

International Circus Festival of Italy, 26th edition

Latina, October 16 – 20, 2025

www.festivalcircoitalia.com #festivalcircoitalia



a production of the
**GIULIO MONTICO
CULTURAL ASSOCIATION**

with the contribution of
**MINISTRY OF CULTURE
REGIONE LAZIO**

under the patronage of the
**REGIONAL COUNCIL OF LAZIO
PROVINCE OF LATINA
THE CITY OF LATINA**

**DIAMOND PARTNER
WATERLAND**



Platinum Partner
LOS VALENTINOS



Platinum Partner
**ABRACADABRA
REDER CIRCUS**



Platinum Partner
**MARCELLO
MARCHETTI**



Gold Partners

**HERMANOS GASCA
PASTELITO DE CHILE
DRESNER WEIHNACHTS
MOULIN ROUGE**

**PRODUCTORES DE SONRISAS
CIRCUS VARGAS**

**RAVENSBURGER WEIHNACHTSCIRCUS
STARLIGHT PRODUCTION & SHOWBUSINESS
CIRQUE TICKETS**

Silver Partners

**CIRCO RALUY LEGACY
EUROPA PARK
SANDOR DONNERT AGENCY**

with the cooperation of
**FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE DU CIRQUE
FEDERACION LATINOAMERICANA DE CIRCO
EUROPEAN CIRCUS ASSOCIATION
COLDIRETTI LATINA**

and of
**FORUM OF CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE
PASTORAL CARE OF CIRCUS AND CARNIVAL WORKERS**

manufacturing partners

**SCOLA TELONI
ANCESCHI CARLO SRL
ANCESCHI ALBERTO E PAOLO SRL**

eco partner

ECOPLUS

entertainment partner

24MILA BACI disco dinner

Production note n. 14 – Thursday, September 18th, 2025

Countdown: - 28 days to the Festival

As well as 3 special guests and 24 competing acts, there will be 21 Circus VIPs composing the *International Technical Jury* of the Festival: these are the numbers of a simply spectacular edition!

Considering the number of members of our *International Technical Jury*, and their respective importance on the international scene, this year's judges form one of the most illustrious groups of adjudicators to ever take part in an International Circus Festival.

Opening night: Thursday, October 16th, at 9pm in via Rossetti, Latina.

Tickets already available for sale through our official website: www.festivalcircoitalia.com where you will find a link to our official sales portal at www.webtic.it

SHOW CALENDAR: Thursday, October 16th, 9pm (show A); Friday, October 17th, 9pm (show B); Saturday, October 18th, 4.30pm (show B) and 9pm (show A); Sunday, October 19th, 3.30pm (show A) and 7pm (show B); Monday, October 20th, 8.30pm – Gala Show and Awards Ceremony. Shows A and B, whilst containing different acts, are of the same high professional and artistic level, and simply reflect a necessary division of numerous competing numbers into two separate shows.

This year's Festival doesn't only feature Circus stars performing in the ring, but also amongst the members of the distinguished International Technical Jury that will decide who wins the Gold, Silver, and Bronze 'Latina' awards. There are 21 Circus VIPs in this panel of judges, which is composed of owners or heads of some of the most important circuses and circus schools in the world, as well as distinguished and renowned personalities from the entrepreneurial sector, the arts, or political entities related to the Circus world. This International Technical Jury will be watching all the competing numbers and voting on the following parameters: originality of the number, choreography, technical skill, level of difficulty.

**Below are the names of the members of the *International Technical Jury*
for the 26th edition of the International Circus Festival of Italy
(in alphabetical order by surname)**

1	VITTORIO ARATA	Circus Vargas: General Manager Emeritus, Italia
2	ODETTE BOUGLIONE	Cirque d'Hiver Bouglione: President, France
3	VOLODYMYR BUHAIEENKO	Waterland, Ukraine
4	LI CHI	Chinese National Acrobatic Company, China
5	SANDOR DONNERT	Donnert Entertainment: Director, Hungary
6	PETER DUBINSKY	Firebird Productions Inc.: President, United States of America
7	ALAIN FRÈRE	Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo: co-Founder with HSH Prince Rainier and Artistic Consultant to the Organising Committee, Principality of Monaco
8	MOISES GASAU	Associazione Artisti Circensi di Santa Cruz, Bolivia
9	RAUL GASCA	Circo Hermanos Gasca, Mexico
10	SERGII KABAKOV	Ukraine State Circus Company: General and Artistic Director, Ukraine
11	SASHA KÖELLNER	Dresdner Weihnachts-Circus: Director, Germany
12	ELMAR KRETZ	Ravensburger Weihnachtscircus: Director, Germany
13	MANUELA LÖFFELHARDT	Phantasialand: Directore, Germany
14	AGUSTÍN MALUENDA QUEZADA	Circo di Pastelito e Tachuela Chico: Director and Clown, Chile
15	LIANA ORFEI	Orfei Family, Icona of Italian Circus, Italy
16	URS PILZ	Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo: Vice-Presidente and Artistic Director, European Circus Association: President, Fédération Mondiale du Cirque: President, Switzerland
17	LOUISA RALUY	Circo Raluy Legacy: Director, Spain
18	FREDERICO REDER	Reder Circus: Founder and Director, Brazil
19	ALDO VAZQUEZ	Circus Vazquez USA: Director, United States of America
20	MAKSAT ZHAIKOV	Kazakh State Circus: Director, Kazakhstan
21	ZHENG YONG ZHANG	Sheyang County Acrobatic Troupe: Director, China

1. Vittorio Arata – Italia

Circus Vargas, General Manager Emeritus

The sixth artistic generation of his historic Italian Circus family, Vittorio Arata debuted with his brother Billy: the memory of *Les Arata* is still alive, with their innovative *head-to-head* performance that literally went around the world. When Billy then began working for the *Arata Entertainment* agency, Vittorio began performing as a versatile and talented solo acrobat. After completing his artistic career, Vittorio began to dedicate himself to the management of the renowned *Circus Vargas*, currently owned by his daughter Katya Arata Quiroga and his son-in-law Nelson Quiroga. Vittorio Arata currently serves as General Manager Emeritus of Circus Vargas.

2. Odette Bouglione – France

Cirque d'Hiver Bouglione, President

Born in Paris, Odette Bouglione is a member of an eminent Circus family, and spent her childhood in the celebrated *Cirque d'Hiver*. From the age of 16 she worked internationally as a performer in a variety of disciplines and travelled the world over a period of twenty years with the *Circo Florilegio of Darix Togni*. Since 2006 Odette has been back in Paris where, with her brothers and sisters, she is involved in the artistic direction of the *Cirque d'Hiver Bouglione* and of other family productions. Odette Bouglione has been President of this historical French Circus company since 2021.

3. Volodymyr Buhaienko – Ukraine

Waterland

A Circus fan from infancy, Volodymyr Buhaienko has been active for 27 years in promoting the development of Circus arts in Ukraine. From being a spectator, he initially achieved professional expertise by organising important Circus tours, and later became General Director of the *Circus Ukraine* Production Centre. While holding this position he has organised around 200 shows for both cruises and circuses, entertaining over 6 million spectators worldwide. Since 2022 the Production Centre has specialised in water shows: amongst these, the most popular is without a doubt the *Circus on Water* show, which happens in a water arena containing 170 tonnes of water. Volodymyr Buhaienko has also worked in a creative capacity on important productions in collaboration with Sergii Kabakov, General and Artistic Director of the Ukraine State Circus Company.

4. Li Chi – China

Chinese National Acrobatic Company, President

Circus in China is much more than just another form of entertainment: acrobats and contortionists, with their exceptional skills, represent the best of traditional and ancient Chinese cultural heritage. Tradition and innovation merge effortlessly into sumptuous and exhilarating displays through the talents of performers and producers: this is definitely the case with the *Chinese National Acrobatic Company*, whose President is Li Chi. Dedicated to performance arts, as well as to culture, Li Chi is a member of the *China National Art Fund* as an expert; he is also President of the *Beijing Association of Acrobats*.

5. Sandor Donnert – Hungary

Donnert Entertainment, Director

With an English mother and a Hungarian father, Sandor Donnert worked as a performer until 2016, in particular as a juggler on horseback. In 2015 he started a new venture, the *Donnert Agency*, and began working as an agent and talent scout for performers in various Circus disciplines for shows and events around the world. In 2018 Sandor and his family launched their most recent Circus adventure in the Netherlands, *The Magical World of Circus*. Since then he has also produced the *Christmas Circus of The Hague*, also in the Netherlands, and the *Christmas Circus of Aquisgrana* in Germany,

6. Peter Dubinsky – United States of America

Firebird Productions Inc., President

Following a Degree in scenic arts and a Directorship of the Moscow Circus, which inspired in him a strong interest in Circus arts, Peter Dubinsky founded *Firebird Productions Inc.*, of which he is still President. In this capacity he produces high-profile live shows for North-American Theme Parks as well as more traditional Circus shows. Experience and know-how in his chosen field have earned Peter Dubinsky worldwide recognition as well as many important and prestigious international awards.

7. Alain Frère – Principality of Monaco

International Circus Festival of Monte-Carlo, Co-Founder with HSH Prince Rainier and Artistic Consultant for the Organising Committee

Alain Frère, decorated by both the French Republic and the Principality of Monaco for his cultural undertakings, is a Medical Doctor. He is also currently the Vice-Mayor of the city of Tourrette-Levens in France; previously he was the Mayor of the same city from 1983, and held the role for 37 years. A huge Circus fan, in 1974 he contributed, alongside His Serene Highness Prince Rainier III, towards the founding of the *International Circus Festival of Monte-Carlo*, of which he is still Artistic Advisor within the organizing committee and for Her Serene Highness *Princess Stéphanie of Monaco*. Dr. Alain Frère is also the owner of a renowned museum in *Tourrette-Levens* which contains a valuable private collection of stage costumes worn by some of the most celebrated performers in the history of the Circus.

8. Moises Gasai – Bolivia

Associazione Artisti Circensi di Santa Cruz

Moises Gasai represents the fourth artistic generation of his Circus family: the Gasai family promoted and supported Bolivian Circus so well that the National Government and the Minister of Culture awarded them important official awards; the most recent of these was in 2022, for founding the first Circus Festival of Bolivia. Moises first performed at the age of three: since then his life has been entirely dedicated to the Circus. He has worked as an acrobat, a clown, and as a trainer.

9. Raul Gasca – Mexico

Circo Hermanos Gasca

Raul Gasca is a member of one of the most prominent Circus families in America: the Fuentes Gasca family run one of the biggest chains of circus companies in the world. A versatile and multi-talented performer, Raul started working in the ring at a very young age, as is the custom among Circus families, learning several disciplines along the way. His hashtag #EPOINONDITECHENONVIAVEVOAVISATO has become very popular amongst his followers.

10. Sergii Kabakov – Ukraine

Ukraine State Circus Company, General and Artistic Director

Sergii Kabakov has been active in the international Circus world since 1987. He is currently General Director and Artistic Director of the Ukraine State Circus Company. He is President of the *Board of Directors* of state circus enterprises in Ukraine. He has been decorated in his country with honours for his prolific efforts to promote and sustain circus traditions and culture.

11. Sasha Köllner – Germany

Dresdner Weihnachts-Circus, Director

A seventh-generation artistic performer of his family, Sascha Köllner says that he carries the circus in his heart and in his blood. In love with the Circus ring from a very young age, Sascha performed across Europe for many years as an acrobat and horse trainer, an expert in *dressage*. He currently directs the *Christmas Circus of Dresden*, in Saxony, with his brothers. His talent and creative spirit, aimed at preserving the traditions of European Circus, shines through in every show he produces.

12. Elmar Kretz – Germany

Ravensburger Weihnachtscircus, Director

Elmar Kretz, who has always loved horses, grew up in Bavaria, where he originally worked in the hotel and restaurant industry, following in family tradition. But, after seeing a big German Circus in his home town, his life changed completely. Since his artistic début in 2001, Elmar Kretz has worked in many important circuses, and today he is Director of *Ravensburger Christmas Circus*, which he founded when he was only twenty-nine years old. It is one of Germany's most popular Christmas shows, already seen by 850,000 people. During the last edition of the *International Circus Festival of Italy*, Elmar Kretz appeared with his *liberty horses* number, in which he interacted gently with Arab, Andalusian, and Lipizzaner horses in a performance that was both technically seamless and artistically pleasing to audiences of all ages.

13. Manuela Löffelhardt – Germany

Phantasialand, Director

Born in Feldbach, Austria, Manuela Löffelhardt studied classical ballet from the age of five, concluding her professional training at the *Opera Theatre of Graz*. Her first professional dancing job was at *Phantasialand*, where she performed as a soloist for six years. Later on, she worked for German and Austrian television for four years, as assistant choreographer to choreographer Gene Reed. In 1994 she returned to *Phantasialand*, where she took on increasingly responsible roles. Manuela now has twenty years of experience as performer, mentor, and creative director at this huge amusement park in Brühl in Germany, where she has worked with over 1,500 performers, producing 65 different shows.

14. Agustín Maluenda Quezada – Chile

Circo di Pastelito e Tachuela Chico, Director and Clown

Agustín Maluenda Quezada, artiste, director, and professional clown, has an entertainment career that has lasted for 58 years: a real star in South America. He is the only clown to have been awarded the Copihue De Oro, a prestigious annual entertainment award in Chile. Still active in the Circus of his son, Pastelito de Chile, and of his grandson, Pastelito Jr, Agustín Maluenda Quezada is the clown Tachuela Chico for everyone: he performed as this character with his brother Joachín in 2004, when they entertained Pope John Paul II. His popularity also stems from the many TV shows he has appeared in. Agustín Maluenda Quezada has, for several years, been a member of International Technical Juries in the most important circus events around the world.

15. Liana Orfei – Italy

Orfei family, Icon of Italian Circus

Liana Orfei, icon of the Italian Circus world, has worked in numerous fields of the arts in a long and illustrious career: in the cinema, she was discovered by Federico Fellini, and worked in over 50 film projects; in the theatre, she worked with Eduardo De Filippo, with Domenico Modugno, and with Carlo Dapporto; in television, she worked in numerous RAI-TV shows; in music, songwriters of the calibre of Gino Paoli wrote music for her; but above all, in the Italian circus she represents the cherished traditions of the renowned Orfei family. Together with her brothers, Nando and Rinaldo, Liana created spectacular and beautifully presented shows with the help of illustrious directors and choreographers such as the famous Gino Landi.

16. Urs Pilz – Switzerland

International Circus Festival of Monte-Carlo, Vice-President and Artistic Director

European Circus Association, President

Fédération Mondiale du Cirque, President

Urs Pilz was born in Switzerland in 1941. On completing his schooling, he began his career in the world of fashion, later becoming Vice-President of the *Bogner* label. Interested in the world of the Circus for many years, Urs Pilz worked with the *Circus Knie* and in international relations at the *Circus Krone* in Munich. In 1981 he began his important association with the International Circus Festival of Monte-Carlo, first as a member and then as coordinator of the Jury, eventually becoming Artistic Director and Vice-President, a role which sees him as one of *Her Serene Highness Princess Stéphanie of Monaco's* closest associates. He is also President of the two main Circus associations: *Fédération Mondiale du Cirque* and the *European Circus Association*.

17. Louisa Raluy – Spain

Circo Raluy Legacy, Director

Louisa Raluy Rastall, born in Italy, has half English and half Spanish origins. She represents the fourth generation of a celebrated circus family. Winning a special award for 100 years of activity and heritage, The Legacy, directed by sisters Louisa and Kerry Raluy Rastal, is considered to be one of the most significant circuses in the world. Her efforts to maintain the essence of the golden days of Circus, which is represented alongside the latest performance trends, make Circo Raluy an original Circus and a real point of reference on the international scene. Raluy Legacy doesn't end with shows, though: the charm of over 40 traditional caravans has made it one of the most important circus museums in the world; a voyage of history and innovation. She has worked all over the world with her circus, has directed a Festival in Spain, and has been a member of numerous International Technical Juries. Louisa speaks eight languages and has studied in the fields of psychology and journalism.

18. Frederico Reder – Brazil

Reder Circus, Founder and Director

Frederico Reder is an artist, entrepreneur, and director of national and international renown. He began his career as a theatre actor at the age of 9 and later stood out as a manager, director, entrepreneur, and creator of the Doc Musical genre in 2016: an innovative format that combines theatre and audio-visual storytelling. Founder of the award-winning Reder Circus, a national point of reference that has captivated audiences with successful seasons and awards such as the Picadeiro and the Governor's Award, Reder also achieved the milestone of managing 6 theatres and 4 circuses simultaneously across the country. He has served as a judge for the LIESA at Rio Carnival and participates in the jury of major circus Festivals in the USA, Italy, Spain, Peru, Argentina, and Chile, establishing himself as a highly respected and influential figure in all areas of his career, and he is now proud to be a Member of the Jury of Vegas Variety Circus Festival

19. Aldo Vazquez – USA

Circus Vazquez USA and FLIP Circus USA, Director

Aldo Vazquez, who grew up in the Circus, has vast experience across the board of production and logistics of Circus shows. At the moment, he heads a team of over 70 people, but he was a performer for thirty years, both as an acrobat and as an animal trainer. He is currently the Director of two units: *Circo Vazquez USA* and *Circo FLIP USA*. In both units he is responsible for the technical and logistical side as well as the artistic direction.

20. Maksat Zhaikov – Kazakhstan

Kazakh State Circus, Director

The *Kazakh State Circus* is one of the most popular Circus companies in Kazakhstan, based in Almaty, the most populated city of this central Asian country, and its capital until 1997. Maksat Zhaikov, custodian of the great cultural heritage of Kazakhstan, looks forward to international Circus innovation, whilst also seeking to preserve the performance traditions of his country. With this approach, the *Kazakh State Circus*, of which he is director, hosts the annual *Almaty Circus Festival*, which has a distinctly international flavour. Maksat Zhaikov has served on numerous Technical Juries for Festivals around the world, representing his country of Kazakhstan.

21. Zhengyong Zhang – China

Sheyang County Acrobatic Troupe, Director

Acclaimed Chinese performer Zhengyong Zhang is a member of the board of the *China Acrobats Association*, Vice-Chairman of the *Jiangsu Provincial Acrobats Association*, and head of the *Sheyang County Acrobatic Troupe*. His awards include the *Golden Lion Award* at Wuqiao, the *Golden Elephant* at Figueres, and the *Gold* won at the Russian *Idol Festival* for an acrobatic performance entitled *Fan Dance Head Balance*. The magic number entitled *Feather* won him a *Golden Chrysanthemum* award in China. Amongst his most recent honours are for his *Comrades in Arms* (2023), and the Guinness World Record accomplished in 2024 with the acrobatic number *Strength and Beauty*.

The Festival poster is attached

SHOW CALENDAR Thursday, October 16 th , 9pm (show A); Friday, October 17 th , 9pm (show B); Saturday, October 18 th , 4.30pm (show B) and 9pm (show A); Sunday, October 19 th , 3.30pm (show A) and 7pm (show B); Monday, October 20 th , 8.30pm – Gala Show and Awards Ceremony SHOWS A and B Shows A and B, whilst containing different acts, are of the same high professional and artistic level, and simply reflect a necessary division of numerous competing numbers into two separate shows. ADVANCE TICKET SALES Tickets for the 26 th edition of the <i>International Circus Festival of Italy</i> may already be purchased directly from our website at www.festivalcircoitalia.com at www.webtic.it For information about tickets please write to prenotazioni@festivalcircoitalia.com Tickets will also be available to buy in person at the Big Top box office from October.	To buy tickets: www.festivalcircoitalia.com www.webtic.it Ticket information: prenotazioni@festivalcircoitalia.com Production Office: info@festivalcircoitalia.com Website: www.festivalcircoitalia.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/festivalcircoitalia/ Instagram: @festivalcircoitalia Press: pressfestivalcircoitalia@gmail.com Telefono ufficio produzione: + 39 0773 328857 Info-line +39 379 1976245	Artistic Director: Fabio Montico Ringmaster: Ruby Merzari Assistants to the Ringmaster: Fabrizio Montico Ray Navas Presenter: Andrea Giachi
--	---	---

CAST	INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL JURY
SPECIAL GUESTS 1. RENATO Y VALENTINO Messico – Clown 2. STIV e RONI BELLO con OTTAVIANO SIMILI Italia – Clown 3. ALESSIO FOCESATO Italia – Pappagalli ARTISTI IN COMPETIZIONE 4. VARDANYAN BROTHERS Armenia – Mano a mano 5. KATERINA KORNEVA Ucraina – Palo aereo 6. SHEYANG COUNTY ACROBATIC TROUPE Cina – Arobatica 7. CHRISTOPHER EÖTVÖS Ungheria – Magia 8. HALEY ROSE VILORIA USA – Cinghie aeree 9. DANNY LUFTMAN Portogallo – Boomerang 10. ARTEM LYUBANEVYCH Ucraina – Equilibrio su sedia 11. DUO POLISHCHUCK Ucraina – Cinghie aeree 12. JUSTIN MONTEIRO VASSALLO Italia – Verticali 13. THREE G's Ucraina – Mano a mano 14. DANIIL LYSENKO Ucraina – Giocoleria 15. NICOLE BEROUSEK Repubblica Ceca – Cani 16. THE WHITE ANGELS Germania, Italia, Polonia, Repubblica Ceca, Romania, Svizzera, Ucraina, Ungheria – Fast Track 17. THE WHITE ANGELS Germania, Italia, Polonia, Repubblica Ceca, Romania, Svizzera, Ucraina, Ungheria – Bascule 18. LOS VALENTINOS Venezuela – Trampolino 19. THE FLYING VALENTINOS Venezuela – Volanti 20. GIULIA GIONA con GESSICA NOTARO Italia – Cavalli 21. ARTUR & ESMIRA Ucraina – Cinghie aeree 22. FAMILIA PALMA DIAZ Ecuador – Giochi icariani 23. SALOME PALMA Ecuador – Trapezio 24. JIANGSU ACROBATIC TROUPE Cina – Verticali 25. DANIELLA ARATA USA – Verticali 26. DONALD E VANESSA NIUMAN Italia – Coltelli 27. HARIBOW Giappone – Corde	1. VITTORIO ARATA – Italia 2. ODETTE BOUGLIONE – Francia 3. VOLODYMYR BUHAIVENKO – Ucraina 4. LI CHI – Cina 5. SANDOR DONNERT – Ungheria 6. PETER DUBINSKY – Stati Uniti d’America 7. ALAIN FRÈRE – Principato di Monaco 8. MOISES GASAUI – Bolivia 9. RAUL GASCA – Messico 10. SERGII KABAKOV – Ucraina 11. SASHA KÖELLNER – Germania 12.ELMAR KRETZ – Germania 13. MANUELA LÖFFELHARDT – Germania 14. AGUSTÍN MALUENDA QUEZADA – Cile 15. LIANA ORFEI – Italia 16. URS PILZ – Svizzera 17. LOUISA RALUY – Spagna 18. FREDERICO REDER – Brasile 19. ALDO VAZQUEZ – Stati Uniti d’America 20. MAKSAT ZHAIKOV – Kazakistan 21. ZHENGYONG ZHANG – Cina