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***The Festival of Diversity,
Encounter and Plural
Identities***

between festival

**MUSIC & ARTS
Mediterranean 2025**

DISCOVERY AND SHARING

Guest of Honor Country: Tunisia

22 - 27 JULY 2025

***ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK OF MORGANTINA
AND THE VILLA ROMANA DEL CASALE
PIAZZA ARMERINA | AIDONE
MAZZARINO | PIETRAPERZIA***

artistic direction
Stefano Mastruzzi
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between *festival* of the Mediterranean MUSIC & ARTS '25

ART THAT UNITES AND REGENERATES

The **Between Music & Arts Festival for 2025** reaffirms and strengthens the **interdisciplinary approach** that contributed to the success of the 2024 edition and introduces significant innovations that further project it into an international context. Six days of concerts, **performances, exhibitions, screenings, talks, and workshops**, with a strong focus on media coverage of the events that will take place in the four municipalities of the **Archaeological Park of Morgantina and the Villa Romana del Casale - Piazza Armerina, Aidone, Mazzarino, and Pietraperzia**. The program will highlight their exceptional ability for hospitality and artistic creativity, within the context of Sicilian tradition and the unique cultural identity of the Park's locations.

The central and established themes of the Between Festival are those of **diversity** and **plural identities** as richness, **encounter** as an opportunity for knowledge and regeneration, and contamination as exchange and metamorphosis towards progress. It is a clear and strong artistic and musical proposal aimed at enhancing the identity fabric of **intercultural relations among the peoples of the Mediterranean**, also through the expression of creativity. In doing so, the festival establishes itself as a **courageous open space for hospitality, social responsibility, and the promotion of peace** through art and culture. This remains the leitmotif that distinguishes the festival from others in the Sicilian and national landscape.

Each edition of the festival will offer a reflection on key themes. In 2025, the focus will be on **discovery and sharing** as fundamental elements for spreading cultural richness and fostering encounters between people. With an ethical vision that values artistic creativity as the deepest manifestation of the individual, a source of ideas, and a powerful driver of change, and promoting equality as a fundamental condition for respect for every human being and the diverse identities of people.

INTERCULTURALITY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

The event thus establishes itself as a "**unique**" experience among the numerous Italian festivals. It is an ambitious and concrete project that spans various forms of **music-jazz**, ethnic, and folk-**visual arts**, and **dance**, and, starting in 2025, also **cinema** and **documentaries**, thanks to the collaboration with the **MedFilm Festival of the Mediterranean** and the **Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Palermo**.

The festival will feature performances, **moments of encounter**, and **open discussions**, and, above all, **workshops for shared creativity** among young artists from many countries participating in the Mediterranean Artist Production **Campus**.

Some of the activities of the Between Festival will be inspired, in line with the 2025 theme, by the figure of **Marco Polo** - explorer, merchant, and writer-symbolizing discovery through travel, sharing as an element of richness and development, the dimension of dreams for growth, and **interculturality** as a universal network between the peoples of the Mediterranean and the East. This is the Silk Road.

Each year, a **Mediterranean country** is invited as the **guest of honor at the Festival**, in collaboration with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**. For 2025, the chosen guest of honor is **Tunisia**.

The support for the initiative, **The Human Bridge**, is also confirmed, which involves the installation of new artistic works along the shores of the Mediterranean, with the goal of creating a true underwater art park - a vehicle for communication and the promotion of the themes of the Between Festival. The project's evolution will be presented in a talk with the key figures involved.

Exhibitions and **installations by Mediterranean artists** are also planned.

The participation of the Between Youth Orchestra, **Musicainsieme a Librino**, will be significantly extended to foreign children and those from the cities hosting the Festival.

The event will take place from **July 22nd to 27th, 2025**, at the **Villa Romana del Casale**, **Palazzo Trigona in Piazza Armerina**, the **Museum of Aidone**, and the **archaeological sites of Morgantina, Sofiana in Mazzarino**, and **Pietraperzia**.

During the Festival, a community engagement plan is activated, involving both the local population and schools. The aim is to create an atmosphere of participation and sharing. Through workshops, guided tours, and activities open to the public (such as rehearsals on the Campus), students and local residents will have the opportunity to explore and deepen their understanding of the contents and experience of the Between Festival.

This approach aims not only to educate, but also to stimulate a sense of local pride and identity, making the Between Festival an opportunity to strengthen bonds between people, feelings of citizenship within the framework of a broader Mediterranean culture.

Additionally, to enhance the significance of the locations and highlight their connection to the Festival, information about the history and artistic treasures of the area will be provided. This approach aims not only to educate but also to stimulate a sense of pride and local identity, making the Between Festival an opportunity to strengthen bonds among people and foster a sense of citizenship within the broader context of Mediterranean culture.

Small, evocative performances are planned within the archaeological areas at designated times during the visits to the park.

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ARTS PRODUCTION CAMPUS

The participation of young people from foreign countries in the 2024 Campus was a great success, further confirming its central role in relation to the objectives of the Between Festival.

Through the artistic production workshop activities and the related concluding event, the **Songwriting Camp**, where the works created are presented in the form of a concert, the Campus highlighted the value of human and creative interaction between young people from different cultural backgrounds, fostering the **creation of a permanent network of knowledge and sharing**.

Thus, it is a rare and highly valuable opportunity that gives substance and meaning to the message of the Between Festival. In the 2025 edition, an **even greater number of young artists will be involved**, thanks to the valuable collaboration with the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**, and, starting this year, with public-private academies such as the **Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia**.

Starting in 2025, the artistic residencies and workshops will also be open to young creatives in the field of **cinema**. For the cinema section, a 50-hour format has been designed, a tight timeframe in which young filmmakers, organized in groups, will be tasked with ideating and producing a short film inspired by the themes and locations of the Festival, following an international competition.

On the penultimate evening of the event, the original songs, short films, and artistic products created by the Campus participants **will be awarded** on the main stage of the Festival.

Among other initiatives, there will be artist installations and suggestive lighting that will enhance the urban spaces, transforming the city into a true stage for contemporary art. This project will not only highlight emerging talents, but also create a stronger connection between artists and the community, making art a vehicle for enrichment, interest, and the rediscovery of the beauty and significance of places.

As historian Fernand Braudel said.
"The Mediterranean is not a frontier but a crossroads of encounters."
And Sicily is its hinge.

The project is realized in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the network of Italian Cultural Institutes, the MedFilm Festival, the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Palermo, with the patronage of the Sicilian Region.

*between
festival*
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