

Duse's Tears The Intangible Heritage of the Actor

In 1954, during a tour in South America, Memo Benassi – a devoted pupil of Eleonora Duse, who had shared the stage with her as Oswald in Ibsen's *Spectres* – noticed the young Glauco Mauri, a recent graduate of the National Academy of Dramatic Art, spying on him from the wings. A few days later, Benassi asked Mauri to join him into the dressing room.

The 63-year-old actor, who had just finished to play Oswald, said to the young actor:
- Please keep this jacket I used to play Oswald. Now I can't wear it anymore, it's too tight on me.

The astonished young actor was touched and thanked Benassi, but once he had reached the doorway, Benassi stopped him, got up and said:

- Treasure this jacket. Do you see its shoulder? Duse shed her tears on it.

This ancient gesture testifies a tradition. It means that the invisible craftsmanship of the elder actor found an heir. Later, the jacket was donated to Roberto Sturno, who is its current owner.

We decided to title the project "*Duse's Tears*" as an homage to this ancient pedagogical practice. The actor's art is an intangible knowledge that must be acquired through presence and contact. Traditionally, the apprentice spied the experienced actors standing behind the wings, night after night, attempting to steal the masters' craft. He had to develop a special awareness to know what he needed to watch while the masters were offering themselves to the audience. Today such an ancient form of pedagogy does no longer exist, but we believe it is necessary to regain it.

This the reason why Mauri Sturno Company intends to re-establish the experiential pedagogy of the ancient theatrical culture through the *Duse's Tears* workshop. The project is organized in collaboration with CREA - Nuovo Teatro Ateneo and Per un teatro necessario - Residenze didattiche universitarie della Sapienza Università di Roma.

Project phases

1. Seven-week training activities lead by Mauri Sturno Company, which are going to be performed within the framework of Per un teatro necessario - Residenze didattiche universitarie;
2. Two dramaturgy workshops, which will address the character and its functions, and the role of the situation between text and acting.

Participation Requirements

This call is aimed at selecting a maximum of 15 participants and is addressed to:

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- young actresses and actors preferably younger than 35 years.

Filing requirements

Applications must include:

- Application for participation (attached)
- Motivational letter
- Signed curriculum vitae
- Video (max 3 min.) of a monologue or scene.

Applications that do not meet all the requirements will not be considered.

Materials must be sent by email to bando@lacrimedelladuse.it and reach the address no later than **12 p.m. on May 24, 2023.**

Selections

Participants will be selected at the sole discretion of a special committee chaired by Mauri Sturno Company.

After a first selection based on the video, the motivational letter and the cv submitted, the selected candidates will be summoned by e-mail for an interview followed by a work demonstration on June 5-6, 2023.

Attendance of the activities is compulsory and free of charge.

Participants will be issued a certificate of attendance.

Activity calendar

- Two weeks June 19-23 and June 26-28, 2023
- One week July 17-21, 2023
- Two weeks September 18-22 and September 25-29, 2023
- Two weeks October 16-20 and October 23-27, 2023

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Application form
Educational workshop
Duse's Tears

To be sent, complete with all required data and attachments and duly signed, to the e-mail address: bando@lacrimedelladuse.it

no later than **12 p.m. on May 24, 2023.**

ALL FIELDS ARE COMPULSORY

I, the undersigned

Name

Surname

fiscal code

Place of birth

Prov.

Date of birth

Nationality

Resident in

Prov.

Street

Postal code

Telephone

e-mail

requests to be admitted to the

workshop: *Duse's Tears*

Artistic direction Compagnia Mauri Sturno, in collaboration with CREA – Nuovo Teatro Ateneo and Per un teatro necessario - Residenze didattiche universitarie, Sapienza Università di Roma.

and annexed hereto:

- Signed CV
- Motivational letter
- Video (max. 3 min) with a monologue or scene of your choice.

Place and date

Signature

I AUTHORISE THE PROCESSING OF MY PERSONAL DATA PURSUANT TO D. LGS 196/2003

The personal data provided by candidates in the application form will be collected by Compagnia Mauri Sturno and processed for the purposes of the same activity.

Signature

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