

OATI-Open Air Theaters in Italy – Prof. Anna Sica

For historical reasons and its position in the Mediterranean area, Italy is the country with the largest number of open-air theaters in the world: many were built in the Greco-Roman era, but many others were built in the following centuries and even in the New Millennium.

This is a pioneering research project that aims to offer - for the first time - a complete mapping and atlas of all types of open-air theaters in Italy, with particular attention to their history and repertoires.

This research project has a strong impact at a national as well as an international level, and aims to gain a leadership position for theater studies, as at present there are no academic research projects on the same topic. The research project's purpose is to become a reference model for the research sector.

In particular, the research unit of the University of Palermo directed by Professor Anna De Domenico Sica (neè Anna Sica) will deal with the discovery of resources on classical and contemporary theater sites in the insular area and the Sicilian territory, and with the study and analysis of the Italian acting of the leading actors/actresses' tradition came to us in the twentieth century also thanks to having given back the productions of classics in ancient open-air theaters.

In fact, the restitution of the staging of ancient texts in the sites of classical legacy, and the creation of modern theaters deeply linked with ancient architecture characterized the great theatrical and cultural season of the first half of the twentieth century.

Tracing this theatrical heritage, which made the theater speak Italian in the world, and subsequently understanding the reasons why the acting could have been changed after having been in contact with the transmission of the texts of classics, since the first production in Syracuse in 1913, is crucial for identifying artistic changes and developments and cultural events of the Italian theater and of the history of the Country. As such, the proposed project goes beyond the state of the art in the specific scientific area.