

Compagnia Marionettistica

CARLO COLLA & FIGLI

PRODUZIONE ASSOCIAZIONE GRUPPORIANI

CARLO COLLA & SONS MARIONETTE COMPANY

In late eighteenth-century Milan, a wealthy businessman named Giovanbattista Colla dedicated a room of his home to a private puppet theater. Unsettled political times forced the family to leave Milan where they carved out a new life touring with their marionettes to villages across the Piedmont countryside. The earliest ledgers document the company's first performances on March 6, 1835. On 1861, upon Giovanbattista's death, his three sons divided up the marionettes, props, sets and scripts, and founded three separate companies. Carlo, the eldest, founded the one that will be known as Carlo Colla & Sons Marionette Company after the birth of his sons, Rosina, Carlo II, Giovanni and Michele. The company thrived throughout the 1800s, touring with great classics of European opera and drama. In 1911, the company took up permanent residence at Milan's Theatre Gerolamo, a theater built in 1868 with reduced dimensions specifically designed for marionettes, which meant that the audiences had a close view of the artistry that went into the puppets, their costumes and scenery.

In 1957 the Colla left the Gerolamo Theater and the Company remained inactive for several years. They resumed the activities in 1965 continuing the artistic tradition: Eugenio Monti Colla, artistic director of the Company until his death in November 2017, was the last puppeteer of the family still active among those who acted at the Teatro Gerolamo.

The Carlo Colla & Sons Marionette Company is one of the most recognized puppet theaters in the world, presenting nationally and internationally to audiences of adults and young people. Based in Milan, the company has toured five continents since 1980, participating in prestigious arts festivals in Edinburgh, Paris, Berlin, Sydney, Melbourne, Moscow, Charleston and Mexico City, among others. From 1980 till 1994 the Company has collaborated with the CRT Milan.

In 1984, the new generation of puppeteers, under the artistic direction of Eugenio Monti Colla, created the Associazione Grupporiani that, ever since, is producing all the activity of the Carlo Colla & Sons marionette Company. Since 2000, the company has collaborated with the Piccolo Teatro of Milan-Teatro d'Europa. The Company plays in Milan at the Piccolo Teatro, at Gerolamo Theater and at the Atelier Carlo Colla e Figli. In 2007, the company received accolades in the U.S. for their co-production of *Macbeth* with the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. In 2013 the Company presented *Sleeping Beauty* and in 2016 *The Pied Piper* at the New Victory Theater of New York

After the death of Eugenio Monti Colla, the new artistic director of the Carlo Colla & Sons marionette Company is Franco Citterio.

Website: <https://marionettecolla.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarionetteColla>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/marionettecolla>

TOURNÉE

Spoletto, Festival dei due Mondi: 1970,1971 and from 1990 to 2007
Roma, Accademia di S. Cecilia: 1994,1997, 1998-2001
Berliner Festwochen: 1983, 1985, 1989, 1995
Nancy, Festival Mondial du Théâtre 1982
Paris, Festival D'Automne, 1984, 1987
Den Haag Holland Festival, 1982
Edinburgh, International Festival, 1982
Leningrad, Settimana Milanese, 1989
Madrid, 1988, 2009
Charleston USA, Spoleto Festival USA, 1987, 1989, 2000, 2005, 2015, 2018
Mexico City, Gran Festival Ciudad de Mexico, 1990,1991
Caracas, Fundateneo Festival 1991
Buenos Aires, Cordoba, Mar del Plata 1992
Melbourne, Festival of Three Worlds 1986
Seoul, XXII ITI Theatre & Congress 1997
Lausanne, Theatre Vidy, 1998
Weimar, European Capital of Culture 1999
Sydney Festival 2001
Rheingau Summer Festival 2001
Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir 2004
Bordeaux, Tnba 2005
Colorado Festival of World Theater USA 2005
Moscow 1990, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2019
Beijing 2006
Chicago 2003, 2007
New York 2007, 2013, 2016, 2020
Saint Petersburg 2008
Halle, Theater der Welt 2008
Krasnoyarsk 2011
Novosibirsk 2011, 2019
Winterthur, Schaffausen, Baden, Dornbirn 2011
Sochi 2012
Boston 2013
Valencia 2017
Halle, Hendel Festival 2011, 2015, 2017
Muscat 2018