


Forlì (FC), 13 11 2026 Press release

# *Attrezzature narrative urbane per la collettività*

# Stò – Applied Storytelling festival

*Stò, attrezzature narrative urbane per la collettività* is an experimental two-part festival that explores applied storytelling through three operational dimensions: cultural catalyst, intergenerational work, slow tourism and living.

The aim of the Festival is to *identify and make visible the contribution of narrative thinking to new forms of coexistence in the community.* The first part of the Festival will take place online between 16 and 21 November 2026, with one short video published per day, which will be freely accessible via three virtual portals: www.fantariciclando.it/storytelling, www.centroitalianostorytelling.it and on Facebook @metamuseogirovago. The programme will include four videos by the following international storytellers on the festival's key themes:

- **Flavio Milandri** (Stò, Applied Storytelling festival, Italy), *a cheerful, lively opening* (IT);
- **Martina Jánošíková** (Story Hunters, Slovakia), *storytelling and culture in action* (EN);
- **Alicia Dongjoo Bang** (Founder & President, Korea International Storytellers' Association (KISA); Director, Korea International Storytelling Festival (KISF), South Korea), *who will tell our stories after we're gone?* (EN);
- **Bob Kanegis** (Story Connection, USA), *storytelling and living the moment* (EN).

After the first online part between 16 and 21 November 2026, which explores key trends in applied storytelling across Europe, Asia and the Americas, the Festival, sponsored by the Municipality of Forlì—Department of Culture, will continue with a live part in Emilia-Romagna starting in February 2027. The Festival is also a tribute to Giovanna Conforto (Federation of Asian Storytellers, Centro Italiano Storytelling, NarrAzioni), one of the creators of Stò. The Festival also aims to contribute to the development of the European Network of Storytelling Sites and Towns (ENSST**)** - European Ancestor project - led by the city of Guadalajara (ES).

The storytellers who have already confirmed their participation in the Festival are: Lia Zannetti (Centro Italiano Storytelling), Alicia Dongjoo Bang (Founder & President, Korea International Storytellers' Association (KISA), South Korea), Stefania Ganzini (NarrAzioni), Bob Kanegis (Story Connection, USA), Laura Giunchi (Compagnia dei Giunchi),

Martina Jánošíková (Story Hunters, Slovakia), Flavio Milandri (Metamuseo Girovago), Dimitrios V. Prousalis (Folktales and Myths on the back of the Centaur, Greece).

Through three areas of focus - cultural catalyst, intergenerational work, slow tourism and living - and thanks to the project "Sconfinamenti: cambio di passo in comunità vitali" (funded by the Emilia-Romagna Region, DGR 29/26), the Festival Stò offers an inductive reflection on the "Italian approach" to applied storytelling. The "Sconfinamenti" project involves the group of associations Fondazione Abitare, Auser, Progetto Ruffilli, Fantariciclando, Can Dischi, and Centro Italiano Storytelling, and all its activities, including the Festival Stò, are funded by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, with the support of the Emilia-Romagna Region and VolontaRomagna. The media partner is Viviforli.

**Flavio Milandri**

***Stò! Applied Storytelling festival***

*NarrAzioni, scuola italiana storytelling*
*Centro Italiano Storytelling*
*Sconfinamenti, cambio di passo in comunità vitali*

***Emilia-Romagna***
***Italy***

# The storytellers of "Stò! *Applied Storytelling festival*"



**Alicia Dongjoo Bang** is a storyteller, educator, and festival director from South Korea with 28 years of experience in the art of storytelling. She is the founder of Story School and the Korea International Storytellers' Association (KISA), and has directed nine editions of the Korea International Storytelling Festival (KISF). She serves on the Board of Directors of the U.S. National Storytelling Network (NSN) and as Director of Storytelling in Organizations (SIO), the first Asia-based storyteller in this role. Her work is rooted in janhyang (잔향), the "afterecho" a story leaves in the heart long after it ends, and in helping children and young people carry Korean stories across cultures and into the future.



**Bob Kanegis** explores the intersection of myth, traditional folktales, family, culture, and nature. He believes that we all have two great stories to tell: the Story of Me and the Story of We. He reminds people that all true living is an encounter and that even if we don't know each other, we were born related. Through initiatives like his The Endangered Stories Act, and 1001 Brief Encounters, he encourages and supports people to capture and share their most important stories. Bob and his storytelling partner Liz Mangual are also part of Story Connection.



**Dimitrios Prousalis.** He studied Pedagogics, Special Education, followed Librarian and Folklore Postgraduate Studies (Med), and is PhD Candidate in Folklore. Interested in folktales and orality since 1999. Professional storyteller since 2003, he has participated in storytelling festivals in Greece, Cyprus, Wales, Canada, Spain, Iran, and India. He has published 30 books of collected folktales. His paper presentations were hosted in Greek and international folklore conferences on various folktale, oral narratives and storytelling subjects. He has been the artistic director of the Mt. Pelion Storytelling Festival "Folktales & Myths on the back of the Centaur" since 2011 and is a member of the Board of the Professional Storytelling Union in Greece.



**Flavio Milandri**. Trainer, sociologist and storyteller. For over thirty years, he has been interested in applied pedagogy, storytelling and the applied arts. As a trainer, he is a member of the teaching staff at: Art Health Therapy School (Bertinoro); Centro Italiano Storytelling (Portico di Romagna); WeCare – AICS Forlì; SMP – Scuola di musica popolare (Forlimpopoli); NarrAzioni – Scuola italiana storytelling (Forlì-Cesena), Informa (Rome). In his role as an educator, mediator and storyteller, he played a leading role, alongside others, in the European Ancestor (ES) project 'Storytelling Sites Meeting' in 2026. Through narrative play-based pedagogy, he has served as a qualified facilitator in Erasmus+ projects both in Radomlje (SL) for "Fool for Gaia – Nor na Gajo" and in "Where To – Verso dove?" (MT), a project promoting active citizenship and social inclusion.



**Laura Giunchi**. Educationalist and co-founder of the "Compagnia dei Giunchi" association, she specialises in education and promoting reading. She conceived the "Ciacarêda Rumagnôla" project, in which she tells stories to children and adults about the traditions of the Emilia-Romagna region in the local dialect. She has written the children's books "Sono Caterina Sforza, Contessa di Forlì" and "Giovanni Battista Morgagni, Illustrissimo medico". She has been a member of Centro Italiano Storytelling since 2025.



**Lia Zannetti.** President of Centro Italiano Storytelling. She discovered storytelling by chance, whilst listening to a storyteller speaking in English – a language of which she does not understand a single word. She felt the story's resonance. It was love at first sight. She enjoys searching, collecting and archiving stories, but also developing and telling them. She is an expert in fine cuisine. She lives in Tuscany but was born in the Municipality of Portico and San Benedetto (FC), where she spends part of the year, maintaining close ties with the local institutions and people of the valley and organizing an annual summer storytelling circle by Centro Italiano Storytelling in Bocconi.



**Martina Jánošíková** is a Slovak storyteller and has been a member of the Story Hunters group since 2017. Her journey to storytelling involves puppetry and teaching drama and her studies at the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and The Central School of Speech and Drama in London. In 2014, she discovered a completely new performative discipline: storytelling. Thanks to all her teachers, including Barbora Voráčová, Roi Gal Or, Karmit Evenzur, Stella Kassimati and Giovanna Conforto, she knows many stories and wonderful people. She runs two storytelling clubs in Bratislava (Storytelling na Záhrebskej, Storytelling v Tichu) and the international storytelling festival "Story Hunters".



**Stefania Ganzini**. Storyteller, storytelling facilitator and co-founder of Centro Italiano Storytelling and NarrAzioni – *scuola italiana storytelling,* she has run various workshops in educational, social and corporate settings, using a transformative, experiential approach that begins by listening to people's needs. As an international storyteller, she has taken part in storytelling events in Slovenia, India and Malaysia, as well as at various festivals in India and Marrakech.

# Stò!

## Urban narrative tools for the community

***Applied Storytelling festival***



















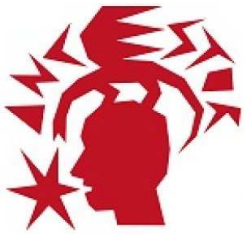










NarrAzioni & Metamuseo, +39 333 2946482 (Flavio Milandri)
Centro Italiano Storytelling, info@centroitalianostorytelling.it
*Sconfinamenti, cambio di passo in comunità vitali*.