

MITTELYOUNG

*Open call for Theatre, Dance, Music
And Circus projects of UNDER-30 artists, companies and collectives
from Central Europe and the Balkans*

**9 projects for Mittelyoung (15- 18 May 2025)
the 3 best projects for Mittelfest (18 July-27 July 2025)**

At its fifth edition, Mittelyoung is an event by and for young people under 30, a window for a generation immersed in a century, the 21st, yet to be invented and written. The festival is based on an open call for projects from Italy, Central-Europe and the Balkans, **examined by a group of under-30 curators (*curatores*)** appointed by Mittelfest in cooperation with some institutions and training bodies in Friuli Venezia Giulia region and SNG Nova Gorica (Slovenia).

Among the applications submitted, under the coordination of Mittelfest artistic direction, the group of *curatores* will select **9 projects (2 theatre, 2 music, 2 dance, 2 circus and one project that may belong to one of the above categories) to be showcased and from 15 to 18 May 2025** in Cividale del Friuli.

Afterwards, among those 9 projects scheduled, the same group of *curatores* together with the artistic direction will further select up to **3 shows to be re-scheduled during Mittelfest Tabù from 18 to 27 July 2025.**

Art. 1 Eligibility criteria

The call is open to:

- ensembles/companies of artists under the age of 30
- individual artists under the age of 30

The artistic staff of the Ensembles/companies may count up to a maximum of 6 members

Ensembles/companies must be based in one of the following countries:

Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Ukraine.

All members of the artistic staff must be aged between 18 and 30 at the time of submitting the application. Any technical staff is not subject to age limits.

Individual artists under-30 must be nationals of or permanent residents in one of the above-mentioned countries.

The works submitted must be unreleased in Friuli Venezia Giulia. Works unreleased in Italy will be taken in special consideration.

The projects submitted must be relatively quick to set up and dismantle in order to allow the programming of several shows in one day as is customary in a festival.

The timing, schedules and spaces of the performance will be defined by Mittelfest.

Ensembles/companies will be asked to adapt to the designated performance venues.

The projects submitted must be in line with the theme *Tabù* of Mittelfest 2025 edition.

"Rapunzel, let down your hair, so that I may climb thy golden stair." And with these words, the fairy tale tells us, every day the sorceress would enter the tower where she had locked the sweet Rapunzel: no other entrance, no stairs, no doors, but a small isolated window in the woods. There, the young woman spent her life: that window was the boundary never to be crossed. Beyond the sorceress, nothing could leave and nothing should penetrate. Until the day a boy passed by and was enraptured by Rapunzel's unexpected song. Upon seeing the tower and spying the sorceress, with her rhyme to enter, he managed by deception to break the ban: holding onto the girl's long golden hair, the young man climbed the tower and slipped through the window. When Rapunzel saw him, she did not feel terror, nor anger, but a new, unknown feeling: and so in secret the boy would return, whenever he could, more and more often, until the sorceress discovered them. Rapunzel had violated the spell of the tower in the woods: she was banished to the desert, while the boy lost the sight with which he had contemplated love. But love has a powerful sight, which goes beyond any prohibition, written or unwritten: so it was that, after a long wandering, it led the young man into the desert and brought him first Rapunzel and then his sight. Once one spell was broken, another was casted.

Silent are the taboos, which, like Rapunzel in her fairy tower, let you look at the world within the frame of a definite window: thus they draw the invisible boundary between the eyes and what is disturbing, what is forbidden or dangerous, while they also give substance to the sacred and safe place where you can peacefully pause.

Yet taboos move, once again silently: they thus move, by the magic of an encounter and without uttering new or further words, the boundary of what must remain secret and what can become manifest. And so in geography and in history, taboos define the unspoken rules with which humanity endows itself. And what are the taboos in which we live in our latitudes and in this time of the long human history? What enigmas, pains, allegiances, prohibitions and desires, limits, dreams or fears mark our boundaries?

Taboos and their mystery, clear and unknown to those who live them, incomprehensible and obvious to those who are not subject to them, are the unwritten laws on which the fascinating and fearsome magic of our varied world, more elusive than transparent, rests. Perhaps, without taboos, there is no humanity. To those who want the pleasure of discovering it.

Giacomo Pedini

Art. 2 Dates and locations

Stage 1: Mittelyoung from 15 to 18 May 2025 in Cividale del Friuli (UD), Italy

Stage 2: Mittelfest *Tabù* from 18 to 27 July 2025 in Cividale del Friuli (UD), Italy

Art. 3 Conditions

Associazione Mittelfest will grant to each selected project (stage 1) an economic support (co-

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production contribution or cachet) up to **EUR 4,000.00**, which will be calculated on the basis of the number of people involved and the type of performance, including all social security and tax charges by law, as well as return travel and accommodation expenses.

The estimated costs proposed by the artist or the company will be subject to evaluation by Associazione Mittelfest (and possible negotiations).

Art. 4 Application process

The application form can be downloaded from the website www.mittelfest.org and must be accompanied, under penalty of exclusion, by:

1. Short biography of the artist or company in English and if available in Italian (maximum 1500 characters). **No personal information (e.g., addresses, emails, phone numbers) should be included in the submission**
2. Artistic presentation of the project in English and if available in Italian (maximum 2000 characters). **No personal information (e.g., addresses, emails, phone numbers) should be included in the submission**
3. List of future repeats scheduled until the end of August 2025
4. For non-unreleased projects, list of repeats performed up to the date of the application submission

Mandatory attachments must be attached to the application:

1. Personal data (date of birth, tax residence, nationality, role) of all members of the *ensemble* (artistic and technical staff):
 - [Download personal data form](#)
2. Technical data sheet of the show in English and/or Italian (itinerant performances that do not require a fixed location will also be taken into consideration)
 - [download the TECHNICAL DATA SHEET and the photos of Mittelyoung LOCATIONS \(Church of Santa Maria dei Battuti and Belvedere\)](#)
3. If available, script in original language, to facilitate the creation for any surtitles, and, if possible, in English or Italian
4. Photos and/or videos (links, if available) of the show and/or anything else relevant to the selection

Art. 5 Project selection: stage 1 and stage 2

Selection - Stage 1

The submitted projects will be examined and evaluated, with the coordination of Mittelfest artistic director, by a group of under-30 curators: an *ad-hoc* commission of *curatores*.

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The *curatores* Commission will select a maximum of 9 projects (**2 theatre, 2 music, 2 dance, 2 circus and one project that may belong to one of the above categories**), which will officially enter the programme of **Mittelyoung** (from 15 to 18 May 2025).

The shortlisted individual artists or companies will be notified of the official confirmation via e-mail **by 14 March 2025**.

The 9 projects selected to participate in Mittelyoung 2025 (May 15 - 18, 2025) will be announced by the end of April 2025 on social channels (<https://www.facebook.com/Mittelfest> and <https://www.instagram.com/mittelfest/>) and on the Mittelfest website: www.mittelfest.org

Selection - Stage 2

During **Mittelyoung** event, the Commission will select 3 projects to be included in the programme of **Mittelfest Tabù**. The selected projects will be scheduled between 18 and 27 July 2025 in Cividale del Friuli.

Each project passing this second selection will be granted at least the same financial support allocated in stage 1 and calculated as provided for in Art.3.

The Commission of *curatores* may request additions to the documentation already submitted in order to better evaluate the projects.

The evaluation criteria of the Selection Commission are unquestionable.

The shows selected for Mittelyoung will also be judged by a panel of experts who will award some special mentions

Art. 6 Deadlines

Applications must be submitted **by 12 February 2025 at 3pm** to the following e-mail address: mittelyoung@mittelfest.org

For further information see the FAQs on www.mittelfest.org or write to mittelyoung@mittelfest.org

For the establishment of the Curatores Committee we thank:

ACCADEMIA ELEONORA DUSE - Centro Sperimentale di Cinema e Arti Performative, Associazione culturale Arearea, Conservatorio Statale di Musica Giuseppe Tartini di Trieste, Conservatorio Statale di Musica Jacopo Tomadini di Udine, Fondazione Luigi Bon, Università degli Studi di Trieste, Università degli Studi di Udine, SNG Nova Gorica (Slovenia), e anche Associazione culturale Circo all'incirca, Convitto Nazionale Paolo Diacono, Istituto Tecnico Arturo Malignani, Scuola di Danza Erica Bront e Teatro Club Udine – Palio Teatrale Studentesco.