

# MARIA CASSI

## Biography

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*Born in Florence but with a traveller's heart, she performed in Los Angeles, New York, Prague, Amsterdam, Bucharest, Tokyo and Paris, which almost became her second home.*

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### Education

After completing her studies at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Maria Cassi refines her skills at the theatre school "Alessandra Galante Garrone" in Bologna, where she attends the courses by Jacques Lecoq. She continues her studies with the clown Pierre Byland.

### 1986—1996

In 1986, with the show "A Saintroutwist", produced by Av Produzioni, she leaves on a world tour that will end after more than one thousand repeats. The show "The Beatles Songs Book Concerto" will soon follow.

In 1996 she takes part in the production by Teatro Settimo Torinese of "The birds" by Aristophanes, directed by Gabriele Vacis and presented to the Festival dei Due Mondi in Spoleto. With the Fondazione Teatro Metastasio e AVP she produces "La Follia della Libertà", a study on The Praise of Folly by Erasmus of Rotterdam, and other two stage shows "Portraits" and "Zavattini", in which she is both the director and the protagonist.

She is the protagonist, author and director of "Galateo" and participates to the Festival of Literature in Mantua with "La mia Biodiversità".

Sergio Staino asks her to create a theatrical reading performance together with Antonio Tabucchi based on the book "Tristano Muore".

She is the author, director and protagonist of the stage show "BBB da Brecht ai Beatles passando per Bussotti".

### 2003, the Circo-lo

In 2003, together with Fabio Picchi, she founded the Circo-lo Teatro del Sale in Florence. Here she acts both as president and as artistic director, scheduling music, dance and theatre performances as well as her own stage shows. Her performances have been regularly received with "sold outs" by the audience, since it is clear that they find their ideal setting on this very stage, whose unique identity is shaped in essence and creative spirit by Maria Cassi herself.

### 2005—2008

In 2005, the President of the Italian Republic Carlo Azeglio Ciampi invites her to his office at Quirinale Palace as a representative of Italian theatre. In 2006 she is the only artist to perform at the inauguration of the "Mouziekebouw" in Amsterdam.

In 2006 she also creates the Compagnia Maria Cassi.

2007 is the year of "La porta Aperta", based on the essay by Peter Brook, and "Crepapelle".

In 2008, she meets Peter Schneider and, thanks to him, the show "Crepapelle" arrives on stage at the Carrie Hamilton Theatre - Pasadena Playhouse in Los Angeles.

She receives the award "Assolo d'Autore" at the 25th Festival di Villa Faraldi in Imperia.

### 2008—2010

Between 2008 and 2009 she is the author, director and protagonist of two musical productions: "Suonimeozioni", based on the songs by Lucio Battisti and "Concertino d'Amore".

In 2009 she performs "Crepapelle" at the Théâtre du Rond Point in Paris, directed by Jean Michel Ribes, and the show hit the news.

Le Monde, in two special reviews, publishes enthusiastic comparisons between her work and the work by Jacques Tati, Jerry Lewis and Charlie Chaplin; Le Figaro describes the show as one of the two most successful performances in the theatre season in Paris.

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### 2010—2013

In January 2010 "My Life with Men...and Other Animals" goes on stage, directed by Peter Schneider and with Maria Cassi as protagonist and co-author together with Patrick Pacheco. The show was also performed Off-Broadway at the 45th Street Theatre in New York in March 2012.

Rai Tv produces and broadcasts a TV version of the theatre shows "Crepapelle" and "My Life..." directed by Felice Cappa for the TV show Palco e Retropalco broadcasted by Rai 5.

In the same year she completes the stage preparation for another work, "Fiorentini", at Teatro del Sale.

Again in 2012, taking the lead from two recent productions, "l'Omo Nero" (2011) and "Concertino d'Amore", she records

the double CD "Pardon", which she later adapts in a musical performance that goes under the same name but with the caption "Soffrigo per te".

In 2013 she is awarded the 41st Premio Forte dei Marmi as political satirist.

### 2013—2014

Between 2013-2014 she writes, produces and brings on tour the show "Attente al lupo". In 2015 Maria Cassi continues touring with her shows in theatre all over the words and works on the production of a new stage performance.

In September she is at the Festival della Letteratura in Mantova with the show "Diavolacci", written together with Fabio Picchi.

In September she is also at Festival dell'Umore in Livorno, organised by Stefano Bartezzaghi.

### 2016

In January 2016, together with the pianist Andrea Lucchesini, violinist Marco Rizzi and the cellist Mario Brunello she is at Teatro della Pergola with the concert and stage show, "La petite phrase: Marcel Proust e la musica" organised by Amici della Musica Firenze.

Between January and February 2016 "Attente al Lupo" is on stage for two weeks at Teatro Franco Parenti in Milan, garnering great acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

In 2016 she is the director, author and protagonist of a new, exhilarating work "Schegge. Era una notte buia e tempestosa".

