

FESTIVAL DELLE CULTURE 2026 – RACCONTARE IL MONDO

“If understanding is impossible, knowing is imperative” – Primo Levi

Ravenna | 16 April – 20 June 2026

The 19th edition of the **Festival delle Culture** will take place in Ravenna from 16 April to 20 June, featuring a city-wide programme of meetings, exhibitions and performances that interweave journalism, photography, literature, cinema and theatre to narrate the contemporary world.

The title “**Raccontare il mondo**” – literally, *telling the world* – is both a declaration of intent and a statement of responsibility: an invitation to reflect on the role of information, images and storytelling in building awareness around major global issues such as wars, migration, human rights and intercultural coexistence.

To tell means choosing what to look at and what to make visible. It means listening, giving voice and creating relationships. Above all, it means assuming collective responsibility.

The Festival will animate symbolic venues throughout Ravenna – from squares to theatres, from schools to public spaces – transforming the city into an open and participatory cultural laboratory.

At its core lies freedom of the press and the telling of stories that too often remain voiceless, marginalised or drowned out by the background noise of fast, distracted, and sometimes biased or censored, information.

“In a historical period marked by the speed of profound transformations, communication is the other major factor reshaping the paradigms of the society we have known in recent decades. We believe it is essential to value people and each individual’s capabilities, understood as concrete possibilities to choose, act, participate and build one’s own path of fulfilment, both individually and collectively.” – says **Fabio Sbaraglia**, Councillor for Multiculturalism – “Education and information are indispensable tools to counter indifference, conflict and inequality, because what matters is how each of us participates, how we listen or stop listening, and the language we use: we are not neutral within global processes. As Primo Levi wrote in *The Drowned and the Saved*, if understanding is sometimes impossible, knowing is imperative, because knowledge is deeply intertwined with freedom and social justice, and together they form the necessary conditions for a cohesive community: the goal of every Municipality, which is the closest institution to citizens.”

FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Week against Racism

23 March, 4:00 pm – Biblioteca Classense

“Società interculturali nel Medioevo”, meeting with historians **Franco Cardini** and **Silvia Ronchey**.

Moderated by Silvia Manzani.

In the year marking the 1500th anniversary of the death of Theodoric the Great, an important historical figure of the Early Middle Ages, this event focuses on the medieval period as an age of exchanges, coexistence and interactions among different cultures, religions and languages.

In collaboration with Biblioteca Classense. Free entry, first come first served.

Scritture di frontiera

2 April, 5:30 pm – Biblioteca Classense

Saba Anglana presents the book *La signora Meraviglia*. Moderated by Matteo Cavezzali.

A journey between past and present recounting the author's family history – a narrative spanning generations and continents, exploring the traces left by colonial history and the possibilities of individual and collective emancipation.

In collaboration with Biblioteca Classense and Onnivoro Association. Free entry, first come first served.

9 April, 5:30 pm – Biblioteca Classense

Alae Al Said presents the book *Il ragazzo con la keffiyeh arancione*. Moderated by Matteo Cavezzali.

A story of friendship, betrayal, resistance and forgiveness in a devastated land: the protagonists' private lives intertwine with the history of a people whose resilience has become a powerful affirmation of the right to their land.

In collaboration with Biblioteca Classense and Onnivoro Association. Free entry, first come first served.

8 and 9 April, 8:00 pm – Teatro Alighieri

Come gli uccelli, theatrical performance by Wajdi Mouawad.

The play stages a labyrinth of fratricidal conflicts that becomes an emotional investigation into origins, offering a profound reflection on love, encounter and cultural belonging.

In collaboration with Ravenna Teatro. Pre-sale: <http://www.teatroalighieri.org/events/come-gli-uccelli/>

9–15 April – MAR - Art Museum of the City of Ravenna

“Giochiamo alla Pace”, final exhibition of the works created during the collage workshop *City of Peace* carried out by different schools in Ravenna.

Free entry, Tuesday-to Sunday 9:00 am-to 6:00 pm.

Inauguration April 9 at 10:00 am.

In collaboration with RITI – Rete Interculturale sui Temi dell'Immigrazione, MAR – Museo d'Arte della Città di Ravenna.

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16 April, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm – Palazzo Rasponi dalle Teste

“Parola Aperta” – Conference on Ethical Journalism

A reflection on the role of media in social cohesion and on the new frontiers of investigative and ethical journalism. Participants include: Silvestro Ramunno, Vittorio Di Trapani, Paolo Maria Amadasi, Massimiliano Panarari, Agnese Pini, Maria Cuffaro, Paolo Lambruschi, Giulia Presutti, Carlo Ciavoni, Francesca Romanelli, Alidad Shiri. Moderated by **Paola Barretta** and **Vittorio Longhi**.

This event is accredited by the Ordine dei Giornalisti with 5 training credits.

In collaboration with CIDAS Cooperativa Sociale. Free entry. Registrations: <https://bit.ly/parolaperta>

16 April - 2 June – Piazza Kennedy

“ICONIC”, World Press Photo exhibition

A selection of the most significant winning images of the World Press Photo of the Year award (1955–today), narrating key moments of contemporary history through iconic visual testimony.

In collaboration with Cime Puglia and Ravenna Tourism. Free entry.

Inauguration April 16 at 5:00 pm.

21 and 22 April – Schools in Ravenna

Meeting with the author: **Nogaye Ndiaye**

The author will engage in discussion with students following their reading of the book *Universo parallelo*, a story of an upside-down world that helps us understand the mechanisms through which double standards and discrimination operate.

23 April, 5:30 pm – MAR – Art Museum of the City of Ravenna

“EYEWITNESS. Ho visto – Mezzo secolo di storia attraverso l’obiettivo”, meeting with photoreporter **Manoocher Deghati**.

A journey through over fifty years of history, conflicts and international transformations, told by one of the most authoritative photoreporters of current times. Moderated by photographer Giampiero Corelli.

Free entry. Registrations: <https://bit.ly/manoocherdeghati>

27 and 28 April – Teatro Rasi

L’Europa non cade dal cielo, theatrical performance for the students from Ravenna.

An exploration of the myths, music, and artists that have accompanied the history of the European Union, from its origins to the present day.

In collaboration with Ravenna Teatro.

29 April, 9:00 pm – Cinema Mariani

The Story of Souleymane, movie directed by Boris Lojkine (France 2024, 93’).

The odyssey experienced by young Souleymane, an asylum seeker in Paris, as he prepares for his interview with the local immigration office in order to regularise his legal status.

In collaboration with Ravenna Teatro and Cinemaincentro. Free entry. Registrations:

casadelleculture@comune.ravenna.it until April 28.

4-6 May – Schools in Ravenna

Meeting with the author: **Alidad Shiri**

The author will engage in discussion with students following their reading of the book *Via dalla pazza guerra*, the autobiographical story of a child who fled war-torn Afghanistan and a testimony to the great power of welcome and solidarity.

5 May, 9:00 pm – Cinema Mariani

Grand Ciel, movie directed by Akihiro Hata (France 2026, 91’).

On a construction site in a futuristic district, the mysterious disappearance of several workers leads a night-shift labourer and his colleagues to investigate, uncovering the dark system of exploitation and silence that governs the world of work.

In collaboration with Ravenna Teatro and Cinemaincentro.

Pre-sale: **cinemaincentro.com** or at the Cinema Mariani box office.

9 May, 9:30 pm – Artificerie Almagià

“Vivere l’Europa a nord e a est: icognite e opportunità”, round table organised by POLIS Teatro Festival and Europe Direct Romagna, in collaboration with the University of Bologna - Department of Cultural Heritage. The event is part of the initiative “European May 2026 – Europe in Romagna” and will be held after the show *Radvila Darius, figlio di Vytautas* by Karolis Kaupinis / Operomanija, scheduled for 8:00 pm.

11 and 12 May, 10:00 am – Teatro Alighieri

Meeting with the author: **Susan Abulhawa**

The author will engage in discussion with upper secondary school students from Ravenna following their reading of the book *Mornings in Jenin*, the story of four generations of Palestinians forced to leave their homeland. Moderated by **Vittorio Longhi**.

In collaboration with CIDAS Cooperativa Sociale.

11 May, 9:00 pm – Teatro Alighieri

Crescere, la guerra, theatrical performance by Francesca Mannocchi and Rodrigo D’Erasmus.

A profound reflection on time, memory and collective responsibility, compelling us to confront the pain we often choose not to see.

In collaboration with Ravenna Teatro. Pre-sale: <http://www.teatroalighieri.org/events/crescere-la-guerra/>

12 May, 9:00 pm – Cinema Mariani

The Old Oak, movie directed by Ken Loach (United Kingdom 2023, 113’).

In a former English mining village marked by poverty, the friendship between a pub owner and a young Syrian refugee becomes the starting point for healing a divided community.

In collaboration with Ravenna Teatro and Cinemaincentro.

Pre-sale: **cinemaincentro.com** or at the Cinema Mariani box office.

14 May, 5:30 pm – MAR - Art Museum of the City of Ravenna

“Women’s Bodies as Battlefields”, meeting with photoreporter **Cinzia Canneri**, first Italian winner of the World Press Photo of the Year Award.

Through images and personal testimony, photography is presented as a tool for awareness and denunciation. The relationship between research, empathy and visual storytelling, and the photographer’s responsibility in representing pain. Moderated by photographer Giampiero Corelli.

In collaboration with Cime Puglia. Free entry. Registrations: **<https://bit.ly/cinziacanneri>**

19 May, 9:00 pm – Cinema Mariani

Anywhere Anytime, movie directed by Milad Tangshir (Italy 2024, 85’).

Young Issa finds work in Turin as a delivery rider, but on his first day on the job his bicycle is stolen, prompting him to begin a desperate search for it.

In collaboration with Ravenna Teatro and Cinemaincentro.

Free entry. Registrations: **casadelleculture@comune.ravenna.it** until May 18.

20 May - 9 June – Open-Air Gallery, via Zirardini

“Personae”, an exhibition in the open-air gallery featuring collages created by local residents during the intercultural workshops held at “Culture migranti alla Rocca” as part of the Festival delle Culture 2025, in collaboration with Collettivo Colleria and Ravenna Tourism. Free entry.

26 May, 10:30 am - 5:00 pm – Palazzo Rasponi dalle Teste

“Mediterraneo Oggi” – II National Conference on Sea Rescue

A discussion on migration dynamics and rescue, reception and integration policies for the protection of fundamental rights and social cohesion. Moderated by **Eleonora Camilli** and **Vittorio Longhi**.

This event is accredited by the Ordine degli Avvocati with 2 training credits.

In collaboration with CIDAS Cooperativa Sociale. Free entry. Registrations: <https://bit.ly/mediterraneoggi>

6-7 June – Parco della Rocca Brancaleone

“Culture migranti alla Rocca”

Games, debates, music, dance and food from around the world. Two days of celebration and dialogue involving the entire community.

On 6 June: **Le vite degli “altri”**, a dialogue among associations and local administrators who signed a document on administrative issues presented to the Italian President of the Republic. Moderated by Paolo Fasano, Municipality of Ravenna.

In collaboration with RITI – Rete Interculturale sui Temi dell’Immigrazione. Free entry.

Organised by the Immigration and Citizenship Policies Office of the Municipality of Ravenna.

Partners:

Rete Interculturale sui Temi dell’Immigrazione (RITI), Istituzione Biblioteca Classense, MAR – Museo d’Arte della Città di Ravenna, Servizio Turismo, Centro Europe Direct della Romagna, Ordine dei Giornalisti dell’Emilia-Romagna, Associazione Stampa dell’Emilia-Romagna, CIDAS Cooperativa Sociale, Teranga Cooperativa Sociale, Terra Mia Cooperativa Sociale, Villaggio Globale Cooperativa Sociale, Zero-Cerchio Cooperativa Sociale, Cime Puglia, Cinemaincentro, POLIS Teatro Festival, Ravenna Teatro, Agevolando APS, Refugees Welcome Italia ets, Ammi – Associazione Donne Mozambicane in Italia, ASD Italia Chama Brasil, Associazione degli Ivoriani di Ravenna e Provincia, Associazione di amicizia Italia-Cuba, Associazione Nigeriana di Ravenna, Associazione Noble Women, Associazione Pyramide, Associazione Romania-Mare, Associazione senegalo-ravennate ASRA, Associazione Umanitaria Cittadini del Mondo, Bangladesh Ravenna ODV, Collettivo Colleria, Edo Community, Ika Union Association, Il Terzo Mondo ODV, Life APS, Malva APS – Ucraini di Ravenna, Onnivoro APS, Cittadini del Pianeta APS, Solidarietà e Sapienza APS, IC N.1 Andrea Canevaro, Baccharini, Darsena, Del Mare, Guido Novello, Manara Valgimigli, Randi, Ricci-Muratori, San Biagio, San Pietro in Vincoli e S.P. Damiano, IPS Olivetti Callegari, ITE Ginanni, ITG Morigia – ITAS Perdisa, ITIS Nullo Baldini, Liceo Artistico Musicale Nervi-Severini, Liceo Classico Dante Alighieri, Liceo Scientifico A. Oriani, CPIA 1 Ravenna, Angelo Pescarini Scuola Arti e Mestieri, Fondazione ENGIM Emilia-Romagna ETS, and IAL Ravenna.