

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Capitoline Hill: New Year, 1000 artists in 24 hours at Festa di Roma 2020**

A unique opportunity to rediscover the city and to come together and experience an exceptional day of culture, shows and performances created exclusively for Rome City Council.

*Rome, 7th November 2019* - The fourth edition of ***Festa di Roma 2020*** will take place from the evening of 31st December to the evening of 1st January. The magnificent, free New Year event is sponsored by **Rome City Council** in partnership with the **Technical Committee for Contemporary Cultural Production** and coordinated by *Rome City Council*. Other committee members include: *the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, the Associazione Teatro di Roma, the Azienda Speciale Palaexpo, the Casa del Cinema, the Fondazione Cinema per Roma, the Fondazione Musica per Roma, the Fondazione Romaeuropa, the Fondazione Teatro dell'Opera, and the Istituzione Biblioteche di Roma*. The committee is coordinated by **Zètema Progetto Cultura**.

The artistic directors for this year's *Festa di Roma 2020* will be **Fabrizio Arcuri, Claudia Sorace** and **Francesca Macrì**.

***Festa di Roma 2020*** is dedicated to the **Earth and humanity's relationship with Nature**. An ode to Nature's extraordinary beauty, vitality and grandiosity, the festival begins on the evening of 31st December at the Circo Massimo and will continue for **24 hours**, echoing the cycle of a day and the time taken for our planet to complete one rotation. **The festival is designed as a voyage through Nature**, surrounded by the Earth's biodiverse ecosystems, interpreted imaginatively **during the day of 1st January** as a journey through **five immersive environments** in and around Earth, an Earth without borders and without barriers, an Earth where diversity is an asset.

The five ecosystems, which will co-exist and interact in the vast festival area (between Piazza dell'Emporio, Ponte Fabricio, Giardino degli Aranci and Piazza Bocca delle Verità), are: ***the World of Ice and Freshwater / the Coloured World of Meadows and Pastures / the World of Deserts / the World of Jungles, Forests and Woods / the World of the Sea***. As people wander through these environments, they will be entertained by artistic performances, fantastic scenes and themed installations – specially created by major international artists – and site-specific works, to amaze and engage visitors.

Those elements of nature that communicate with the architecture of the city will be an integral part of the voyage: firstly, the great arterial river that accompanies the journey, with trees lining the route, gardens and other green spaces which give the walk its colour and remind us that nature is all around us, that it is the home we share with all living beings, that we are privileged to be able to live within it and that we must take care of it.

This year's image, created by the illustrator **Chiara Fazi**, has been tailored to the event's theme: Mother Earth. The artwork, entirely hand-painted and digitally animated, tells the story of the visionary festival, engaging visitors through its staged worlds: a large collage, a festival of surreal dimensions and natural universes.

Here are some of the major artists included in the 1000 who are taking part in the event.

### **31st DECEMBER 2019**

***Festa di Roma*** will start on **31st December at Circo Massimo, starting at 9 p.m..** **ASCANIO CELESTINI** will open the evening, entertaining the public with a specially written original fairytale on the theme of Planet Earth. He will be accompanied by music from **RUSTICA X BAND, CONDUCTED BY PASQUALE INNARELLA**. Rustica X Band is a youth band created by the La Rustica Day Centre and supported by the charity, *Cooperativa Sociale Nuove Risposte*, as a training and entertainment activity to tackle issues of social inclusion in the Rome suburb of Rustica.

**From 10 p.m.**, the Andalusian dance company **AERIAL STRADA** will perform, for the first time in Italy, its aerial dance spectacular **Sylphes**, choreographed by Eduardo Zúñiga, directed by Roberto Strada and co-produced with *Musica per Roma*. The show, which uses cranes to move the action between the ground and the air, is dedicated to Sylphs, mythological female figures identified by the noted alchemist Paracelsus, as air and wood spirits, and will be staged with music from **PMCE - Parco della Musica Contemporanea Ensemble**, conducted by Tonino Battista, which will perform ***Recomposed by Max Richter: Vivaldi – The Four Seasons***. Violin soloist: Francesco Peverini.

**After the countdown to midnight** and the pyrotechnics show created in collaboration with ACEA, featuring live music from **PMCE - Parco della Musica Contemporanea Ensemble**, the festival will continue with a **DJ set** from the famous UK **pop-rock icon, SKIN, lead singer with Skunk Anansie** and human rights activist. From the centre of the Circo Massimo, our Earth's core, Skin will perform a 2-hour DJ set with an explosive tech house mix.

## 1st JANUARY 2020

***Festa di Roma* will continue right through into 1st January.**

**From midnight, many of the installations and lighting display will come to life**, illuminating the area with original and spectacular designs. In the Piazza Bocca della Verità, great rays of light will move around the sky, representing an extraordinary dialogue using light figures which will walk around and climb the height of the Palazzo Piacentini, the Ministry of Economic Development's headquarters. Two of these installations, ***Façade*** and ***Spider Circus***, will be created ad hoc for *Festa di Roma* by the French artists **GRUPE LAPS**, again in collaboration with Musica per Roma and Teatro di Roma.

**The morning of 1st January** will be dedicated to knowledge of the area and the space that surrounds us, with the **Pratiche di abitazione artistica del paesaggio** project created by **Rome Libraries**. Four creative walks for adults and children – guided by the artists and performers **Leonardo Delogu and Valerio Sirna**, founders of the DOM research project – will begin simultaneously at 11 a.m. from four libraries located in the city's suburbs, bringing to life performance theatre, dance, music and video, and will all meet at 3 p.m. in the festival's central area.

**In the early hours of the afternoon of 1st January, the festival will move between Piazza dell'Emporio, Ponte Fabricio, Giardino degli Aranci and Piazza Bocca delle Verità** with creative works from major international companies and 18 site-specific works created exclusively for the event, which will immerse visitors in each individual ecosystem and, when inside, to play an active part in the specially dedicated shows, installations, musical performances and videos.

There will also be multiple creative activities that will require direct involvement of members of the public, as part of individual performances and through **open calls for musicians**.

**Parades** will play an important role in *Festa di Roma*. Parades will pass through various areas, providing visitors with a symbolic reminder that ecosystems co-exist and interact, and it is because of this interaction of its elements that the Earth becomes stronger and even more beautiful.

## OPEN CALLS AND PARADES

Again this year, **Fondazione Musica per Roma** will issue an open call for amateur guitarists - **100 GUITARS** - to form an orchestra of 100 musicians, directed by the Maestro **Tonino Battista** and led by the soloists from **PMCE - Parco della Musica Contemporanea Ensemble**, which will give a world-first live performance of the new work commissioned from the American composer **Mark Grey** and inspired by Charles Debussy's opera "*La Mer*".

The 100 guitarists, who will be chosen in mid-November, will occupy the windows of the **Palazzo Piacentini**.

The Danish artist **KAROLINE H. LARSEN** will perform her participative art project **Collective Strings** with **Azienda Speciale Palaexpo**, and, with the help of around twenty festivalgoers, will evoke the spirit of Ariadne by weaving enormous coloured threads together to transform the green space in the Largo Amerigo Petrucci into a labyrinth.

Meanwhile, **Teatro di Roma** will issue an open call for around 200 members of the public, adults and children, to take part in the large collective work which will be created by the French artist **OLIVIER GROSSETÊTE**, one of Europe's most gifted artists and famed all over the world for his Ephemeral City constructions, created only with the use of cardboard boxes and involving members of the public. For *Festa di Roma*, he will use only adhesive tape and cardboard to create a never-before-seen site-specific work: a 15 x 15 m construction which reproduces the Teatro di Marcello and will be the venue for a performance by **Antoine Le Ménéstrel**, an acrobat specialising in parkour.

There will be two further open calls issued by **Fondazione Romaeuropa**. One regarding the sculptor **Nelè Azevedo**, an independent Brazilian visual artist and researcher, known throughout the world for her ice installations. For *Festa di Roma*, Nelè will train a group of twenty people who will help her to create her urban work. The other call will be issued for **ANDRECO's Parata tiberina degli inizi**. The noted visual and performance artist, studying the relationship between urban and natural spaces, will lead members of the public and performers in a parade from Tiber Island to Basamento Aventino. The parade, which will pay tribute to nature and water, will also feature the voices of the **CANTORIA DELLA SCUOLA DI CANTO CORALE DEL TEATRO DELL'OPERA DI ROMA**, a group of forty young choristers who will perform works by Mozart and Vivaldi, and music from **ENSEMBLE DI ARCHI DELL'ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DI SANTA CECILIA**, with a programme ranging from Bach to Nyman.

Everyone, however, can dance and sing with the grand parade on the Lungotevere that will be given by the **ORCHESTRA POPOLARE ITALIANA DIRETTA DA AMBROGIO SPARAGNA** where musicians, wearing carnival masks will perform a repertoire of popular songs and dances from central and southern Italy, including the saltarello, the pizzica and the tarantella. A real travelling festival with accordions, tambourines, flutes, singers and dancers, which will also include the Corpo di Ballo Popolare dell'Auditorium and Aurunci masks and bells.

The **Teatro di Roma** will also bring another three spectacular parades to the roads of the festival. Two are brought to the festival by the French dance company **Remue Ménage** and are inspired by flying creatures and creatures of the deep. Around twenty members of the public will be called upon to take

part. The first, **L'envol**, in the *Coloured World of Meadows and Pastures*, will be a dazzling procession of birds that will enchant us with their aerial dance and their vitality and will carry you along in a pop-rock opera. The second, **Abysse**, in the *World of the Sea*, will instead bring to life an astonishingly luminous parade of jellyfish, sea horses, stars and shimmering fish, which will come alive thanks to its daring puppeteers.

The third parade, **Les tambours de feu**, from the Basque musicians **Cie Deabru Beltzak**, will be a musical procession of fire and carnival masks which will connect the *World of Deserts* with the *Coloured World of Meadows and Pastures*.

## OTHER EVENTS DURING THE AFTERNOON OF 1st JANUARY

In the afternoon, the **Fondazione Musica per Roma** will give two performances inspired by “*La Mer*” by Charles Debussy: an electronic music performance with interactive installations created by the composer **GIOSUÈ GRASSIA** and his Electro-acoustic Musical Composition students from the **Conservatorio di Benevento**; and **Tout LA MER du Monde** by the **DANIELE ROCCATO QUINTET**, a multi-cultural voyage into the unknown sea, led by the double bassist **Daniele Roccato**, including Indian and Persian classical music, contemporary classical music, and electronic music. Performing with him will be **Alireza Mortazavi** - santur, **Mariasole De Pascali** - flute, **Sanjay Kansa Banik** - tabla, **Luigi Ceccarelli** - keyboards.

A marathon through various musical genres is what faces the world renowned pianist and orchestra director **MARINO FORMENTI**, who will be in Italy thanks to a collaboration with the **Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia**. Marino Formenti will perform throughout the afternoon of 1st January in the **Giardino degli Aranci [The Orange Tree Garden]**, renamed as **Il Giardino d’Inverno [The Winter Garden]** for the festival and decked out for the occasion by the famous ice statues created by Brazilian artist **NÉLE AZEVEDO**’s **Minimum Monument** project, in collaboration with the **Fondazione Romaeuropa**. Hundreds of small ice sculptures – 20cm-tall men and women – will be positioned on the steps of the Giardino degli Aranci. These ice sculptures will slowly melt to represent the death of individuality and the loss of personality as part of the masses.

Fondazione Romaeuropa will also bring other international acts to the festival: **Bloom Games**, the interactive installation by architect-designers **ALISA ANDRASEK & JOSÉ SANCHEZ** – positioned between Via Santa Maria in Cosmedin and Lungotevere Aventino – where visitors can play with a gigantic construction set featuring 2,800 recycled plastic pieces, creating unique and unforgettable installations inspired by vegetation and flora. **Floe** is a show that is part acrobatics, part visual arts, from circus artist **JEAN-BAPTISTE ANDRÉ** and visual artist **VINCENT LAMOUREUX**, where a spectacular sculpture of giant icebergs becomes a space for dance and acrobatics.

The **Associazione Teatro di Roma** will invade the festival with artists, performers, dancers and circus performers known the world over. In the *World of the Sea*, the Silver Lion winner for dance at the Venice Biennale, **MICHELE DI STEFANO**, will present ***Bermudas outdoor***, a choreographic work inspired by chaos theory, by the generation of complex systems from simple conditions, by evolutionary systems of physics and meteorology. Designed for a variable number of performers (from three to thirteen), each bringing their own characteristics, the show will bring to life a shared rhythmic world that is in perpetual motion, that evolves with the entry of each new dancer, transforming the choreography into an encounter and mediation between individuals.

During the afternoon of 1st January, the French group **GROUPE LAPS** will return with ***Spider Circus***, transforming Piazza Bocca della Verità into an enormous spider's web. Giant spiders, 3 or 4 metres tall, will move around the web and - thanks to lighting effects and supported by wild sounds and music from an orchestra - animate the *World of Jungles, Forests and Woods*, magnifying what is normally hidden from human eyes.

Walking in the *Coloured World of Meadows and Pastures*, the visual impact of **Luce**, by **MASQUE TEATRO**, will hit you like a bolt of lightning. **Luce** will reproduce one of nature's strongest and most spectacular elements, harnessing the variation in frequency of an electrical generator transmitted through the air.

To close the festival, the **Associazione Teatro di Roma** brings you **Gruppo Puja's Asteroide B-612**, a grand aerial performance which allows us to look at the Earth from a distance and to imagine ourselves on a great voyage without frontiers, without walls and without barriers.

**Azienda Speciale Palaexpo** will present the following artistic projects.

The view enjoyed by Dutch astronaut, André Kuipers, who has been lucky enough to observe our planet from space, will be at the centre of the ***Space cinemagraphs*** video project from Dutch artist **ARMAND DIJCKS**. Armand has developed the photographs taken during the International Space Mission into a slow-motion video, giving viewers a realistic and vivid sensation of the Earth in movement as seen from space. From the windows and the roof of a palazzo in Via Petroselli, the extremely long **Tentacles** sculptures from **FILTHY LUKER & PEDRO ESTRELLAS** (Designs In Air - UK) will ripple in the air above the public. By playing with and amazing the public, the sculpture's enormous octopus, right in the city centre, will invite us to consider our impact on the planet and the need to behave in a more ecologically sustainable way. The Dutch artist **ARMAND DIJCKS** will use the same imagery in ***Elemental*** to transform Australian artist Ray Collins's ocean wave photographs into video loops, turning viewers into explorers, discovering what lies beneath the sea.

The same theme has been used in the previously unseen video project from Italian collective **FLXER TEAM**, created especially for this edition of the

festival. It will project elements of nature from the architectural depths of the Basamento Aventino.

The ***Water Bear*** sculpture from hungarian collective **LIMELIGHT**, staged for the first time in Italy with support from the **Hungarian Academy in Rome**, provides a suggestion of the capacity to adapt and resist changes in environmental conditions. Located in the Winter Garden (the Giardino degli Aranci), transformed for the occasion into the *World of Ice*, the work is a large-scale depiction of a microscopic invertebrate, the tardigrade or water bear, that is capable of surviving climatic conditions that would be lethal for all other animals.

Again, this year, the **Casa del Cinema** and **Fondazione Cinema per Roma** are presenting a programme of films, installations and effects linked to the theme of *Festa di Roma*. It begins on 26th December at *Casa del Cinema* with the themed festival ***Il Quinto Elemento [The Fifth Element]*** which will offer a voyage through the major themes of nature - pristine and spoilt - with 20 high-quality films with spectacular impact: two shows per day (free entry while places last) until 6th January, with 1st January as the programme's focal point created by Giorgio Gosetti and Mario Sesti. 1st January will also feature video installations conceived by video artists **TOMMASO FAGIOLI**, **VIRGINIA ELEUTERI SERPIERI** and **GIANLUCA ABBATE**, as access gates to the festival's five areas. The films, created for the occasion in partnership with Mario Sesti and Giorgio Gosetti, will explore the digital and photographic landscapes linked to the environments and atmospheres generated by the creativity of the imagery of the proposed themes. The installations will provide a visual counterpoint to the performances and shows in the festival programme.

Lighting design by **Daniele Davino**, sound design by **Angelo Longo**, and video production by **Officine K, Igor Renzetti, Lorenzo Bruno**.

Technical production assistance by **Luca Brinchi** and **Daniele Spanò**.

We would also like to thank the following partners for their assistance: **SIAE**, **ACEA**, **the Embassy of Denmark in Italy**, **the Royal Spanish Academy in Rome**, **the Hungarian Academy in Rome**, **Instituto Cervantes**.

## **INFORMATION FOR THE PUBLIC**

**Free entry for all events**

Web [www.lafestadiroma.it](http://www.lafestadiroma.it)

Tel **060608** (every day 09:00 - 19:00)

#lafestadiroma

## **PRESS INFORMATION**

**A press sheet and images from the shows can be downloaded from this link:**

<https://cloud.zetema.it/owncloud/index.php/s/oAlBs3pCkcTTzoO>

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