

16th Prague Quadrennial

Open Call for Proposals
PQ Performance

The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space invites proposals for the upcoming PQ edition's program section PQ Performance. The edition will take place in Prague, June 8–17, 2027.

About Prague Quadrennial

The Prague Quadrennial (PQ) is the world's largest event dedicated to scenography, performance design, and performance space. PQ aims to create opportunities for the presentation of contemporary scenography and performance design, to map and support innovative work in this field, and to provide an inclusive space for dialogue between professionals, students, and the wider public.

PQ combines elements of both an exhibition and a live art festival. Its program typically includes hundreds of exhibitions, installations, performances, workshops, and expert discussions, featuring both competitive and non-competitive program sections.

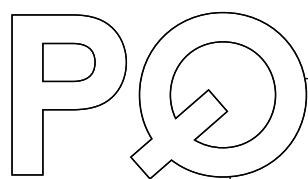
PQ 2027 is conceptually and organizationally managed, on behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, by the Czech Cultural Institute based in Prague.

The 16th edition of the Prague Quadrennial will take place from June 8 to 17, 2027. Its main venue will be the Prague Exhibition Grounds.

Prague Quadrennial 2027 will explore the theme of *Absences and Silences as spaces of potential for new scenographic futures*. Absences and silences are not understood as voids, but as spaces of potential: As forms of historical and artistic reflection, or aesthetic and dramaturgical tools, and as testing grounds for thinking about new scenographic possibilities.

Learn more about the Artistic Concept, Theme, and the 16th edition of PQ in general [here](#).

PQ Performance in Program of PQ 2027



PROGRAM SECTIONS PREPARED BY
PQ CURATORIAL TEAM

PQ 60
PQ Performance Space
PQ Performance
This section is non-competitive.
PQ Talks
PQ Studio
PQ Publication Cultures
PQ Hive: Kids, Youth, and their Families



EXHIBITIONS CURATED BY PARTICIPATING
COUNTRIES AND REGIONS

Exhibition of Countries and Regions
Student Exhibition

Whatever form it takes, whatever atmosphere it evokes, scenography is an inseparable component of performance: it unfolds in time, in space, and in relation to the presence of the audiences. It is only complete when experienced. PQ Performance highlights these essential qualities of scenography by inviting audiences to encounter it **live, in the moment of its actualization** when it comes into existence in a performance. Artists are encouraged to apply with performances that are **scenographically rich or design-led**, taking place in a range of environments and performance spaces, and engaging diverse audiences, including children.

Curator

Pedro Gramegna Ardiles

Open Call Timeline

- Call Published:
October 1, 2025
- Deadline for Submission:
January 31, 2026
- Notification of Accepted Proposals:
May 1, 2026
- Final Confirmation:
October 31, 2026
- Preparation Period:
November 1, 2026 – June 7, 2027
- 16th Prague Quadrennial
June 8–17, 2027

Submission

Please note that to submit your proposal, you will need to create a free account on PQ's online platform Eventival.

The proposal must be submitted in English.

[ENTER THE SUBMISSION FORM](#)

Contact

In case you have any questions or trouble filling in the form, please get in touch at call@pq.cz.

Tricky Ghosts

Curatorial Concept

*"No one else could see this apparition
But because of my condition
I fell in love with a little ghost and that was all"*

—The White Stripes, "Little Ghost" (2005)

Ghosts are tricky. They mean different things for different people; some fear them, some honor them. For Derrida, they are a metaphor for what lingers, something that stays. He calls them "a diffuse margin...something difficult to name: a being in absence." They are neither here nor there, neither alive nor dead. Vapors, memories, and whispers. Ghosts are a force to be reckoned with: they haunt conventions, blur definitions, and open spaces for imagination, encounter, and play.

The world is full of ghosts! Old and new, personal and collective. They appear in the cracks of what is set on stone, of reality — waking you up with a bad-breath kiss, peeking behind your ears on the bus, or giggling under your pillow at night. But a ghost is more than a ghost. Their haunting reminds us of what is invisible yet insists on being seen, of what has been forgotten or silenced, of what keeps returning — an intrusive thought, or an old-school ghost under a bedsheet.

We invite artists at all stages of their career — seasoned practitioners, early career, and students — to conjure ghosts in all their forms, shapes, and styles. Bring your performances: the unseen and overlooked ones, your forgotten and unrealized projects, the idea that keeps haunting you in the shower...even your local theatre ghost! We want to meet your spectral bodies, spaces, and practices. What are you haunted by? Sequined specters, queer phantoms, camp apparitions? Are they fragile, fabulous, intimate, funny, dreadful...or just loud? What lingers after a performance is over?

We welcome performances for all kinds of audiences — including kids! — that cross borders, blur formats and challenge definitions — works driven by performance, scenography, including space, costumes, sound, and more. Not as an invitation to nostalgia, but as a séance of the present: conjuring the future of performance and scenography through the figure of the ghost.

Prague, our host city and the stage for PQ, is in itself a city of ghosts, and PQ Performance will present yours at the Industrial Palace in Výstaviště, along with its exhibition grounds and the nearby Stromovka park. A black box venue, public transport, and the historical streets of Prague may also be available for your project.

Ghosts haunt people. They don't exist without an audience. There is no spectre without a spectator, and this is the core of PQ Performance. Bring your projects, your (pop) specters, and let's haunt the present with the future we imagine.

...BOOO!

— Pedro Gramegna Ardiles

What Are We Looking For?

We welcome works that:

- cross borders between performance, scenography, and related practices
- experiment with space, costumes, sound, and atmosphere
- address diverse audiences, including children
- use Prague's venues and public spaces in imaginative ways

→ This call is open to students and professionals at all stages of their careers.

There is **no limitation** regarding the year of creation. Proposals may include:

- performances already realized (please indicate the year of creation)
- works in development
- projects at the concept stage

All performance formats operating scenographically will be considered. These include but are not restricted to site-specific, durational, conceptual, walking, running, sitting, visual performances, dance, theatre, puppet theatre, and opera.

We welcome performances suitable for presentation in the context of a festival operation.

Possible Locations

- well-equipped black box (14.5 m wide, 14 m deep), including non-stage areas
- open green areas, both with and without trees or nearby water
- small venue inside the Industrial Palace (approx. 25 m²)
- open concrete space next to the Industrial Palace / green zone, open square
- selected Prague streets / public spaces in Prague
- industrial premises, including underground corridors
- public transport vehicles, tram, bus, or train stops (while not affecting standard operation)

Conditions of Participation

While excited to offer a platform for exchange, PQ cannot commit to fully cover participants' expenses.

By selecting participating artists more than a year before the event, it is our hope that participants will have the opportunity to secure funding from other organizations or grant bodies.

PQ provides:

- inclusion in the catalogue of the edition
- acknowledgement within the edition's program
- **festival passes** for the project team
- discounted accommodation at partner hotels
- **letters to support funding applications** (letters of support, recommendation, and invitation, tailored to funder requirements)
- general technical and production support; individual needs upon discussion

Selected applicants may apply for non-entitlement financial support from the Prague Quadrennial. Please note, however, that this support is not guaranteed. The amount of available funds and the number of supported projects will be determined when a more detailed PQ's financial forecast for 2027 is known.

PQ cannot provide:

- funding for the creation/production of the work

Selected applicant provides:

- The selected applicant is responsible for the **creation of the performance, its transportation, and realization** in Prague during the Prague Quadrennial 2027, in accordance with the performance's concept and parameters as described in their application.
- By submitting to the PQ Performance, the applicant grants **permission** to the Prague Quadrennial and its organizer to capture, reproduce, edit, and display the **recordings of the work** in any way it desires for non-commercial use, whether for promotion, retrospectives, catalogues, educational and research purposes, or archives, etc., in perpetuity. All other rights reserved.
- All projects are obligated to **secure all necessary authors' rights and copyrights** for all components (design, video materials, music, text, etc.) that will be utilized as part of their presentation. Applicant guarantees that PQ organizer will not be held responsible for any claims made by third parties.

Proposal Requirements

- submitter's details
- project title
- annotation
- explanation of how the project responds to the curatorial concept
- location preference
- video record of the performance (if available)
- photos or sketches to help visualize the proposal of the performance (if available)
- technical specifications
- information about the team/company, samples of previous work (max. 3 samples)

Meet the Curator

Pedro Gramegna Ardiles is a director and scenographer born in Copiapó, Chile, and currently based in Prague, Czech Republic. He holds a Master's degree in Directing of Devised and Object Theatre at the Theatre Department of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (DAMU), and a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a major in Performance Design from the Universidad de Chile.

Pedro's work explores his obsession with making, costume design, and masking as queer strategies that temporarily alter our relationship with the everyday. His practice weaves scenographic strategies and collaborative performance-making to devise, through visuality, invitations to alternative ways of experiencing everyday life, proposing new, strange, and unexpected ways of engaging with reality.

He directs his own stage creations—including *Máscara*, *Masks for the Everyday*, and *Home is the Place Where Our Memory Is*—while also working internationally as a dramaturg, costume designer, and lighting designer on various projects across Chile, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland, and Spain.

Since 2011, he has led Complejo Conejo, a Chilean collective focused on performance in public space. The group has participated in the last three editions of the Prague Quadrennial—*Proyecto Selk'nam*, *Peces Caminando!*, and *What Do Astronauts Do?*—with Pedro serving as National Curator of the Chilean Pavilion in 2023 with the project *Memento Mori: Animitas del Diseño Escénico Chileno*.

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Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space is initiated by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and organized by the Czech Cultural Institute.

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