Ca.Te.Ve. Cantieri Teatrali Veneziani
Campazzo San Sebastiano
30123, Venezia VE

Sede legale
Dorsoduro, Campiello San Lorenzo, 2307
C.F. 90167300277

Call for Applications
FERMENTI VOS 2026
Venice Open Stage

INTRODUCTION

Since 2017, **Cantieri Teatrali Veneziani** (Ca.Te.Ve.) has included the **FERMENTI VOS** showcase in its programme. Now in its 9th edition, this section of the *Venice Open Stage – Rising Theatre Festival*, dedicated to emerging theatre companies, opens – in addition to Italian companies – to emerging international companies that demonstrate an innovative approach to contemporary performative languages and dramaturgical devices, and a strong commitment to artistic research. The aim is to support groups that carry out an independent project, offering them the opportunity to share their work with an audience composed of spectators and professionals from the sector (artists, critics, cultural operators, journalists).
The three shows selected for the FERMENTI 2026 section will be staged on one of the following dates, to be agreed with the organisation: **3, 4 or 5 July 2026**, during the 14th edition of Venice Open Stage, which will take place from **29 June to 11 July 2026.**

WHO WE ARE

Cantieri Teatrali Veneziani was founded in 2014 by a group of cultural professionals (actors, technicians, organisers, communication experts), with the aim of organising and managing the **Venice Open Stage festival**. Originally founded within IUAV University of Venice, with which it co-organised the first editions of the festival, the association has gradually acquired its independence. Over the years, it has extended its collaborations to Ca' Foscari University and the Academy of Fine Arts of Venice, in addition to its partnership with the **Municipality of Venice**, which has continued uninterruptedly since the first year of the festival.

Venice Open Stage promotes encounters between acting students, theatre professionals and a diverse audience composed of those who live the city of water on a daily basis: secondary school and university students, residents of the historic centre and the mainland, commuters who come to the lagoon for the festival, and international tourists. The event takes place in an open-air arena in Campazzo San Sebastiano, in the historic city of Venice, and hosts performances from some of the

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most prestigious drama schools in the world, alongside works by recently formed professional theatre companies and established professional companies.

REGULATIONS

1. DATES AND OPERATORS

The 14th edition of Venice Open Stage will take place from **29 June** to **11 July 2026.**

Please note: The **selection** process will be overseen by a committee made up of the artistic direction of Venice Open Stage and external cultural professionals, whose names will be announced on all the festival's channels. They will attend the three **FERMENTI VOS 2026** evenings. The names of the winners will be communicated by email on 16 March 2026 and published on www.veniceopenstage.org and on all the festival's channels.

2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

1. To promote new performative languages and innovative dramaturgical devices, and to bring young and courageous voices into a space open to theatrical research and experimentation.
2. To encourage encounters between emerging companies/collectives/individual theatre artists and programmers/critics/journalists/audiences.
3. To foster the circulation of performances within organisations whose vocation is similar to that of Venice Open Stage.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Both previously **staged** and **new** performances are eligible to participate in this call for applications.
The average age of the members of the company must not exceed 35 years.
Companies, individual artists, collectives or theatre groups must be legally recognised, or supported for the occasion by a body that can formally employ/contract their members in compliance with current regulations.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

The performance should preferably have a running time of between 45 and 90 minutes.
Set-up and strike times must not exceed 60 minutes, **excluding lighting focus**.

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The performance must comply with current safety regulations. Applicants are therefore asked to attach a self-certification signed by the legal representative of the company confirming compliance with these regulations.

The following aspects will also be positively evaluated in the selection process:

- Use of contemporary languages
- Use of innovative theatrical devices (for example, multimedia technologies)
- Involvement of the audience

5. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Participation is free of charge and will be considered valid only for applications submitted **between 9 December 2025 and midnight on 30 January 2026**.

Each company, collective or individual artist may submit a maximum of one performance and must apply by completing the following form: **APPLICATION FORM – FERMENTI 2026 CALL**, where the following attachments must be uploaded:

Attachment 1 Information on copyright relating to the texts and music used in the performance

Attachment 2 Personal data processing consent form

Attachment 3 Self-certification regarding compliance with current safety regulations, signed by the legal representative

3 high-resolution **photos** (300 dpi)

A full-length video of the performance (preferred) or a trailer uploaded on YouTube or Vimeo and shared in private mode (password- access)protected

Please note: All **attached documents** must be **signed** by the legal representative.

6. TIMELINE FOR THE EVALUATION PROCESS

From **16 March 2026**, the names of the three selected companies, collectives or individual artists will be published on the website www.veniceopenstage.org and on all the festival's channels. The selected entities will be contacted for clarifications regarding the schedule and conditions of participation in the 14th edition of Venice Open Stage. Should one or more of the selected parties

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withdraw or fail to respect the required deadlines, the organisation reserves the right to proceed with a replacement from among the remaining candidates.

7. WHAT WE OFFER

Technical & Organisational

The festival's technical rider is attached to this document.
The arena is an outdoor venue and therefore does not have a fly system or rigging grid. Access to the space for pre-show rehearsals will be scheduled in agreement between the festival and the selected companies.
Companies or individual artists are required to provide all scenic elements, except in exceptional cases to be agreed between the festival and the selected parties.

Promotion

Venice Open Stage undertakes to promote, through its own channels (website, social media, press office, informational materials), the performances selected under this call on the dates on which they are presented at the festival. Venice Open Stage also guarantees the presence of theatre professionals, cultural operators and journalists on the evenings when the FERMENTI VOS 2026 performances are staged.
The festival offers the possibility of an informal discussion with the operators present at the end of the performance.

Fee

The organisation provides a fee of €1,000.00 + 10% VAT for each selected company.

Hospitality

Accommodation in Venice: covered by VOS for the night before the performance (for show set-up and evening lighting work) and the night of the performance.

Meals**:** dinner will be available in the festival area together with the staff. Breakfast and lunch are offered by the organisation in affiliated venues.

Travel**:** no reimbursement of travel expenses is provided. In case of arrival by car or van, and for unloading any scenic elements, the model and registration number of the vehicle, as well as a copy of the driver's licence, must be provided in order to access the port area of Venice, adjacent to the festival venue.

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8. CANCELLATION AND PERFORMANCE CONFORMITY CLAUSE

In the event of cancellation of the performance, or interruption before half of the scheduled running time has elapsed due to force majeure, the festival will pay the company 50% of the agreed fee. Under no circumstances will it be possible to reschedule the performance on another date.

The performance presented must conform to the documentation and materials submitted during the selection phase. Should a substantial discrepancy emerge during the performance compared to the proposal, the artistic direction reserves the right to terminate the contract and apply a reduction of 50% of the agreed fee, as if the performance had not taken place. This measure is intended to guarantee the quality and coherence of the festival's programming.

9. AMENDMENTS

The organisation reserves the right to modify or supplement the terms of these regulations without altering their substance.

10. INFORMATION AND CONTACTS

For further information and clarifications, please contact: **candidature@veniceopenstage.org**

The telephone number for **urgent communications** is +39 340 266 7322 (David Angeli). However, we kindly ask you to use it only in exceptional cases: the main point of contact for information and clarification remains the email address indicated above.

Venezia 06/12/2025

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