

# Laura Sicignano

## Director and playwright

🌐 [www.laurasicignano.it](http://www.laurasicignano.it)



*"I have worked with famous performers and brilliant unknowns. My shows deal with history and memory, women's history, lost and forgotten heroes, space and time travel. I have happened to build from nothing and rebuild from rubble. I will always move outside the center and outside the box."*



Graduated with first-class honours in theatre history from the Catholic University in Milan.

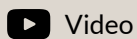
In the 1990's she was assistant to some important directors of the New Italian Theatre (F. Tiezzi, E. De Capitani, A. Santagata, T. Conte).

She then worked for 6 years at Teatro Stabile di Genova, under the direction of Ivo Chiesa.

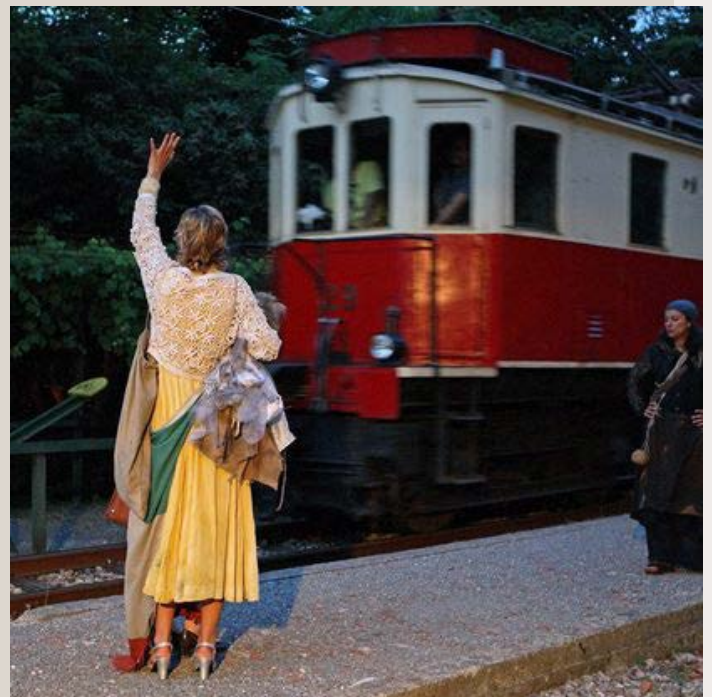
In 1994 she founded **Teatro Cargo** in Genoa, where she is director and playwright of more than 40 productions.

Here she organized festivals on issues of civic engagement.

Since 2002, she has directed the theatre season at Teatro del Ponente and Teatro Villa Galliera, two spaces she opened in an area of Genoa where there were no theatres, raising funding from national and local institutions. Of the Teatro Cargo years, special mention is made of her directing of **DONNE IN GUERRA**, written (with A. Vannucci) and directed by LS: a play aboard a traveling train.



Video



DONNE IN GUERRA ——— 2008 | 2022



**PARTENZE** - written (with A. Vannucci) and directed by LS, aboard a floating crane, reachable only by sea, on the occasion of Genoa, European Capital of Culture;



PARTENZE ——— 2004 | 2006

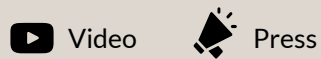
**LA TETRALOGIA DEI VIAGGIATORI** - a pioneering project with a group of minor asylum seekers.  
Written and directed by LS



ODISSEA ——— 2013



BIANCO & NERO ——— 2015



**TRA I VIVI NON POSSO PIÙ STARE** - a pioneering project with a group of minor asylum seekers.  
Written and directed by LS

 Video



TRA I VIVI NON POSSO PIÙ STARE ——— 2013 | 2017



Donato Aquaro @ Teatro della Toss

BUIO A MEZZOGIORNO ——— 2016

**BUIO A MEZZOGIORNO** - by Arthur Koestler,  
directed by LS

 Video



Donato Aquaro @ Teatro d

From 2018 to 2022 she is **Director of the Teatro Stabile di Catania** whose rehabilitation after receivership and artistic renewal she contributed to.

Here she directs **ANTIGONE** by Sofocle and **BACCANTI** by Euripides.



Foto Anton

ANTIGONE ——— 2019



▶ Video



Antonio Parrinello

BACCANTI ——— 2022

## RECENT WORKS

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KAKUMA ——— 2023

Playwright and direction **KAKUMA**, *fishing in the desert* (prod. Teatro Nazionale di Genova), a play and a podcast - 2023.



Podcast



Video



Press

Playwright (with A. Vannucci) and direction

### ***I TRENI DELLA FELICITÀ***

(prod. Fondazione Luzzati Teatro della Tosse) - 2022.

Italian women after II World War saved 70.000 children from starving and misery



Audio



Video



Press



I TRENI DELLA FELICITÀ ——— 2022

D. Aquaro © Teatro della Tosse

## RECENT WORKS

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She edited the lyrics for the **SARSi**, a MUSIC project (prod. Teatro Cargo) - 2022.

 Video

 Press

SARSi ——— 2022

## PRIZES AND AWARDS

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Her play **ZERO** is a finalist for the Enrico Maria Salerno Dramaturgy Prize, 2002.  
Four of her plays receive mentions at the Ubu Prize.

Her play **SCINTILLE** (translated into French, English and German) is selected for Face à Face 2013; wins the Audience Award Fratelli Cervi Museum, 2014; the Prize for Production in France from the Centre National du

Theatre, Paris, 2014: in France it debuts with a French cast in 2016.

New York, 25 March 1911, 4.40 pm: in fifteen minutes workers at the T.W.C. (Triangle Waistshirt Company), a blouse factory, will be finishing their shift. There are almost six hundred people, mostly young women immigrants from Italy and Eastern Europe, many Jewish girls, all exploited and underpaid. A spark, just one spark and suddenly the factory skyscraper is up in flames.



SCINTILLE ——— 2012 | 2023

In the building there is no fire alarm. Since all doors are locked and the goods lift has broken down due to overweight, there is little chance of escape. In 18 minutes 146 people died, mostly young women. The T.W.C. owners were let off, even if they had failed to respect basic security measures. The episode became one of the historical events related to International Women's Day. Many other stories are connected with the 8th March celebrations, but there is no other event in women's history that so significantly underlines this turning point. At the same time the story is hardly remembered.



Press



DONNE IN GUERRA ——— 2008 | 2022

Her play **DONNE IN GUERRA** wins:  
the Les Eurotopiques First Prize in France and Belgium, 2014; the Fersen Prize for directing, 2015.

## PRIZES AND AWARDS

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Her play **LA STREGA** from S. Vassalli (which she adapted and directed) wins the First Prize Festival Inventaria Roma, 2015.

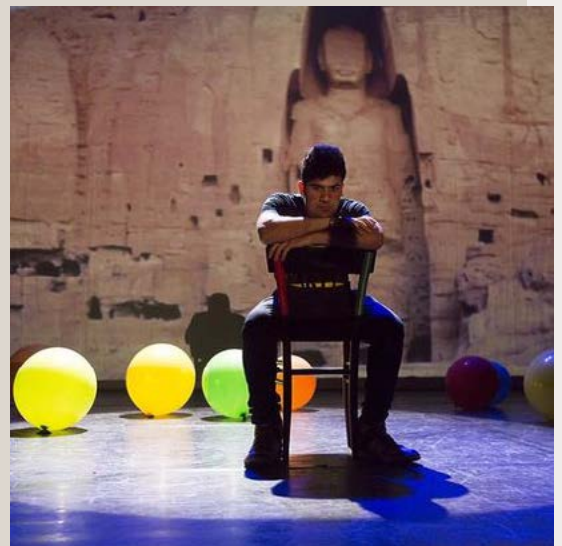
**THIS WIDE NIGHT** by C. Moss, translated with E. Amadio from English for the first time in Italy, (Sicignano director) wins First Prize Sonia Bonacina, 2014.

The play is reported among the best of the 14/15 season by milanoteatro.it.



THIS WIDE NIGHT ——— 2014

**COMPLEANNO AFGHANO**, a play written with Afghan Ramat Safi wins the awards Le acque dell'etica and Per voce sola, Migranti section (2014). The play is translated into German.



COMPLEANNO AFGHANO ——— 2014



## PRIZES AND AWARDS

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Her play **VIVO IN UNA GIUNGLA, DORMO SULLE SPINE**, written in collaboration with Shahzeb Iqbal, Pakistan, wins the Translation Prize in France at the Maison Antoine Vitez, Paris, 2015. It is selected by Alexandrinsky Theater for “European Readings” in 2015 in St. Petersburg in cooperation with the Italian Cultural Institute in St. Petersburg. The play is translated into English, German, Russian, French. Fratti Prize finalist 2016. First Inedito Prize 2016. It is published in France in 2021.

*“The play is based on true stories that a Pakistani refugee told me. The main character is himself who, arrived in Italy, is entrusted by the social services to a lady lawyer with the role of guardian, as for the boy is an unaccompanied minor. The relationship between them, very difficult at the beginning, turns into a deep affection. This relation is judged with suspicion by the host communities’ director where the boy is sheltered. How much is the boy’s affection for his guardian true and how much is he using the lady, realizing her fragility? The boy protects himself by the new milieu, hiding behind a dense web of lies. The relationship among the characters is a meeting of solitudes, the truth*



VIVO IN UNA GIUNGLA, DORMO SULLE SPINE ——— 2015

In 2020, she wins the 2020 FRANCO ENRIQUEZ National Prize 2020-City of Sirolo 16th edition for directing **ANTIGONE** by Sophocles.

 Video

## HER RECENT BOOK

2023, Her plays  
SCINTILLE,  
DONNE IN GUERRA  
I TRENI DELLA FELICITA'  
(the 2 last, written in collaboration with A. Vannucci)  
are published by Bonanno Ed

