



Olympic Opening Ceremony

TEAM

Marco BALICH

CREATIVE LEAD



BIOGRAPHY

With 16 Olympic Ceremonies, 12 Regional Games, and countless large-scale events from Torino 2006 to Rio 2016 and the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, Marco Balich is recognized as one of the world's foremost Olympic Ceremonies producers, honored with both an Emmy Award and the prestigious Compasso d'Oro for his achievements.

MAIN CREDITS

- **2025** - FIFA Club World Cup Opening and Closing Ceremony – Creative Director and Executive Producer – New York and Miami, USA
- **2025** - Special Olympics Winter Games Turin 2025 Opening and Closing Ceremony – Creative Lead- Turin, Italy
- **2022** - FIFA World Cup Opening Ceremony Qatar 2022 - Co-Creative Director and Executive Producer – Doha, Qatar
- **2022** - Welcome to Qatar Corniche Water Show- Creative Director and Executive Producer – Doha, Qatar
- **2022** - Beijing 2022 - Olympic and Paralympic Flag Handover, Creative Director and Executive Producer – Beijing, China
- **2022** - Icon Whale Shark for FIFA World Cup- Creative Director – Doha
- **2021** - Tokyo 2020 Olympic Ceremonies – Executive Producer | Consultant – Tokyo, Japan
- **2019** - The Best FIFA Football Awards – Executive Producer – Milan, Italy
- **2019** - Milano Cortina 2026 Candidacy – Director – Lausanne, Switzerland
- **2018** - Design Week Milano main event Leonardo Da Vinci's Water Vision – Creative Director and Executive Producer – Milan, Italy
- **2018** - Giudizio Universale, the Sistine Chapel Immersive Show – Creative Direction and Executive Producer – Rome, Italy
- **2016** - Rio 2016 Olympic Opening & Closing Ceremonies – Executive Producer (produced by CC2016) – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- **2015** - Icon Tree of Life for EXPO Milano – Creative Director and Executive Producer Milan, Italy
- **2015** - EXPO Milano Italian Pavilion – Artistic Director – Milan, Italy
- **2014** - Sochi 2014 Paralympic Opening & Closing Ceremonies, Olympic Closing Ceremony – Executive Producer – Sochi, Russia
- **2014** - 2015-2016-2017 - Intimissimi on Ice – Creative Direction and Executive Producer – Verona, Italy
- **2012** - London 2012 - Olympic & Paralympic Flag Handover, Executive Producer – London, UK
- **2011** - Juventus Stadium Opening Ceremony – Creative Director and Executive Producer – Turin, Italy
- **2011** - Turkmenistan XX Anniversary – Creative Director and Executive Producer – Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
- **2010** - Mexico Bicentennial – Creative Director and Executive Producer – Mexico City, Mexico
- **2007** - Fiat 500 world premiere – Torino Italy
- **2006** - Torino 2006 Olympic Opening Ceremony – Creative Director and Executive Producer – Turin, Italy
- **2006** - Torino 2006 Olympic Closing Ceremony – Executive Producer – Turin, Italy
- **2002** - Salt Lake City 2002 ,Olympic and Paralympic Flag Handover,- Creative Director and Executive Producer – Salt Lake City, USA

Simone FERRARI

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
AND DEPUTY CREATIVE LEAD

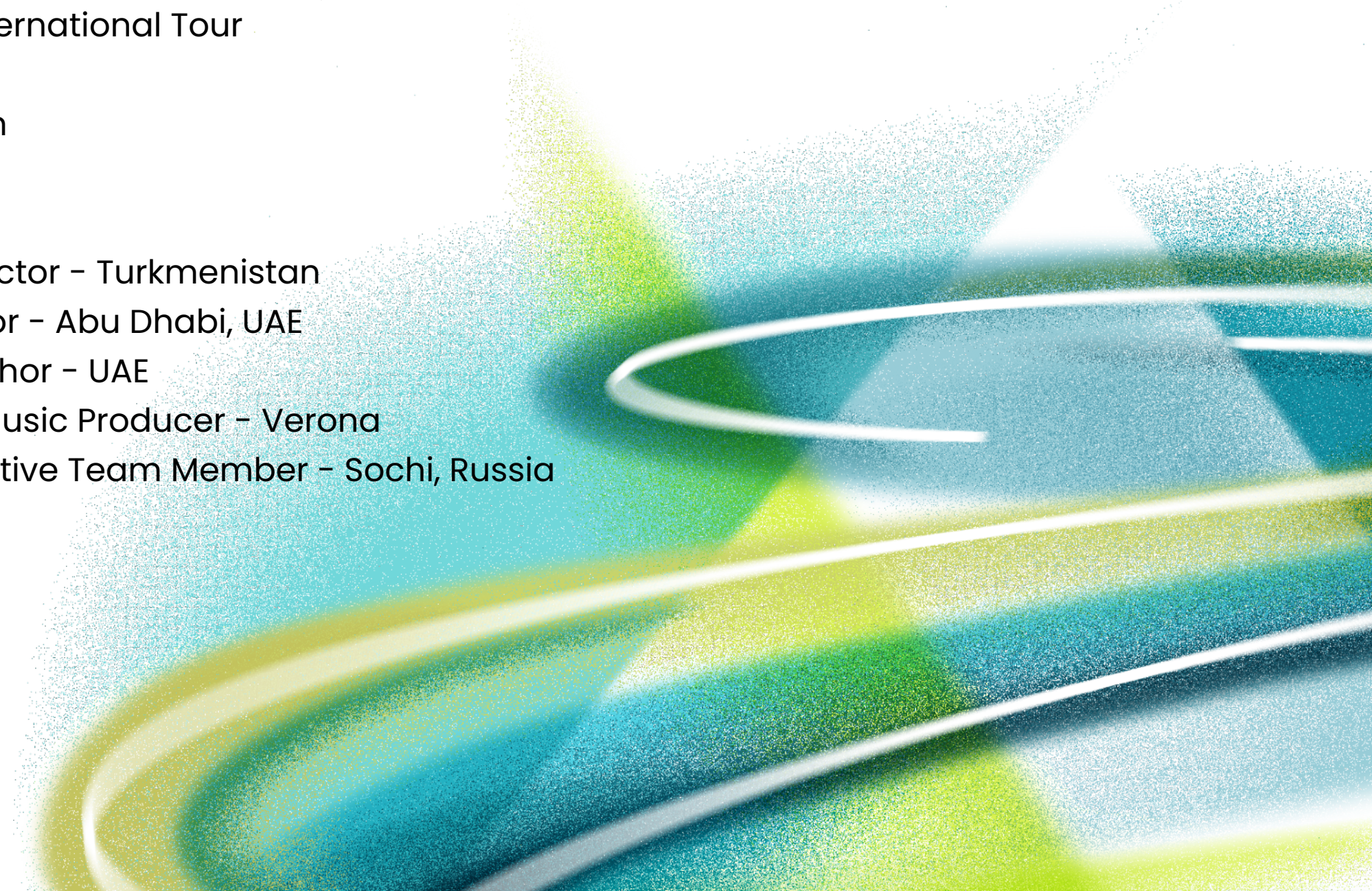


BIOGRAPHY

Simone Ferrari is the youngest creative director of an Olympic-level ceremony. His work ranges from Cirque du Soleil live shows to X Factor television, contemporary theatre, concerts, including MTV EMAs with Måneskin and Sting, to fashion shows and major ceremonies. As Chief Creative Officer of Balich Wonder Studio, he leads international teams in the creation of innovative live shows and experiences.

MAIN CREDITS

- **2025** - Special Olympics World Winter Games Opening Ceremony - Exec Creative Director - Turin, Italy
- **2025** - Bulgari Polychroma 2025 High Jewelry Show - Creative Director - Taormina, Italy
- **2024** - Ghali's Live Tour - Creative and Show Director - Italy
- **2024** - The Headlands - Director and Set Designer - Palermo, Italy
- **2023** - Cartier High Jewelry - Creative and Show Director - Florence, Italy
- **2022** - Sarwat Watan, Cirque du Soleil - Director and Author - Riyadh, Saudi
- **2021** - Paradiso XXXIII - Director - Italy
- **2021** - Alice! In Wonderland - Director, Writer and Show Conceptor - International Tour
- **2021** - Maneskin MTV EMAs - Creative and Show Director - Budapest
- **2019** - Cirque du Soleil NYSA - Director and Author - premiering in Berlin
- **2018** - 13th season of X Factor Italy - Creative Director - Italy
- **2018** - 12th season of X Factor Italy - Creative Director - Italy
- **2017** - Aimag Games 2017, Closing Ceremony - Creative and Show Director - Turkmenistan
- **2017** - Mother of the Nation - Associate Creative Director and Co-Author - Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **2016** - 45th UAE National Day - Associate Creative Director and Co-Author - UAE
- **2015** - Intimismi On Ice OperaPop - Creative Coordinator | Video and Music Producer - Verona
- **2014** - Sochi Paralympic Closing Ceremony - Music Producer and Creative Team Member - Sochi, Russia



Damiano MICHIELETTO

CREATIVE DIRECTOR



BIOGRAPHY

Prominent figure in the world of Opera and theatre, Damiano Michieletto rapidly gained international recognition as one of Italy's most interesting directors. His career has been defined by a series of critically acclaimed opera productions, performed in esteemed venues worldwide. Michieletto's artistic contributions also span drama theatre, where he has left a lasting impact with innovative interpretations of Goldoni, Gogol, and Brecht, as well as cinema and immersive installations. His productions have won many prizes, including the Laurence Olivier, Irish Times, Casta Diva, Abbiati, Österreichischer Musiktheaterpreis, Reumert and Melbourne Green Room awards.

MAIN CREDITS

- **2023** - Animal Farm - Director - Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- **2023** - Giulio Cesare in Egitto - Director - Teatro dell' Opera di Roma, Roma, Italy
- **2023** - Aida - Director - Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, Germany
- **2023** - Salome - Director - Teatro La Scala, Milano, Italy
- **2021** - Kát'a Kabanová - Director - Glyndebourne Opera Festival, UK
- **2018** - Macbeth - Director - Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy
- **2017** - Damnation de Faust - Director - Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Rome, Italy
- **2016** - Aquagranda - Director - Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy
- **2016** - Lucia di Lammermoor - Director - Teatro Regio di Torino, Turin, Italy
- **2015** - Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci - Director - Royal Opera House, London, UK
- **2015** - Guillaume Tell - Director - Royal Opera House, London, UK
- **2012** - La bohème - Director - Salzburg Festival, Salzburg, Austria
- **2008** - La gazza ladra - Director - Rossini Opera Festival, Pesaro, Italy
- **2003** - Švanda the Bagpiper - Director - Wexford Festival, Ireland



Lida CASTELLI

PROTOCOL
CREATIVE DIRECTOR

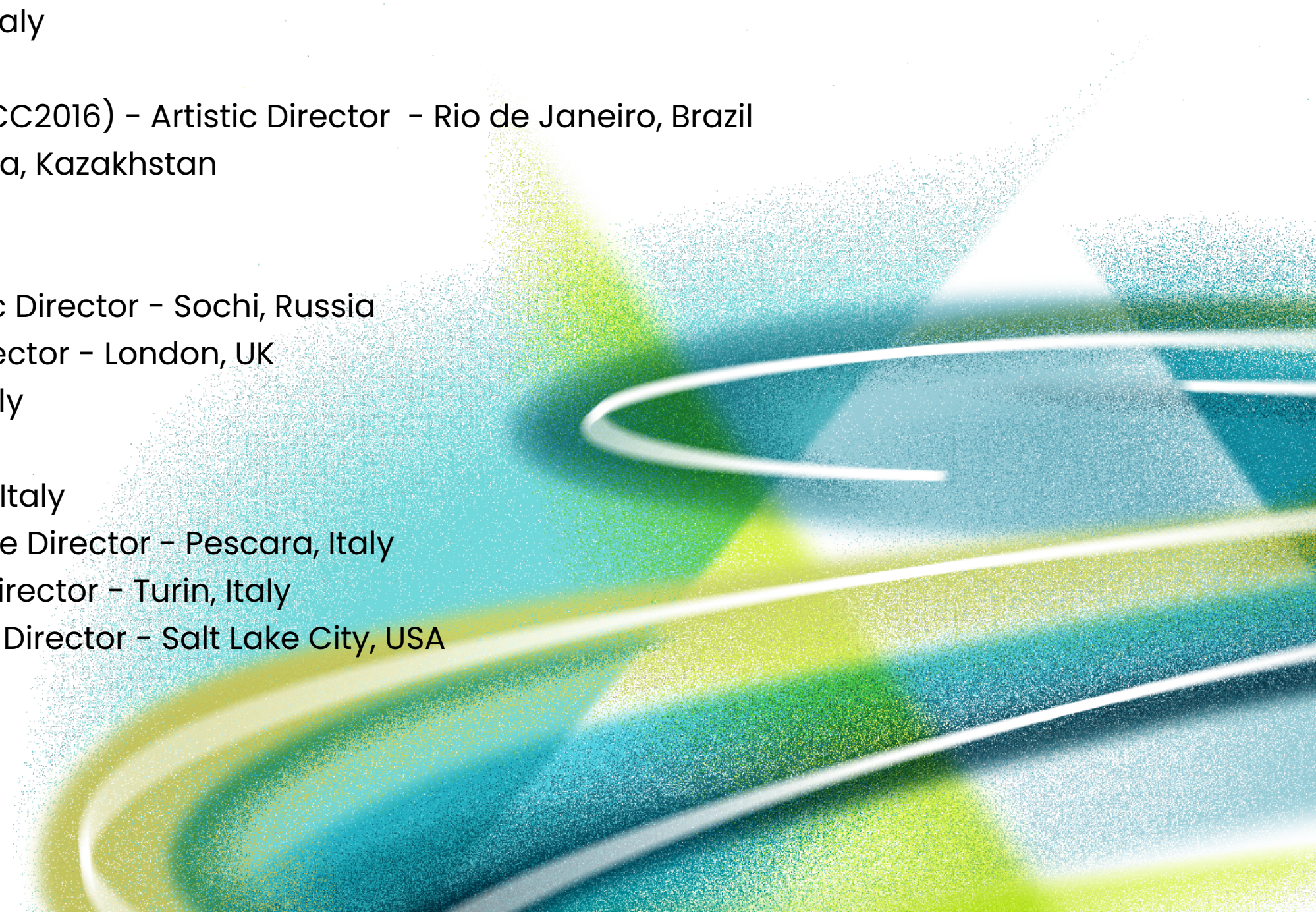


BIOGRAPHY

Lida Castelli is an Artistic and Creative Director with over 25 years of experience across large-scale ceremonies, sport, and fashion. Working alongside Marco Balich since 2000, she was the first woman to conceive an Olympic Ceremony with the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Closing, and has directed iconic productions including the Torino 2006 Olympic Ceremonies, the Napoli 2019 Universiade and the Saudi Games 2022. She has also collaborated with leading fashion houses and cultural institutions worldwide.

MAIN CREDITS

- **2023** - Santiago 2023 Panamerican and Parapanamerican Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies - Executive Artistic Director - Santiago, Chile
- **2022** - Whale Shark Icon - Artistic Director - Doha, Qatar
- **2022** - Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Flag Handover, Beijing 2022 - Artistic Director - Beijing, China
- **2022** - Beijing 2022 - Olympic and Paralympic Flag Handover, Creative Director - Beijing, China
- **2022** - Saudi Games 2022 Opening Ceremony - Creative Director - Riyadh, KSA
- **2021** - Noor Riyadh Festival - Citywide Installations - Artistic Director - Riyadh, KSA
- **2019** - Napoli 2019 Universiade Ceremonies - Artistic Director - Naples, Italy
- **2018** - Fang Fu. Forever - Creative Director - Beijing, China
- **2016** - Rio 2016 Olympic Opening & Closing Ceremonies (produced by CC2016) - Artistic Director - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- **2015** - 550th Anniversary of Kazakh Khanate - Creative Direction- Astana, Kazakhstan
- **2015** - Icon Tree of Life for EXPO Milano - Creative Director - Milan, Italy
- **2015** - EXPO Milano Italian Pavilion - Artistic Director - Milan, Italy
- **2014** - Sochi 2014 Olympic Closing and Paralympic Ceremonies - Artistic Director - Sochi, Russia
- **2012** - London 2012 - Olympic & Paralympic Flag Handover - Artistic Director - London, UK
- **2012** - America's Cup Opening Ceremony - Artistic Director - Naples, Italy
- **2011** - FC Shakhtar 75th Anniversary - Artistic Director - Donetsk, Ukraine
- **2011** - Juventus Stadium Opening Ceremony - Creative Director - Turin, Italy
- **2009** - Mediterranean Games Opening and Closing Ceremony- Creative Director - Pescara, Italy
- **2006** - Torino 2006 Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremony - Artistic Director - Turin, Italy
- **2002** - Torino 2006 Olympic Flag Handover, Salt Lake City 2002 - Artistic Director - Salt Lake City, USA



Lulu HELBAEK

CREATIVE DIRECTOR



BIOGRAPHY

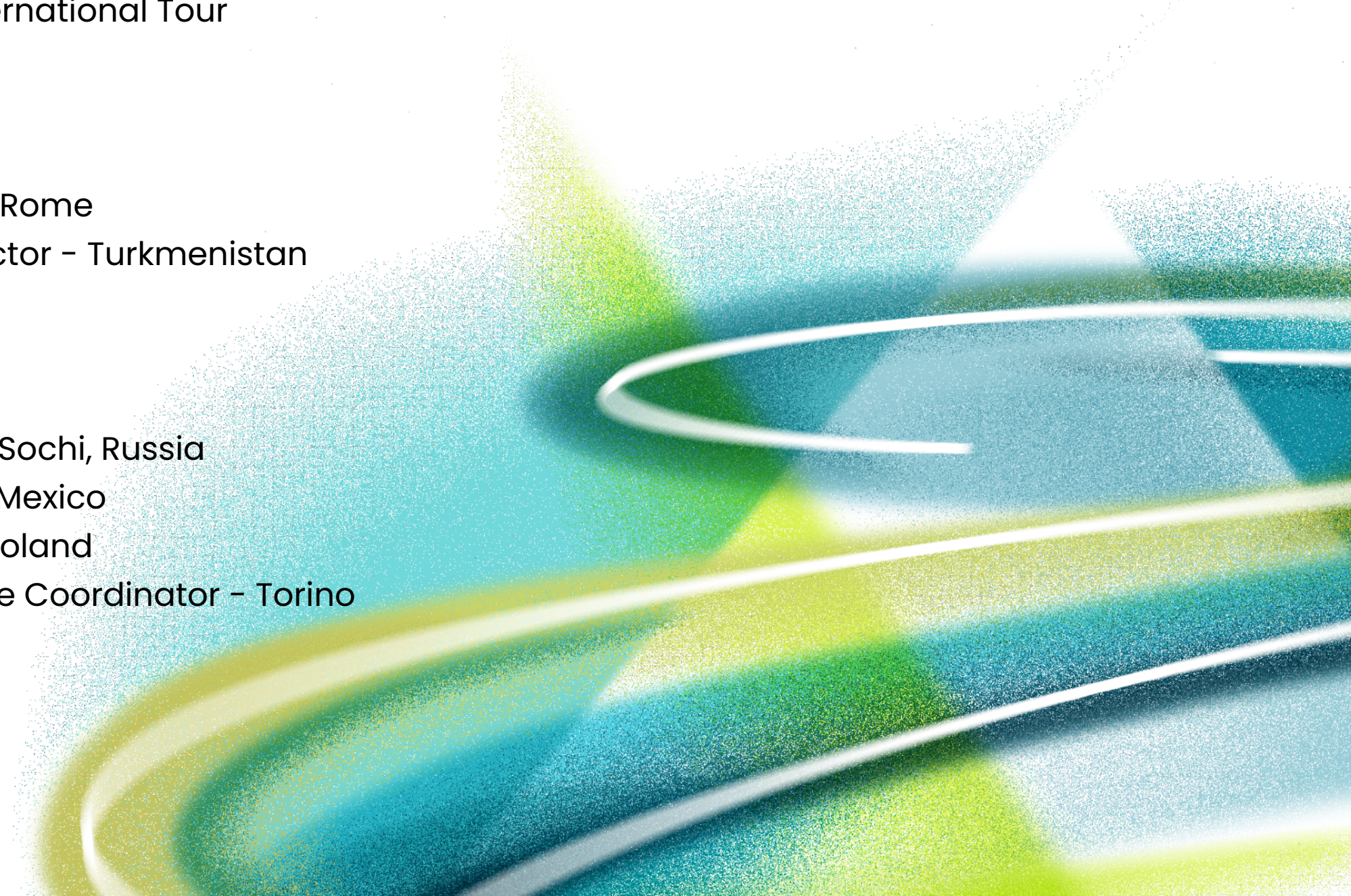
Lulu Helbaek is the creative director behind Italy's first permanent immersive show, Giudizio Universale.

With more than 20 years in global entertainment, she has directed major international ceremonies with Balich Wonder Studio and contemporary circus productions

with Cirque du Soleil. Her work spans across disciplines, bringing a fusion of performance languages to luxury fashion for Cartier and to television formats such as X Factor.

MAIN CREDITS

- **2025** - The Smashing Machine - Worldwide Launch Show, Lucca
- **2025** - Marty Supreme - Worldwide Launch Show, Lucca
- **2024** - The Headlands - Director and Set Designer - Italy
- **2023** - Cartier High Jewelry - Creative and Show Director - Florence, Italy
- **2022** - Sarwat Watan, Cirque du Soleil - Director and Author - Montreal and Ksa
- **2021** - Paradiso XXXIII - Director - Italy
- **2021** - Alice! In Wonderland - Director, Writer and Show Conceptor - International Tour
- **2021** - Maneskin MTV EMAs - Creative and Show Director - Budapest
- **2018** - 13th season of X Factor Italy - Associate Creative Director - Italy
- **2018** - 12th season of X Factor Italy - Associate Creative Director - Italy
- **2018** - Giudizio Universale & the secret of the Sistine Chapel - Director - Rome
- **2017** - Aimag Games 2017, Closing Ceremony - Creative and Show Director - Turkmenistan
- **2017** - Mother of the Nation - Creative Director - Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **2016** - 45th UAE National Day - Creative Director - UAE
- **2015** - OperaPop Pn Ice - Creative Supervisor - Verona
- **2014** - Sochi Paralympic Closing Ceremony - Creative Team Member - Sochi, Russia
- **2010** - Mexico Ceremony Bicentennial Ceremony - Creative Producer - Mexico
- **2009** - UEFA Opening Ceremony - Creative Team Member - Ukraine & Poland
- **2006** - Torino 2006 Winter Olympic Games Opening & Closing - Creative Coordinator - Torino



Paolo FANTIN

PRODUCTION DESIGNER



BIOGRAPHY

A highly accomplished set designer, Paolo Fantin is renowned for his versatile expertise in both opera and drama productions. His artistic work has received important recognition at both national and international levels, including the Abbiati Prize (2008 and 2011), the International Opera Award for Best Set Designer (2017), and the Österreichischer Musiktheaterpreis 2025 as Best Set Designer for Animal Farm at the Wiener Staatsoper in Vienna.

He is also nominated as Designer of the Year at the International Opera Awards 2025.

He carries on a fruitful collaboration with director Damiano Michieletto since 2004, in opera productions as well as other projects, such as Rigoletto and Gianni Schicchi films.

He approaches theatre design with a contemporary gaze, reinterpreting classical and modern works with originality and depth. In 2022, he has been invited as a guest artist at the Venice Biennale.

MAIN CREDITS

- **2025** - Ghali's Live Tour - Set designer - Italy
- **2023** - Les Contes d'Hoffmann - Set Designer - Sydney Opera House, Sydney, Australia
- **2023** - Salome - Set Designer - Teatro La Scala, Milano, Italy
- **2022** - Giulio Cesare - Set Designer - Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris, France
- **2022** - "Venezia" Pavillion - Set Designer - Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy
- **2020** - Cendrillon - Set Designer - Komische Oper, Berlin, Germany
- **2020** - La vedova allegra - Set Designer - Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Rome, Italy
- **2018** - Die Zauberflöte - Set Designer - Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy
- **2018** - A Midsummer Night's Dream - Set Designer - Theater an der Wien, Wien, Austria
- **2016** - Aquagranda - Set Designer - Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy
- **2015** - Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci - Director - Royal Opera House Covent Garden, London, UK
- **2015** - Guillaume Tell - Set Designer - Royal Opera House, London, UK
- **2011** - Madama Butterfly - Set Designer - Teatro Regio di Torino, Turin, Italy
- **2010** - Sigismondo - Set Designer - Rossini Opera Festival, Pesaro, Italy
- **2008** - La gazza ladra - Set Designer - Rossini Opera Festival, Pesaro, Italy



Andrea FARRI

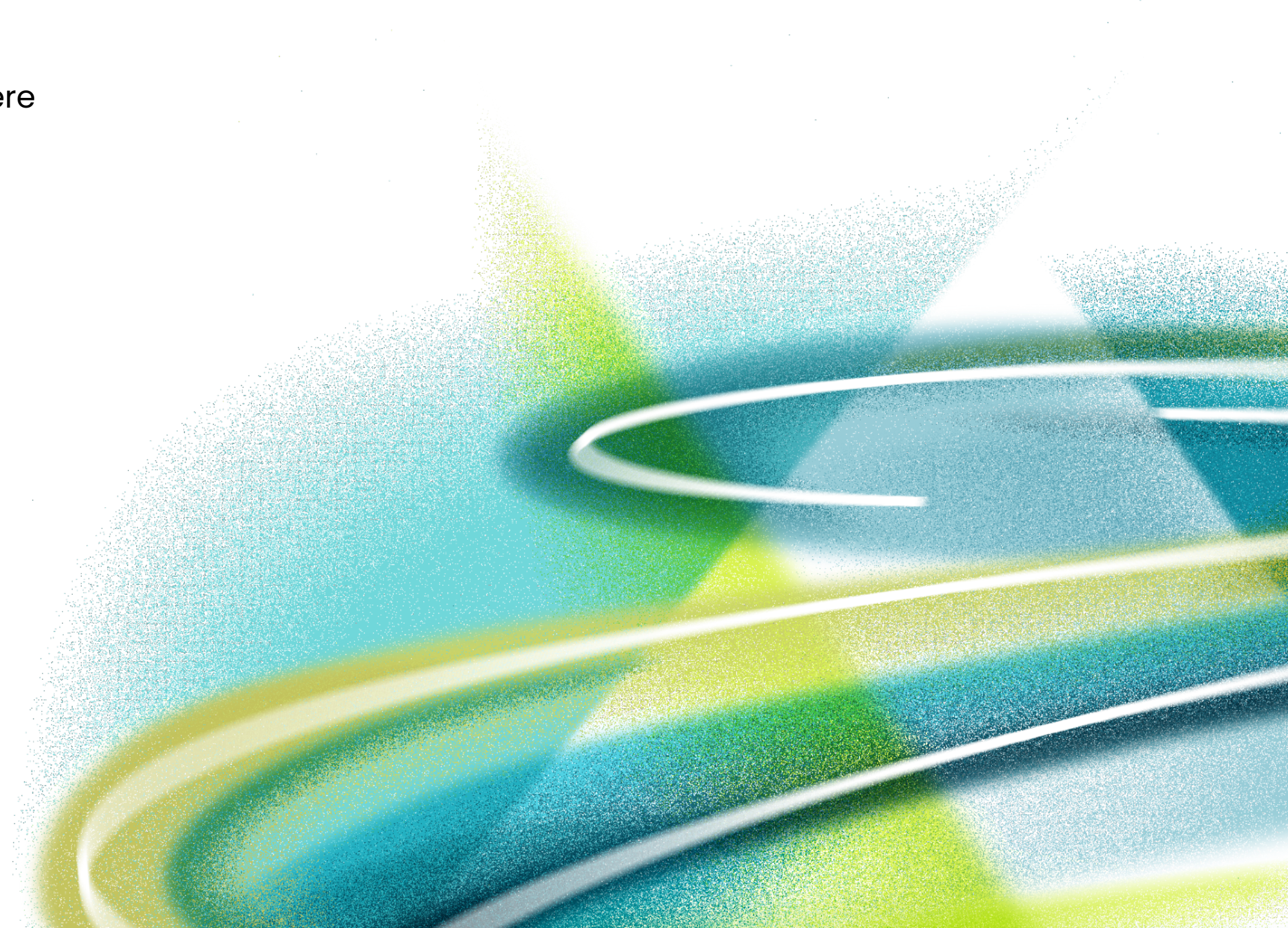
MUSIC DIRECTOR

BIOGRAPHY

One of the top Italian Composers for Film, Theatre and TV Shows. Soundtrack Stars Award winner (80th Venice International Film Festival), several David di Donatello and Golden Globe nominations. The peculiarity of his style is a blend between electronic music with classical and contemporary orchestral style elements, in an innovative sound that does not neglect the Italian musical tradition.

MAIN CREDITS

- **2024** - Those About to Die - Tv Series by Roland Emmerich
- **2024** - The Tearsmith, (Fabbricante di lacrime) - Italy's first #1 on Netflix Global Non-English Film chart by Alessandro Genovesi
- **2023** - Io Capitano (Me Captain) - Feature Film by Matteo Garrone
- **2022** - The Hanging Sun - Feature Film by Francesco Carrozzini.
- **2021** - Le Château du Tarot - Short Movie by Matteo Garrone, for the Dior Spring Summer 2021 Haute Couture Collection
- **2020** - Security - Feature Film by Peter Chelsom
- **2019** - Il Primo Re (The First King) - Feature Film by Matteo Rovere
- **2019** - Imma Tataranni - Tv Series by Francesco Amato
- **2016** - Veloce come il vento (Italian Race) - Feature Film by Matteo Rovere
- **2016** - L'abbiamo fatta grossa - Feature Film by Carlo Verdone
- **2015** - Latin Lover - Feature Film by Cristina Comencini



Massimo CANTINI PARRINI

COSTUME DESIGNER

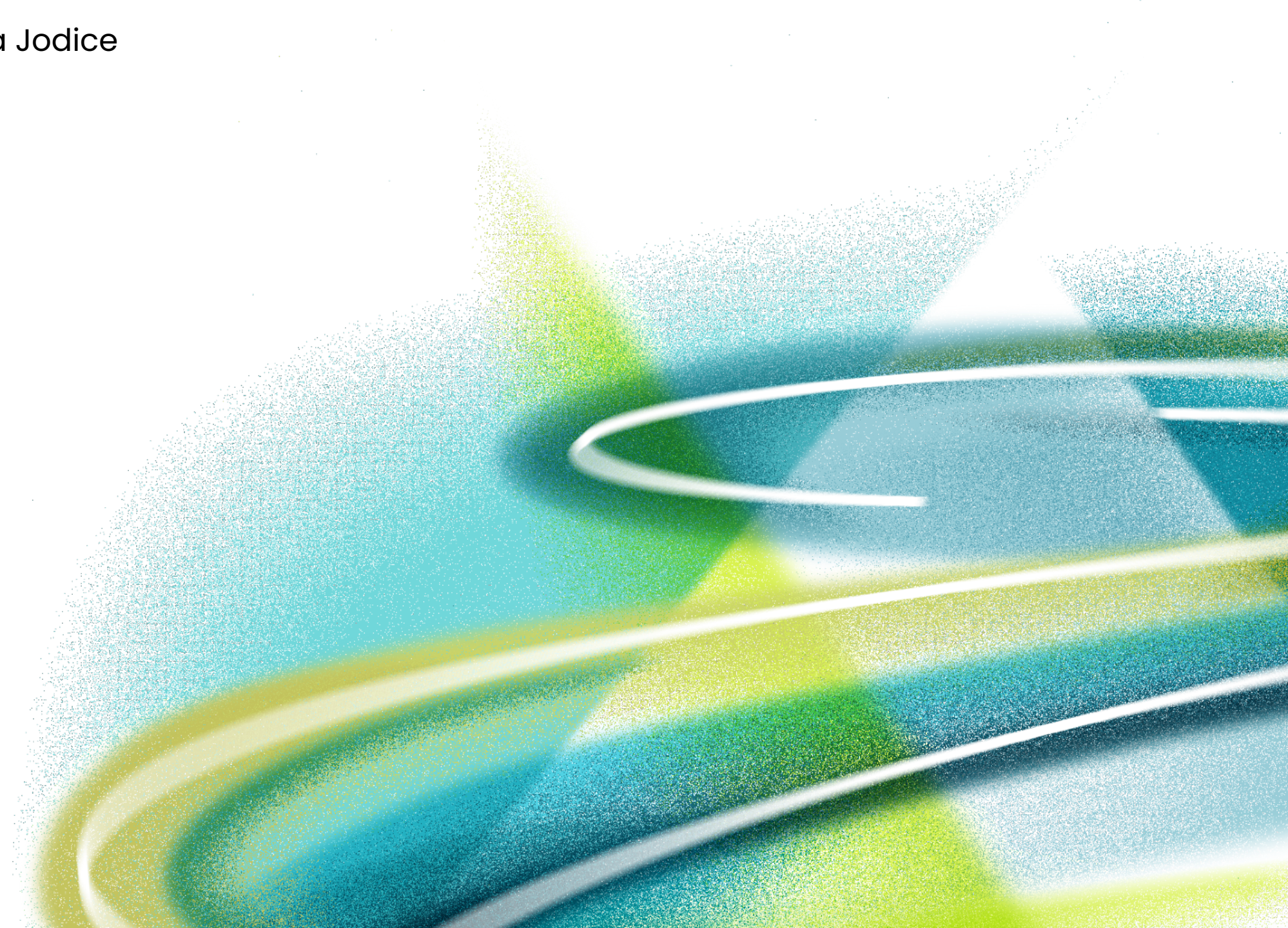


BIOGRAPHY

Massimo Cantini Parrini is an internationally renowned Italian costume designer, was born in Florence, where he trained at the Porta Romana State Art Institute, Polimoda, and the University of Letters and Philosophy, graduating in Fashion Culture and Design. He won the competition at the Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia, becoming a student of the Oscar-winning costume designer Piero Tosi. Member of the Academy since 2020, he has received two Oscar nominations for Pinocchio (2021) and Cyrano (2022). He has won six David di Donatello Awards, a European Academy Award (EFA), six Nastri d'Argento, the Flaiano Prize, five Ciak d'Oro, and many other national and international awards. He is an Honorary Academician at the Academies of Fine Arts of Florence. He has also received nominations for BAFTA, CDG Awards, and Critics Choice Awards. He has designed costumes for over 100 productions for film, theater, exhibitions, and major events.

MAIN CREDITS

- **2024** - Maria, dir. Pablo Larraín
- **2024** - M-Il figlio del secolo, dir. Joe Wright
- **2024** - Le Déluge – The Last Days of Marie Antoinette (2024), dir. Gianluca Jodice
- **2023** - Ferrari, dir. Michael Mann
- **2023** - Comandante, dir. Edoardo De Angelis
- **2023** - Mi fanno male i capelli, dir. Roberta Torre
- **2022** - Chiara, dir. Susanna Nicchiarelli
- **2022** - L'immensità, dir. Emanuele Crialese
- **2021** - Cyrano, dir. Joe Wright
- **2021** - America Latina, dir. Damiano & Fabio D'Innocenzo
- **2020** - Miss Marx, dir. Susanna Nicchiarelli
- **2020** - Bad Tales, dir. Damiano & Fabio D'Innocenzo
- **2019** - Pinocchio, dir. Matteo Garrone
- **2018** - Ophelia, dir. Claire McCarthy
- **2018** - Dogman, dir. Matteo Garrone
- **2017** - Ella & John, dir. Paolo Virzì
- **2016** - Indivisible, dir. Edoardo De Angelis
- **2015** - Tale of Tales, dir. Matteo Garrone



Annalisa BARBIERI

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



BIOGRAPHY

Project Manager and Artistic Producer with more than 20 years of experience in the organization of stadium shows and large-scale events. Her most recent work includes the Special Olympics Winter Games in 2025, the Paralympic Games in London 2012, the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Sochi 2014, in Rio 2016, Pan American Games in Lima 2019, Milano-Cortina Flag Handover 2026 in Beijing 2022 and FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

MAIN CREDITS

- **2025** - Special Olympics Winter Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies - Executive Producer - Turin, Italy
- **2024** - Euro24 Opening Ceremony - Executive Producer - Munich, Germany
- **2023** - Panamerican and Parapanamerican Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies - *Project Manager & Head of Artistic Production* - Santiago de Chile, Chile
- **2022** - FIFA World Cup Opening Ceremony Qatar 2022 - *Head of Artistic Production* - Doha, Qatar
- **2022** - Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Flag Handover, Beijing 2022 - *Project Manager* - Beijing, China
- **2021** - Noor Riyadh Festival - Citywide Installations - *Project Manager* - Riyadh, KSA
- **2019** - Lima 2019 Panamerican and Parapanamerican Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies - *Head of Artistic Production* - Perù, Lima
- **2016** - Rio 2016 Olympic Opening Ceremony - *Head of Artistic Production* - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - *produced by CC2016
- **2014** - Olympics Games Closing Ceremony, Paralympics Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies - *Head of Artistic Production* - Sochi, Russia
- **2012** - London 2012 Paralympic Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies - *Artistic Producer* - London, UK
- **2009** - Mediterranean Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies - *Artistic Producer* - Pescara, Italy
- **2006** - Torino 2006 Olympic Opening & Closing Ceremonies, Paralympic Opening Ceremony - *Artistic Producer* - Turin, Italy



CHOREOGRAPHERS

**Sasha
RIVA**



**Simone
REPELE**

**Adriano
BOLOGNINO**



**Rosaria
DI MARO**



**Beatrice
ALESSI**



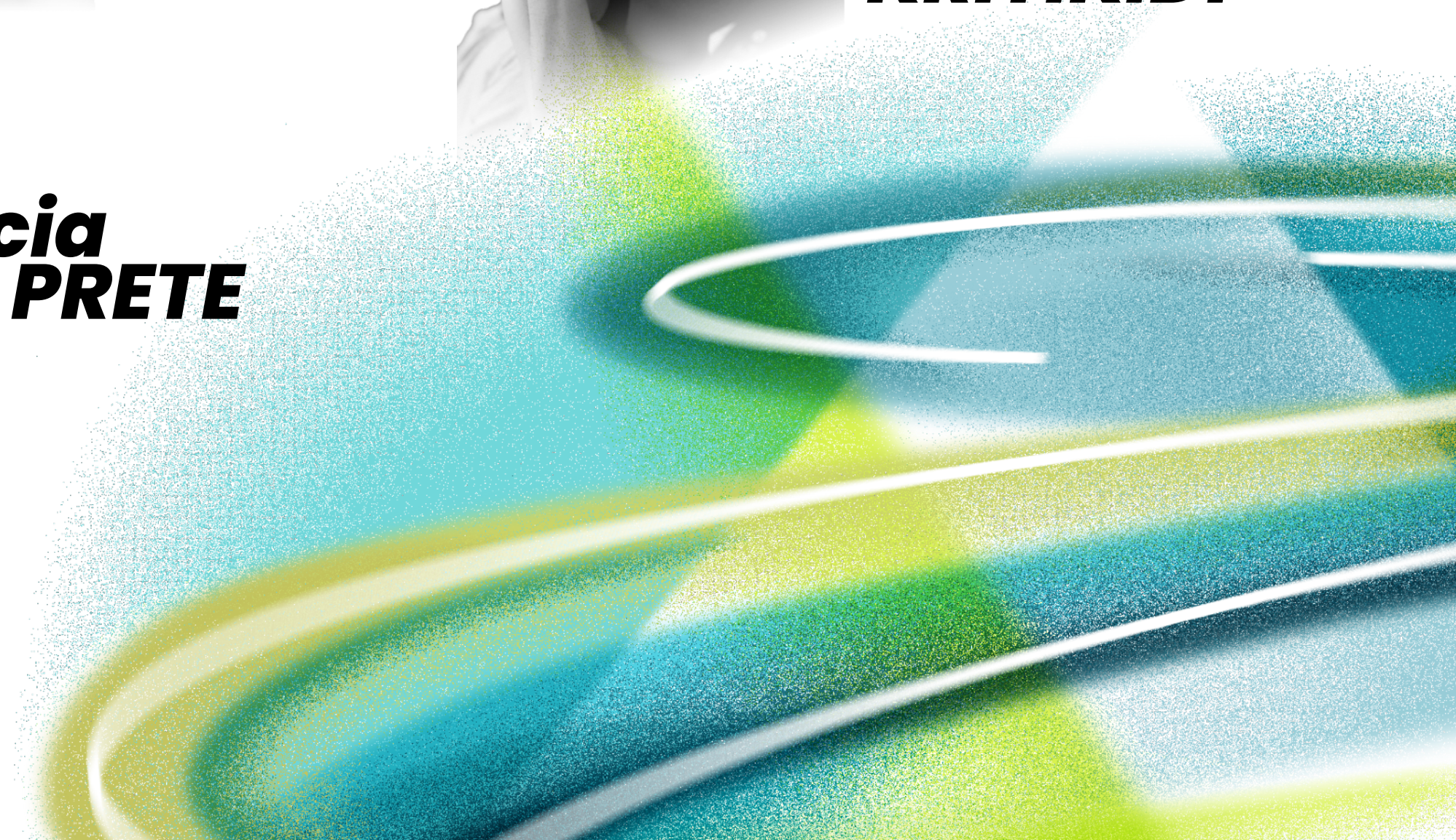
**Dimitra
KRITIKIDI**



**Fattoria
VITTADINI**



**Macia
DEL PRETE**



Matilda DE ANGELIS

BIOGRAPHY

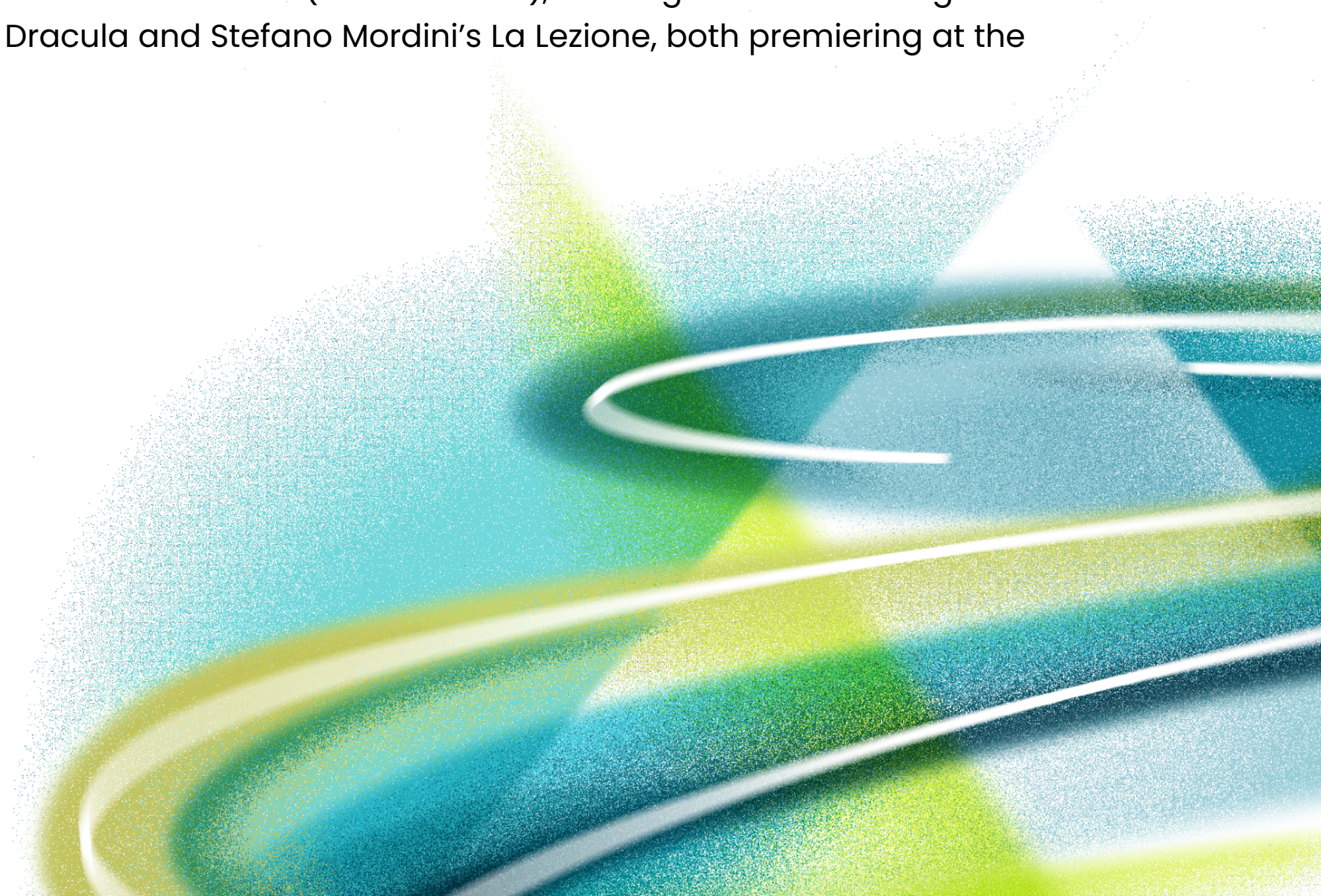
Matilda De Angelis is an Italian actress and singer. She began studying music at the age of 11 and soon started composing her own songs. Discovered by Matteo Rovere, she made her film debut as the lead in *Italian Race* (2016), earning the Nastro d'Argento – Premio Biraghi and a David di Donatello nomination.

She went on to star in *Tutto può succedere* (Rai 1) and several acclaimed films including *Una famiglia* (Venice Film Festival), *Il Premio*, and *Vita spericolata*. In 2018 she was named a Shooting Star at the Berlinale and received the Kinéo Award in Venice.

Her international breakthrough came with HBO's *The Undoing*, alongside Nicole Kidman and Hugh Grant. She then played Caterina da Cremona in *Leonardo* (Rai 1) and won a David di Donatello for her role in Sydney Sibilia's *Rose Island*.

In 2023 she gained global recognition with Netflix's *The Law According to Lidia Poët*, portraying Italy's first female lawyer, and with Prime Video's *Citadel: Diana*, both topping international streaming charts.

She recently starred in Greta Scarano's *La vita da grandi* and Mario Martone's *Fuori* (Cannes 2025), earning the Nastro d'Argento for Best Supporting Actress. Upcoming works include Luc Besson's *Dracula* and Stefano Mordini's *La Lezione*, both premiering at the Rome Film Festival in 2025.



**THANK
YOU**

