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
Guillem-Jordi Graells, Teatre Lliure
Magda Polo, Universitat de Barcelona
Antoni Ramon, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Organizing Committee
Carles Batlle, Institut del Teatre
Francesc Casadesús, Teatre Lliure
Jordi Fondevila, Institut del Teatre
Jordi Jané-Lligé, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Juan Carlos Olivares, Teatre Lliure
Núria Santamaria, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Carlota Subirós, Institut del Teatre
Anna Villarroya, Teatre Lliure and Universitat de Barcelona

Thursday, 22 October 2026

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

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 prevalence 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**

Exhibition hall, Communication Library and General Newspaper Archives Building N (Plaça Cívica)

3.30 pm **Tour of the Ros Ribas exhibition**

Sala de Teatre in UAB (Plaça Cívica)

4.30 pm **Presentations**
Introduction Daniela Palmeri

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 Santaflorentina'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
Introduction Marta Rafa

10.30 am **Presentations**
Introduction Carles Batlle

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**
Theatre and «desartification» (1976-2026)
Introduction Carles Batlle

12.30 pm **Roundtable | Rethinking leadership in public theatres**
With representatives of the followingtheatres: 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**

3.30 pm **Roundtable | The relevance of public theatres today**
With representatives of the following theatres: Düsseldorfer Shaulspielhaus (Düsseldorf), Dramaten – Kungliga Dramatiska Teatern (Stockholm), International Theater Amsterdam (Amsterdam), Teatro Stabile di Torino – Teatro Nazionale (Turin), and Narodowy Stary Teatre (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 Joan Yago, Lucia del Greco, Marc Salicrú and Núria Corominas (Las Huecas)
Moderator: Alícia Gorina

6 pm **Alejandro Santaflorentina's poetic report**

6.30 pm **End of day**

** These conversations will be in English due to their international participants. Translation services will not be provided.*

Saturday, 24 October 2026

Pati dels Carruatges - Palau Robert

10 am **Presentations**

Andreu Balius
The graphic identity of the Teatre Lliure

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 and debate | Florian Borchmeyer and Albert Serra**
The future of playwriting and its dialogue with cinema

12.45 pm **Alejandro Santaflorentina'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.

The symposium will be mostly in Catalan, except when indicated otherwise. There will not be translation services during the symposium.