

44th International Puppet Festival of Lugano (*Italian-speaking Switzerland*)

17 October – 8 November 2026

Call for Artists – Participation Conditions

Please read the following information carefully before submitting a proposal.

The Festival

Founded in 1979 by **Michel and Michèle Poletti** (Théâtre Antonin Artaud), the International Puppet Festival of Lugano has hosted most of the leading figures of the puppet theatre revival, presenting over **500 performances** to date.

Until 1998, the Festival mainly programmed performances for adult audiences, which is no longer possible in Lugano today. Apart from this change in orientation, the Festival has consistently maintained a programme renowned for its high artistic quality.

Organisation

The Festival is an independent initiative, produced and managed by **Musicateatro – Compagnie Michel Poletti**.

Financial conditions

The Festival currently operates with very limited financial resources.

Nevertheless, in 2026 it will present approximately **fifteen performances**, showcasing the best of contemporary puppet theatre.

Venue

- Theatre with **160 seats**
- Stage dimensions: **12 m x 7 m**
- Adequate technical equipment (sound and lighting)

Types of performances sought

The organisers may select the following types of performances:

- performances for children (from 3, 4 or 5 years of age)
- performances for general audiences (adults and children aged 5–6 and up)

Mandatory requirements:

- minimum duration: **50 minutes**
- language: **Italian** or **non-verbal**

✗ Not accepted:

short performances, street performances, performances for babies.

Cost participation

- The **fee** requested from the Festival must be as low as possible.
- **Accommodation**, if required, must be limited to the performers involved in the production, for a maximum of **one or two nights**, or be covered by the artist or invited company.
- Larger companies must secure **additional funding** for travel and accommodation costs.
- Any **copyright fees** payable to collecting societies (SIAE, SACEM, etc.) are not covered by the Festival and may be deducted from the fee.

Application procedure

Proposals that meet the above conditions must be sent by e-mail to:

✉ festival@palco.ch

Please include:

- a **full description** of the performance
- **photos**
- **video excerpts**

Performances selected in a first round will receive a detailed proposal form.

Due to the high number of applications received each year, it is not possible to respond to unsuccessful submissions.