



# TEATRI RIFLESSI 9 | CONTEMPORARY VISIONS

18-21 JULY 2024

ZAFFERANA ETNEA - SICILY, ITALY

*Teatri Riflessi - International Short Performance Festival* is a festival centred on a core event: **a short performance competition** for live works no longer than 15 minutes, without distinction of genre (theatre, dance, 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 18th to the 20th of July 2024. The artistic direction of the festival will select no more than 12 short performances, no longer than 15 minutes. The selected participants are performing as semifinalists on Thursday, 18, and Friday, 19 July 2024. The announced finalists are performing again on Saturday, 20 July 2024. On Sunday, 21 July, the festival is hosting national works presented hors concours. The submission deadline is on the 24th of March 2024 at midnight (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 national members of the Boards and Jury (theatre and festival directors, theatre networks, programming organisms, and residency centres).

submissions starting from	deadline for submissions	list of selected participants	deadline for registration	repechage	final list of semifinalists
8 January	midnight (Italian time) 24 March	7 April	12:30 p.m. (Italian time) 10 April	11-12 April	13 April

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

Below is the **REGULATION FOR THE 9TH EDITION OF TEATRI RIFLESSI**

# TEATRI RIFLESSI

International Short Performance Festival

<b>Art. 1 - Purpose of the competition</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Art. 2 – Subject of the competition</b>	<b>3</b>
Art. 2.1 Definition and timing	3
Art. 2.2 Theme of the Festival	3
Art. 2.3 Unfolding of the competition	3
<b>Art. 3 – Prizes</b>	<b>3</b>
Best Short Performance - Teatri Riflessi 9	3
Prizes appointed by the Technical Board	3
Best Dramaturgy - Teatri Riflessi 9	4
Best Direction - Teatri Riflessi 9	4
Best Performer - Teatri Riflessi 9	4
Critics' Award - Teatri Riflessi 9	4
'Valentina Nicosia' Fund - Teatri Riflessi 9	4
Special Mentions - Teatri Riflessi 9	4
Audience	4
Youth Jury	4
Companies	4
IterCulture	4
Special Awards	4
<b>Art. 4 Logistics and useful information</b>	<b>5</b>
Art. 4.1 Technical rider	5
Art. 4.2 Rehearsals	6
Art. 4.3 Cachet and Reimbursement	6
Art. 4.4 Support	6
Art. 4.5 Festival activities	6
<b>Art. 5 – Application submission</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Art. 6 – Short performance selection</b>	<b>7</b>
Art. 6.1 Selection of the Semifinalists	7
Art. 6.2 Selection of the 5 Finalists	7
<b>Art. 7 – Release and Final Provision</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>FAQ</b>	<b>8</b>



# TEATRI RIFLESSI

International Short Performance Festival

## ART. 1 - PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

*IterCulture*—in collaboration with the **Municipality of Zafferana Etnea** and the patronage of **CENDIC - National Centre of Italian Contemporary Dramaturgy** and the **University of Messina**—organises the 9th edition of *Teatri Riflessi, International Short Performance Festival*. The artistic direction, entrusted to Dario D'Agata and Valerio Verzin, in consultation with the direction 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 9*, which is the framework of the competition.

## ART. 2 – SUBJECT OF THE COMPETITION

### ART. 2.1 DEFINITION AND TIMING

*Teatri Riflessi 9* is a festival focused on **short performances**: *live works* no longer than 15 minutes, **without distinction of genre**. Each short performance ought 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, no more than **12 short performances** will be selected (cf. Art. 6.1) and will receive a cachet of €500.00 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 9* is **CONTEMPORARY VISIONS**. That will be the common thread for the cultural and artistic activities of the festival. The idea is to promote a discussion on how contemporary art languages have changed to look at the future, sometimes interacting with the digital medium and unconventional spaces, sometimes exploring the creative potential of new performative dimensions hinged on the intersubjectivity of the aesthetic experience and co-creation with the beholder. The aim is to display to a wide audience works that—aware of the techniques and innovations that marked the evolution of the performing arts—can rewrite themselves as current and original, leveraging the challenge represented by the short performance format to avoid being vacuous virtuosity or the anticipation of still unfinished work. 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, 18, and Friday, 19 July 2024) and a final (on Saturday, 20 July 2024)**. Selected semifinalists will be asked to come to Zafferana Etnea from the 16th of July for rehearsals and will be attending the festival's activities until Sunday, 21 July, at 1:00 p.m. (cf. Art. 4.2 and Art. 4.5).

**Entrance to *Teatri Riflessi 9* is free of charge for all spectators.**

## ART. 3 – PRIZES

### **BEST SHORT PERFORMANCE - TEATRI RIFLESSI 9**

Proclaimed at the end of the final and awarded to one of the five finalists, it is determined by the final ranking that adds together the weighted score given by each member of the *Boards* and *Jury* (40% of the score given by the *Technical, Critics', and Special Awards Boards*, 40% by the *Jury of the Final*, and 20% by the *Youth Jury*). The first in the ranking will be awarded the *Best Short Performance – Teatri Riflessi 9* and will receive a contribution of **€1,200.00**. All voting procedures take place online, via a digital form.

### **PRIZES APPOINTED BY THE TECHNICAL BOARD**

The *Technical 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,

# TEATRI RIFLESSI

International Short Performance Festival

performer). The prizes will be proclaimed during the final and consist of **€400.00** 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 9**

Awarded to the short performance whose 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 regularly registered for the competition. Mendacious or incomplete communications might determine the disqualification of the contestant from the prizes.

## **BEST DIRECTION - TEATRI RIFLESSI 9**

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 9**

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

## **CRITICS' AWARD - TEATRI RIFLESSI 9**

After the semifinals, the *Critics' Board* will assemble to identify the winner. The Board consists of several critics, journalists, and performing arts scholars from all over Italy, and is asked to identify the winner among all selected semifinalists. The award will be proclaimed during the final and consist of **€400.00**. The Board has also the right not to award any winner and its decision is incontestable.

## **'VALENTINA NICOSIA' FUND - TEATRI RIFLESSI 9**

*IterCulture* established an additional budget of **€600.00** that can be awarded to one or more short performances based on the collective decision of the *Technical 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 9**

### **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** - [NL.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 when asked to register (April 2024) can attach a **dossier with additional performances** that might have been already realised or are supposed to be produced in the future, or **projects for artist**

# TEATRI RIFLESSI

International Short Performance Festival

**residencies.** These extra works should not distort the performance participating in Teatri Riflessi 9 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. As of today, the members of the Network of Teatri Riflessi who confirmed their willingness to appoint an award are:

[Conformazioni Festival](#) - Palermo

[Cortile Teatro Festival](#) - Messina

[Ra.ID festivals](#) - Solofra (Avellino)

[Etna in Scena, Zafferana Etnea](#) (Catania)

[InCastro Festival](#) - Castoreale (Messina)

[Performare Festival](#) - Serradifalco (Caltanissetta)

[Premio Grifeo - Municipality of Petralia Sottana](#) (Palermo)

[Teatro Tina di Lorenzo](#) - Noto

[Viagrande Studios](#) - Viagrande (Catania)

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 8.00 p.m. on Thursday, 18, and Friday, 19 July 2024 in one of the three locations chosen by the artistic direction in the Municipality of Zafferana Etnea, Sicily, Italy. The final takes place in the same three locations on Saturday 21 July. *IterCulture* has appointed Valerio Santi as Technical Director for *Teatri Riflessi 9*, 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 must be independent in setting up and removing the scenery and props; however, they will be supported by *IterCulture*'s technical staff.

The three locations for the competition are:

- **A stage within the outdoor theatre 'Falcone e Borsellino' (over 2,000 seats)**, in the Public Park of Zafferana Etnea; in this case, selected participants will perform after sunset, from 9:00 p.m. to 00:00 a.m.
- **The central square (Piazza Umberto I)** in Zafferana Etnea; in this case, selected participants will perform before dusk, with natural light, from 8:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Unconventional spots within the **Public Park** in Zafferana Etnea; in this case, selected participants will perform at 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, together with the Technical and Artistic Director, providing, if necessary, additional details concerning the work.

The stage within the theatre 'Falcone e Borsellino' has a trapezoidal surface of 73 sq. m, covered in black linoleum for the entire stage size [width of the proscenium opening 12 m, upstage width 9 m, depth 6 m] and is equipped with:

- Frontal truss with 4 spotlights 2000 W, 4 moving wash led RGBW 19 x 15 W Sagitter Quartz 300 with motorised zoom 15°-60°, 2 moving wash led RGBW 7 x 15 W Sagitter Quartz 100 with motorised zoom 15°-60°.
- Backlight truss with 4 moving wash led RGBW 19 x 15 W Sagitter Quartz 300 with motorised zoom 15°-60° and a projection screen 6 x 4 m.
- 3 wings offering 3 entrance spots on each side.
- 3 moving wash led RGBW 7 x 15 W Sagitter Quartz 100 with motorised zoom 15°-60° on each side at 2.5 m height.



# TEATRI RIFLESSI

International Short Performance Festival

- Sennheiser headsets microphone beige and CROWN PCC160 microphones.

In this case, 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 effects might be granted and provided after the selection of the semifinalists if authorised by the Technical Director.

## ART. 4.2 REHEARSALS

Semifinalists who perform on stage are granted **20 minutes** to rehearse and check the **space and audio** with the technicians on Tuesday, 16, and Wednesday, 17 July 2024 in the afternoon, and **25 minutes** starting from 09.00 p.m. for a **light rehearsal**. Those who perform in unconventional spaces will schedule their rehearsals with Roberta Gambino, reference person for the artists. Rehearsal days will be organised based on the date of performance and the availability of the semifinalists, facilitating those who are not located in the province of Catania. 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 **€500.00** + 10% VAT. In addition, a small reimbursement for travel expenses will be added, depending on the company's origin, number of participants, and funds collected by IterCulture, up to a maximum threshold of €250.00. 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 2024.

## 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 2024. The Municipality of Zafferana Etnea is also securing discounts for restaurants, bars, and local shops for the participants.

## ART. 4.5 FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES

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

**On the 16th and 17th of July**, before rehearsing, **compulsory activities** will be organised to get to know all the participants and staff of *IterCulture*. These activities will be held by Erin B. Mee, Associate Arts Professor in the Department of Drama, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU, and Founding Artistic Director of This Is Not a Theatre Company.

**On the 18th, 19th, and 20th of July**, starting from 5.00 p.m., **optional workshops** focused on contemporary languages will be offered to spectators and local artists.

**On the 18th, 19th, and 20th of July**, the ***TR*Forums** are scheduled starting from 6.00 p.m. These forums are **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.

On Sunday, **21 July**, a **compulsory round table** among all artists and members of the Board is organised starting from 10:00 a.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 8th of January and by the 24th of March 2024, no later than midnight (Italian time), the Participation Form** available at the following link needs to be filled out in all its parts:

# TEATRI RIFLESSI

International Short Performance Festival

<https://forms.gle/8KenpCps8SAAvSjK7>

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 identity document of the representative.**
- B. **Copy of the identity document of the author/s of the short performance** (playwright, dramaturg, or choreographer).
- C. **Copy of the dramaturgy/script of the short performance.**
- D. **Technical rider** of the performance.
- E. **Link to the video recording of the short play.** 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, with the help of director's notes if needed. The quality of the recording will not be evaluated, but teasers or excerpts will not be taken into consideration.

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 e-mail (WeTransfer or similar platforms might also work) to [teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com](mailto:teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com).

When filling out the form, participants will be asked to specify whether the performance is devised to be performed for one of the three locations in particular: the stage within the outdoor theatre, the central square, or unconventional spaces in the public park in Zafferana Etnea (cf. Art. 4.1).

*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 9 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 no more than **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 representative must send their confirmation to participate in Teatri Riflessi 9 no later than **Wednesday, 10 April 2024 at 12:30 p.m.** (Italian time), by filling in the registration documents that will be provided by *IterCulture* and sending a receipt proving the bank transfer of the **participation deposit**. The **€50,00 deposit** per performance selected needs to be deposited on the account of *IterCulture* (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 Friday, 12 April, no later than 12.30 p.m. (Italian time). On **Saturday, 13 April 2024**, the final list of semifinalists will be published. The staff of *IterCulture* will contact the representatives of the selected performances and communicate the dates and times of their convocation. *IterCulture's* decisions must be observed to avoid disqualification.

By the 21st of April 2024, the required communication materials to promote the performance and prepare the catalogue need to be sent and the contract signed (a form will be provided by *IterCulture*).

### ART. 6.2 SELECTION OF THE 5 FINALISTS

During the semifinals on the 18th and 19th of July 2024, the semifinalists will be evaluated by the *Technical, Critics' and Special Awards 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 the fifth finalist through a repechage. The decisions taken are incontestable.

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<sup>1</sup> The deposit will be returned after participating in the festival together with the cachet of €500.00, the small travel reimbursement, and the potential prizes.

## 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 9* 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 [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 €500.00 + 10% VAT and a potential additional reimbursement of up to €250.00 (depending on the funds available, the origin, 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 in April 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).

### Can I skip the rehearsals?

No, rehearsals are essential. The days of rehearsals will be communicated in April.

### When do I need to be in Zafferana?

As you will be rehearsing either on the 16th or on the 17th of July, you need to be in Zafferana from the day we schedule your rehearsals until Sunday, 21 July, at 1:00 p.m. (the final networking event with the national operators takes place on Sunday morning).

### Will I have spare time?

No, rehearsals take place in the afternoon, so do all other activities. The only event in the morning is the final networking event on Sunday 21 July.

### Who will evaluate the competing performances?

Artistic directors of Italian theatres and festivals, critics and journalists from all over Italy, and performing arts scholars. Many are members of the [Network of Teatri Riflessi](#) or the [Anticorpi XL Network](#). The complete list will be published in May 2024.

### I don't have a video recording of the play. 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.



# TEATRI RIFLESSI

International Short Performance Festival

## 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.

## Can I submit more than one performance?

Yes, fill out a form for each performance. You can submit diverse works devised for different locations of the festival (the stage within the outdoor theatre, the central square, or an unconventional space in the public park). If you think your work can be performed in more than one location, tick all three and explain how you need to adapt it in the director's notes.

## Deadlines:

submissions starting from	deadline for submissions	list of selected participants	deadline for registration	repechage	final list of semifinalists
8 January	midnight (Italian time) 24 March	7 April	12:30 p.m. (Italian time) 10 April	11-12 April	13 April

For inquiries: [teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com](mailto:teatri.riflessi.festival@gmail.com)

Zafferana Etnea, 08 January 2024