

International Circus Festival of Italy, 25th edition

Latina, October 17 – 21, 2024

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A production of the
GIULIO MONTICO
CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

with the contribution of the
MINISTRY OF CULTURE

under the patronage of the
REGIONAL COUNCIL OF LAZIO
PROVINCE OF LATINA



with the cooperation of
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Production note n. 5 – Monday, July 8th, 2024

The 25th edition of the International Circus Festival of Italy will be full of special guests: the history of Italian Circus will be superbly represented during the event, which promises to be unique. The first special guest to be announced is a king of comedy: celebrated ventriloquist Willer Nicolodi.

The 25th edition of the *International Circus Festival of Italy* will take place in Latina from October 17th to 21st, celebrating Italy's most enduring event dedicated to the Circus in this *Special Anniversary Edition*: the extraordinary competing acts will alternate with a host of *special guests*. The 25th Anniversary edition of the International Circus Festival of Italy will be celebrated by the presence in the ring of the very best representatives of Italy's renowned historical Circus families: They are each preparing a special and unique performance which they will bring to the Festival as testimony of the rich artistic and cultural heritage of this ancient and traditional form of live performance.

Opening the list of illustrious guests of the upcoming edition of the Festival is a King of comedy, and one of the most beloved and popular performers of the Festival: ventriloquist Willer Nicolodi. He appeared as *Special Guest* at the 12th edition of the *International Circus Festival – City of Latina* in 2010, when he won the *Medal of the President of the Republic of Italy*, and returned to perform again for the *Special Anniversary Edition* in 2013 (the 15th edition) with an excerpt from his *one man show*, with which he has entertained other famous performers, such as Jerry Lewis and Paul Newman. On that occasion he was awarded the *Giulio Montico Special Prize*, a trophy that is only awarded to the very best world-level Circus performers. Since then, the Festival's audiences have eagerly awaited the return of this star of live performance. Who could forget the hilarious gags that Willer Nicolodi presented with his puppet, *Joselito*, reducing entire audiences to uncontrollable fits of laughter?

Willer Nicolodi was born in Valladolid, Spain, in 1959 into a traditional Italian Circus family with eight generations of history as Circus and live performance artistes. Willer started his own performing career at the age of 10 as an acrobat with Circo Knie in Switzerland. He

subsequently continued to perform in a trio with his brothers Alex and Ben. Following a long and successful career that saw him performing in all the most important circuses of Europe, and winning prizes in the top World Circus Festivals, in 1998 Willer Nicolodi gave up acrobatics to pursue his career in the art that made him world-famous: ventriloquism. This is a technique in which the performer projects their voice onto another person or object, and is an art that has been practiced since ancient times, even by the oracles. Willer Nicolodi, in his performance, combines skilful ventriloquism with side-splitting comedy, when he involves unsuspecting members of the audience in his gags. Willer Nicolodi performs all over the world, in different languages. One of his most prestigious awards is the Clown de Bronze that he won at the *Festival International du Cirque de Monte-Carlo* in 2004, personally awarded to him by HSH Princess Stéphanie of Monaco.

<p>SHOW CALENDAR Thursday, October 17th, 9pm (show A); Friday, October 18th, 9pm (show B); Saturday, October 19th, 4.30pm (show B) and 9pm (show A); Sunday, October 20th, 3.30pm (show A) and 7pm (show B); Monday, October 21st, 8.30pm – Gala Show and Awards Ceremony</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ADVANCE TICKET SALES Tickets can already be purchased for all performances of the Festival. They can be bought by writing to: prenotazione@festivalcircolatina.com.</p> <p>This will allow you to choose your seats now, without having to queue at the box office. Details are available on the Facebook page of the <i>International Circus Festival of Italy</i>: www.facebook.com/festivalcircoitalia/</p>	<p>Ticket Office: prenotazione@festivalcircolatina.com</p> <p>Production Office: info@festivalcircoitalia.com</p> <p>Website: www.festivalcircoitalia.com</p> <p>Facebook: International Circus Festival of Italy</p> <p>Instagram: @festivalcircoitalia</p> <p>Press: press@festivalcircolatina.com</p> <p>Production Office Telephone: + 39 0773 328857</p>
<p>CURRENT CAST AND NUMBERS AS OF TODAY. MORE NUMBERS WILL BE ADDED AT A LATER STAGE.</p> <p>SPECIAL GUEST 1. WILLER NICOLODI Italy – Ventriloquist</p> <p>COMPETING PERFORMERS 1. STRAKHOV FAMILY Ukraine – Hand to hand 2. LAN SHI XIONG People’s Republic of China – Slack wire 3. TROUPE AZIZOV Kazakhstan – Russian bar 4. TROUPE ORTIZ Colombia, Peru, Czech Republic – High wire 5. STANISLAV VYSOTSKYI Ukraine – Juggling 6. SHEILA NICOLODI Italy – Pole 7. DUO TURKEEV Ukraine – Aerial straps 8. DUO REFLECTION Uzbekistan – Rings</p>	<p>Artistic Director: Fabio Montico</p> <p>Ringmaster: Tommy Cardarelli</p> <p>Assistants to the Ringmaster: Fabrizio Montico Ruby Merzari Rony Vassallo</p>