

TURKISH STATE THEATRES, ISTANBUL 4TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN PLAYWRIGHTS THEATRE FESTIVAL 6 – 15 FEBRUARY 2026

As the contradictions surrounding humanity deepen and grow in today's world, more impartial and more sophisticated approaches gain importance for the recognition and solution of problems. Undoubtedly, the place of women's unique sensitivity and women's point of view is very valuable in these approaches. As women, who create value by participating in economic, social and cultural life shoulder to shoulder with men, become individualized and liberated, she uses her right to criticism and discourse in the face of contradictions, making her activity in the field of theater writing even more indispensable. That's why an increasing number of women playwrights are calling out to the art of theater with their stories from the deepest parts of life, and presenting valuable works of art. To increase awareness, to keep contradictions alive and to offer suggestions...

With the "International Women Playwrights Theatre Festival", we aim to bring together distinguished stage performances of theatrical texts written only by women from all over the world. Our festival aims to shed light on the local and the universal through the viewfinder of women playwrights who have lived in different cultures, to raise awareness of conflict areas and to create a platform where solutions can be presented from a women's perspective.

We are looking forward to applications from theaters around the world that embrace plays by women writers in their repertoire.

Kind regards,

Tamer KaradağlıGeneral & Art Director
Turkish State Theatres

CONDITIONS of PARTICIPATION

- 1. 4th edition of "International Women Playwrights Theatre Festival" will take place between 6-15 February 2026.
- 2. The festival will take place in Istanbul.
- 3. Each company should send full video record, filled application form and 10 high resolution photos of the performance through online file sharing websites such as Dropbox, Google Drive etc. <u>Applications made</u> through the websites that impose time limitations will not be accepted.
- 4. The application deadline is **November 1**st, **2025**.
- 5. The group should not exceed the maximum of 25 participants (incl. actors, actresses, technical and other staff). Groups with lesser number will be preferred.
- 6. Accommodation (bed&breakfast) will be covered by Istanbul State Theatre. For the lunch and dinner each group member will be paid an allowance of Turkish Lira equivalent of € 25 per person for each day of stay in Istanbul by Istanbul State Theatre. Please note that on the arrival day morning arrivals will be given this amount, late afternoon arrivals will be subjected to a certain stoppage in per diems.
- 7. Each company is expected to determine and send information about the dates of arrival and departure, performance and the number of days will be spent in Istanbul. According to this information, performance date will be mutually fixed. This information should be sent immediately after the application is confirmed.
- 8. Hotel room placement/pairing schedule should be sent immediately after the application confirmed.
- 9. Playwrights and directors will stay in single rooms, other company members in double or triple rooms.
- 10. Each group should send a summary of their performance/play by e-mail immediately after the application is confirmed.
- 11. Each group is expected to bring their own national flag and the flag of their company as well as enough amounts of brochures, photos (on flash disk) and any advertisement materials regarding the groups' performance.
- 12. Names, passport numbers and duty of the members of participant theatre should be sent completely and correctly.
- 13. Any damage at the hotel is in the responsibility of the participating group and will be refunded from the group or the director.

APPLICATION FORM

COMPANY INFORMATION

Company Name: DE-MENS THÉÂTRE

Company Web Address: www.demenstheatre.com

Country: FRANCE

Address: 22 rue Colbert, 93100 Montreuil (France)

Phone: 0033 662252399

Fax:

E-mail: demenstheatre@gmail.com

Contact Person: Katia Dalloul (distribution menager)

Brief Company History: DE-MENS THÉÂTRE is a French-Italian company born from a long-standing project of actress and director Elena Borgogni. The theme of present absences is at the centre of her journey with the creation of 'Resta!'. This project is designed to follow the traces that a departure leaves in those who remain.

The company's working method reflects and respects a habit of artistic practice in the Borgogni family. Each member of the family practices a form of art and has been putting it at the service of the theatre for decades. This family has therefore also always been a work team that brings different languages into play to compose a single symphony.

After growing up in the theatre and spending 17 years in Emma Dante's company, Elena now explores creation with her international team of actors and dancers. Elena Borgogni, born in Siena in 1986 into a family of artists, has worked since age five with the Italian-French company Corps Rompu directed by Maria Claudia Massari. She has deepened her artistic-musical language under the guidance of masters such as Marcel Marceau, Gabriella Bartolomei, Julie Stanzak (from Pina Bausch's Tanzteater Wuppertal), Emma Dante, and others. As an actress, she worked for 17 years in the Sud Costa Occidentale company directed by Emma Dante, participating in award-winning productions including "Le Sorelle Macaluso" (Ubu Prize 2014 for Best Show of the Year and Best Direction). She also teaches at prestigious institutions including the School of Entertainment Crafts in Palermo and the National Theatre of Colline in Paris.

PERFORMANCE DETAILS

Performance/Play Name: RESTA! Playwright: Elena Borgogni Director: Elena Borgogni

Brief description of the performance: RESTA! is a family story spanning three generations: grandfather, father, and son. The transmission of masculinity in this family has been marked by the omission of an important factor: love. The grandfather, a former Ship Captain, has branded his son with disappointment and harshness. Paul, a brilliant businessman, hides his inner torment behind a facade of perfect nonchalance. As a father, he is absent and makes his son Côme feel his inadequacy. Côme, insecure in his father's presence, lives isolated in virtual reality

where he transforms into a butterfly, flies, meets friends, and dances.

The only woman we encounter is Sofia, bold and free, who laughs loudly and lives her passions fully. Her relationship with narcissistic Paul will change her forever, leaving only an empty shell. The Captain, affected by senile dementia, undergoes transformation as his grandson cares for him. The illness opens a breach in the grandfather's armor, revealing a man who surrendered to a great passion in his youth: the sea.

The work is extremely physical, with permeable and mobile barriers between the arts. The text is written in progress and emerges from the bodies and voices of the actors who interpret it. The space, like sanity, is in constant movement - similar to mental rooms, the geometries on stage decompose and recompose with kaleidoscopic movement. Time is mobile, and through theatrical laws, we take the liberty of subverting the timeline, folding it back on itself, and traveling backwards through it.

Brief information about the playwright (Max 200 words):

Elena Borgogni was born in Siena in 1986 into a family of artists. She has been working since the age of five with the Italo-French company *Corps Rompu*, directed by Maria Claudia Massari.

She deepened her artistic and musical language under the guidance of masters such as Marcel Marceau, Gabriella Bartolomei, Julie Stanzak (of Pina Bausch's Tanztheater Wuppertal), Emma Dante, Shawn Monteiro, Maestro Alberto Bocini, Maestro Paolo Giaro, Maestro Gianna Grazzini, and vocal coaches Raphaël Sikorski and Edwige Chandelier. She sings jazz, traditional Brazilian music, and Fado.

She trained in Paris in dubbing for films, cartoons, anime, fight scenes, and sung dubbing. She lent her voice to George Clooney's TV series *Catch-22*.

For 17 years, she worked as an actress with the company *Sud Costa Occidentale*, directed by Emma Dante, performing in plays such as *Le Pulle*, *Carmen* (conducted by Maestro Daniel Barenboim), *La Trilogia degli Occhiali*, *Tre Favole per un Addio*, *Le Sorelle Macaluso* (winner of the 2014 Ubu Award for Best Play and Best Direction, the 2014 Le Maschere del Teatro Award for Best Play, and the 2014 Associazione Nazionale Critici di Teatro Award), *Bestie di Scena*, *Fable pour un Adieu*, and *Messaggeri*. She also played the lead role in *Verso Medea* (Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord).

She portrayed Fenella, the mute protagonist in *La Muette de Portici* (Opéra Comique de Paris – winner of the 2013 Abbiati Prize for Best Direction). She also served as movement assistant for Strauss's opera *Feuersnot* at the Teatro Massimo in Palermo.

Later, she founded the company *DE-MENS THEATRE* and *OÏKIA*, a Franco-Italian film production company. She produced the medium-length film *Coming Home* with actor and director Alaa Safi.

As part of the À la vie à la mort event at the Théâtre National de la Colline in Paris, she conceived and

directed Joyeuse fête.

As a guest artist and teacher, she has collaborated with the *Scuola dei Mestieri dello Spettacolo* in Palermo, directed by Emma Dante.

Primary discipline: Theater

Target age group: 14-100 years old Language: Italian and French.

Duration and number of acts:1 act. 60 minutes

Cast list:

• Performers: Elena Borgogni, Jérémy Braitbart, Angelo Romagnoli, Sebastien Weber

List of Creative Team (names and duties):

Direction and playwright: Elena Borgogni

Assistant director: Alex RyderLighting Design: Danilo FaccoOriginal Music: Julien Jelsch

• Subtitles: Franco Vena

• Tour manager: Katia Dalloul

Total number of the group: 7 (4 performers + 3 technical/production staff)

- 1. Does your performance have special requirements: Video Prejector, Black box theater configuration
- 2. Preferred dates of performance:
- 3. Proposed venue/type of venue: Theater
- 4. Time required for:
 - Set:1 hour
 - Lights: 5 hours.
 - Sound: 1 hour.
- 5. Size of required acting area:
 - Proscenium: 7m x 7m
- 6. Technical specifications, stage & lighting plans:



Technical information about the play:

Lighting Requirements:

- 15 PC (Plano Convex) spotlights
- 10 PAR 36 pin spot 30w (floor stands)
- 10 profile spots with zoom 25/50
- 1 Iris
- 24 channel dimmer DMX 512
- 1 lighting console
- Gels: Rosco 114, 132; Lee 202, 156

Audio Requirements:

- 1 audio mixer with venue-appropriate sound diffusion
- 2 stage monitors

Additional Equipment:

- 1 projector and 1 panel for supertitles (Italian/French to English)
- 4 chairs or stools (can be sourced locally)

ADDITIONAL REMARKS:

• Please send full video record, filled application form and 10 high resolution photos of the performance through online file sharing websites such as Dropbox, Google Drive etc. to the e-mail address written below. Applications made through the websites that impose time limitations will not be accepted.

https://vimeo.com/1102571074/db2efcfb67

www.demenstheatre.com

https://www.demenstheatre.com/gallery

- Please do not change the format of the application form. Filled forms should be sent as Word <u>Document.</u>
- Please fill the form in English or Turkish.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Festival Coordinator: Mrs. Burcu Boran

Web site: www.devtiyatro.gov.tr

E-mail: istwomenplaywrightsfest@gmail.com

Tel.: +90 312 324 40 94

Address: Devlet Tiyatroları Genel Müdürlüğü 06050 Ulus Ankara /TÜRKİYE