

ACCADEMIA
TEATRO ALLA SCALA

STAGE MANAGEMENT

A.Y. 2025/2026



AT SCHOOL WITH LA SCALA

The La Scala Academy provides thorough, in-depth training to the various professional figures involved in the performing arts through its four departments: Music, Dance, Stagecraft, Management. Its broad curriculum ranges from basic and core training courses to advanced courses, Level 1 and 2 AFAM (advanced training in art, music, and dance) university-level academic diploma programs, Level 1 master courses, workshops, and summer programs. The highest level of instruction is ensured by Teatro alla Scala professionals, acclaimed performers, and prominent experts in the performing arts. The teaching method derives from the philosophy of learning by doing and prepares students for their future career through intensive daily exposure to the performing arts in a real-world context.



Ph: Noemi Ardesi

FOUNDING PARTNERS



THE COURSE

The Academy Stage Management course, with scientific coordination entrusted to Luca Bonini and the Teatro alla Scala stage managers Andrea Boi, Davide Armati Battistelli and Barbara Patruno, provides training for those intending to undertake a professional career as a stage manager for opera, ballet, plays, musicals, and other creative markets.

A stage manager supervises and coordinates all technical and support activities for a staged performance or event, working in close collaboration with the stage director, music director (musicals and opera), and ballet director (for dance performances). Stage management entails certain responsibilities and demands a high level of organizational and interpersonal competency. A stage manager works during the production, set design, staging, and demobilization phases, and may also contribute to pre- and post-production and archiving. Responsibilities include technical and artistic quality, safety and security, and logistics and scheduling of people and things. In an opera theatre, the stage manager cues performers and directs all scene changes on the basis of the musical score.

The special feature of the course lies in its strong bonds with the participating institutions, Teatro alla Scala and the Piccolo Teatro di Milano. The program comprises lessons in theory complemented by practical

exercises in the classroom, rehearsal rooms, and on stage to give participants the opportunity to apply what they are learning in real-world situations, overseeing all the phases in staging a performance and developing the ability to interact effectively with many different professional figures and different modes of expression.

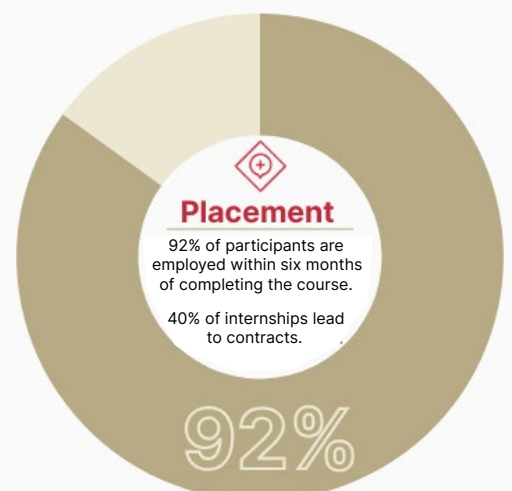
Participants receive exceptional support in the transition to a professional career by apprenticing with the stage managers in a variety of productions and by a 300-hour internship at a preeminent performing arts institution in Italy or abroad. Upon completing the course they will thus have acquired all the technical, cultural, organizational, and interpersonal competencies necessary for work in national and international contexts.



Ph: Clarissa Lapolla

PROFESSIONAL FIGURE

The course provides professional training for a career as stage manager in national and international opera, ballet, concert, musical, and theatre venues, and in other analogous market sectors.



MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS

During the course, students will have the opportunity to take part in lessons, seminars, and workshops lead by Teatro alla Scala stage managers and by leading professionals in the field.





Ph: Masiar Pasquali

PICCOLO TEATRO DI MILANO

Founded on May 14, 1947 by Giorgio Strehler, Paolo Grassi, and Nina Vinchi, the Piccolo Teatro di Milano is Italy's first public residential theatre (teatro stabile), and is the best known theatre of its kind in Italy and the world.

The founders' idea was to create an institution supported by the State and local bodies (Municipality and Province of Milan, Regione Lombardia), envisioned as a public service to meet the very important cultural needs of the population. "Theatre for All" was the slogan used by its founders and one that still applies today: the theatre stages quality productions accessible to as broad a swath of the population as possible. As a founding member of the European Theatre Union, it has been recognized since 1991 as a "Theatre of Europe".

In over seventy years of operation, the Piccolo has produced some 400 shows, half of them directed by Strehler. Since 1998, with the passing of the baton to Sergio Escobar (director of the P.L.A.TEA. Foundation for Theater Arts to July 2020) and to Luca Ronconi (artistic consultant to the Piccolo until February 2015), the Piccolo has emphasized its international and interdisciplinary stature and its role as a Milanese and European cultural reference point.

Stefano Massini was artistic consultant for the theatre from September 1, 2015 to October 31, 2020. Claudio Longhi has been Director of the Piccolo Teatro since December 1, 2020.

CURRICULAR UNITS AND TEACHING STAFF

CORE SUBJECTS

Stage Management Theory and Technique

Stage Directors

Luca Bonini, Andrea Boi, Davide
Armati Battistelli, Barbara Patrino,
Laurent Daniel Gerber, Luisella
Caielli, Pietro Paolucci, Lucio Mazzoli

- ↪ Organizational and technical role of the stage director in opera, drama, and concert theatres
- ↪ Regulation of stage activities in indoor and outdoor venues
- ↪ Observation and direction of rehearsals and performances
- ↪ Music theory, solfège, score preparation
- ↪ Practical exercises at Teatro alla Scala



Ph: Clarissa Lapolla

Field Project
(in collaboration with
the Piccolo Teatro di Milano)
PTM professionals

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS

Introduction to the professional figures in the performing arts

Umberto Bellodi,
La Scala Academy coordinator

- ↪ Professional profiles in the performing arts

Institutional nature of producers and/or host organizations

Mariano Festa, *Institutional Relations,*
Teatro alla Scala

- ↪ Opera and Symphony foundations
- ↪ Policy, institutions, legislation

Production Organization

Maria De Rosa and Nadia Ferrigno,
*Teatro alla Scala Department of
Production Organization*
Michele Sciolla, *musical services
director, Teatro alla Scala*
Andrea Minetto, *consultant and
project manager*
Paolo Belluso, *tour manager*

- ↪ Production organization for opera, festivals, and tours
- ↪ Focus on production organization and planning, Teatro alla Scala
- ↪ Musical services and the role of the assistant conductor

Stagecraft

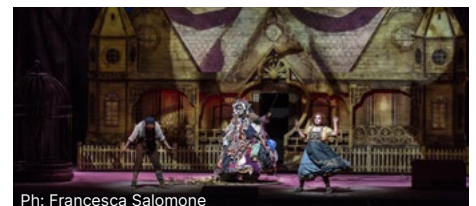
Ruggero Bellini, *Head of set design
Workshops, Teatro alla Scala*
Stefania Cavallin, *assistant to the
Technical Director, Teatro alla Scala*

- ↪ Elements and terminology of stagecraft
- ↪ Specific nomenclature
- ↪ Two-dimensional technical design, reading and understanding plans and sections
- ↪ Special effects in the theatre
- ↪ Comprehension and reading of sketches, figurines, and theatre models
- ↪ Tours of former Ansaldo workshops, Teatro alla Scala
- ↪ From design to execution, from the stage to the performance

Elements of stagecraft for stage management

Oscar Frosio, *lighting designer*
Andrea Ferrario, *sound designer*
Giuseppe Tolva, *Stagehand
Department, Teatro alla Scala*
Teatro alla Scala department Heads

- ↪ Theatre lighting
- ↪ Sound technology
- ↪ Meetings with Teatro alla Scala department Heads: makeup, costumes, sound, stagehands, props, footwear
- ↪ Stage organization, coexistence during performances
- ↪ Specific terminology



Ph: Francesca Salomone

Introduction to the role of assistant stage manager

Marco Monzini, *collaborating stage
manager, Teatro alla Scala*
Professional stage directors

- ↪ The role of the assistant stage manager in opera

PERFORMING ARTS CULTURE SUBJECTS

Music history and repertoire analysis

Fabio Sartorelli, *musicologist*
Paolo Piazza, *assistant conductor,*
Teatro alla Scala

- Requisite knowledge of musical repertoire for stage managers
- Music itineraries, aspects of dramaturgy
- History of Italian opera from its origins to the early 20th century
- Analysis and study of selected opera titles

History of theatre stage set design

Leila Fteita, *set designer*
Stefania Cavallin, *assistant to the*
Technical Director, Teatro alla Scala

- History of set design
- The creative process from sketches to construction drawings
- Set designer – stage manager relations during set construction and setup
- Guided tours

History of theatre costumes

Chiara Donato, *costumer*

- Historical development of theatre costumes
- Stage props and costume shop tools
- Stage organization for costume changes

History of ballet

Fabio Sartorelli, *musicologist*
Vito Lentini,

dance and ballet historian and critic

- Notable La Scala ballets, music, choreographer, performers
- Advanced contemporary repertoire from the 1990s to the present day

CAREER ORIENTATION SUBJECTS

Team-building in teaching

La Scala Academy staff

- How to manage interpersonal dynamics in a learning group
- How to gauge learning in specific moments in order to assess progress of each individual toward general course objectives

Workplace safety

Michela Songini, *Health and Safety*
Director, Teatro alla Scala
Sergio Tasca,
safety trainer

- Information on workplace health and safety
- General and specific training: low risk activities

Career Orientation

Marco Aldo Amoruso, *Teatro alla*
Scala HR Director
La Scala Academy staff

- Presenting oneself professionally
- Characteristics of the job market
- Professional contracts
- Internship orientation

English for the performing arts

Polly James,
native speaker English teacher

- English for the performing arts

Interpersonal and organizational competencies

Rita Cannata, *HR specialist*

- Interpersonal communication
- Focus on assertiveness, conflict management and negotiation
- Snapshot of each participant's expectations and goals at the beginning of the specific learning process
- Motivational questionnaires for each participant

International focus

Performing arts professionals

- Basic knowledge and competencies of a stage manager in the performing arts on the international level

Meetings with experts

Performing arts professionals

- Stage managers and professional figures with whom he/she interacts

KEY POINTS

EXPERT GUIDANCE

Led by Teatro alla Scala stage managers and other professionals, the course also provides a comprehensive, in-depth survey of dramatic theatre and the international context.

COMPLETE TRAINING

As a final project, participants will prepare and rehearse a management plan for an opera or ballet.

INTERNSHIP

The program includes an intensive 300-hour internship at Teatro alla Scala or another prestigious performing arts venue in Italy or abroad.

CONSTANT APPLICATION

Direct practical experience is a fundamental element in the curriculum: lessons in theory are complemented by practical exercises in the classroom and assistance in stage setup/ striking and rehearsals on and off stage.



Ph: David Battistelli

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admission to the course is contingent upon passing a selection process.



LENGTH

Annual

from November 2025 to
December 2026



TOTAL HOURS

900 total hours distributed
as follows:

- ◆ **600 hours** of classroom work with performing arts experts and professionals
- ◆ **300 hours** of internship



ATTENDANCE

Mandatory, Monday through Friday between 9 am and 6 pm and not exceeding 8 hours per day.

Some practical exercises may take place in the evening or on weekends and some classroom work may be conducted in distance-learning mode.

Absences must be justified. Participants missing more than 25% of total hours will be expelled from the course unless otherwise deliberated by the Teaching Committee and Academy Management.



LOCATION

Accademia Teatro alla Scala
Via S. Marta, 18
20123 Milan

Teatro alla Scala
Via Filodrammatici, 2
20121 Milan

Scala Ansaldo Workshops
Via Bergognone, 34
20144 Milan

Piccolo Teatro Strehler
Largo Greppi, 1
20121 Milan



LANGUAGE

The course is taught in Italian with some guest contributions in English

COURSE MATERIALS

All necessary scores and sheet music will be provided by the Academy.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

18 years old or older
on date of admissions test

Three-year university degree, high school diploma, vocational school diploma, or equivalent studies and/or experience in the performing arts

Fluency in Italian



OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Candidates passing the selection process have to give proof of residence or domicile in Lombardy to formalize the enrollment



PREFERENTIAL FACTORS

Ability to read musical scores

Experience in the performing arts

Knowledge of the history of music and musical expression

Interpersonal skills

Proficiency in English

Under 36 years old



SELECTION PROCESS

Applicants must pass a two-part selection process to be admitted to the course:

- ◆ a **written test**
- ◆ a **personal interview**

◆ WHEN

Two selection sessions are planned: **May 15 or 16, 2025** and **October 15 or 16, 2025** (dates to be confirmed).

Those enrolling in and passing the first session will be entitled to a tuition discount. Those who enroll in the first session but do not pass may enroll in the second session but will no longer be eligible for the discount.

◆ WHERE

Both selection sessions will take place in Milan at the Academy facilities at Via Santa Marta 18. The Academy is centrally located not far from Piazza Duomo and Teatro alla Scala. It is easily accessible from the metro stations Cordusio and Duomo (M1), Sant'Ambrogio (M2), and Missori and Duomo (M3).

Once you have arrived at the Academy you will find directions to the waiting room for the written test and the interview. Plan the trip so that you will have an ample time margin to arrive on time for your appointment.

◆ HOW

An email with the date and time of the selection process will be sent after the application deadline.

◆ **Written test**

The written test will take approximately 40 minutes and consists of multiple-choice questions to assess basic knowledge of music history, opera, ballet, and symphonic repertoires, and theatre terminology.

◆ **Personal interview**

The interview will last about 15 minutes and serves to assess the candidate's general competencies, motivations, and expectations. The interview will be conducted by a panel consisting of teachers, the director of the Management Department, the course coordinator and the course assistant and will focus on: ◆ Further questions on the content of the written test; examination of the candidate's CV ◆ Motivations for choosing the Stage Management course at the Academy ◆ Candidate's interest in musical theatre, drama theatre and ballet.

Recommended reading to prepare for the selection process:

- ◆ Margherita Palli, *Dizionario teatrale / Theatre dictionary / Theater Wörterbuch / Dictionnaire du théâtre / Diccionario teatral / Театральный словарь*, 2021, Quodlibet NABA Insight
- ◆ Benedetta Dalai, *ABC della scenotecnica. Per conoscere lo spazio teatrale: manuale ad uso di addetti, studenti e appassionati*, 2006, Audino
- ◆ Bruno Mello, *Trattato di scenotecnica*, 2009, De Agostini
- ◆ Luigi Allegri, *Storia del teatro. Le idee e le forme dello spettacolo dall'antichità a oggi*, 2017, Carocci; in alternativa Oscar G. Brockett, *Storia del teatro. Dal dramma sacro dell'antico Egitto al*

nuovo teatro del Duemila, 2016, Marsilio

◆ Massimo Mila, *Breve storia della musica*, 2014 (or earlier editions), Einaudi

◆ Alex Ross, *Il resto è rumore. Ascoltando il XX secolo*, 2011, Bompiani

◆ Ornella Di Tondo, Flavia Pappacena, Alessandro Pontremoli, *Storia della danza e del balletto*, 2019, Gremese Editore

WHAT TO BRING

Bring a valid identity document to the selection process.

Suggestions: ◆ Make sure you are able to clearly articulate why you want to study Stage Management at the La Scala Academy ◆ Rehearse the points you will want to make during the interview so you will be more effective and stimulating ◆ Research the history and activities of the La Scala Academy ◆ Do not be afraid to ask questions.

The Selection Committee will decide which candidates are eligible to attend the course. Candidates who are judged eligible but not admitted to the course because the maximum number of students has been reached may be admitted subsequently if a higher-ranked candidate declines to enroll. The decisions of the Selection Committee are final and may not be challenged or queried.

COSTS

The fee for participation in the selection process is **€100 (including VAT)**, to be paid online during the application process. The selection process fee may be paid by major credit/debit cards or credit transfer. The Academy uses the MyBank service (for a list of participating banks, see: <https://mybank.eu/participating-banks-and-psps/>).

Tuition for the course is **€9,270**, including VAT (discounted of **€250** for those passing the first session of the selection process), plus a **security deposit of €250**. The cost of any lost or damaged materials will be deducted from the security deposit, which will otherwise be fully refunded at the end of the course.

Tuition shall be paid in three installments via SEPA Direct Debit (SDD)* as follows.

If the Italian Ministry of Finance and the Economy raises VAT, the above amounts will be adjusted accordingly.

* Those who do not have a bank account in the SEPA zone, please contact the Teaching Office (contact info at end of document).

1

1st INSTALLMENT

For those admitted in the first selection session: **€4,670 by June 30, 2025** (fee + security deposit)

For those admitted in the second selection session: **€4,920 by November 13, 2025** (fee + security deposit)

2

2nd INSTALLMENT

€2,300 by January 30, 2026

3

3rd INSTALLMENT

€2,300 by April 30, 2026

SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT LOANS

Student loans, scholarships, and tuition waivers and other forms of financial support ensure that students have access to a curriculum characterized by unrivaled artistic quality and close contact with the professional world.

Scholarships

Students who pass the selection process and whose ISEE (Equivalent Financial Status Indicator) does not exceed 20,000 euros may apply for a scholarship to cover all or a part of tuition. The application process will be communicated in a separate announcement delivered to all those passing the selection process.

Merit loans and student loans

The La Scala Academy has established conventions with credit institutes to provide other forms of financial aid covering tuition and/or lodging to all students in good academic standing.

For further information, please contact the Teaching Office:

segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it



ADMISSION PROCESS

You must apply no later than **30/04/2025** to take part in the first selection session or by **26/09/2025** to take part in the second selection session.

Please follow the steps below to apply:

①

ENROLLMENT PLATFORM LOGIN OR REGISTRATION

Log in to the Academy enrollment platform at <https://iscrizioni.accademiascala.it> (if you do not already have login credentials from a previous application to another Academy course, you will need to register first). You will apply for the selection process in a subsequent step.

Please enter all information accurately. Make a note of your email address and password because they will be your login credentials [username and password] for your personal page.

You will be asked to accept the Academy privacy policy.

②

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Academy enrollment platform will guide you through the application process.

③

ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL CONTRACT CONDITIONS

The next step is to download and sign (either digitally or by printing and scanning) the “Condizioni di contratto per la partecipazione” [Contract conditions for participation (in the selection process)]. Upload the signed document where indicated. You must complete this step to continue the application process.

④

ATTACHMENTS

You will be asked to attach the following documents:

❖ A detailed, signed CV ending with the following statements:

1. I, the undersigned, aware of criminal penalties provided in Article 76 of Italian Presidential Decree no. 445 of December 28, 2000 (D.P.R. 445/2000) in the case of false statements and acts, declare, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of said Presidential Decree, that all information contained in this CV is truthful

2. I authorize processing of the personal data I have provided for the purposes inherent to using my CV per Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 (D.Lgs. 196/2003) and the European General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679)

❖ A digital photo of the applicant (passport size)

❖ Candidate identification (identity card or passport).

❖ Copy of academic certification (If you do not have your official diploma/certificate at this time, you may attach a self-certification. However, please note that this is only a temporary solution: you must provide the Academy with a copy of the official diploma/certificate on or before the day the course begins or you will be excluded from the course. Undergraduates may register by enclosing a copy of the document stating that the thesis will be discussed within the calendar year).

⑤

APPLICATION FEE

You will be asked to pay a fee of €100

(including VAT) to apply to the selection process. Payment may be made by credit or debit card or credit transfer. The payment must be made online during the application process (do not close the page and attempt to pay elsewhere).

6

COMPLETION OF PROCEDURE

Once the above steps have been completed, a summary will be generated of all information provided. You must print and sign this summary, scan it, and attach it where indicated. This completes the application for the selection process and all forms will be sent to the Academy Teaching Office [Segreteria Didattica]. Please follow all instructions on your screen or received via email from the enrollment platform.

Make sure all the information you provide is correct. Any inaccuracies will result in automatic rejection of your application.

The Academy reserves the exclusive right to accept applications submitted after the above deadlines but before the beginning of the selection process.

The Academy also reserves the right to postpone the application timeframe, the selection process, and the beginning of the course.

7

NOTIFICATIONS

Candidates will be invited to the selection process by email after the application deadline.

Once the selection process has been completed, those admitted to the course will receive an email with instructions for enrolling in the course. Admitted students must enroll via their personal page on [iscrizioni.accademiascala.it](https://www.iscrizioni.accademiascala.it) by the following deadlines:

◇
FIRST SELECTION SESSION

Results announced on or before
May 23, 2025

Enrollment no later than
May 30, 2025

◇
SECOND SELECTION SESSION

Results announced on or before
October 23, 2025

Enrollment no later than
October 30, 2025

Candidates wishing to apply for the scholarship must complete the application form by October 30, 2025. A valid ISEE certification must be also attached. Applications received after this deadline or sent by email will not be accepted. Notification regarding the possible award of the scholarship will be sent by November 5, 2025.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND ITALIANS RESIDING ABROAD

Academic certification earned outside of Italy must be accompanied by a document certifying its legal validity pursuant to Italian law. Specifically:

- If the academic certification has been obtained in a European Union member state, you must provide a sworn translation (traduzione asseverata) of the certification into Italian;
- If the academic certification has been obtained in a country outside of the European Union, you must provide a certificate of equivalence of qualification (dichiarazione di valore in loco).

International students and Italians residing abroad must also provide their CV in Italian or accompanied by an Italian translation.

Applicants who pass the selection process and are not residents of an EU member state must submit all documents required by law on or before the day that lessons begin (application for residence permit for reasons of study [permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio]).

FINAL CERTIFICATION

Students who successfully complete the course with attendance of at least 75% and pass the final exam will receive:

- ◆ A Diploma issued by the Academy
- ◆ A Certificate of Competency issued by the Region of Lombardy. The competence certification system allows each person to enhance its human and professional capital in terms of competences, knowledge and skills
- ◆ A Certificate of Completion of the Workplace Safety course (8 hours)

The Academy may also issue a certificate of merit to outstanding course participants, who will be selected by uncontested judgment of the Office of the Director and the Teaching Committee.

ALUMNI

Students who complete the course may join the community of La Scala Academy Alumni, a platform providing a series of exclusive services to former Academy students: job offers, networking, post-Academy training initiatives, mentorships, events, project incubators, as well as special rates and discounts.

Find out more at alumni.accademiascala.it

Ph: Barbara Patruno

MEET THE STAFF

Dalila Gomaraschi
Teaching Coordinator

infocorsi@accademiascala.it

OPEN DAY

Register at
bit.ly/OpenDayATS

For information on the application process: Giovanna Coletta - Teaching Office

☎ (+39) 02-85451160/22

✉ segreteria.didattica@accademiascala.it