

Teatre Lliure, 50 years: past, present and future

22, 23 and 24 October 2026

Location: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Institut del Teatre and Palau Robert



Scientific Committee

Sharon Feldman, University of Richmond
Francesc Foguet, CRAE-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Enric Gallén, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Magda Polo, Universitat de Barcelona
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Organizing Committee

Carles Batlle, Institut del Teatre
Francesc Casadesús, Teatre Lliure
Jordi Jané-Lligé, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Juan Carlos Olivares, Teatre Lliure
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Carlota Subirós, Institut del Teatre
Anna Villarroja, Teatre Lliure y Universitat de Barcelona

Thursday, 22 October 2026

Sala de Graus, Faculty of Arts and Humanities - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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| 9 am | Reception |
| 9.30 am | Institutional welcome |
| 10 am | Opening lecture Veronica Orazi
1976-2026. Theatre in Europe and the Teatre Lliure
Introduction Francesc Foguet |
| 11 am | Paper Joan Sellent
The demands of Alexandrian verse in theatre
Introduction Judit Fontcuberta |
| 11.30 am | Break |



Estudis Escènics International Symposium



- 11.45 am** **Presentations**
Introduction Anna Corral
- Maria Moreno**
The imprint of American drama in the Teatre Lliure
- Martina Tosticarelli**
Avignon-Lliure: inspiration, influences and feedback
- Carme Planells**
In the wake of the Teatre Lliure: scope and influence on the genesis and project of the Teatre del Mar in Mallorca. Between legacy, reflection and the desire for similarity
- 1 pm** **Paper | Joaquim Ortells**
The free spirit of Carles Santos at the Teatre Lliure: history of a meeting
- 1.30 pm** **Break**
- 3.30 pm** **Tour of the Ros Ribas exhibition**
- 4.30 pm** **Presentations**
- Maria Zaragoza**
The Ros Riba hallmark
- Héctor Mellinas**
La senyora de Sade: actresses and stylistic features
- Bàrbara Raubert**
Dancing in the company store. Changes of venue and economies for late 1970s dance
- 5.30 pm** **Paper | Oriol Pérez-Treviño**
The Teatre Lliure chamber orchestra. The music of a possible country
Introduction Jordi Jané-Lligé
- 6 pm** **Talk between Francesc Cortès and Josep Pons**
- 7 pm** **Alejandro Santaflorientina's poetic report**
- 7.30 pm** **End of day**

Friday, 23 October 2026

Teatre Estudi - Institut del Teatre

9.30 am Institutional welcome

10 am Paper | Iván Alcázar

The site of the Teatre Lliure and how it harmonises with its surroundings

10.30 am Presentations

Martí Alòs

The birth of the Teatre Lliure as an alternative approach to an institution, halfway between a public service and independence in management (1976-1982)

Marta Rafa

Fabià Puigserver and theatre costume

Marc Fernández

Scenic space and performative architecture in postmodernism: the case of the Teatre Lliure in Montjuïc

11.45 am Break

12 noon Paper | Esteve Miralles

The discourse constructed on theatre in today's Barcelona based on the last stages of the Teatre Lliure

12.30 pm Roundtable | Rethinking leadership in public theatres

With representatives of the following theatres: Katona József Színház (Budapest), Toneelhuis (Antwerp), Thomas Bernhard Institute (Salzburg) and Suomen Kansallisteatteri – Finnish National Theatre (Helsinki). Moderator: Davide Carnevali

Throughout Europe and beyond, public theatres are experimenting with new models of leadership: collective governance, female leadership, politically committed artistic direction, and approaches that are more sensitive to the context and socially aware.

- What does leadership mean at a time of institutional transformation?
- How do the collective and non-hierarchical models change decision-making and accountability?
- In what ways does leadership shape artistic risk, diversity and inclusion?
- Can a politically committed leadership coexist with public funding structures?
- How do leaders respond to the growing social, cultural and financial pressures?

1.30 pm Break



Estudis Escènics International Symposium



- 3.30 pm Roundtable | The relevance of public theatres today.**
 With representatives of the following theatres: Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus (Düsseldorf), Dramaten – Kungliga Dramatiska Teatern (Stockholm), International Theater Amsterdam (Amsterdam), Teatro Stabile di Torino – Teatro Nazionale (Turin), and Narodowy Stary Teatr (Krakow).
 Moderator: Georgina Oliva
- Public theatres have a two-fold mission: artistic excellence and, at the same time, to continue to be relevant within increasingly more diverse and fragmented societies.
- What does “relevance” mean for 21st-century public theatres?
 - How can institutions reach audiences with different backgrounds and cultural expectations?
 - Is excellence still a shared value, and who defines it?
 - How can theatres balance tradition and innovation without losing their identity?
 - What role should public theatres play in times of social and political polarisation?
- 5 pm Roundtable | Influence of the legacy and action of the Teatre Lliure on the new generation of Catalan theatre makers**
 With Nao Albet, Lucia del Greco, Pau Vinyals and Núria Corominas (Las Huecas). Moderator: Alicia Gorina
- 6 pm Alejandro Santaflorientina’s poetic report**
- 6.30 pm End of day**

Saturday, 24 October 2026

Auditorium - Palau Robert

10 am Presentations

Andreu Balius

The graphic identity of the Teatre Lliure

Laura Ars, Anabel de la Paz, Carme Sàez, Asbel Gonzalo i Anna Valls

The documentation heritage of the Teatre Lliure through Escena Digital de Catalunya and Arxiu Lliure

Eloi Alberola

The Teatre Lliure and the genealogy of European public theatre: dialogues with the Piccolo Teatro di Milano and the Théâtre National Populaire

Pedro Pérez Rothstein

Reimagining the Teatre Lliure's role as a public theatre in the 21st century

Pepe Zapata

Sustainability of audiences in public theatre: inclusion, equity and cultural rights as a horizon

12 noon Paper | Florian Borchmeyer

The future of playwriting and its dialogue with cinema

12.45 pm Alejandro Santaflorientina's poetic report

1 pm Poetic event. Dramatized reading with Emma Vilarasau and Jordi Bosch

1.30 pm Guided tour of the Palau Robert exhibition

The articles and papers resulting from the symposium will be published in the dossier section of issue 52 of the journal Estudis Escènics.