Academy of Opera Professions

COURSE ON STAGE DIRECTION FOR MUSICAL THEATRE

Faculty
Alberto Jona

1. Applicants

The course is open to a maximum of **6 candidates** of any nationality who have reached the age of 18 at the time of submitting the application. This is an exclusive educational opportunity designed to ensure intensive, personalized, and high-quality training.

2. Course Objectives

The course aims to develop the skills needed to approach the stage primarily as a director, but also as an assistant director, stage manager, lighting director, or production stage manager. The course operates on various parallel and complementary levels: **on one hand, it provides tools to "read" the specific musical dramaturgy of opera, learning to tell a story starting from the libretto in relation to the score**. Based on this, students will develop a dramaturgical concept, analyze the character of each individual role, and manage the aesthetic creation of the show (sets, costumes, lighting). On the other hand, the course focuses on the practical realization of the project, including rehearsal planning and collaboration with all members of the artistic team and the theatre's production structure. Finally—though no less important—students will learn how to direct singers, refining interpretation with respect to the stage dynamics of musical theatre and vocal technique.

In addition to lessons, participants will have hands-on experience within the productions of Teatro Coccia in Novara, through an intense work experience program, aimed at guiding students towards a real artistic career.

The course is designed to accommodate other academic or work commitments and offers participants the opportunity to attend all Teatro Coccia productions free of charge, to fully immerse themselves in the world of opera.

3. Course Period and Format

The course will take place at Teatro Coccia in Novara and will be held over several non-consecutive periods **from NOVEMBER 2026 to OCTOBER 2027**. Lessons will be scheduled in alignment with the Theatre's calendar, with particular focus on musical theatre productions and alongside other course schedules. In the event of interruption of the course due to force majeure, the lessons and work experience periods will be postponed; alternatively, the theoretical lessons will be delivered through distance learning via the dedicated online platform.

At the end of the course, a certificate of attendance will be issued, provided the conditions outlined in point 8 of this announcement are met. The most outstanding students may be considered for future collaborations or recommended for professional opportunities. The Academy maintains contact with its alumni, creating opportunities for debuts, concerts, and professional referrals.

Attendance is mandatory for at least 80% of the course. This level of attendance is also required for participation in any theatre productions. Any circumstances that may partially hinder participation in lessons or productions must be communicated to the Academy's administration.

4. Curriculum

The course includes **25 days of theoretical and practical lessons and 60 days of work experience**. The program is centered on studying one repertoire opera, one operetta, and one contemporary opera from the 2027 season. Productions will be assigned during the course based on programming, students' preparedness, and submitted project proposals.

Work experience periods, integrated into Teatro Coccia productions, is a crucial and mandatory component for all participants. Maximum seriousness, commitment, and flexibility are required, as theatre production schedules often involve unconventional hours.

The Artistic Direction, in agreement with the Faculty, will select students deemed suitable to be involved in scheduled productions. The nature of the engagement and any additional conditions will be discussed at the time of role assignment.

The lesson calendar is subject to change, which will be promptly communicated to students.

5. Application

Requirements:

No specific academic qualifications are required, though prior experience in theatre and excellent knowledge of the Italian language are preferred.

To apply, send the following via email (subject: "AMO – CORSO REGIA"):

1. This completed and initialed **application notice**;
2. Completed **Application Form (Annex A)** with front/back copy of ID and tax code; ***Note:*** *Foreign candidates must also include valid residency documents or proof of renewal.*;

3. A detailed artistic and academic **résumé**;

4. **Proof of payment of the €40.00 registration fee (incl. VAT) via bank transfer to:**
   Fondazione Teatro Carlo Coccia di Novara.
   IBAN: IT80 X 05034 10100 000000042424
   Note: All bank fees are the responsibility of the applicant.

E-mail address **segreteria.amo@fondazioneteatrococcia.it**

IMPORTANT: All files must be sent in PDF format only (NO PHOTOS), complete and correct. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Students who have already attended one academic year of the course and wish to enroll again must also submit the required documents listed in points 1, 2, 3 and 5. They are not required to resend video materials, but they must include a new payment receipt for the €40.00 registration fee. The participation fee for students admitted to subsequent years will remain the same as in their first year.

6. Interview and Selection
Applicants deemed suitable based on their résumé will be invited to an in-person or online interview.

7. Deadlines
a. Applications (as per point 5) must be submitted **by September 28, 2026 at 24:00 GMT+1** via email segreteria.amo@fondazioneteatrococcia.it
b. By **October 5, 2026**, selected candidates will be informed by email of the date and time of their interview;
c. After the interviews, the list of admitted candidates will be announced.

8. Costs and Participation Conditions
The **annual course fee** for admitted students is **€1,750.00 (VAT included)**. The fee must be paid in 2 installments of €875.00 each via bank transfer to:
Fondazione Teatro Carlo Coccia di Novara
IBAN: IT80 X 05034 10100 000000042424

Send proof of payment to: segreteria.amo@fondazioneteatrococcia.it

- **First installment deadline: October 23, 2026**
- **Second installment deadline: December 15, 2026**

Failure to meet payment deadlines will result in termination of course attendance.

Thanks to the Academy's agreements, students can access reduced-price meals by presenting specific coupons at food service venues located near the Theatre.

APPLICATION FORM (Annex A)

(PLEASE FILL OUT DIGITALLY)

First Name*	**Last Name***
Place of birth*	**Date of birth***
Nationality*	**Gender**
City of residence – ZIP – Province*	**Street and number***
City of domicile – ZIP – Province*	**Street and number***
Italian Tax Code (Codice fiscale)*	**ID number***
e-mail*	**Mobile phone***
VAT number (with tax regime, if applicable)	**IBAN***

*** MANDATORY FIELD.**

Attachments:

Curriculum vitae
Front/back copy of ID and tax code
Proof of €40.00 registration payment
All relevant and requested material as specified in point 5 of the call for applications

***Note for foreign applicants**:*

Attach all necessary documents (passport, Italian tax code, valid residence permit or receipt of permit application/renewal with payment, etc.). If you declare an Italian residence, you must provide proof of this or a valid Italian ID card.

By signing this application form, you accept the conditions outlined in the call for applications, which must be initialed on each page.

I authorize the processing of my personal data pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 196 of June 30, 2003 ("Personal Data Protection Code") and the GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679).
The data controller is the Fondazione Teatro Carlo Coccia di Novara.

SIGNATURE

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