

*The International
Shakespeare Association*



Verona
July 20-26, 2026

www.wsc2026.org

Celebrating ISA's
50th Anniversary

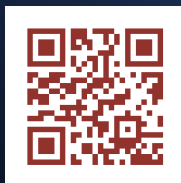


2026

WORLD
SHAKESPEARE
CONGRESS
VERONA

Planetary Shakespeares

*The International
Shakespeare Association*



**The International Shakespeare
Association Invites You to Verona for
Its 12th World Shakespeare Congress
to Celebrate Its**

50th Anniversary

Planetary Shakespeares

July, 20-26, 2026



Peter HOLLAND

ISA Chair



Paul EDMONDSON

ISA Executive Secretary and Treasurer

The International Shakespeare Association



 Skenè
Research Centre

skene.dlts.univr.it/en/



UNIVERSITÀ
di VERONA



UNIVR
IL SAPERE A COLORI
PER LA SOSTENIBILITÀ
AMBIENTALE

ORGANISERS

Skenè Local Committee

- **CHAIR:** Silvia BIGLIAZZI (University of Verona, Italy)
- **CO-CHAIR:** Emanuel STELZER (University of Verona, Italy)

- Simona BRUNETTI (University of Verona, Italy)
- Sidia FIORATO (University of Verona, Italy)
- Vlado JELCIC (University of Verona, Italy)
- Susan PAYNE (University of Florence, Italy)
- Cristiano RAGNI (University of Verona, Italy)
- Beatrice RIGHETTI (University of Verona, Italy)
- Anmol Deep SINGH (University of Verona, Italy)
- Roberta ZANONI (University of Verona, Italy)

Members of the Advisory Board:

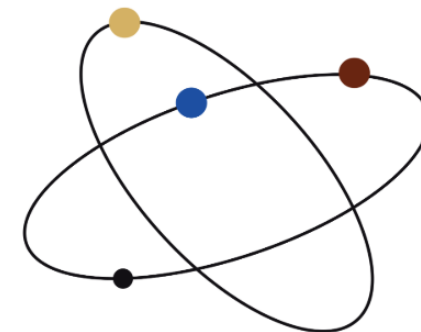
- Shaul BASSI (University of Venice Ca' Foscari, Italy)
- Fernando CIONI (University of Florence, Italy)
- Eric NICHOLSON (NYU Florence, Italy)

Programme Committee

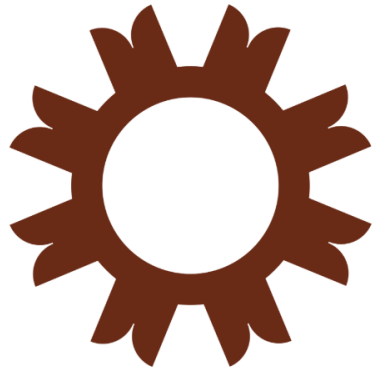
- Bi-qi Beatrice LEI (Shakespeare Association of America) – chair
- Tom BISHOP (University of Auckland, New Zealand)
- Chris THURMAN (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)
- Nathalie VIENNE-GUERRIN (Paul Valéry University Montpellier 3, France)

Congress Committee

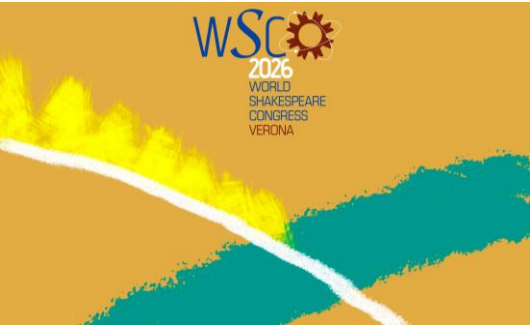
- Peter HOLLAND (University of Notre Dame, USA) – chair
- Ton HOENSELAARS (Utrecht University, Netherlands)
- Lena Cowen ORLIN (Georgetown University, USA)



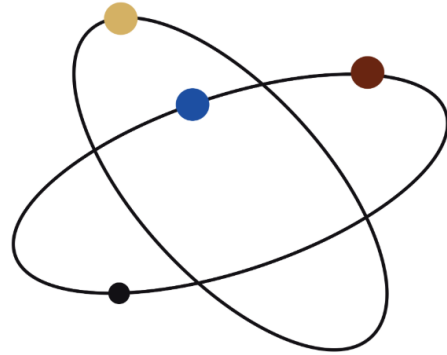
Areas of enquiry



General: the Congress welcomes proposals taking up any of the themes and approaches of interest to Shakespeareans today



Eco-Shakespeare: ‘Shakespeare’ as an ideal vehicle of exploration and dialogue to bring diverse people together to face the eco-crisis.



Reconfiguring ‘Global’ Shakespeare: putting fresh critical pressure on ‘universality’ claims in light of a plurality of ‘Shakespeare universes’.



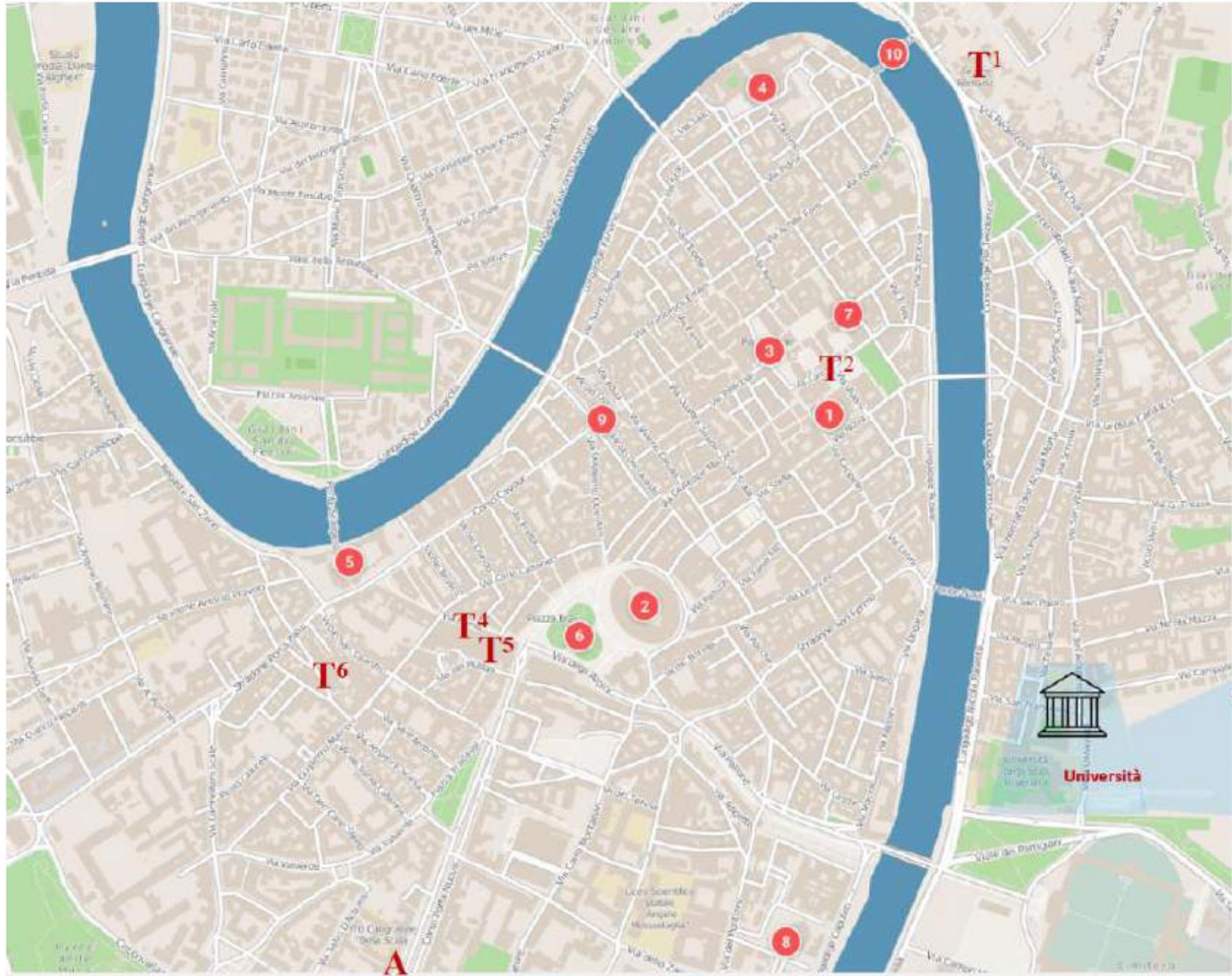
Shakespeare Galaxies: reflecting on the myriad forms of past and contemporary Shakespeare remediations – from print, to the moving body, to the hybrid and virtual spaces of cyberart and cyborg theatre, etc.

Verona



... verona
Standing in Gallia
With towres pleasaunt & hye

Arthur Kelton (1546)



1. Casa di Giulietta
2. Arena
3. Piazza Erbe
4. Cattedrale
5. Castelvecchio
6. Piazza Bra – Gran Guardia
7. Tombe degli Scaligeri
8. Tomba di Giulietta
9. Portoni Borsari
10. Ponte Pietra

A Railway station & Airport terminal

- T¹ Teatro Romano
- T² Teatro Nuovo
- T³ Teatro Camploy
- T⁴ Teatro Filarmonico
- T⁵ Sala Maffeiana
- T⁶ Teatro Ristori

T³
Santa Marta



Università

TRAVEL TO VERONA AND IN VERONA

It is located 10 kilometers away from the city centre.

It offers direct connecting flights to the main Italian and international airports.

Connections to the city centre:

Shuttle service to and from “Valerio Catullo” Airport - Verona Porta Nuova Station.

Other airports that may be used to reach Verona include: Bergamo (Orio al Serio Airport, Milan BGY), Venice (Marco Polo Airport), Bologna (Guglielmo Marconi Airport), and the two airports of Milan (Malpensa and Linate).

There are two major railway companies operating throughout Italy: **Trenitalia** (EN - Trenitalia) and **Italo** (Buy Train Tickets | Italo treno.it).

Verona Porta Nuova Station

The main station of the city is Verona Porta Nuova, an important railway hub that offers many opportunities for those wishing to reach the city of Verona by train.

From Verona Porta Nuova Station, the city centre is easily reachable on foot in 15–20 minutes, or by public transport ATV (Verona Transport Company) departing from the square in front of the station (where taxis can also be found) in the direction of Piazza Bra (Arena).

A sustainable mobility

All the venues are within walking distance and can be easily reached by bus.

As part of the initiative for the development of sustainable mobility and in order to encourage the use of alternative means to the car, ESU Verona provides bicycles on free loan for students (<https://www.esu.vr.it/en/student-services/altri-servizi/#transport-facility>). Bicycles will be assigned at the time of submitting the request, subject to availability.



VENUES

University of Verona

Although a relatively young University – it was founded in 1982 – **Verona University** has quickly established itself as an innovative and fast-growing university. It was ranked as the best non-private University in Italy in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

It comprises two main poles: **Veronetta**, where the humanistic Departments are to be found, and Borgo Roma, the site of the Medicine and Science departments.

The Congress will be hosted in the **Veronetta** area: at the **Polo Santa Marta**, site of the Departments of Economics and Law (<https://www.univr.it/it/santa-marta>); at the **Polo Zanotto**, site of the Department of Cultures and Civilization, and at the **Palazzo di Lingue**, site of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures.

Polo Santa Marta

The University Site of Santa Marta is located in a huge complex of military architecture, originally used for the production and storage of bread, grain and other troop rations. The building, dating from 1863–1865, was one of the most impressive logistics structures in the Austrian stronghold in Verona, Italy's most important military city, and one of the most significant in Europe. After annexation to the Kingdom of Italy, the building remained in use for over a century, with a variety of new functions, until the 1990s.

The work of architectural restoration involved careful qualitative research and the use of innovative technologies. One example is the state-of-the-art geothermal plant for renewable energy. The renovation work was awarded the Gold Medal for Italian Architecture at the Milan Triennale in 2015.







Polo Zanotto

The Department of Culture and Civilisation carries out theoretical and applied research in the areas of history, art history, archaeology, geography, literature and comparative literature, Italian philology, classics, linguistics, language theories and performance arts.





Palazzo di Lingue

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures offers courses in Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish as well as Brazilian Portuguese and Catalan. It was awarded national funding as Department of Excellence for Digital Humanities in 2018 (2018-2022). It actively engages with the social, cultural and economic development of the local community.



OTHER VENUES



TEATRO STABILE DI VERONA e PICCOLO TEATRO DI GIULIETTA



Teatro Nuovo: piccolo Teatro di Giulietta (access from Juliet's Courtyard)

Piccolo Teatro di Giulietta (<https://www.teatrostabileverona.it/piccolo-teatro-di-giulietta-foyer/>): The courtyard of Juliet's House leads right into the foyer of Juliet's 'little theatre', which is itself annexed to the Teatro Nuovo. The Piccolo Teatro is an elegant stage which can also be used for lectures, exhibitions, gala dinners, etc.



UNIVERSITY CANTEEN



5.1 On-Campus Dining

Light lunches will be offered to the delegates at the various venues where the panels and seminars will take place. Delegates will also be able to access the canteen on the Humanities Campus:

The ESU's restaurant and food services offer a wide variety of choice and quality of meals, including available special menus, which can meet diverse cultural and religious needs, with special attention to those who have food intolerances and/or allergies.





Roman Theatre

THE EVENTS

Julius Caesar

Contemporary Legend Theatre

Wu Hsing-kuo

Revisiting Ancient Rome—

All history is contemporary history.

Teatro Nuovo

The Teatro Nuovo was founded in 1846. Born as an opera house, it has now become the main theatre of the Veneto region in terms of the number of season ticket holders. Since the 1990s, it has been the headquarters of the Teatro Stabile di Verona, which has organised important Shakespearean shows such as productions of *Hamlet* (1991), *Othello* (2002), *Macbeth* (2003), *The Tempest* (2004), *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* (2008), *The Taming of the Shrew* (2009), and many more – the latest has been Piermario Vescovo's adaptation of *Titus Andronicus* (2021). The theatre can hold up to 885 seats and is located next to Juliet's House.



MACBETTU

di Alessandro Serra

tratto dal Macbeth di William Shakespeare

[Macbettu](#)



VSF



VERONA SHAKESPEARE FRINGE

Artistic Director:
John Blondell

Guest Artistic Director:
Lisa Wolpe



Σ Skenè
Research Centre

UNIVERSITÀ
di VERONA

Dipartimento di
CULTURA E CIVILTÀ
Dipartimento di
LINGUE
E LETTERATURE STRANIERE



2025
EDITION

SHAKE VERONA UP!
A WEEK OF BOUNDARY-CROSSING
SHAKESPEARE

16/07, 7 p.m.
THE WINTER'S TALE
A GENRE-DEFYING TALE OF MYSTERY AND MAGIC
LISA WOLPE (USA)

17/07, 7 p.m.
WE ARE HAMLET
BMS (GERMANY), PSC (HUNGARY) & ODESA
ACADEMIC UKRAINIAN MUSIC AND DRAMA
THEATER "VASILY VASILKO" (UKRAINE)

18/07, 7 p.m.
BECOMING OTHELLO
DEBRA ANN BYRD DIRECTED BY
TINA PACKER (USA)

19/07, 7 p.m.
HAMLET DOUBLE BILL
LA RIBALTA TEATRO (ITALY) & THE ENGLISH
THEATRE COMPANY (UK)

21/07, 7 p.m.
I, PEASEBLOSSOM
HONEY-TONGUED THEATRE
PRODUCTIONS (UK)

22/07, 7 p.m.
LEARLIKE
GREENSLEEVED (BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS,
NORWAY, POLAND, SCOTLAND, USA)

23/07, 7 p.m.
SHAKESPEARE'S VILLAINS
SMASH'N'GRAB (GERMANY)

24/07, 7 p.m.
THE BOOK OF WILL
SHENZHEN UNIVERSITY (CHINA)

ENGLISH AND ITALIAN SUBTITLES



TEATRO
S.S. TRINITÀ

VIA SANTISSIMA TRINITÀ, 8, 37122 VERONA VR

@VERONASHAKESPEAREFRINGE

SKENE@ATENEON.UNIVR.IT



UNIVERSITÀ
di VERONA



UNIVR
IL SABOTE A COLORI
PER LA SOSTENIBILITÀ
AMBIENTALE

IN COLLABORATION WITH:



PARTNERS:



UNDER THE AUSPICES:





CONSERVATORIO DI VERONA

EVARISTO FELICE DALL'ABACO

[CONSERVATORIO](#)

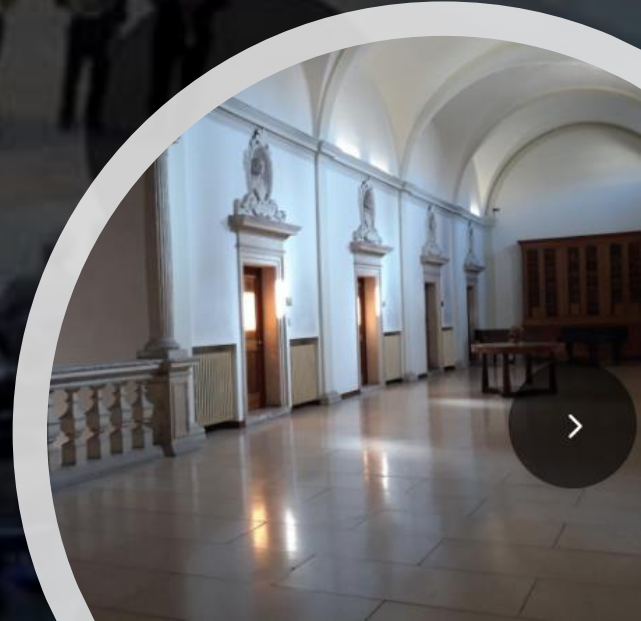


atorio Statale

risto Felice Dall'Abaco



"Creative Writing for Musical Performance"






Shakespeare and the Mediterranean

SaM

24-31 August 2023




Skenè Research Centre
Ricerche interdisciplinari sul teatro

SaM
Shakespeare and the Mediterranean Summer School
ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA

Verona University
in collaboration with
The Shakespeare Institute - University of Birmingham,
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
Cambridge University
Guildford School of Acting - University of Surrey
Faculty of Dramatic Arts - University of Belgrade
Westmont College - Santa Barbara (CA)
Fondazione Artiboli
Comune di Verona

Skenè Research Centre
Ricerche interdisciplinari sul teatro



SaM
Shakespeare and the Mediterranean

17-25 July
2025

Tricks of Desire:
*A Midsummer
Night's Dream*
and
*The Two Noble
Kinsmen*

Verona University
in collaboration with
The Shakespeare Institute - University of Birmingham,
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust,
Cambridge University, Guildford School of Acting - University of Surrey,
Westmont College - Santa Barbara (CA),
Faculty of Dramatic Arts - Belgrade University,
Teatro Stabile di Verona - Fondazione Atlantide,
Teatro Scientifico Teatro Laboratorio Conservatorio Dall'Abaco di Verona,
Ippofrillo Produzioni, Fondazione Artiboli

SaM
Shakespeare
and the Mediterranean
Summer School
The Tempest

22-28 August 2022

Skenè Research Centre
Ricerche interdisciplinari sul teatro

Verona University
in collaboration with
The Shakespeare Institute - University of Birmingham
Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
Queen Mary University of London
Guildford School of Acting - Surrey University
Westmont College - Santa Barbara (CA)
Comune di Verona

Group B

Skenè Research Centre
Ricerche interdisciplinari sul teatro

22-30 August 2024

The Twin and the Mirror:
The Comedy of Errors
and
Twelfth Night



SaM
Shakespeare and the Mediterranean

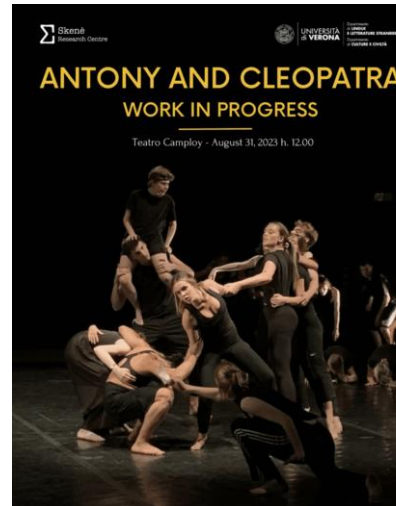
Verona University
in collaboration with
The Shakespeare Institute - University of Birmingham, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust,
Cambridge University, Guildford School of Acting - University of Surrey,
Westmont College - Santa Barbara (CA),
Faculty of Dramatic Arts - Belgrade University,
Comune di Verona

Skenè Research Centre

UNIVERSITÀ DI VERONA

ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA
WORK IN PROGRESS

Teatro Camplay - August 31, 2023 h. 12:00



8.06

UNIVERSITÀ DI VERONA

SaM
Shakespeare and the Mediterranean
International Summer School
Romeo and Juliet

Skenè Research Centre
Interdisciplinary Theatre and Drama Studies

27 JULY - 3 AUGUST 2021

VERONA UNIVERSITY
IN COLLABORATION WITH
QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ACTING, UNIVERSITY OF SURREY
TEATRO STABILE - VERONA



SOMETHING EXTRA....

Sunday Tours

It will be possible to go on trips to the following locations (the enrolment fee will not cover these add-on, optional activities):

- GUIDED TOUR OF LAKE GARDA

It is possible that Da Porto decided to set the story of Romeo and Juliet in Verona because of its being Catullus' birthplace, since he was the love poet par excellence. The beauty of Lake Garda has been praised for centuries and the Roman poet himself made the most of it by relaxing in his villa in Sirmione ("quam te libenter quamque laetus inuiso," "how willingly and happily I visit you"). While we are not sure that the Grottoes of Catullus have a direct connection with the poet, any visitor can marvel at the sights offered by the lake in quaint as well as exclusive locations such as Bardolino, Desenzano, Peschiera, etc.



- GUIDED TOUR OF THE TEATRO OLIMPICO, VICENZA

Vicenza is a UNESCO World Heritage Site: Verona's neighbouring city on the way to Padua, it is known as Andrea Palladio's city, since it is adorned by the neoclassical villas and palaces designed by the architect (1508-1580) who transformed European architecture, promoting the adherence to classical canons. The Basilica Palladiana, Piazza dei Signori, the City Museum in Palazzo Chiericati are all justly famous, but the symbol of the city is another site: the Teatro Olimpico, Andrea Palladio's final work. It was inaugurated on 3 March 1585 with a lavish production of Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*. Vincenzo Scamozzi's original *trompe-l'œil* scenes have been preserved and the theatre is still in use today.



Vicenza – Teatro Olimpico

• GUIDED TOUR OF SABBIONETA AND MANTUA: TEATRO BIBIENA AND PALAZZO TE

Sabbioneta, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, can be defined as a planned city: Italian nobleman Vespasiano Gonzaga founded it in the second

half of the sixteenth century, designing it according to the Renaissance canons of the ideal city. It rises on the banks of the Po River and can boast many fascinating sites – first and foremost, its *Teatro all'antica* (1588-90), created by architect Vincenzo Scamozzi: it is one of only three Renaissance theatres still in existence. Sabbioneta is a town in the province of Mantua, where famously Romeo is exiled. Mantua, Vergil's birthplace, was one of the most important and influential cities in early modern Europe, where the arts flourished under the House of Gonzaga. It is located less than 1 hour by train from Verona. Among its treasures (from Mantegna's *Camera degli sposi* to the Palazzo Ducale, from the Duomo to its many famous restaurants), two may be of particular appeal to theatre lovers and Shakespeareans: Teatro Bibiena, which was inaugurated in 1769 and is the epitome of Baroque extravagance and elegance, and Palazzo Te (built 1524-34), the marvellous as well as bizarre palace designed by Giulio Romano (who is famously referred to in *The Winter's Tale*).



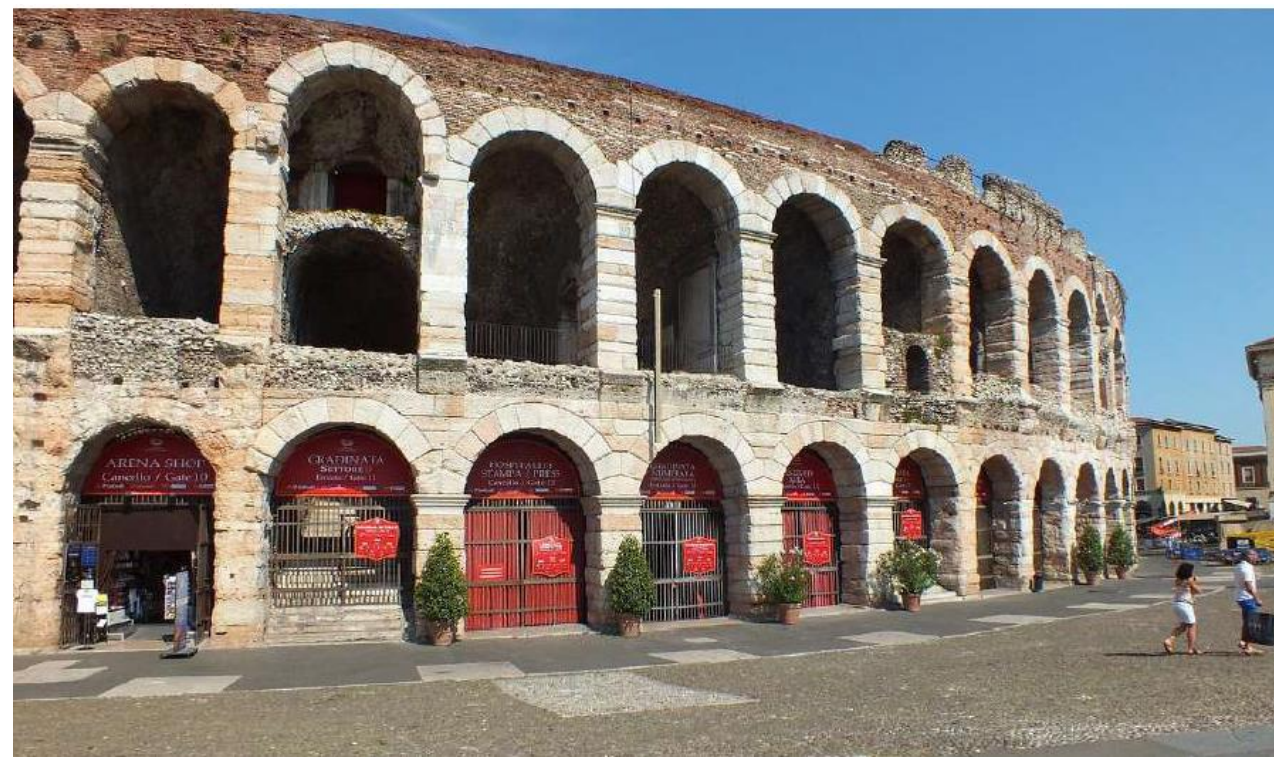
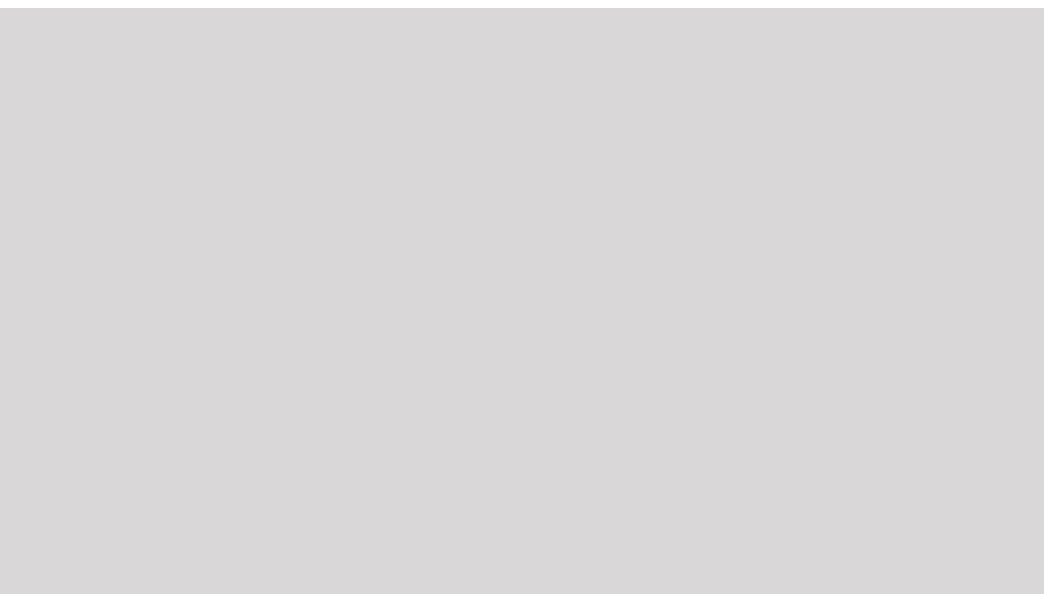
Mantova – Palazzo Te



Mantova – Teatro Bibiena



Sabbioneta –



KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



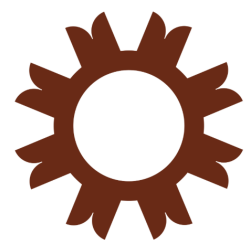
- **Shormishtha Panja** (University of Delhi): “Macbeth Visits Manipur: Merging of Politics and Indigenous Performance Traditions in Manipuri Shakespeare”
- **Jason Allen-Paisant** (University of Manchester): “Performing Othello, Performing Blackness”
- **Piero Boitani** (Sapienza University of Rome): “Stellar Shakespeare”

PLENARY ROUNDTABLES



- **‘Expending Spirit: Energy and Waste.’** Organiser: Dympna Callaghan; Chair: Sophie Chiari (speakers: Dympna Callaghan; Todd Andrew Borlik; Karen Raber; Chloe Preedy; Charlotte Scott)
- **‘From Fair Verona to the Great Globe Itself. *Romeo and Juliet* and the Reformation of Cultural Traditions.’** Organisers: Mark Bayer and Mark Thornton Burnett and Carla Della Gatta; Chair: Jyotsna Singh (speakers: Mark Bayer; Yukari Yoshihara; Carla Della Gatta; Taarini Mookherjee; Mark Thornton Burnett)
- **‘Thinking through Shakespeare: Rethinking Shakespeare’s (Re)sources.’** Organiser: Skenè Research Centre; Chair: Silvia Bigliuzzi (speakers: Silvia Bigliuzzi, Sonia Massai; Janice Valls-Russell; Tania Demetriou; Jason Lawrence; Sukanta Chaudhuri; Atsuhiko Hirota; Peter G. Platt; Hannibal Hamlin.

SEMINAR ENROLMENTS OPEN ON APRIL 1



Verona awaits you in 2026!

WSC 2026

