



Theories and Practices of Academic Theatre in Europe

Estates General of Academic Theatre

Call for proposals

Website: <http://fact.sns.it/en/home-2/>

Estates General: <http://fact.sns.it/en/estates-general/>

Deadline for proposals: 15 April 2019

Estates General of Academic Theatre

We would like to invite researchers, performers and practitioners to submit their work for discussion at the Estates General of Academic Theatre meeting, which will take place on 11 June 2019 at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, Italy.

Estates General and FAcT

Academic theatre is a lively and widespread experience throughout Europe. Almost every university supports and nurtures a theatrical company, each one striving to define its own identity through both theory and performance. It is a specific feature of the theatrical experiences within the academic *milieu* to combine a nonprofessional engagement with the dramatic performance and a more systematic involvement in study and research. This particular combination deserves a special attention by both scholars and practitioners, since it constitutes a unique opportunity to explore the various and complex interrelations between living practices and theoretical elaborations in the field of theatre.

Moreover, the various companies now active in Europe are generally isolated centres of production and performance, which would benefit greatly from a mutual exchange of ideas and experiences. Such a network, however, is still a *desideratum*.

The Estates General of Academic Theatre undertake the challenge of gathering the best instances of theatrical practices in university, with the aim of building a permanent and active network of companies and groups all around Europe. The first annual meeting of the Estates General will take place in close connection with the second edition of FAcT – Festival of Academic Theatre, after the success of the first one in 2018 (<http://fact.sns.it/en/thefestival/>). FAcT is a theatre festival entirely devoted to university companies, and a celebration of the creative energies of international students/actors.

The Estates General wish to complement this all-performative side with a more theoretical approach – to try and understand theatre in all its aspects.

Scientific committee

The scientific committee of the Estates General of Academic Theatre is composed by:

- Luca D'Onghia | Scuola Normale Superiore



- Emma Dante | theatre director
- Fiona Macintosh | APGRD, University of Oxford
- Eva Marinai | Università di Pisa
- Margherita Rubino | Università di Genova, INDA
- Piermario Vescovo | Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
- Daniele Vianello | Università della Calabria

2019 Call for proposals – Theories and Practices of Academic Theatre

The 2019 meeting, open to any representative of academic theatrical companies, will examine the living practices of university theatre in Europe and the theoretical elaborations sustaining them. What is the relationship between the literary study of theatre and its performance on stage? What is the difference between reading a play and staging it? What are the features of actors within university? What kind of experience do the companies intend to offer to their audience? Which atypical social contexts could or should be addressed by academic theatre? How does being a university student change the approach to staging and performance?

In order to answer those questions (and many more!) we welcome proposals from active members of European university companies willing to present their own experience in the field as a case-study. We strongly encourage the presentation of the most interesting recent initiatives by the companies in any area connected to the study, the popularization, and the enjoyment of theatre.

Possible topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Translation studies and theatre
- Classical reception studies and theatre
- Theatre outside theatre: experiences in prison, suburban areas, vulnerable social environments
- Theatre outside theatre: experiences in primary and secondary schools
- Music and theatre: original composition and innovative employment of existing material
- Original playwriting and group work; playwriting laboratories
- Innovative staging and direction practices
- Innovative performing and actorial mentoring and teaching for nonprofessional actors
- Scenography, set design and costume design
- Practices of theatre popularization
- Interactions between performance and theatre studies
- Dramatic adaptations and textual fidelity

Submitting your abstract

Proposals, in either English or Italian, must be submitted to the address fact@sns.it within 15 April 2019. Please submit:



- An **abstract** of max. 1000 words describing the best practice of your choice. Since we welcome strictly academic proposals alongside with performances and practical demonstrations, the nature of the presentation is entirely in your hands, but you do have to specify the format of your proposal (talk/paper; short performance; photo/video presentation; etc.).
- A **presentation** of your company. The presentation will be used to increase our database of university companies (already accessible at <http://fact.sns.it/en/companies/>). For reasons of harmonization and consistency with the existing database, presentations must include:
 - (1) complete name of the company;
 - (2) Alma mater/University of affiliation;
 - (3) seat of the company (city or town);
 - (4) active email address;
 - (5) social accounts (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube) (if any);
 - (6) personal website (if any);
 - (7) a brief history of the company (max. 200 words);
 - (8) 3-5 significative pictures of the company's work;
 - (9) videos or other interesting material (if any).

Acceptance and further information

Applicants will be informed of acceptance by early May 2019.

Each participant will be granted 20-30 minutes depending on the type of proposal and the number of speakers; particularly motivated requests of more time will be taken into consideration. If necessary, the conveners will arrange proposals into panels grouped by connected topics.

We aim to encourage lively and energized debates during the sessions, and in this spirit, we invite observers to attend and welcome their contributions to the discussions.

The group of FAcT is welcoming and inclusive and we will be organising lunch and drinks (*aperitivo*) for all the attendees.