

Alessandro Libertini

Professional CV

Alessandro Libertini is an author, director, and performer. In his theatrical works, all scene elements are of equal importance. The reasons and qualities of the presence—or absence—of text, music, lights, set design, actors' movements, and acting, or any other element of the scene, are all dictated by a directorial project that originates each setup. In his "directorial theater," Alessandro Libertini tends to assume many roles: he may write scripts, create sets, objects, puppets, lighting, costumes, and may act, or he may entrust parts of the realization of his project to individual collaborators, whose outputs he then integrates and develops.

In 1979, he founded the theatrical company Piccoli Principi. Initially, his activity focused on puppet theater. In 1982, he won the 1st International Prize at the 1st National One-Man Show Competition at the Cervia Festival "Arrivano dal Mare" with the show "Pulcinella ed Euridice". From there, he began an artistic career that took him to many theaters and festivals in Italy and abroad.

In 1983, his artistic research has been exploring the relationship between visual arts and childhood. In 1984, he won the "Premio Stregagatto," a critics' award promoted by the Italian Theatrical Agency, with a show about the painting of Piet Mondrian titled "Così mi piace".

The show's success led to numerous tours in different countries; among these was Canada, where he met Véronique Nah, who, from 1986, became a permanent member of the Piccoli Principi company. Since then, there has not been a show by Alessandro Libertini that has not in some way seen her participation. Véronique Nah's creative contributions have so marked the artistic production of the Piccoli Principi company that it is now impossible to discuss the work of one without the other: the two artistic temperaments in the joint creative direction of Piccoli Principi.

Education

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| 1973 | Earns a Diploma of Applied Arts with a score of 60/60 in the sculpture section under the guidance of sculptor Bruno Innocenti at the Art Institute of Florence. |
| 1975 | Teaches Art Education at the Chiarugi Psychiatric Hospital in Florence, where he remains until 1981. |
| 1976 | Qualifies to teach Art Education with a score of 100/100. |
| 1977 | Works as a puppet builder, designer, and scene creator for the Pupi di Stac Theater, directed by Laura Poli. |
| 1978 | Graduates from DAMS (Discipline of Arts, Music, and Performance) at the University of Bologna with a score of 110 cum laude. He studies under Umberto Eco and attends Animation Theater courses taught by Maria Signorelli, who continues to mentor him after graduation. |

Performances

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| 1979 | “Pino Topino e la marzianina” |
| 1980 | “Pino Topino e la tenda rossa” |
| 1981 | “Pulcinella ed Euridice” |
| 1982 | “Musica, meccanismi ed altre diavolerie” |
| 1983 | “Così mi piace” |
| 1984 | “Deviazioni dalla norma” |
| 1985 | “Narciso amico mio” |
| 1986 | “Kinderszenen” |
| 1988 | “Una cosa per un'altra” |
| 1989 | “Dodici” |
| 1989 | “Post Scriptum” |
| 1989 | “Pulcinella e il filo di Arianna” |
| 1990 | “Vamp” |
| 1991 | “Babele” |
| 1994 | “A partire da Miles” |
| 1996 | “Visioni d'Africa” |
| 1998 | “Un po' di musica reggae, per favore” |
| 1999 | “Cappuccetto rosso” |
| 2000 | “La magia delle immagini: la storia dell'arte raccontata ai ragazzi” |
| 2001 | “Il risveglio di Sirenetta” |
| 2001 | “De tooverfluit” |
| 2001 | “Urne funerarie” |
| 2003 | “La favola di Amore e Psiche” |
| 2005 | “Con gli occhi di Pinocchio” |
| 2006 | “Celeste” |
| 2007 | “Ba Ba” |
| 2008 | “Obrazstov, tema e variazioni” |
| 2010 | “Zappe, chiodi, cavatappi ed altri strumenti scientifici” |
| 2011 | “Io, diversa” |
| 2013 | “Umami” |
| 2014 | “Ritagli” |
| 2015 | “Happy Birthday Mr. Marley” |

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| 2017 | “Scientifico!” |
| 2019 | “Calderone immaginario: omaggio a Picasso e ai bambini” |
| 2021 | “Sotto sopra il mare: la sirenetta e altri racconti” |

Other Collaborations and Professional Experiences

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| 1986 | The Teatro alla Scala in Milan commissions him to create the show Kinderszenen, based on Robert Schumann’s work of the same name. |
| 1992 | Following its success at numerous international festivals, Dodici, a show written with Véronique Nah, is restaged with Flemish actors at the initiative of Jeux Interdits in Antwerp. |
| 1995 | For the Belgian company Blauw Vier (today Laika), he stages with Véronique Nah Pinokkio - een vertelling, a rewrite for Flemish actors of the show Una cosa per un'altra. |
| 2001 | Together with the Dutch composer Dick Van der Harst and the Belgian writer Kristel Deweerdt, he takes care of the dramaturgy of De tooverfluit, a musical show based on Mozart’s The Magic Flute, produced by Het muziek Lod. For this show, which debuts at Het Paleis in Antwerp, he oversees the direction, costumes, and set design. |
| 2003 | He writes the show La favola di Amore e Psiche, which he directs in collaboration with Paola Zannoner. |
| 2004 | The Teatro delle Briciole in Parma entrusts him with the writing and directing of the show Il silenzio è d’oro. |
| 2006 | With Mariano Dolci, he writes the show Celeste for the Astrophysical Observatory of Florence, directed by Franco Pacini. Under his direction, the show debuts as part of the Regional Project Planet Galileo in the Amici Pavilion of the Observatory. |
| 2008 | The director of the General Academic State Puppet Theatre named after Sergey Obraztsov in Moscow—on the occasion of the presentation of the Piccoli Principi Company’s show Obraztsov, Theme and Variations at its prestigious festival—asks him to construct a puppet to be permanently displayed among the works of the museum attached to the theater, one of the richest collections of puppets in the world. |
| 2010 | He writes and produces the show Zappe, chiodi, cavatappi e altri strumenti scientifici together with the researcher and science communicator Lara Albanese. |
| 2013 | The festival Cuisines en Friche directors entrust him with co-realizing the show Umami, presented within the framework of Marseille, the European Capital of Culture. The show, written and directed by Véronique Nah and Peter De Bie, is staged in collaboration with the Belgian company Laika. |
| 2015 | The Fondazione Teatro della Toscana commissions him to write, direct, and design costumes and sets for the show Happy Birthday, Mr. Marley. The show—written and directed by Véronique Nah—is performed at the Teatro della Pergola in Florence and the Teatro Era in Pontedera. |
| 2018 | The Accademia della Crusca entrusts him with realizing several initiatives within the Festival Dante2021 in Ravenna in various editions. |
| 2018 | The Indian production and dissemination structure ThinkArts invites him with the show CutOuts, which is presented at the Jawahar Kala Kendra Art Center in Jaipur (India) and the Kolkata Centre for Creativity in Kolkata. |

- 2019 On the occasion of the exhibition *Picasso et le paysage méditerranéen* held at the Musée d'Art in Toulon, Le Pôle - scène conventionnée d'intérêt national - in Le Revest-les-Eaux (France) commissions the show *Calderone immaginario: omaggio a Picasso e ai bambini*, which he realizes with Véronique Nah.
- 2022 For the section *Dramaturgies of Puppet Theatre* curated by Alfonso Cipolla in the magazine *Dramma.it*, he writes the article "My Puppet Theatre".

Awards and Recognitions

- 1982 1st International Prize of the 1st National One Man Show Competition at the Cervia Festival "Arrivano dal Mare" for the show *Pulcinella ed Euridice*.
- 1984 Stregagatto Award, a critics' prize promoted by the Italian Theatrical Entity on research and technical expressive renewal, for the show *Così mi piace*.
- 1987 Mention at the Third Edition of 'RiccioneTTVV,' directed by Franco Quadri, for the art video made in collaboration with filmmaker Claudio Coloberti, *Deviazioni dalla Norma*.
- 1996 ETI/Golden Camera Award, 1st edition of the competition for video works dedicated to youth and European youth theatre, for the video *Beyond the Horses of the Parthenon*.
- 1995/96 Finalist at the Stregagatto Award with *A partire da Miles*, a show about the music of Miles Davis co-produced by the Piccoli Principi Company with the Théâtre des Jeunes Années CDN of Lyon, Victoria of Gent, Teatro Studio of Scandicci. The show is performed also at La Cité de la Musique in Paris and the Europa Jazz Festival in Le Mans, France.
- 1997
- 2002 Awarded the Prix des Régionales at the International Momix Festival in Kingersheim for the show *La magia delle immagini: la storia dell'arte raccontata ai ragazzi*, produced with the Musée d'Art Moderne in Saint-Etienne, which is later scheduled at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris in 2006.
- 2009 Award for the best show at the V° International Theater Festival for Children '100, 1,000, 1,000,000 Stories' in Bucharest for the show *BaBa*. At the same festival, Véronique Nah wins the first prize as the best actress.

Activities in Museums, Art Centers and Galleries, and Historic Buildings

- 2000 Designs and performs at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Saint-Etienne the performance "M.A.M.A.N 2000 Il faut sortir d'ici."
- 2004 Curates a research workshop for the educational service team of the MAMC Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain and the Musée de l'Oeuvre de Notre-Dame in Strasbourg, at the initiative of the Théâtre Jeune Public of the same city. The workshop aims to create special guided tours through the museum's collections, using theatrical language for educational purposes.
- 2005 The FRAC Fond Régional d'Art Contemporain des Pays de la Loire in Nantes commissions Libertini to study the relationship between live performance and video art. The show "Con gli occhi di Pinocchio" is born from the performance.
- 2006 The Musée d'Orsay in Paris hosts "La magia delle immagini: la storia dell'arte raccontata ai ragazzi." At the same time, the Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri in Florence commissions Libertini, Nah, and Mariano Dolci to create a show about Galileo. Thus, "Celeste" is born and is performed in the Amici Pavilion of the Observatory, within the framework of the regional project *Pianeta Galileo*.

- 2007 The show “BaBa” debuts at the Théâtre Nouvelles Générations during the Biennale d’Art Contemporain in Lyon, and “Celeste” is staged in the Galileo Tribune of the Museo della Specola in Florence as part of another edition of the regional project Pianeta Galileo.
- 2009 The Centro per l’Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci in Prato commissions the Piccoli Principi Company for a special educational visit. With the collaboration of the art historian Linda Salvadori and Véronique Nah, he develops the first ‘performance visit’: “Journey to the center... of the Center.”
- At the same time, the Palais des Beaux-Arts/BOZAR in Brussels includes the show “Con gli occhi di Pinocchio” in its programming.
- 2010 Nel 2010 “Ba Ba” è rappresentato nel Salone d’Ercole del Palazzo Reale e al Museo d’Arte Contemporanea Donna Regina-MADRE di Napoli.
- 2011 “BaBa” is performed in the Hercules Salon of the Royal Palace and at the Donna Regina-MADRE Museum of Contemporary Art in Naples.
- The show “Io, diversa” is presented in the Anthropology and Ethnology Section of the Natural History Museum of the University of Florence.
- 2012/17 With the contribution of Nah, he creates a series of ‘performance visits’ in five Tuscan museums: the Centro per l’Arte Contemporanea Luigi Pecci in Prato, the Stibbert Museum and the Marino Marini Museum in Florence, the SMS Santa Maria della Scala in Siena, and the Archaeological Museum of Artimino. The project, supported by the Tuscany Region, is titled “The 5 Hidden Treasures.”
- 2014 For the Dante 2021 festival in Ravenna—under the artistic and scientific direction of the Accademia della Crusca—he creates the ‘performance visit’ to the Dante site “Dante and other hidden treasures.” The visit is repeated in a later edition of the same festival.
- With Véronique Nah, he completes two ‘performance visits’ in Florence: “The Hidden Treasure of Palazzo Strozzi” and “The Hidden Treasure of Casa Siviero.”
- 2016 The Fondazione Ferrara Arte commissions a ‘performance visit’ to the exhibition “De Chirico in Ferrara. Metaphysics and Avant-gardes” set up at the Palazzo dei Diamanti in Ferrara.
- 2017 The Museo Casa Siviero in Florence hosts the performance visit “The Hidden Treasure of Casa Siviero,” created for the Tuscany Region.
- 2019 The Tuscany Region commissions the performance visit “Surprised Looks on Things: The De Chirico of Casa Siviero.” The special visit is set up in the Museo Casa Siviero in Florence, which also hosts the reenactment of “The Hidden Treasure of Casa Siviero” during the same period.
- 2020 Leonardo Nannini records a video of the performance visit “Surprised Looks on Things: The De Chirico of Casa Siviero” for the Tuscany Region.
- 2023 The Institute for Puppetry Arts and Popular Theatre in Grugliasco hosts the “Imagine That! A Small Itinerary in the Poetics of the Little Princes” exhibition. On this occasion, some puppets from the Company are donated to the museum to become part of the permanent collection.

Educational Activities

- 1975/81 Teaches Art Education in Popular Courses established by the Provveditorato agli Studi of Florence at the Chiarugi Psychiatric Hospital in Florence, remaining there until 1981.
- 1994 Creates the theatrical action “Beyond the Horses of the Parthenon” with Claudio Coloberti, inspired by twentieth-century painting, involving children from several kindergartens in Scandicci.
- Designs and realizes “From Miles,” a listening journey through Miles Davis’s music, with Véronique Nah. This activity is aimed at Scandicci kindergartens, later carried out in Belgium and France, and follows the staging of the show “Starting from Miles.”
- 1998/99 Conducts a biennial theatrical workshop for teachers based on the fairy tale “Cappuccetto Rosso.”
- 1999/2002 Conducts a biennial theatrical workshop for teachers based on the fairy tale “Cappuccetto Rosso.”
- 2000 Holds the seminar “Theatre between Teaching and Visual Arts” for teachers in Scandicci.
- 2001 Conducts a theatrical workshop for a group of young people in Lecce as part of the “Disadvantaged Areas” project supported by ETI.
- Participates in the “Between Art and Teaching” conference for teachers in Venice.
- 2000/03 Leads “Studies at the Studio Theatre,” an experimental series of workshops for schools.
- 2003/05 Conducts intensive theatrical workshops with children, youth, and adults to create final events presented in the summer program of Scandicci Culture.
- 2005 Presents his work at the study day promoted by the Conference for Education of the North-West Zone on “The Languages of Art and Science in Children’s Education.”
- 2006/07 Conducts a two-year training course for kindergarten educators in Scandicci.
- 2007 Delivers a demonstration lesson at the Academy of Fine Arts in Turin.
- Presents “When Experimenting Became a Necessity,” a discourse on contemporary dramaturgy at the Biennale du Théâtre Jeunes Publics in Lyon.

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| 2008 | <p>Presents “Inhabiting the Borders Between Art, Childhood, Theater” in meetings with teachers around the show “BaBa” in Castagneto Carducci and Padova.</p> <p>Organizes “The Pleasure of Reading,” reading sessions for teachers and primary school students in Calenzano.</p> <p>Conducts a workshop class at the Paolo Grassi School of Dramatic Arts in Milan.</p> <p>Leads a practical-theoretical workshop during a teacher training course at Teatro Testoni in Bologna.</p> <p>Participates in a session with professionals and the public at the International Festival of Theater and Culture for Early Childhood “Visioni di Futuro, Visioni di Teatro” in Bologna.</p> <p>Presents “Theater for Science” at the event Proving and Testing during the XVIII week of scientific culture organized in Parma.</p> <p>Gives the discourse “Childhood Visual Arts Theater” at Chemnitz’s 4th Spinning Jenny Theaterstage.</p> <p>Conducts a theater workshop for students of the experimental European high school Lycée d’Ango in Dieppe, France.</p> |
| 2009 | <p>Conducts teacher training courses in Friuli and Puglia.</p> |
| 2010 | <p>Leads the training course “On Speaking through Images” for teachers during the event “Making Theater at School, According to Us” organized by ERT in Udine.</p> <p>Conducts the workshop “Hand to Hand” on puppet theater for professionals in Silvano d’Orba.</p> <p>Holds a class for professionals and librarians from the Théâtre de la Marionnette in Paris at Blanc Mesnil.</p> |
| 2011 | <p>Participates in a conference on the history of puppet theater and its relation with the plastic arts, organized by the educational service of the Pôle Jeune Public in Le Revest-les-Eaux, France.</p> <p>Participates as a teacher in the training days “Making Theater at School, According to Us” in Udine.</p> <p>Conducts a teacher training course for the audience training project “Open Curtain” by the Toscana Spettacolo Foundation in Barga.</p> <p>Leads the theater workshop “Making Theater Out of Nothing” for youths and adults of the Free Age University as part of a lifelong education project by the Municipality of Sesto F.no.</p> |
| 2012 | <p>Organizes the experimental theater workshop “Diverse Diversities” with secondary school students in Brussels and Saint-Nazaire.</p> <p>Conducts four theatrical workshops in Marseille for Marseille Provence 2013 European Capital of Culture.</p> |
| 2013 | <p>Conducts a theater workshop for the Art Institute of Porta Romana students in Florence, creating a special visit to the Institute’s Plaster Cast Gallery.</p> |
| 2014 | <p>Leads the workshop “ri/ta/gli” for educators and operators in Marseille and Saint-Nazaire schools.</p> <p>Holds artistic training meetings for teachers as part of the “Special Project MAT+S, Music Art Theater + Science 2014.”</p> |
| 2015 | <p>Conducts “ri/ta/gli” workshops for kindergarten and primary school teachers at the Santa Chiara Theatrical Center in Trento.</p> |
| 2016 | <p>Gives the lecture “The Meaning of Shapes/Shapes of Meaning” for teachers of various school levels for the Ente Regionale Teatrale del Friuli Venezia Giulia.</p> |

- 2017 Leads “Scientifico?,” an experimental workshop for adults and children in collaboration with the Jean Leray Laboratory of Mathematics at the University of Nantes, which inspires the show “Scientifico!”
- 2018 Participates in the meeting “Childhood, Art, and Mathematics” and conducts the theater workshop “Equalities” with Véronique Nah at the festival Visioni di Teatro, Visioni di Futuro in Bologna.
- 2021 Holds the educational webinar “On the Necessity of Experimenting: An Artist’s Viewpoint” for teachers and operators organized by the Ente Regionale Teatrale del Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Video

- 1987 “Deviazioni dalla Norma”
- 1996 “Oltre i cavalli del Partenone”
- 1997 “Je suis ici”
- 2003 “Le immagini della magia”
- 2017 “Plus moyen”
- 2020 “Volare”
- “In cerca di scampo”
- “Comparsa scomparse”
- “Tracce”
- “Pioverà?”
- “Sotto sotto”
- “Pedalando”
- “Elegia in Mi bemolle minore”
- “Sguardi sorpresi sulle cose: il De Chirico di Casa Siviero”
- 2021 “Lara”
- “Caruso per Giorgio”
- “Dodici”

Publications

- “Diversi amici diversi” Edizioni Fatatrac, 1992

Positions with Institutions and Entities

From 1980 to 1983, he was a member of the National Council of UNIMA (International Union of Marionettes).

From 1993 to 1995, the Municipality of Scandicci entrusted him with the artistic direction of the Studio Theater's Children's Sector.

From 1983 to 2006, he collaborated with the Institution of Cultural Services of the Municipality of Scandicci to create and manage residency projects.