

**“Luigi Riccoboni” International Commedia Dell’Arte Masterclass**  
**Venice, Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore Giorgio Cini Foundation**  
**26 August – 1 September 2019**

A theoretical and practical course on Commedia dell’Arte will be held in the city which has been the main centre of development and diffusion for the artists that generated this long and prosperous theatrical season.

The Masterclass will take place on the Isle of San Giorgio Maggiore where the internationally renowned Giorgio Cini Foundation is located ([www.cini.it](http://www.cini.it)). The aim of the Foundation’s Institute of Theatre and Opera, which hosts and support the initiative, is to study the history of theatre, actors, opera and dance and the theatrical and musical scenography and iconography, and to promote and spread the culture of live theatre through numberless activities linked to its own archival collections: internationally important publications, exhibitions, and seminars realized in collaboration with Italian and foreign cultural associations.

The course aims to offer students the tools necessary for a physical-performing preparation in the techniques and disciplines related to the Commedia dell’Arte, such as mime, acrobatics, acting, use of the mask, of the costumes and of the performing space. The novelty of the Masterclass however lies in the association of the performance training with a cycle of classes that recount and illustrate the history and development of the Commedia dell’Arte from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, paying particular attention to the figures that determined its absolute success throughout Europe.

The Masterclass will be held for 20 students coming from Theatre Academies and Schools renowned in their own countries or with consolidated studies or professional experience.

The 7-day course will offer practical classes for 5 hours in the morning with the teachers listed below, who will carry out the sessions in 3 consecutive days, and then in 2 succeeding cycles. Theory classes will be taught in the afternoon by the main scholars of the sector; each of these will last 2 hours and will be simultaneously translated into English. Enrolment of participants is on the morning of the first day, Monday 26th August, and in the afternoon there will be a lesson on Commedia dell’Arte history.

### **Teachers**

**Lassaâde Saïdi**, educator, teacher and director, studied with Jacques Lecoq, and became his assistant and colleague for 10 years. A professor of acrobatics, he later became a teacher of movement analysis, and of the study of movement. In 1983 he created his own school in Brussels, which is called today École International de Theatre Lassaâde. He directs the school with his wife, Silvie Richir, fine-tuning new acting styles such as “mimodynamics” and the “silent cinema” style and then extending his attention to the voice potential. Saïdi’s work has always been characterised by a continual curiosity and exploration which opens out to all fields of the art of acting, reaching the point of analyzing also the relationships with the text and dramaturgy. In this vast field of interest, he succeeded in deepening the techniques related to the use of the mask, both neutral and expressive, and the Commedia dell’Arte which became his specific field of teaching.

**Enrico Bonavera**, today, he is the Arlecchino *servitore di due padroni* (The servant of two masters) in Giorgio Strehler’s memorable version, donning the role of the stock character played by Marcello Moretti and Ferruccio Soleri, and has performed with this show throughout Europe and the rest of the world. He has worked with directors like Scaparro, Lassalle, Sciaccaluga, Bosetti, Soleri, Kerbrat, and Calder, in different staging versions with *teatri stabili*, cooperatives, and private and experimental companies. He was awarded the L’Arlecchino d’ Oro prize by the Mantua European Capital of Theatre Foundation. From 1980 he studied the techniques of *impromptu* and *imbonizione* (barkering) originating from Commedia dell’Arte. Starting from these two studies he elaborated his own didactic method and holds workshops and seminars worldwide. Since 1991 he has taught in the Drama School of the Teatro Stabile of Genoa, and has been a professor of the Genoa University for the Actor’s Drama course and at the international summer course of *Prima del Teatro* in San Miniato, Pisa. He actively collaborates with Amleto and Donato Sartori’s *Centro Maschere* of Abano Terme (Padua).

The theoretical lessons will be held by renowned teachers in the field of Commedia Dell'Arte studies and research: **Siro Ferrone** (University of Florence), Carmelo Alberti (Ca' Foscari University of Venice), **Roberto Ciancarelli** (La Sapienza University of Rome), **Teresa Megale** (University of Florence), and **Piermario Vescovo** (Ca' Foscari University of Venice).

### **Hospitality and logistics**

The registration fee of €600.00 covers the cost of taking part to the practical and theoretical classes and of the ticket for the final show.

For a week, the students may make use of comfortable accommodations in single or double rooms at the Residenza Vittore Branca of the Giorgio Cini Foundation, at the cost of €400.00 for a single room or €600.00 for a double room (€300.00 per person).

The enrollees will furthermore have the opportunity to dine at a special price at the San Giorgio Café of the San Giorgio Maggiore Island.

The costs related to board and lodging are not included in the enrollment fee.

At the end of the course, participants will be issued a diploma certifying their attendance in the Masterclass.

### **Side events**

*I segreti di Arlecchino* by and with Enrico Bonavera will be staged as side event on the evening of Sunday 1 September in "Lo Squero" Auditorium on San Giorgio Maggiore island. Entrance is free for the Masterclass students.

### **The project was conceived and curated by**

Antonio Audino and Federico Corona with the Institute of Theatre and Opera of the Giorgio Cini Foundation. Organization is by Stivalaccio Teatro.

**Antonio Audino**, curator of the theatre programmes of Rai Radio3 and theatre critique of the daily paper "Il Sole 24 Ore", was for several years a teacher of Theatre Methodology and Critique at the University of Rome 2 - Tor Vergata. Many of his works have been published.

**Federico Corona** is currently director of Stivalaccio Teatro and Art Director of the Teatro Civico of Schio, and has engaged in theatre organisation and programming for Arteven, Operaestate Festival and Teatro Comunale di Vicenza.