



PRO LOCO
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PRO LOCO USTICA APS
Associazione di Promozione Sociale

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OPEN CALL
USTICA MEDITERRANEAN
PERFORMING ART
FESTIVAL

USTICA MEDITERRANEAN PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS 2026 EDITION

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01. WELCOME

In the heart of the Mediterranean lies an island where stone meets the sea and the landscape itself becomes part of the stage.

From this extraordinary setting comes the first edition of the Ustica Mediterranean Performing Arts Festival, a new international festival dedicated to artists who see performance as a powerful tool for dialogue, artistic research and cultural exchange.

Pro Loco Ustica APS invites artists, companies, collectives and creative practitioners from around the world to present their work in one of the Mediterranean's most remarkable cultural landscapes.

More than simply presenting performances, the Festival seeks to create a space where archaeology, nature and contemporary artistic practice meet, encouraging meaningful encounters between artists, local communities and audiences.

If your work engages with landscape, memory, the sea, cultural heritage or the many identities of the Mediterranean, this Open Call is your invitation to join us on the island of Ustica.

02. ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Ustica Mediterranean Performing Arts Festival is an international festival dedicated to contemporary performing arts, promoted and organised by Pro Loco Ustica APS.

The first edition will take place on 28, 29 and 30 August 2026 at the Stone Theatre of the Faraglioni Archaeological Village, an extraordinary open-air venue overlooking the Mediterranean and recognised as one of Sicily's historic Stone Theatres.

The Festival was created to foster dialogue between cultural heritage and contemporary artistic creation, positioning Ustica as a meeting place for artists, local communities and international audiences.

Each edition will present projects from a wide range of artistic disciplines, encouraging experimentation, interdisciplinary collaboration and cultural exchange.

03. ARTISTIC VISION

The Mediterranean is far more than a sea.

It is a shared space shaped by cultures, languages, memories, landscapes and identities that have connected people for thousands of years.

The Ustica Mediterranean Performing Arts Festival was founded on the belief that this shared heritage can become a platform for contemporary artistic creation.

The Festival welcomes projects that engage with the Mediterranean both as a physical place and as a cultural imagination, exploring themes such as identity, memory, environment, migration, the relationship between people and nature, landscape and intercultural dialogue.

Its vision aligns with the work of numerous Euro-Mediterranean cultural networks committed to artistic cooperation, mobility and dialogue across borders.

Year after year, the Festival aims to build an international community of artists who recognise Ustica as a place for artistic research, cultural exchange and creative production in the heart of the Mediterranean.

04. WHO CAN APPLY

The Open Call is open to artists, companies, collectives and creative professionals of all nationalities working in the fields of performing arts, visual arts and contemporary artistic practice.

Applications are welcome from emerging as well as established artists.

Eligible disciplines include, but are not limited to:

- Theatre
- Dance
- Performance Art
- Physical Theatre
- Contemporary Circus
- Music and Live Music Performance
- Spoken Word and Performance Poetry
- Live Painting
- Live Visual Arts
- Performance Installations
- Site-specific Performances
- Multidisciplinary Projects
- Any other contemporary artistic practice compatible with the Festival venue.

Particular consideration will be given to artists from Mediterranean countries and to projects exploring themes such as the sea, landscape, identity, memory, environment, migration, intercultural dialogue and the relationships between Mediterranean cultures.

05. WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

The Festival seeks artistic projects capable of establishing a genuine dialogue with the place that hosts them.

The Stone Theatre of the Faraglioni Archaeological Village is not simply a performance venue. It is an active element of the artistic experience.

Projects will be assessed according to:

- Artistic quality
- Originality
- Ability to engage with the archaeological and natural setting
- Relevance to Mediterranean themes
- Technical and organisational feasibility
- Capacity to engage audiences

Performances must be suitable for an outdoor venue and adaptable to a basic technical setup.

The recommended duration is between 30 and 60 minutes.

06. WHAT WE OFFER

Selected projects will become part of the official programme of the first edition of the Ustica Mediterranean Performing Arts Festival.

Artists will have the opportunity to present their work at the Stone Theatre of the Faraglioni Archaeological Village, one of the most distinctive open-air performance venues in the Mediterranean.

Selected artists will receive:

- Accommodation during the Festival.
- Round-trip hydrofoil transportation between Sicily and Ustica.
- Promotion through the official communication channels of Pro Loco Ustica APS and the Festival.
- Inclusion in the Festival's growing network of artists, cultural organisations and international partners.
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In addition, the Artistic Direction will designate three projects to receive an Artistic Support Award, consisting of a financial contribution in recognition of the artistic quality of the proposed work.

All selected projects will also be considered for the "Ritorno a Ustica" Award, which offers one artist or company the opportunity to be invited back for a future edition of the Festival as a guest artist, artist-in-residence, workshop leader or with a new artistic production.

07. HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the official Google Forms application form provided by the Festival.

Application Form:

<https://forms.gle/Myojmi4iucNDefDV6>

Applications submitted by email or through any other means will not be considered.

Each artist, company or collective may submit one project only.

Applications must be completed in full and include all required supporting materials.

Required Documents

Applicants must provide:

- Artist, company or collective biography;
- Project description;
- Motivation letter;
- Technical rider;
- Project photographs;
- Video link (YouTube, Vimeo or equivalent), where available.

The Festival reserves the right to request additional documentation where necessary for the evaluation process.

08. SELECTION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

All eligible applications will be reviewed by the Artistic Direction of the Ustica Mediterranean Performing Arts Festival.

Projects will be evaluated on the basis of the submitted materials and according to the Festival's artistic vision, programme objectives and technical feasibility.

The decisions of the Artistic Direction are final.

Only selected applicants will be contacted by email using the address provided in the application form.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Artistic quality;
- Originality and innovation;
- Relevance to the Festival's artistic vision;
- Engagement with Mediterranean themes, territories or cultural contexts;
- Ability to interact with the Stone Theatre and its archaeological landscape;
- Technical feasibility;
- Overall production sustainability.

Age, nationality, gender or professional reputation will not constitute selection criteria.

09. TIMELINE

Open Call Launch

26 June 2026

Application Deadline

27 July 2026

Notification of Selected Projects

29 July 2026

Festival Dates

28, 29 and 30 August 2026

10. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Participation in this Open Call is free of charge.

By submitting an application, applicants fully accept these Terms and Conditions and all decisions made by Pro Loco Ustica APS and the Festival's Artistic Direction.

Eligibility

- Each artist, company or collective may submit only one application.
- Applicants confirm that they are the authors of the submitted work or that they hold all necessary rights for its public presentation.
- Applicants accept full responsibility for any copyright or intellectual property claims related to the submitted material.

Participation

- Selected artists agree to participate in the Festival on the agreed dates and to comply with the official programme established by the Festival.
- Projects must be technically compatible with the Festival venue and with the technical resources made available by the organisation.
- Any additional technical requirements must be communicated in advance and are subject to approval by the Artistic Direction.
- The Festival reserves the right to request reasonable adaptations to projects where necessary for artistic, technical, logistical, safety or archaeological conservation reasons.

recordings and other materials submitted with the application or produced during the Festival for communication, promotional, documentary and archival purposes.

Whenever possible, appropriate credit will always be given to the artist.

Personal Data

Personal data will be processed exclusively for purposes related to the management of this Open Call and the Festival, in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.

Festival Rights

The Festival reserves the right to:

- determine the number of selected projects;
- award the Artistic Support Awards;
- award the “Ritorno a Ustica” Award;
- invite additional artists outside this Open Call when considered appropriate for the Festival programme;
- modify the Festival schedule or programme in the event of organisational needs, adverse weather conditions or force majeure.

For any matter not expressly covered by these Terms and Conditions, the final decision rests with Pro Loco Ustica APS and the Festival's Artistic Direction.

11. CONTACT

Pro Loco Ustica APS

Ustica Mediterranean Performing Arts Festival

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For any questions regarding this Open Call, please contact the Festival team by email using the subject line:
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