

MANUELE MORGESE

Biography

Piece by piece, he has substantiated his artistic vocation on solid cultural foundations, starting with a degree in Modern Literature with a focus on performing arts, obtained with honours at the Istituto Universitario Orientale of Naples, and the Diploma of the Accademia d'Arte Drammatica of the Teatro Bellini of Naples.

He is the creator and founder of the only private prose theatre building in Abruzzo (a public performance venue with a capacity of 200 seats), the Cinema Teatro Zeta, and in 2026 of the children's theme park Abruzzimaginarium in L'Aquila. Artistic director and founder in 1999 of the Compagnia TEATROZETA, today recognised by the Ministry of Culture (production company under art. 13 paragraph 2) in the FNSV (formerly FUS), and of the Cinema Zeta, also recognised by the Ministry as an "art-house programming venue". From 2004 he directed the Teatro S. Agostino in the historic centre of L'Aquila until the 2009 earthquake. Since 2011 he has created and directed a permanent study centre in Abruzzo for the training of professional actors (Accademia d'arte drammatica dell'Aquila). In his career he has built from scratch, restored or transformed disused spaces into performance venues: after recovering an old garage in L'Aquila in 2004 he founded the Zeta OFF in via Savini; in 2005 in Rome the Teatro Eur; in 2012 the aforementioned Cinema Teatro Zeta, later expanded in 2019. In 2024 he conceived the Fondazione Morgese for the defence of the rights of minors; in 2022 he created a new space, the fifth of his career, founding in Cagliari, in the heart of the historic centre, the Zeta Actor Studio, where workshops with internationally renowned masters and experimental seasons regularly take place. In 2026 the Abruzzimaginarium Theme Play Park will be inaugurated: five pavilions – geodesic domes that house a multimedia museum and various emotional itineraries in collaboration with the National Park of Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga and with INFN – National Institute of Nuclear Physics.

Actor, director, producer, writer and internationally renowned trainer; he carries out his activity in Italy and abroad, as in recent years in Europe, the UK, the USA and Canada, guest of prestigious institutions and universities (Italian Cultural Institute of London, New York, Paris, Barcelona, Italian School in Tirana, University of Catalonia, Consulate General of Boston, "Penn Museum" of Philadelphia, "Columbus Centre" of Toronto, Dante Alighieri committees of Liverpool and Manchester, Barfuss Theatre of Berlin, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Auditorium Fast Hotel of Kraków, Universities of Roma Tre, Salerno, L'Aquila, Teramo, Goethe Institut of Rome, Società Dante Alighieri of Rome). He has been the protagonist of major events such as the inauguration of the Renzo Piano Auditorium in Rome in 2000 or Expo Milano 2015 at the Piccolo Teatro of Milan; he has curated projects for children for the TSA Teatro Stabile d'Abruzzo, for the Teatro Nazionale della Toscana and for the MIUR, Ministry of Education. He was the narrating voice of the sacred work for choir and large orchestra of the Marrucino of Chieti "Passio et Resurrectio" by Sergio Rendine, recorded for Naxos. In 2023 he directed at the Abruzzo lyric institution "Serata Omaggio a Furio Rendine". On 27 January 2022 the show "Cronache della Shoah" by Giuseppe Manfridi directed by Livio Galassi with Manuele Morgese and live music by trumpeter Fabrizio Bosso with pianist J.O. Mazzariello, after its debut at the Teatro Eliseo in Rome, was broadcast in prime time by Rai 5.

He has worked with directors such as Maurizio Scaparro, Peppino Patroni Griffi, Andrea Camilleri, Walter Manfré, Livio Galassi, Tato Russo, Leopoldo Mastelloni, Laura Angiulli, Andrea Renzi, Riccardo Reim, Pino Micol, Rolando Macrini; he has shared the stage with

actors such as Paolo Gassman, Ugo Pagliai, Mariano Rigillo, Cicci Rossini, Franco Castellano, Pino Micol, Vittorio Viviani, Nello Mascia, Anna Mazzamauro, Sebastiano Lo Monaco, Massimo Venturiello, Iaia Forte, Eduardo Siravo, Vanessa Gravina, Lino Capolicchio, Jared McNeill and others. He has taken part in international events alongside artists such as Fabrizio Bosso, Amii Stewart, Roberto Murolo, Beppe Barra, Liliana De Curtis, Vittorio Grigolo, Teresa De Sio, Sergio Rendine, Carlo Crivelli, Caty Marchand.

In 2021 he directed and adapted for the stage Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha*, directing Mariano Rigillo at the Campania Teatro Festival. In 2023/24, accompanied by the extraordinary voice of Antonella Ruggiero, he read and performed Machiavelli's *The Prince*, with Paolo Di Sabatino and Renzo Ruggieri. With the Fabrizio Bosso Quartet Jazz in May 2024 he was the protagonist and directed at the Sala Umberto in Rome Alessandro Baricco's *Novecento*. In 2025, accompanied by the Youth Orchestra of the Conservatorio Casella of L'Aquila, he performed in Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and in Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du soldat*.

AWARDS: In 2008 he was a jury member of the national Hystrio prize for actors and of the Marte Live prize in 2014. In 2009 he was awarded the Ennio Flaiano Prize as best young Italian actor, in 2010 the Gassman Prize and in 2011 the Premio Napoli Culturalclassic for the same reasons. In 2024 he received a plaque from the Consulate General of Boston as protagonist of the Festival of Italian Creativity Abroad. In the same year, for his civil and social commitment against the Mafia, he received an honorary plaque from the National Police Union.

His thirty-year activity ranges from prose theatre to opera, from cinema to television, from directing to choreography, from training to the planning and production of events, and extends to significant cultural entrepreneurship such as the construction of theatres and spaces dedicated to performance. In 2024 his name is linked to the FONDAZIONE MANUELE MORGESE which, in addition to activities related to the dissemination of art, is committed to the defence of the rights of minors and of separated fathers.

After graduating from the Academy he collaborated with the following permanent theatres: Teatro Stabile di Napoli, Teatro Stabile di Calabria, Teatro Stabile d'Abruzzo, Teatri Uniti di Napoli, Florian Teatro d'innovazione di Pescara, Teatri Possibili Milano, Sicilia Teatro, Teatro della Pergola di Firenze, and with lyric institutions such as the Teatro San Carlo of Naples and the Teatro Marrucino of Chieti. For years he has carried out his activity as actor, author, director and theatre producer in Abruzzo, where he resides and where he is engaged in the social and artistic field in the dissemination of theatrical culture and the training of young actors. He has taken part as protagonist in the Todi Arte Festival, the Quartieri dell'arte of Viterbo, the Festival of Spoleto, the Napoli Teatro Festival (in 2016 and later the Campania Festival 2021). For 10 years he has been one of the organisers of the Festival dei Cantieri dell'Immaginario of L'Aquila.

As an author he has published two theatrical dramas: "Masaniello, 1647, a Napoli è rivoluzione" and "Federico II, vento di Soave" – Zikkurat editore 2009. In 2009 he wrote the text "Muro contro Muro" commissioned by the Goethe Institut of Rome for the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. From 2010 to 2012 he taught Effective Communication at the University of L'Aquila in the Master "Ittp formazione e comunicazione". In 2021/24 he held lectures and participated as a teacher of cultural

enterprise management at the University of Teramo and the University of Roma Tre, of which he is currently a stakeholder.

ARTISTIC PERFORMANCE AND TRAINING ACTIVITY ABROAD

For years Manuele Morgese, as actor, director and teacher, has held workshops, masterclasses and performances in prestigious international venues with partners such as the Italian Cultural Institutes of New York, Paris and Barcelona, the Italian School in Tirana, the Goethe Institut in Berlin, the Società Dante Alighieri of Rome, the Dante committees in Boston, Philadelphia, in the USA, Toronto and Oshawa in Canada. He performed his show on the Shoah in Auschwitz and Kraków in 2019 with the MIUR delegation. He performed at the National Theatre of Tirana – Metropol Teatri and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with the show *Revolution*. In 2024 he was engaged in a tour in the United Kingdom where he read and performed *The Divine Comedy* at the IIC of London (where he also held a three-day workshop), then in Liverpool and Manchester. On 19 November 2024, guest of the Festival of Italian Creativity of the Consulate General, he was the protagonist in the USA in Boston of Machiavelli's *The Prince* in collaboration with the Berklee Conservatory, accompanied by Nicolas Giusti on the piano. In 2025 the US tour saw him with *The Divine Comedy* in Detroit at Wayne University, in Washington at the Italian Embassy and again in Boston where he premiered worldwide "Gioachino Rossini – the taste of music". In June 2026, for the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States of America, he was a guest of the Consulate General of Boston where he premiered the project "Noi Italiani d'America". Subsequently he was a guest at the IIC in New York with the Rossini show and in November he will stop in London at the IIC and then in Manchester and Liverpool. With the Dante project in November 2026 he will be a guest of the Dante Alighieri committee in Madrid, where he will also hold a masterclass at the Spanish University.

TELEVISION

1997 – CANALE 5, MEDIASET. "BEATO TRA LE DONNE": live TV, 27 November 1997 – Directed by P. F. Pingitore, with Paolo Bonolis; WINNER OF THE TENTH EPISODE, performs the monologue "Masaniello" by E. Porta, A. Pugliese adapted by C. Manfredi. "BEATO TRA LE DONNE, FINALISSIMA": live TV 18 December 1997 – Directed by P. F. Pingitore. Performs the monologue "Madonna de lu Carmine" by R. De Simone.
1998 – RAI, "Un posto al sole" TV soap – plays the role of Mattia Amato.
1999 – RAI 3, "Saranno maturi" with S. Dandini and C. Guzzanti – sketch, role of policeman.
2000 – RAI (Sat 2000) ECHELMESSIA by Ennio de Concini – event show. RAI 3, "La Squadra" Fiction – GUEST episode 44.
2001 CANALE 5 "Cuore" TV series, directed by Maurizio Zaccaro.
2003 – RAI 1 – RAI educational – Special on theatre actors.
2004 "La Squadra" V series.
2005 "Il mestiere dell'attore" directed by A. Zechini – RAI.
"Orgoglio" II series – directed by Giorgio Serafini – "Orgoglio" III series – directed by G. Serafini.
2022 RAI 5 – Prime-time TV – Show "Cronache dalla Shoah" with Fabrizio Bosso.

ADVERTISING

1999 RAI 1 “Per tutta la vita” teleshopping for Tecnocasa with F. Frizzi.
RAI “Giro d’Italia” teleshopping for FIAT.
1999 TESTIMONIAL FOR BARILLA – Barilla Calendar 2000.
CANALE 5: “Ciao Darwin 2” teleshopping for “Infostrada”.
2001 – TV SPOT ITALIA FIESTA FERRERO – Testimonial.
2006 – Series of TV spots – Ego casa immobiliare.
2009 Web spot – testimonial BAYERN – 2010 Ego casa 2 – directed by M. Chiarini.

CINEMA

1999 – June “UN UOMO PER BENE” directed by M. Zaccaro with M. Placido, M. Melato, L. Gullotta, G. Gemma – CLEMI production.
2015 NOLI TIMERE protagonist with Lino Capolicchio – directed by Giuseppe Tandoi.
2021 Il segno del perdono directed by Marco Zaccarelli.

SHORT FILMS: “Vita a sorpresagli animi” by Dario Sallusto – Naples; “Pilato” by Cinzia Mirabella – Salerno 11/96; “Cercasi compagno di studio” by Gian Luca Caruso – Naples 97; 2006 “La linea” directed by BENOIS TETELIN; 2009 MI FA MALE – Short film – Directed by Luca Cococchetta; 2012 DISTANZA – protagonist with Iaia Forte – Short film – Directed by Luca Cococchetta.

MIME / DANCE

1996 – TEATRO CILEA – Naples – Accademia dello Spettacolo of Irma Cardano and Virginia Vincenti “Don Quijote”, dance show.
Classical dance school directed by Valeria de Mata: “Il naufragio”.
1997 – TEATRO SAN CARLO DI NAPOLI (autonomous lyric institution) “NABUCCO” by G. Verdi, with Renato Bruson, directed by F. Sparvoli.
1998 – “GISELLE”, with the corps de ballet of the San Carlo.
1999 – M.D.A. of Rome: itinerant show Archaeological Museum and Castel S. Elmo of Naples, choreographies by A. Gatti.

Activity for children: for years from 1996 he was a tourist entertainer and head entertainer. He has dedicated himself to the world of childhood as a trainer in schools of every order and degree and as a theatrical author and director. Since 2024, with the FOUNDATION that bears his name, he defends the rights of minors and of separated fathers.