Città di Acireale

FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA DEL TEATRO E DELLE ARTI SICILIA

ASSOCIAZIONE GUARDASTELLE

Call for applications

Call for participation in the "GUARDASTELLE Teatro Festival" in Acireale, Catania.
Organised by Guardastelle Association (12–15 May 2027)

GUARDASTELLE
TEATRO FESTIVAL

May 12-15, 2027

ACIREALE

GUARDASTELLE TEATRO FESTIVAL

Associazione Guardastelle is organising the 2nd edition of the "Guardastelle Teatro Festival" in Acireale (Catania), from **12 to 15 May** 2027. It is much more than a showcase and competition: it is a celebration of theatre that interweaves performances, audiences, schools, workshops, cultural exchanges, debates, music, conviviality and new explorations of the Acireale area. Its aims are to promote the performing arts, foster encounters between different cultures, and involve the younger generations in a path of training and sharing.

1. Eligibility and information

- **Groups, third-sector entities, associations and theatre companies resident or permanently active in Italy or abroad may take part.**

Companies, associations, groups or individual artists producing live performances may apply. There are no age or nationality restrictions; a variety of genres are accepted (theatre, dance, musical, performing arts, dance-theatre, new writing, etc.) Each company may enter only one theatrical work.

Attendance throughout the whole festival (12–15 May 2027) is compulsory, with a minimum presence of three/four nights and compulsory attendance at the final awards evening.

Selected companies must undertake to:

- Notify, at least one week in advance, the arrival time of their technicians for the setup;
- Set up the show by the times indicated in the programme and dismantle it within the established times;
- Ensure the presence of at least two members of the company at promotional events, round tables and the awards ceremony.

2. Format and duration

- Running time of the show: between 50 and 60 minutes.
- Exceeding 60 minutes during the competition performance will result in immediate exclusion from the Festival.
- Entries must not have been presented this season at other official venues in the Acireale area.
- A variety of genres are accepted (theatre, dance, musical, performing arts, dancetheatre, new writing, etc.).

3. Information and dates

- **Registration deadline: 13 January 2027.**
- Selection results will be announced by 13 February 2027. Any participation contracts will be sent afterwards.

Provisional calendar and tentative structure of the Festival, which will take place at the Teatro S. Luigi in Acireale (CT):

- 12 May, evening: Festival opening – (2 companies: A–B)
- 13 May, morning: matinée for schools – (2 companies: B–A)
- 13 May, evening: performances for the public– (2 companies: C–D)
- 14 May, morning: matinée for schools – (2 companies: D–C)
- 14 May, evening: evening performances for the public – (2 companies: E–F)
- 15 May, morning: matinée for schools – (2 companies: F–E)
- 15 May, evening: Festival awards ceremony

Times will be confirmed in the participation confirmation and communicated in advance.

4. How to participate

- **Registration deadline: 13 January 2027.**

To take part, send an email to associazioneguardastelle@gmail.com with the subject line: "[company name] registration GUARDASTELLE Teatro Festival".

Required attachments:

- Completed participation form (Annex A).
- Synopsis of the work (Annex B).
- Trailer or video clip (public or non-public link, 2–3 minutes maximum).
- Video of the full performance (non-public link).
- CV, portfolio or brief presentation of the company.
- Link to website and/or social media pages.
- Poster of the show
- Stage photos (5).
- Copy of the bank transfer of €20.00 as the registration fee for the Competition, to be made to the current account held by Associazione Guardastelle, IBAN IT22Z0760116900001045940507, with the payment reference "Quota Iscrizione Festival – [company name]" (Festival Registration Fee).
- Any further useful documentation.

Only if selected for the Festival:

Copy of the certificate of registration with the RUNTS (National Single Register of the Third Sector), with a Federation, or of civil liability (RC) insurance covering the company itself and third parties.

- Releases and SIAE code (SIAE: Italian Society of Authors and Publishers).
- Any releases from the author.

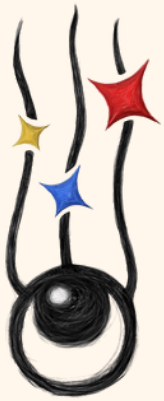
5. Accommodation and reimbursement

- Optional hotel accommodation in the centre of Acireale, a short walk from the theatre.
- Special rates are available for Festival participants. Taking up the offer is optional and does not entail any participation obligations.
- Travel expenses are not covered by the organisers; any meals and other costs are borne by the participants, unless otherwise indicated.
- The six finalist companies will receive €600.00 as expense reimbursement.
- The company winning the Best Show Award will receive an expense reimbursement of €800.00.

6. Awards and special mentions

- Best Show Award
- Best Director Award
- Best Actor Award
- Best Actress Award
- Best Supporting Actor Award
- Best Supporting Actress Award
- Best Scenic Design Award
- Costume Award

- Schools' Award (student jury from local schools)
  I.C. F. Guglielmino – I.C. Giovanni XXIII – I.C. G. Galilei
  Istituto S. Luigi – Liceo Statale Archimede – I.C. Vigo Fuccio La Spina
- Emotional Impact Award (audience jury)
- Special Mentions
- F.I.T.A. Sicilia "Oltre la Scena" ("Beyond the Stage") Award (special prize awarded by the F.I.T.A. Sicilia Jury to the company that, through theatre, celebrates the uniqueness of every fellow traveller)



7. Evaluation criteria, results, and communications

Six theatre companies and/or associations, selected from the applications duly received, will be admitted to the Guardastelle Teatro Festival. Applications will be evaluated according to:

- Originality and consistency with the spirit of the Festival
- Artistic quality and ability to engage the audience
- Technical and logistical feasibility
- Inclusion, accessibility and plurality of voices
- Development potential and opportunities for circulation
- Suitability of content, language and themes for school audiences and an audience of minors
- Feasibility of the show in relation to the spaces and performance arrangements provided by the Festival

Running time: maximum 60 minutes. Exceeding 60 minutes during the competition performance will result in exclusion from the Festival, regardless of the running time stated or observed in the video submitted during the selection phase.

The results of the selection will be announced by 13 February 2027
Any participation contracts will be sent afterwards.

- Proposals will be evaluated by an Organising Committee and by specialist juries.
- The decisions of the juries and of the Organising Committee are final and not open to challenge.

Festival Juries:

- Technical Jury (theatre professionals, directors, artistic directors, communication experts, representatives of local institutions)
- Audience Jury
- Student Jury
- F.I.T.A. Sicilia Jury

8. Contacts and information

- Email: associazioneguardastelle@gmail.com
- Websito: www.guardastelle.org
- Telephone:
  347 7654242 Paolo Filippini (Artistic Director)
  389 9114145 Gabriella Fichera (Production Director)

- Facebook page: Associazione Guardastelle | Acireale
- Instagram: Guardastelle (@guardastelle_associazione)
- TikTok: Associazione Guardastelle su TikTok
- You Tube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCzgFx0cLW-05Q7qmNRZcSgg

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- This Call for Applications has been drawn up to promote an event of high artistic and educational standing, with particular attention to inclusion, cultural exchange and the development of the younger generations in the national and international theatre scene. Participants fully accept all the conditions set out herein and undertake to collaborate in a spirit of mutual respect and responsibility.
- Selected companies and associations undertake to perform on two occasions: a matinée for schools and an evening performance for the festival audience, as part of a stay in Acireale (Catania) of a minimum of three/four nights, from 12 to 15 May 2027, and to take part in the final awards evening as well (which will take place on 15 May).
- During their stay at the Festival, each selected company also undertakes to run a workshop of about 1 hour 30 minutes for the pupils and young people of the Guardastelle Company. The workshop will be an opportunity for meeting, training and artistic exchange between the Festival participants and the Company's young pupils.
- *GUARDASTELLE* Teatro Festival will be held in a spirit of celebration, collaboration and genuine exchange among the participating companies. It is much more than a showcase and competition: it is a platform for sharing, with workshops self-produced by the companies themselves and convivial evenings of music, dance, food and fun. It is a festival of young people and not only, with morning performances for schools followed by a final debate with the young people in the auditorium, and evening shows for the public. It will take place at the Teatro San Luigi in Acireale (CT).
- Participation in the Festival should not be understood solely as an opportunity to compete for prizes, but as a sharing in the community spirit of the celebration.
- Applicants are invited to submit their application by, and no later than, the established deadlines.
- Any updates or additions to this Call for Applications will be published on the official website of Associazione Guardastelle.

- *Via Provinciale per S. Maria Ammalati, 155b Acireale (CT)*
- *347 7654242 -389 9114145*
- *associazioneguardastelle@gmail.com*
- *assoguardastelle@arubapec.it*
- *C.F. 90063620877*
- *www.guardastelle.org*

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How to apply to the festival?!

to be sent to
associazioneguardastelle@gmail.com
by 13 January 2027.

What to send

- **Annex A**
- **Annex B**
- **Annex C**
- **Poster of the show**
- **Stage photos (5**
- **Copy of the bank** transfer of €20.00 as the registration fee, made to the BancoPosta current account held by Associazione Guardastelle, IBAN: IT22Z0760116900001045940507, payment reference: "Quota Iscrizione Festival [company name]" (Festival Registration Fee).

Please contact us for any clarification.