their arrival in Rome. In case the artist or theater company withdraws from the Festival after having already confirmed their attendance, the Festival will keep the deposit to cover the expenses incurred on behalf of the show, including agreements with Festival venues. At the discretion of the Festival organizers, this may not apply in the event of artists or theater companies being unable to participate for reasons outside of their control, such as serious health problems.

#### 3.4.2 The Festival will provide:

- All performance venues, including tech staff and tech instruments (note: light plots will be minimal)
- A meeting between the Artists, the Festival's Technical Director and the Festival organizers, to review tech needs and make final decisions about sets and props

- Between 1 and 4 hours to load in and rehearse each show at the venue (unless differently agreed with the location)
- A dedicated technical team
- Promotion within the Festival
- Performance photos and backstage photos
- Video of the show filmed during the Festival, if available
- Translation of the show into Italian, and Italian supertitles curated and operated by a professional team
- Festival's press clippings at the end of the festival
- Access to a network of theater professionals in Rome
- Information to help find affordable accommodation in Rome

**3.4.3** - The venues hosting each show will be selected by the Festival according to set requirements, tech needs, and type of show. The shows will be staged with simplified sets and lighting. The artist or theater company is not entitled to require more technical support than what is agreed upon with the Technical Director.

**3.4.4** Each selected artist or theater company agrees to:

- Send all additional materials and information about their show as requested by the organizer after the official Festival selection, in a timely manner
- Pay a \$600 deposit, which will be returned to them upon arrival in Rome
- Submit the latest available video of the show as it will be performed in Italy to Festival organizers by **August 1st 2018**, to be used for the creation of supertitles
- Cover travel and accommodation costs for all company members

**Note** – *For devised, experimental or movement-based shows that are not heavily text-based and are therefore accessible to an international audience, the Festival may decide not to use supertitles.*

### 3.5 SPONSORS

To support the artists and companies that will present their shows at OnStage!, the Festival offers the option of providing a space for artists' sponsors' logos on their official printed materials and on the Festival website. We will share a detailed document with selected artists with all the options available to their sponsors to gain visibility before and during the Festival.

Artists or theater companies can contact the organization directly to discuss the specific needs of their sponsors. However, in no way will the organization provide contacts of potential private or institutional sponsors.

For any questions, for additional information, or for technical issues, feel free to contact us at [info@onstagefestival.it](mailto:info@onstagefestival.it)