

Monica Manganelli – Biography/CV
Creative-Stage and Film Director
Writer
Scenographer-Visual Artist

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Monica Manganelli is an artist&director with two decades of international experiences among opera houses/theaters, film productions and cultural events-exhibitions.

STAGE & FILM DIRECTOR, DESIGNER and WRITER MONICA, MANGANELLI's visually arresting work is usually known for the intersection of theater, opera and film, for its cinematic elegance, abstract yet visceral staging, and a multidisciplinary merging of narrative heft, visual dramaturgy and design. Her Current projects as *director, visual/video & set designer* include new films, debuts and performing arts/music productions that continue to blur and explore the lines between film, visual art and music-opera.

Her films and projects have participated in about 190+ festivals and won 50+ awards, and are being supported by Rai Cinema, MiBACT (MIC) Italian Ministry of Culture, BKM (Germany) - Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien, Emilia Romagna Film Commission.

Complete Biography:

Born in Parma (Italy) in 1977, studied **Architecture** at the *Institute of Art* (Bachelor in Architecture). In 2002 she graduated from the *Parma University* with an **Academic Degree in Conservation of Cultural Heritage** (History of Art and Architecture's Specialization).

She followed an additional year specializing with a **Postgraduate Academic Degree in "Theater's Set Design"** and a **Master in Cad Design e Computer Graphics** in Reggio Emilia (2002-2003).

In this period she began to work as **Set Designer Collaborator and Concept-Visual Artist** for many productions since 2001 to 2011 in the *Lyric Opera House* in Italy and Europe among: ***Rigoletto***, *Theatre Marijnski, St. Petersburg*; ***L 'Impresario delle Smirne***, *Theatre Stabile Turin*; ***Samson et Dalila***, *Don Pasquale*, *Theatre Comunale Bologna*, *Opera Royal de Wallonie*; ***Fahrenheit 451***, Director Luca Ronconi; ***Ercole sul Termodonte***, ***Agrippina***, *Theatre La Fenice Venice*.

Monica collaborated with the Director Davide Livermore for the preparation of Scenic and visual/Set design of following works : ***Billy Budd*** (Season 2004-05), ***Acì Galatea e Polifemo*** (Season 2008-09), ***Idomeneo*** (Season 2010-11), ***I Vespri Siciliani*** (Season 2011-12), productions by ***Theatre Regio Turin***.

Then Monica moved even in the ***FILM PRODUCTIONS*** (2006), and she is also specialized as ***VFX Art Director/Concept Artist, Creative EventDesigner***.

She collaborated with different **VFX-PostProduction Studios, Film Productions, Events Agency in Europe, working on many commercial spots, movies and fashion show/ events for:**

EDI VFX (Milan), MATHEMATIC (Paris), KOMPOST (Zurich), WARNER BROS (Chicago), DAW Design (Turin), TAX FREE FILM (Parma), Leo Burnett UK and PARTIZAN LONDON, BALICH WORLDWIDE SHOW, VILLA EUGENIE (Paris-Bruxelles). **CREDITS:**

CLOUD ATLAS (2012): *CONCEPT ARTIST* for the Movie Production by Tom Tykwer, Andy and Lana Wachowski (Berlin-Babelsberg Studios), Production Design: Hugh Bateup, Uli Hanisch (2011-12).

COMMERCIAL SPOT (2009-2016): Sammontana, Adidas, Armani, X_Factor, SkyTV, Tim "Survivor", Q8, Lancia, Mediolanum, Neutro Roberts, Wind Mobile, Oro Saywa, Seaworld, Tim "Internet pack", Tim "Monalisa", "BBC-Mass Construction", Lancia Delta, Lancia Musa, Lamborghini, Tim-Marco Polo, Tim Casanova, TrafficJam-Zain/TV, BMW, Wolswagen, Ansaldo Breda-Expo Milan 2015, Mirabilandia, Rado, Ferrero, Richmond, Tic Tac etc....

VILLA EUGENIE (Bruxelles) by Scenographer and Director Etienne Russo: *SCENOGRAPHER-CONCEPT/VISUAL ARTIST* for fashion show and events (2012-2013); Credits: Dior Homme (Paris), Y3, Farley (New York), FIE Event- Grand Palais (Paris).

MILAN FASHION WEEK (2013): *Scenographer/Set Designer - Art Director* for fashion show and events by Vogue- Condenast and some fashion brands (BORBONESE, MEISSEN, ETRO) ecc..

In 2013 she signed at **BMF- Bejiing Music Festival** (China) as **Set Designer-Art Director** the *virtual multimedia scenography* for the Verdi's Anniversary Celebration project (Traviata, Rigoletto, Trovatore, Wagner - Opening Ceremony).

In 2014 she collaborated with *Event Creative Director Marco Balich* and his creative team for the music event show **OPERA ONICE at the ARENA OF VERONA** and other events projects.

CURRENT and FUTURE PROJECTS:

*Since 2015, she is focusing on projects and productions regarding **DIRECTION & DRAMATURGY (as director and writer/author), Creative Visual Design for films, music-opera house theater productions, and cultural-multidisciplinary events-exhibitions.***

She signed in **2015** as director her first animated film: **The BALLAD of the HOMELESS** (La Ballata dei SenzaTetto) with the co-production of Emilia Romagna Film Commission. Short selected in about 60 important international film festival and WINNER for :

- BEST ANIMATION-Los Angeles SHORTS FEST** for qualifying shortlist Academy Award/Oscar 2016,
- BEST FILM EUROPE and BEST FILM WORLD - Anim'Arte** Animation festival Brazil, (2015)
- BEST MUSIC and AUDIENCE AWARD -ATHENS Animation** Film festival (2016).
- SPECIAL PRIZE for ANIMATION – ITALIAN SILVER RIBBON 2016** (Nastri d' argento-Italian critics award).
- **BEST ANIMATED ECO FILM, Golden Kuker Animation** Film Festival (2016)
- AUDIENCE AWARD - Festival "Registi a Confronto"** (2016)
- AUDIENCE AWARD, Festival Palagiano in corto** (2016)
- BEST ANIMATION -Voghera** Film festival (2016).

Candidate for "David di Donatello"-Italian Film Academy awards: category BEST SHORT (2016).

She has been *creative director & designer and author* for *entertainment* and *immersive video installations* on different **cultural projects**, including:

- *Virtual set design* for permanent **exhibition to Cinecittà studios**, client: Cinecittà Studios Rome;
- *Immersive video installation* for **exhibition "Umbria and cinema"**, client: CariPerugiaArte Foundation at Baldeschi Palace in Perugia (2016).
- *Immersive video installation* at **Rocca Paolina** (into a medieval fortress) in Perugia - Italy, client: Culture Department - City of Perugia. (2017).

Monica signed the **set design and videoscenography-dramaturgy** for the Opera House Seasons **2016-21** for many opera house productions:

- **ANNA BOLENA, ROBERTO DEVEREUX, MARIA STUARDA** by Donizetti: co-productions by THEATRE CARLO FELICE GENOVA/THEATRE LA FENICE -VENICE/THEATRE REGIO PARMA,

- **IL TURCO IN ITALIA**, Aslico, co-production THEATRE FRASCHINI PAVIA-OPERA HOUSE, THEATRE PONCHIELLI CREMONA, SASSARI-OPERA HOUSE (rehearsal 2021).

- **AIDA**, new opera production by Theatre Carlo Felice-Genova Opera House, for the opening seasons 2018-19. An innovative production completely with virtual digital set design for creating a futuristic Egypt, inspired sci-fi film.

In **2019**, Monica completed, as *film director, writer and designer*, **BUTTERFLIES IN BERLIN** (animated drama film) about Homocaust, set up during the 30's and 40's in Berlin, in collaboration with **RAI CINEMA** and EMILIA ROMAGNA FILM COMMISSION + Italian and German Ministry of Culture. For the time in cinema an unknown story about holocaust and gender identity together; it's the story of the first transsexual woman in history. Film screened at prestigious worldwide film festivals (110+) and winner of illustrious awards (25+), with a great critical and public consensus. *In distribution on AmazonPrimeChannel+HERE TV for North America. Film received in 2021 the Recognition of "Italian Original Expression" for merits from the Italian Ministry of Cinema and Culture.*

In **2021**:

She signs as *film-stage/creative director, play-writer* and *visual designer* **THE ATLAS OF WONDERS** a theatre music & immersive-performing arts production (crossmedia project + immersive videoscenography), where the Bach's music and his biography meet the animation-VFX techniques/video design and new technologies for the celebration of 300th anniversary of Brandebunburger six Bach's Concerts for some cultural music festivals.

THE **THEATRE COCCIA FOUNDATION-NOVARA OPERA HOUSE (Italy)** commissions her the multidisciplinary project of performing arts (dance+music theatre+video) for the promotion of the season and digital vision of the theater: **THEATER OF IMAGINATION**. *A Theater, as a place where imagination and dance meet to create emotions, an inspiration turned into a fantasy. Dance as an active Emblem of Imaginary Worlds. Original music created by Maestro Federico Longo.*

In **2022:**

She creates her new film (documentary/VISUAL&VIDEO ART-MUSIC INSTALLATION), as **film and creative director, writer and designer**, ***THE BLACK CHRISTS-Far From Justice***, based on Tulsa/Oklahoma massacre in 1921. In distribution in 2022-23 and in competition in worldwide film festivals (30+) with critical and public consensus, and winner of important awards.

The book **THE DIGITAL VISION** is published by Franco Amato Editore, in collaboration with the University of Salerno (prof. Alfons Amendola) with her contribution regarding: **OPERA (Music Theatre) in the DIGITAL AGE**.

2023.

-Monica signs as director and author a video installation/music live performance art at **DUMBO** in Bologna (contemporary art space), **BE KIND! REMAKE** commissioned by the Future Film Festival for ARTFiera CITY, Bologna Contemporary Art Fair.

- **RAI + CARTOONS ON THE BAY, International Festival of Animation, Transmedia and Meta-Arts** dedicates and curates a SOLO exhibition to Monica Manganelli's artistic career between Opera/Music Theater and Cinema: **"MONICA MANGANELLI. IMAGINED and IMAGINARY WORLDS BETWEEN UTOPIC, REALITY AND SUSPENSION"**, *in collaboration of Italian Ministry of Culture*.

In this **27th edition of the Cartoons on the Bay** she has been awarded of the **GENDER AWARD:** *"for having been able to outline the battle for women's rights and the condition of women with vigor and original artistic flair through the representation of timeless heroines."*

She is now in development as film director with her new feature animated film, **TURANDOT-Princess of China**, which received a first contribution/funding from the Italian Ministry of Culture-Film Section for the Development.

Then she is also developing her first live-action feature films, **LIONS IN THE SNOW, BREAKING THE SILENCE**, and some projects about OPERAS as stage-creative director and designer (**TURANDOT and DIDO**).

She performs regularly **teaching at master classes** and **workshops** including Cinecitta' Studios (rome), the Italian Opera School at the Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Toschi Institute of Art, IED Milan, CoopFolias, Italian National School of Cinema-CSC (Animation Department), Ravenna Festival Visioni Fantastiche, Coop Folias (Rome), CNA-Emilia Romagna.

She has been professor at the **University of Parma**, regarding **"Scenography and New technologies within creative industries "** (2016-17).

She was awarded in **2015** the **Prize San Martino for artistic merit** by the city of Noceto (PR) with the following motivation: *"For a versatile and highly innovative artist who has achieved prestigious international awards, proving to be able to combine the talented professional skills developed with passionate determination, a sensitivity able to translate reality into stories and striking images of authentic poetry, open to messages of courage, solidarity and hope "*.

In **2018** has been invited as special guest-speaker by **Iranian National School of Cinema** for the international conference, in collaboration with Iranian Culture Ministry and National Library of Iran, on the subject of **"Cinema in the Digital Age"**, to talk about **"Interdisciplinary of the arts: Skills/Experiences- oriented relations between cinema and other artistic fields such as theater, exhibitions, animation and video-installation in the digital age"**.

In **2020** she was invited among the speakers of the Conference organized by the **University of Salerno and Linea D'Ombra Festival** regarding: **"ECONOMIC AND DIGITAL AUDIOVISUAL CULTURES, between alliances and conflicts"**.

In **2022** she was invited by the **Faculty of Fine Arts of the university of Lisbon** and Centre for Studies and Research in the Fine Arts (CIEBA), for talking about **"Inter and multidisciplinary of the arts for scenographer/set designer in the digital age."**

In **2023** she was invited by the **University of ROSTOCK (italienische Sprache und Kultur-Institut für Romanistik)** for talking about her multidisciplinary career.

She has served on numerous festival juries: 16Corto Film Festival (Forlì), Linea d'Ombra Festival (Salerno), Cartoons on the BAY-Rai Animation Multidisciplinary Film Festival (pitch-jury), Civitanova Film Festival, Florence Queer Festival.