

CALL FOR ENTRIES

"Le Figure del Futuro – Premio Mario Mirabassi" (Figures of the Future – Mario Mirabassi Award)

"The Figures of the Future – Mario Mirabassi Award" was created to support the new generations of international puppet theatre, promoting contemporary creativity in the field of marionettes, puppets, object theatre, and visual animation forms.

The award is dedicated to Mario Mirabassi, a leading figure in the sector, and aims to continue his commitment to the dissemination and development of this important artistic tradition.

The initiative is part of the 29th edition of the International Animated Figures Festival (August 27-30, 2026) and offers an exhibition and performance space for young puppeteers, marionette artists, animators, and visual performers under 35.

Aimed at artists, authors, and companies, the award seeks to foster the international visibility of new productions, encouraging dialogue between tradition and innovation. The goal is to offer young professionals a concrete opportunity for exchange and growth, contributing to the discovery of new stage languages and the development of the sector.

Art. 1 – Purpose of the Award

The "Figures of the Future – Mario Mirabassi Award" aims to:

- support and promote young artists and companies under 35 working in puppet theatre;
 - enhance new creativity in the sector;
 - foster the dissemination and touring of new productions;
 - stimulate dialogue between traditional puppet theatre techniques and contemporary experimentation;
 - create an opportunity for meeting and exchange between young artists and industry professionals.
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Art. 2 – Recipients

The call is open to:

- solo artists
- companies
- theatre collectives

active in the field of puppet theatre (marionettes, puppets, object theatre, shadow theatre, visual animation, and hybrid forms).

Requirements:

- age not exceeding 35 years by the application deadline (for companies, the majority of members must meet this requirement);
 - performance already completed or in an advanced stage of production;
 - availability to present the live performance during the International Animated Figures Festival.
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Art. 3 – Application Procedure

To participate, you must send:

1. **Performance Presentation Form**, containing:
 - o title
 - o company/artist
 - o brief synopsis
 - o artistic description of the project

- o techniques used
 - o duration
 - o artistic and technical credits
 - o contact information
2. **Full video or significant excerpt** of the performance (online link).
 3. **Brief artistic curriculum vitae** of the company or artist.

Applications must be sent by **May 2, 2026** to the Direction of TIEFFEU – Teatro di Figura Umbro via email to the following address:
info@tieffeu.com

Art. 4 – Selection

An artistic committee will select **4 finalist performances** from all applications received. The selected performances will be presented during the 29th edition of the International Animated Figures Festival (August 27–30, 2026).

Evaluation criteria will include:

- artistic quality of the project
- originality of the proposal
- use of puppet theatre techniques
- capacity for innovation and research
- dramaturgical and visual coherence.

Selected companies will be provided with hospitality during the festival days, according to the organizational arrangements established by the festival direction.

Art. 5 – Award

Among the finalist performances, the following will be awarded:

"Figures of the Future – Mario Mirabassi Award"

which consists of:

- commemorative plaque as **Best Performance**
- inclusion of the winning performance in the program of the next **Teatro di Figura Perugia Season**.

The award ceremony will take place on **August 30, 2026**, at the conclusion of the 29th edition of the International Animated Figures Festival.

Art. 6 – Communication of Results

Selected companies will be contacted directly by the organizers, and the list of finalists will be made public through the initiative's official channels.

Art. 7 – Acceptance of Regulations

Participation in the call implies full acceptance of these regulations.

The organizers reserve the right to make any necessary changes to the call for organizational reasons, providing timely communication thereof.