

# Maria Callas at 100: Opera, Celebrity, Myth *International Conference* *Turin, Italy*

17-20 DICEMBRE 2023

TEATRO REGIO DI TORINO

## Curators

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## Organization

UniVerso and CRAD (Centro Ricerche Attore e Divismo) - Università di Torino

*"Da tutte le parti d'Europa, però, chi era riuscito a mettere insieme la somma e non si lasciava spaventare da un caldo capace d'abbattere le peggiori bestiacce, aveva giurato da mesi di non perdersela, quest'occasione di assistere a uno dei grossi sortilegi del mondo moderno: in un remoto angolo della Grecia di sassi, una notte di luna appare una maga, che è uno dei grandi personaggi del secolo, e in una cerimonia di stregoneria rotocalchesca Commuove i Popoli..."*

With these words, Italian writer Alberto Arbasino poignantly evokes the compelling call that drove an international crowd to a torrid Epidaurus in July 1960 for Maria Callas' performance in *Norma*. But, just as poignantly, Arbasino's words also suggest the complexity of the Callas phenomenon as both performer and character, dominating the great stage of the twentieth century and beyond.

# Call for papers

To mark the centenary of Maria Callas' birth, the University of Turin promotes an international conference as the culmination of its **"UniVerso/Maria Callas Icon"** program. The conference is promoted together with UniVerso and CRAD, and in collaboration with Fondazione Teatro Regio di Torino.

- The conference ***Maria Callas at 100: Opera, Celebrity, Myth*** aims to address, from an interdisciplinary perspective, the study of an artistic personality who left a profound mark on the history of opera, but also more generally on the collective imaginary, becoming a true icon of the twentieth century. Her singing, which poet and critic Eugenio Montale defined as expressionistic, not only marked a turning point in the interpretation and reception of opera in contemporary culture, but also had a radical impact on all the other arts, from literature to cinema, and from the visual arts to all kinds of performance.
- Adopting a broadly multidisciplinary perspective, the conference will focus on a professional career that spanned several decades of the last century, leaving an indelible mark on opera; at the same time, it will also explore the singer's influence on broader social and cultural discourses, both in Italy and abroad, within which she performed – and continues to perform – a crucial role.
- In addition to reconsidering the fundamental part that Callas played in the historical and artistic context in which she lived, the conference also aims to emphasise her legacy and the ongoing relevance of her myth.
- From fashion to cinema, from pop music to TV series, from graphic novels to numerous biographies, Callas' memory lives on in the present through countless tributes, reframes and remediations, as witnessed, for instance, by Marina Abramović's operaproject *7 Deaths of Maria Callas*, which will open the conference as a video installation.

The conference will comprise several sessions related to different disciplinary areas. The following keywords are intended to provide an initial conceptual framework:

ACTING • ARCHIVES • BODY • BODY POLITIC • CELEBRITY • CHARACTER • CINEMA • COLLECTING • DIRECTING • DIVA • EXHIBITION • FANDOM • FASHION • GENDER • GENRE • MEDIA • MYTH • MUSIC • OPERA • PERFORMANCE • PUBLIC/PRIVATE • QUEER • REPERTOIRE/INTERPRETATION • SINGING/VOICE • SOCIETY/TWENTIETH CENTURY • THEATER • WRITING/REWRITING

The conference will be held in Italian and English. Those who would like to participate are invited to submit a proposal in the language of their choice to [callasconference@unito.it](mailto:callasconference@unito.it), including an abstract (**max 2000 characters / 250 words**) and a short bio (**max 500 characters / 100 words**).

Proposals from young scholars are particularly welcome.

Submission deadline: **30 June 2023**

Notification of abstract acceptance: **20 July 2023**

There is no registration fee for participation in the conference.