



OnStage! Festival
L'America è di scena
2nd edition
Rome, Italy - November 2020

OFFICIAL CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
SHOWS CATEGORY

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: September 1st 2019

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) The inaugural edition of OnStage! took place in January 2019 at the Off-Off Theater in Rome. Five original productions from the United States were showcased alongside readings of American theater in translation, topical panels, concerts and dance performances.

The 2019 festival, headlined by the Off-Broadway show *Cry Havoc*, was a resounding audience and critical success, and was extensively highlighted in the Italian national press. Following that success, in November 2019, OnStage! reloaded will take place in Rome, Milan and Naples, presenting one show coming back from the US and one new Italian



production based on the play winner of the first OnStage! Award for US playwright (its Italian translation was also published as part of the OnStage Award series).

The Festival's second edition will be held in November 2020 in Rome, Milan and Naples, Italy. 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 (please, checkout the OnStage Award Call for submission). 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 masterclasses. 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. According to the Italian laws and regulations concerning live performances, you will be also required to fill a form including personal information (similar to W9) and to include a copy of your ID or drive licence.

2. SUBMISSION AND PARTICIPATION FEES

While this is customarily a requirement of theater festivals in Italy, submissions in the SHOWS category will not be subject to 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 from/to US and accommodation expenses in Rome. 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 participation fees to artists who are selected to participate in the SHOWS category. As the next edition of the OnStage! Festival will take place in Milan and Naples as well, some of the selected shows will be staged in Rome and in one or two more city. Only in that case, travel and accommodation expenses will covered by the festival organization. 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 second edition in 2020, the Festival will select between 3 and 5 shows. Each show will be programmed 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 and therefore not eligible.

Submissions are open to any genre of theatrical performance, including musicals, dance, plays by classical authors and 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 strongly preferred in order to be considered, but it is not necessary. Please try to send us at least a 15 minutes video to give us a sense of the show. Please note that in case of selection, a full-length video will be necessary in order to provide the supertitles.

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 up to three proposals. There is no submission fee.

Unless the Festival organizers decide that a particular show does not require 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) run 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 [\[LINK\]](#)

- At the same time, each proposal must be completed by sending an email to 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)
- Biographies of the artists and/or Company (max 150 words each)
- 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 to entries@onstagefestival.it)
- At least three pictures from the show, including credits

Only complete proposals submitted **by September 1st, 2019** will be considered.

By October 1st, 2019 the artists or theater companies selected for the second edition of *OnStage! L'America è di scena* will receive an official confirmation and the detailed agreement to be signed.

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 shows will be part of OnStage! 2020's official calendar and will be presented in Italy, in November 2020, for a minimum of two performances. All the shows will be presented in Rome, some of them might also be presented in Milan and/or Naples.

3.4.1 Deposit

Each selected show will be subject to a refundable deposit fee of \$600, due by **October 15th 2019**. This deposit must be secured by addressing a check to USA festival partner Kairos Italy Theatre. The check will be held by the festival, but it will not be deposited or cashed except in the following event: if 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. Alternatively, the deposit may also be secured via PayPal transfer. In this case, the money will be returned to the artists upon their arrival in Rome (exchange rates may be lost). The same conditions apply in the event of company withdrawal.

At the discretion of the Festival organizers, these conditions 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, according to the theatre tech rider (*note: tech details will be agreed among the company, the Festival organizer and the theater's Technical Director; in any case, due to the reduced load-in*



and rehearsal time, light plots will be minimal and a number of 10 - 15 cues max is to be considered, unless the company is providing its own tech person)

- 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, on the same day of performance (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 (please note that a full-length video will be necessary in order to provide the supertitles)
- 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 and food in Rome
- Travel (from/to Rome) and accommodation only for the shows selected to perform in Milan and Naples

3.4.3 - Venues

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. Please note that load-in and rehearsal time will be between 1 - 4 hours on the same day of performance, according to venue availability. The artist or theater company is not entitled to greater technical support than what is agreed upon with the Festival organizers and 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
- Submit a \$600 deposit, which will be returned to them upon arrival in Rome
- Submit the most recent available video of the show as it will be performed in Italy to Festival organizers by **March 30th 2020**, to be used for the creation of supertitles
- Cover travel (from/to the US) and accommodation (in Rome) costs for all company members
- Fill a form including personal information (similar to W9) and include a copy of their ID or drive licence, according to the Italian laws and regulations

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