

# TEATRI RIFLESSI

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International Short Performance Competition  
Zafferana Etnea, Catania, Sicily

17-19 July

# 2025

**TEATRI RIFLESSI 10 | CONTACT**  
**INTERNATIONAL SHORT PERFORMANCE COMPETITION**  
**17-19 JULY 2025**  
**ZAFFERANA ETNEA - SICILY, ITALY**

*Teatri Riflessi* is a performing arts festival that organises an **international short performance competition** for live works no longer than 15 minutes of contemporary theatre, dance, circus, or multidisciplinary performance. The competition aims at promoting the expression of contemporary art languages, hinging on the short performance format, encouraging dialogues and exchange between the performing arts and various participants—geographically, culturally, and artistically diverse.

The event takes place in Zafferana Etnea, on Mt. Etna, from the 17th to the 19th of July 2025. The artistic direction of the festival will select 12 short performances, no longer than 15 minutes. The selected participants are performing as semifinalists on Thursday, 17, and Friday, 18 July 2025. The announced finalists are performing again on Saturday, 19 July 2025.

The submission deadline is on the 7th of December 2024 at 12:00 p.m. (Italian time).

All works will be performed outdoors: at the outdoor theatre in Zafferana Etnea (more than 2,000 seats) or in unconventional spaces, depending on the technical requirements of the performance. Selected works will receive a cachet of €500 and a support for travel expenses. Selected participants compete for several monetary prizes, special mentions, the possibility of receiving scholarships and artist residencies, and being hosted within festivals and seasons thanks to the members of the *Network of Teatri Riflessi* and the numerous international members of the Boards and Jury (theatre and festival directors, theatre networks, programming organisms, and residency centres).

submissions starting from	deadline for submissions	final list of semifinalists
28 September 2024	noon (Italian time) 7 December 2024	7-11 January 2025

*Teatri Riflessi*'s artistic direction—entrusted to Dario D'Agata and Valerio Verzin—suggested the theme '*conTact*' as the common thread of the festival.

**Teatri Riflessi 10** is organised by *IterCulture*, in collaboration with the *Municipality of Zafferana Etnea*, the support of *Regione Siciliana* and the patronage of *CENDIC – National Centre of Italian Contemporary Dramaturgy* and the *University of Messina*.

Below is the **REGULATION FOR THE 10TH EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SHORT PERFORMANCE COMPETITION**

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## ART. 1 - PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

*IterCulture*—in collaboration with the **Municipality of Zafferana Etnea**, the support of **Region Sicily**, and the patronage of **CENDIC - National Centre of Italian Contemporary Dramaturgy** and the **University of Messina**—organises the 10th edition of *International Short Performance Competition* within the framework of *Teatri Riflessi* (thereinafter, *Teatri Riflessi 10*). The artistic direction, entrusted to Dario D'Agata and Valerio Verzin, in consultation with the management of *IterCulture* and the other members of the cultural association:

- Establishes the subject, the addressees, the prizes, and the selection procedure.
- Sets the procedures for participation, evaluation, and prize-giving.
- Designs the unfolding of the competition and supervises the correct application of the procedures in all phases.
- Appoints the *Boards* and the *Jury* in charge of evaluating the participants—semifinalists and finalists—and determining the winners.
- Supervises the unfolding of the competition in all its phases, modifying, if necessary, the regulations after formal notice.
- Devises, plans, and manages the whole event *Teatri Riflessi 10*, which is the framework of the competition.

## ART. 2 – SUBJECT OF THE COMPETITION

### ART. 2.1 DEFINITION AND TIMING

The competition of *Teatri Riflessi 10* is focused on **short performances**: *live works* no longer than 15 minutes, **without distinction of genre**. Each short performance needs to be complete and not a mere excerpt or starting point for a longer work. 20 minutes is the maximum time allowed on stage, within that time lapse the performance must be presented, prepared, set up, performed, removed, and people eventually thanked. Therefore, participants need to manage their time on stage in order not to exceed the aforementioned limit, even when the actual duration of the piece might be longer than 15 minutes. Based on the materials submitted and the programme of the evenings, **12 short performances** will be selected (cf. [Art. 6.1](#)) and receive a cachet of €500 and a small reimbursement for travel expenses (cf. [Art. 4.3](#)).

### ART. 2.2 THEME OF THE FESTIVAL

The theme selected by the *artistic direction* for *Teatri Riflessi 10* is CONTACT. The image suggested by the theme is that of a surface: a membrane that connects contiguous spaces, a skin that covers different bodies, but also the volcanic crust that characterises an arid yet fertile environment. The aim is to foster moments of reflection that focus on interaction (between practices, voices and distinct subjects, rewritten codes and languages) and that do so with the care—and the tact—that deep listening provides.

Adherence to the theme, as personally interpreted by each author and performer, will be taken into account for the selection. Participants can tackle and deal with the theme as they wish and are asked to clarify the connection in the participation form.

### ART. 2.3 UNFOLDING OF THE COMPETITION

The competition consists of **two semifinals (on Thursday, 17, and Friday, 18 July 2025) and a final (on Saturday, 19 July 2025)**. Selected semifinalists will be asked to come to Zafferana Etnea from the 15th or 16th of July for rehearsals and will be attending the festival's activities until Sunday, 20 July, at 1:00 p.m. (cf. [Art. 4.2](#) and [Art. 4.5](#)).

**Entrance to the International Competition of Teatri Riflessi 10 is free of charge for all spectators.**

## ART. 3 – AWARDS

### **BEST SHORT PERFORMANCE - TEATRI RIFLESSI 10**

Proclaimed at the end of the final and awarded to one of the finalists, it is determined by the final ranking that adds together the weighted score given by each member of the *Directors' and Critics' Boards*, the *Jury of the Final*, and the *Youth Jury*. The first in the ranking will be awarded the *Best Short Performance – Teatri Riflessi 10* and will receive a contribution of **€1,200**. All voting procedures take place online, via a digital form.

### **PRIZES APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTORS' BOARD**

The *Directors' Board*, consisting of artistic directors of Italian theatres and festivals, will assess the semifinalists to award three category prizes. After the semifinals, the Board will assemble to identify the winner of each category (dramaturgy, direction,

performer). The prizes will be proclaimed during the final and consist of €400 each. The Board has also the right not to award any winner in one or more categories and its decision is incontestable.

### **BEST DRAMATURGY - TEATRI RIFLESSI 10**

Awarded to the short performance whose dance or theatre dramaturgy appears as the most deserving among the selected semifinalists due to its capacity to present a complete and original work, leveraging the brevity of the short performance format. Authors can compete for the prize only if the dramaturgy is original (or regularly adapted) and used in respect of copyright laws. Mendacious or incomplete communications might determine the disqualification of the contestant from the prizes.

### **BEST DIRECTION - TEATRI RIFLESSI 10**

Awarded to the short performance whose enactment appears as the most deserving among the selected semifinalists thanks to its effective use of the characteristic of the short performance format, its originality, eloquence, and immediacy.

### **BEST PERFORMER - TEATRI RIFLESSI 10**

Awarded to the artist—or cast—whose performance appears as the most deserving among the selected semifinalists.

### **CRITICS' CHOICE AWARD - TEATRI RIFLESSI 10**

After the semifinals, the *Critics' Board* will assemble to identify the winner. The Board consists of several critics, journalists, and performing arts scholars and is asked to identify the winner among all selected semifinalists. The award will be proclaimed during the final and consist of €400. The Board has also the right not to award any winner and its decision is incontestable.

### **'VALENTINA NICOSIA' FUND - TEATRI RIFLESSI 10**

*IterCulture* established an additional budget of €600 that can be awarded to one or more short performances based on the collective decision of the *Directors' and Critics' Boards*. Such Boards can award one or more additional awards within the allocated budget, such as scholarships or production support. The fund is dedicated to a friend and former member of *IterCulture*, Valentina Nicosia: cheerful, energetic, and irreplaceable point of reference for the artists until 2015.

### **SPECIAL MENTIONS - TEATRI RIFLESSI 10**

#### **AUDIENCE**

During the final, the audience will vote to determine a *Special Mention* for the short performance considered most deserving among the finalists.

#### **YOUTH JURY**

Proclaimed during the final, the collective vote of the Youth Jury will determine a *Special Mention* for the short performance considered particularly deserving among all semifinalists.

#### **COMPANIES**

After the second semifinal, all companies will be asked to vote for the other short performance, increasing exchange among peers. The short performance with the highest ranking will be awarded with a *Special Mention*.

#### **ITERCULTURE**

*IterCulture* can award an additional *Special Mention* to one of the short performances in the competition.

**NI.VI** ALL WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A FINE ART CERAMIC PIECE CREATED BY **MARY IMBISCUSO - NI.VI.**  
'ceramiche' [CERAMICHE](#)

### **SPECIAL AWARDS**

**During the final, additional prizes and mentions can be appointed.**

Teatri Riflessi wants to promote the short performance format *per se*, not as a reduction of a longer work nor as a starting point

for a full-evening adaptation. At the same time, the festival wants to encourage the possibilities of distribution of the genre in Italy and abroad. Therefore, selected semifinalists can send a **dossier with additional performances** that might have been already realised or are supposed to be produced in the future, or **projects for artist residencies**. These extra works should not distort the performance participating in Teatri Riflessi 10 but are meant to create full-evening projects such as *double* or *triple bills*, or possibilities to get research periods in hosting venues.

The members of the **Network of Teatri Riflessi** and the festival's Boards and Jury (consisting of artistic directors and operators, theatre networks, programming organisms, and residency centres), if deemed appropriate, can:

- host one or more participants within their season, either with the short performance competing in the competition or with the full-evening project—if submitted.
- offer an artist residency to one or more participants to support the production of new works.
- offer tutoring programmes with professionals and experts.
- offer incentives.

*IterCulture* will create a digital catalogue of the selected performances and send it to all partners and members of the Boards and Jury so that even partners who will not come to the festival will have a chance to appoint a special award.

A complete list of the members of the network is available at [www.iterculture.eu/en/teatri-riflessi/network/](http://www.iterculture.eu/en/teatri-riflessi/network/).

Since January 2024, *IterCulture* has become the Sicilian representative of the **Anticorpi XL**, the Italian network focusing on young auteur dance.

## ART. 4 LOGISTICS AND USEFUL INFORMATION

### ART. 4.1 TECHNICAL RIDER

The semifinals take place starting from 8.30 p.m. on Thursday, 17, and Friday, 18 July 2025 within the Public Park in Zafferana Etnea, Sicily, Italy. The final takes place in the same location on Saturday 19 July. *IterCulture* has appointed a technical director for *Teatri Riflessi 10*, in charge of managing and supervising the technical aspects and the setting-up of the festival and acting, together with Roberta Gambino, as an intermediary between the participants, the organisation, and the technicians. The short performances must be performed only with props and scenery easy to set up, so as to allow the performance of more works in the same evening (complying with the maximum duration of 20 minutes allowed on stage - cf. [Art. 2.1](#)). Participants will be supported by *IterCulture*'s technical staff in setting up and removing the scenery and props, as well as for the sound and lights.

The location for the competition is:

- **A stage within the outdoor theatre 'Falcone e Borsellino' (over 2,000 seats)**, in the Public Park of Zafferana Etnea; selected participants will perform after sunset, from 9:00 p.m. to 00:00 a.m.

[The technical rider of the space is available here](#). Minimum lighting will be guaranteed, and **the participants must comply with the technical specifications in devising the technical riders of their short performance**. Additional light or sound effects might be granted and provided if authorised by the artistic direction and agreed upon with the technical director.

In case the piece needs a more unconventional space, compared to the aforementioned stage, the artistic direction might consider an **unconventional spot within the Public Park** in Zafferana Etnea; in this case, selected participants will perform on the lawn with natural light and the only sound system. The light will be that of the dusk, from 08:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Regarding the works performed in the square or unconventional space, the only light employed will be natural light. The feasibility of the performance will be agreed upon, providing additional details concerning the work in the application form and, if needed, discussing with the reference person for the artists and the technical director.

### ART. 4.2 REHEARSALS

Semifinalists who perform on stage are granted up to **20 minutes** to rehearse and check the **space and audio** with the technicians on Tuesday, 15, and Wednesday, 16 July 2025 in the afternoon, and up to **25 minutes** starting from 09.00 p.m. for a **light rehearsal**. The exact duration of the rehearsals will be determined based on the lengths of the piece and the technical complexity; it will be communicated during the selection phase. Those who perform in unconventional spaces will schedule their rehearsals with the reference person for the artists in the aforementioned days and will only have a space and sound rehearsal slot. Rehearsal days will be organised based on the date of performance and the availability of the semifinalists, facilitating those who are not located in Italy. No other additional days will be used to rehearse.

### ART. 4.3 CACHET AND REIMBURSEMENT

Each selected short performance will be given a cachet of **€500** + 10% VAT. In addition, a small reimbursement for travel

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International Short Performance Competition

expenses can be added, depending on the company's origin, number of participants, travel subsidy, and funds collected by IterCulture, up to a maximum threshold of €250. The cachet will be transferred together with the reimbursement, the refund of the deposit, and the potential prizes won after the festival and only if the company has complied with all articles and deadlines in the regulation by the 22nd of September 2025.

## ART. 4.4 SUPPORT

To support artists with accommodation during the festival, *IterCulture* is securing agreements and partnerships with hotels and B&Bs in the Municipality of Zafferana Etnea. The list is available on IterCulture's website at [www.iterculture.eu/en/teatri-riflessi/tr7/agreements/](http://www.iterculture.eu/en/teatri-riflessi/tr7/agreements/).

The agreements consist of discounts and price reductions and are available if the participants confirm one of the accommodation solutions to IterCulture by the 30th of April 2025.

## ART. 4.5 FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

During Teatri Riflessi, free activities will be organised for the participants (forums, meetings, networking opportunities).

**On the 15th and 16th of July**, before rehearsing, **compulsory activities** will be organised to get to know all the participants and staff of *IterCulture*.

**On the 17th, 18th, and 19th of July**, starting from 5.30 p.m., **festival forums** are scheduled: **compulsory round tables** aimed at networking and exchanging ideas and perspectives on the performing arts industry and contemporary dramaturgy between artists, jurors, guests, and spectators. The artists will have a chance to present their creations.

On Sunday, **20 July**, a **compulsory round table** among all artists and members of the Board is organised from 10:00 a.m. to 01:00 p.m. to promote the exchange of feedback on the presented works and stimulate potential artistic encounters and collaborations.

## ART. 5 – APPLICATION SUBMISSION

The competition is addressed to artists, collectives, and companies, regardless of their nationality and origin. To interact with the staff of *IterCulture* and accomplish the application procedure, every short performance needs to appoint a **representative**. The quality of the short performance and the observance of all the articles in this regulation are the only criteria considered for the selection of the semifinalists. Performances can have one or more dramaturgs/playwrights; the number of performers on stage does not affect the selection process. The short performance needs to be a complete and well-defined work, not a first research phase or excerpt, and comply with the maximum time allowed on stage (cf. [Art. 2.1](#)). The Artistic Direction will assess the applications submitted, evaluating the effective use of the characteristics of the short performance format and promote diversification and heterogeneity in the selection.

**From the 28th of September and by the 7th of December 2024, no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon, Italian time)**, the **Participation Form** available at the following link needs to be filled out in all its parts:


<https://forms.gle/FzkNDoDhd7qFJUMq9>

Submissions sent later than the deadline or in manners other than the ones defined will not be considered. The Participation Form must be filled out in all its sections and represents the authorisation for treating the personal data of the participants and the acceptance of all the articles in this regulation. **The following materials need to be uploaded in the Participation Form:**

- A. **Copy of the script or dramaturgical research of the short performance.**
- B. **Link to the video recording of the performance.** The recording should capture the work in its entirety. A read-through will only be accepted if it reflects the enactment devised for Teatri Riflessi as best as possible, detailing all choices of setting up in the director's notes. The quality of the recording will not be evaluated, but **teasers or excerpts will not be taken into consideration.**
- C. **Technical rider** of the performance.
- D. **Copy of the identity document of the author/s of the performance** (playwright, dramaturg, or choreographer).
- E. **Copy of the identity document of the representative.**

In case the link to the video is not available or if a document fails to upload, the listed materials need to be sent via email (WeTransfer or similar platforms might also work) to [teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com](mailto:teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com).

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[teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com](mailto:teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com) | [www.iterculture.eu](http://www.iterculture.eu) |  

*IterCulture* is neither responsible for the unsuccessful submission of the materials and forms—for missing or inaccurate data submitted—nor for mistakes due to a third party or force majeure.

**Please note** that the selected short performances performing at Teatri Riflessi 10 cannot differ from the materials and information submitted for the selection unless such changes are authorised by the artistic direction. **Any unauthorised change implies the disqualification of the short performance with no refund of the deposit and no cachet and reimbursement** (cf. [Art. 4.3](#)).

## ART. 6 – SHORT PERFORMANCE SELECTION

### ART. 6.1 SELECTION OF THE SEMIFINALISTS

The *artistic direction* will select **12 short performances** among those regularly submitted. The list of the selected participants will be published on [www.iterculture.eu](http://www.iterculture.eu) and communicated to the representatives of the selected works. The selection will be based on the submitted materials, assessed by the artistic direction with the support of an artistic committee. Quality being equal, more recent works take precedence. The selection will also try to reflect heterogeneity and representation to the contemporary scene and languages, protecting works that might be jeopardised by the context of the festival. The incontestable results will be communicated to the representative of the semifinalist performances, who must fill in the contract and sending the bank transfer for the **participation deposit**. The **€50 deposit** per performance selected needs to be deposited on the account of *IterCulture* as a confirmation to participate in Teatri Riflessi 10, no later than three days (IBAN IT53N0623084330000015124388 BIC/SWIFT CRPPIT2PXXX)<sup>1</sup>. In case the participant does not manage to deposit the bank transfer on time, their short performance will be declared disqualified and will not partake in the competition. The *artistic direction* is entitled to select, with a repechage, other short performances among the ones regularly submitted. The representatives of the performances selected through the repechage must confirm their participation and transfer the deposit by three days. From the 7th to the 11th of January 2025, the final list of semifinalists will be published. *IterCulture's* decisions must be observed to avoid disqualification.

By the 31st of January 2025, the required communication materials to promote the performance and prepare the catalogue need to be sent.

### ART. 6.2 SELECTION OF THE 5 FINALISTS

During the semifinals on the 17th and 18th of July 2025, the semifinalists will be evaluated by the *Directors' and Critics' Boards* appointed by the *artistic direction*; every member of the Jury will assess each short performance with a mark (0-10) for five criteria: dramaturgy, mise-en-scène, setting-up, performers, and empathy. The arithmetic mean of the evaluations will create a ranking, through which the first four finalists will be identified. The Boards will then vote to select one or two additional finalists through a repechage. In case of equal ranking, the artistic direction decides. The decisions taken are incontestable.

## ART. 7 – RELEASE AND FINAL PROVISION

In compliance with the EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR – *General Data Protection Regulation*) and the Italian Legislative Decree 30/6/2003, n. 196 (*Italian Personal Data Protection Code*), all participants in *Teatri Riflessi 10* allow *IterCulture* to publish the data submitted through the Participation Form, the materials sent, and the materials collected during the festival (pictures, recordings, interviews, etc.). *IterCulture* and the members of the Network of Teatri Riflessi are entitled to promote the festival through television broadcasts, photographic materials, and digital and online materials.

Each participant allows the recording, broadcasting, and diffusion of pictures and recordings, containing themselves and their performance, with no expiry date or geographical limitation, and asking nothing in return neither from *IterCulture* nor from public or private broadcasters and collaborators. The representative of each short performance might be required to give interviews. All participants are supposed to know this regulation, which is considered undersigned by all participants listed in the Participation Forms. Owing to organisational or functional reasons, *IterCulture* is entitled to modify this regulation after formal notice with the required adjustments.

For more information on *IterCulture's* privacy policy visit

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<sup>1</sup> The deposit will be returned after participating in the festival together with the cachet of €500, the travel reimbursement, and the potential prizes.



[www.iterculture.eu/chi-siamo/amministrazione-trasparente/privacy-policy/](http://www.iterculture.eu/chi-siamo/amministrazione-trasparente/privacy-policy/)

## FAQ

### **Will there be a cachet?**

Each selected short performance will receive a cachet of €500 + 10% VAT and a potential additional reimbursement of up to €250 (depending on the funds available, the origin, travel subsidies, and the number of participants involved). The majority of prizes are monetary. The cachet, reimbursement, and potential prizes will be transferred after the festival if participants comply with all the articles and deadlines in the call.

### **Do I have to pay to submit my proposal?**

No. Only if selected, you will need to send a deposit (after the selection) that will be refunded after the festival.

### **What if my piece is longer than 15 minutes?**

Your piece should not exceed 15 minutes. However, as the work is performed live, a certain flexibility is allowed, but it will not be possible to stay on stage longer than 20 minutes (within that time lapse the performance must be presented, prepared, set up, performed, removed, and people eventually thanked).

### **Where do I find the digital form?**

The link is in the call, see [Art. 5](#). Please, read the call in all its parts before submitting the form.

### **What shall I upload where a dramaturgy/script is asked?**

If the piece has a script, attach that, otherwise, upload a text detailing the dramaturgical research behind the dance or performance work.

### **I don't have a video recording of the performance. Do I need one?**

We need a recording of the entire performance to assess your application. Excerpts or trailers are not sufficient, and in case you send a read-through try to be as specific and detailed as possible in writing your director's notes (costumes, lights, props).

### **My work contains spoken parts in a foreign language. Can I still apply?**

Yes. If needed, you can perform at Teatri Riflessi using overtitles.

### **Can I submit more than one performance?**

Yes, fill out a form for each performance.

### **What if I change something in the work I perform at the festival, compared to the materials I submitted?**

No major changes are allowed. Only if previously communicated and authorised, minor changes will be tolerated.

### **Who will evaluate the competing performances?**

Artistic directors of Italian theatres and festivals, critics and journalists from all over Italy and abroad. Many are members of the [Network of Teatri Riflessi](#) or the [Anticorpi XL Network](#). The complete list will be published in May 2025.

In 2024, some of the organisations present were:

Antistatic Festival (Sofia, Bulgaria), COORPI - Coordinamento Danza Piemonte (Turin), Dance ICONS (Washington DC, USA), Danza Urbana (Bologna), Festival Ammutinamenti (Ravenna), Fondazione Claudia Lombardi per il teatro (Lugano, Switzerland), Fondazione Sipario Toscana (Cascina), Fondazione Toscana Spettacolo (Firenze), Interplay Festival Internazionale di Danza e Performing Art (Turin), Teatro Pubblico Pugliese (Bari), Toplocentrala Centre for Contemporary Arts (Sofia, Bulgaria).

## Can I skip the rehearsals?

No, rehearsals are essential. The days of rehearsals will be communicated during the selection.

## When do I need to be in Zafferana?

As you will be rehearsing either on the 15th or on the 16th of July, you need to be in Zafferana from the day we schedule your rehearsals until Sunday, 20 July, at 1:00 p.m. (the final networking event with the national operators takes place on Sunday morning).

## Will I have spare time?

Yes, rehearsals take place in the afternoon, so do all other activities. The only event in the morning is the final networking event on Sunday 20 July.

## Deadlines:

submissions starting from	deadline for submissions	final list of semifinalists
28 September 2024	noon (Italian time) 7 December 2024	7-11 January 2025

## CONTACTS

For information and questions other than the FAQ, you can contact **Robertavenera Gambino** (she/her)

Write to [teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com](mailto:teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com)

call her at +39.3453148306 or contact her on Whatsapp at +39.0958996470.

She will be available in the following slots (Italian time):

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m. - 01:00 p.m.	06:00 p.m. - 08:00 p.m.

Zafferana Etnea, 28 September 2024