

FRINGEMI FESTIVAL – 5th EDITION – 5th -11th JUNE 2023

CALL FOR ARTISTS/COMPANIES

GENERAL INFORMATION

The FringeMI is a multidisciplinary live festival which takes place in non-theatrical spaces within the city of Milan. It is structured according to a "Fringe" formula, that is, without a specific theme, without an actual artistic direction, with a variety of tones, styles and languages, expressive freedom, use of unconventional spaces and proximity to the audience.

FringeMI began in 2019 as the NoLo Fringe Festival and was organized by Bardha Mimòs ETS, whose Board of Directors includes live entertainment professionals and event organizers. From a Fringe Festival limited to one area of the city (NoLo, a particularly active and multiethnic area on the north-eastern outskirts of the city), it has developed into a city festival in only a few years, with the coordination of Bardha Mimòs and the co-organization of bodies and associations of the various milanese neighborhoods, and in 2022 it changed its name to FringeMI.

The previous four editions of the festival have involved more than 100 artists and companies, with 300 runs in more than 50 different stages, a total audience of almost 15,000 people thus getting increasing attention from the press, professionals, and institutions, becoming one of the most important Milanese independent theatre festivals.

FringeMI aims at spreading through neighborhoods with top quality performances, to showcase the professional theatre companies involved, to act as a development engine for new audiences, to create opportunities for conviviality and social inclusion and to make a positive impact on the activities of the area. In other words, it wants to promote urban regeneration, make an economic impact, and support cultural innovation.

FringeMI includes three sections:

- 1.The Official Programme, whose winner (voted by the public) will be on the bill in the 2023/2024 season at the Teatro Elfo Puccini in Milan.
- 2.The Fringe Extra, a schedule of shows taking place in venues which are not included in the Official Programme.
- 3.The Busker, a showcase of street theatre, music, and juggling taking place in outdoor spaces in various areas of the city.

The shows included in the first two sections will be selected through this call. As far as the Busker section is concerned, please refer to the final part of this call.

The fifth edition of FringeMI will be held in Milan from the 5th to the 11th of June 2023.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Professional artists or professional companies of any nationality can take part in the selection if they are in possession of the ex-ENPALS eligibility requirements or otherwise hired according to the current legislation, with shows of any type and in any language, published or unpublished.

Participation in the selection process does not involve any cost.

Each artist/company can submit only one application. No other applications by the same artist or company will be considered, other than the first one in chronological order.

The proposed shows must be:

- . in their final version
- . between 45 and 70 minutes long
- . technically simple, suitable for non-theatrical and small spaces
- . with assembly and disassembly times not exceeding 15 minutes

The performance must be carried out in compliance with current safety and COVID-19 regulations.

PERFORMANCES

The shows selected for the Official Programme will run on the same stage for 5 consecutive days, from Tuesday to Saturday (6th to 10th June), with free admission and a start time to be agreed, approximately between 19.30 and 22.00.

The shows selected for the Fringe Extra will have one or two performances at most, usually on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (9th to 11th of June), with free or paid admission, on a different stage from those of the Official Program.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The application requires filling in an **online form**, which we ask artists / companies to read and fill in very carefully in all its sections: the organizers will rely on that information both for subsequent communications and to select the shows.

The form is available on the website www.fringemi.com and the link is:

<https://forms.gle/ZMq4FfJoZb7PkVtq9>

The artists/companies are required to indicate in the online form whether the show is appearing for the first time, it is a national or a milanese premiere.

A link to the complete video of the proposed show is also required, through the traditional platforms (i.e. Vimeo, Youtube, etc.). The video is mandatory for admission to the selection process, and videos broadcast in other ways will not be accepted. The Board reserves the right to select a show appearing for the first time and with no supporting video only in exceptional circumstances: the show's artistic project and a video introducing the artist/company (and follow-up interactions with the artist/company) must have been previously submitted.

The deadline for the application is midnight on December 15th ,2022. Any subsequent applications will not be considered.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The direction of FringeMi will select the applications received according to criteria of artistic value and technical-logistic feasibility in the spaces available.

In consideration of the particular period we're living in, the direction hope for some artistic proposals in step, directly or not, with the United Nations 2030 SDGs (<https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>). Nevertheless, artists/companies are not obliged to present shows about these themes.

The spaces allocated to each company will be established by the management based on criteria of technical expediency and specific interest of the type of show. The selection will take place by mid-February 2023.

The selected artists / companies will be contacted by phone or email to finalize the details of participation as well as to sign a specific contract. The contract must be signed and returned no later than ten days after receipt.

The outcome will also be communicated to the artists / companies which were not successful. The organization reserves the right not to give any explanation of the reasons for rejecting the show.

PAYMENTS

The artists / companies that will be selected for the Official Programme will be paid a fixed fee of € 1000 total, for 5 performances (VAT and any other taxes are included).

Any SIAE expenses (lyrics and music) will be paid by the organizers.

The costs of ex-ENPALS will be solely paid by the signatory of the contract with the organization of the festival.

The artists / companies have the option to request a voluntary offer from the audience, relieving the organization and the venue's managers from any responsibility in this regard.

The artists/companies selected for the Fringe Extra will be paid a different fee depending on whether the shows have an admission charge or are free. In the first instance,70% of the total receipts will be due (minus 10% VAT and SIAE expenses), while in the case of free shows the fee will be agreed with the individual artist/ companies, based on the type of show and the performative space required.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Given the nature of the festival, the shows must have a simplified technical data sheet.

The fact that the shows are flexible and adaptable to unconventional locations is an essential aspect and will have a great influence in the selection phase. If the video transmitted has more complex technical requirements than the one the artist/company intends to present, one is required to clearly specify, in the appropriate section of the form, what is the technical equipment proposed for the FringeMI. It is also necessary to specify the show's scenography in the online form, as this will be paid by the company.

After the selection, each company / artist will agree on the show's technical data sheet (including the sets) with the technical direction of the festival, based on the nature of the assigned space and the show's basic technical requirements.

FringeMI requires the presence of a minimum of technical equipment on each stage, suitable for the guest show and consistent with what is described in the application form. The artist / company can integrate the technical preparation of the assigned space, in agreement with the technical direction of the festival, in a completely autonomous way and with its own props which must comply with safety regulations.

If desired, each artist/company can carry out a technical inspection of the space in the weeks preceding the start of the festival, subject to agreements with the technical direction of the festival and the owner of the host stage.

In any case, the owner will have the stage space available before the start of the show and its whole run, for both the pre-assembly and rehearsals, whose timing and organization will be defined in agreement with the technical direction.

Fringe MI guarantees the presence of a technician who carries out the editing of the show together with the artist / company on each stage/show. It should be noted, however, that each company must have its own technical report on site to help with the assembly, dismantling and, above all, execution of the show throughout its whole run.

HOSPITALITY AND TRAVEL

The companies / artists are responsible for their own travel and food/catering expenses. The direction of the festival can put them in touch with recommended hotels and catering providers, which the companies/artists will have to contact and pay for themselves.

COMMUNICATION

The FringeMI Festival deals with the promotion of the festival online and offline, with a fair and equal coverage of each artist/company's show.

The selected companies are also invited to promote their own show, through their own means and in any way they wish, before and during the Festival, also in agreement with the Communication Department of the festival.

AWARDS

The winner of the Official Programme will be declared during the final evening, June 11th, 2023, based on a sensible average of the audience's votes at the end of each show.

The winning show of the FringeMI Festival will feature in the 2023/2024 season of the Teatro Elfo Puccini in Milan (www.elfo.org), in a slot agreed with the theatre itself, and will represent the FringeMI at other international Fringe Festivals.

Thanks to the collaboration with the online magazine Stratagemmi, there is also a Critics' Award, designated by an editorial staff of specially trained young critics.

WAIVER

The FringeMI Festival may decide to film and broadcast the shows. By joining the competition, each participant authorizes the recording, broadcasting, and any form of sharing of images and audiovisual material concerning their performance, without any limitation of space and / or time and without having any claim both from FringeMI Festival and from any public or private broadcasters (TV/ radio) or associates.

BUSKER

This section was introduced on an experimental basis in 2022 and as of this year, it will be become a permanent feature of FringeMi and will also be expanded.

We intend to include in this section independent street artists who perform in outdoor places, to be defined within the theatrical areas of the festival, with the help of the Municipality of Milan which provides the popular online platform milano.stradarte.it.

The goal is to create a varied schedule, a visible impact through street art defined in the broadest possible sense, which goes beyond music, clowning and juggling.

Those interested in participating in these sections are asked to send their artistic proposal to the email direzione@fringemi.com, by the 31st January 2023. They will be contacted by the section representatives to discuss how to take part.