

International Theater Festival in Latin and Ancient Greek

THALIA



Certamen

3rd Annual:

Mare Somniorum

Ὀνειράτων Πέλαγος

Summer 2026, Braga

CONTEST RULES

Schola Humanistica, an institute dedicated to the preservation and promotion of classics, designates the Certamen THALIA as a theater competition with the awarding of the *Corona Aurea* for the best performance in Latin and Χρυσοῦς Στέφανος for the best play in ancient Greek on the theme of *Metamorphoses*.

Contest Sponsor:

SCHOLA HUMANISTICA SRL

Educational organization recognized by the Ufficio Scolastico Regionale of Veneto (Reference Number: 6837 on April 19th, 2021).

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The awarding of the prize is governed by article 6 of DPR Oct. 26th, 2001, number 430 and by the statement of November 20th, 2014 from the Italian Ministry of Economic Development.

Article 1 – ELIGIBILITY

Registration is available to all international theater companies and groups (associations, foundations, lyric theater groups, non profit organizations, schools, universities, vel sim.) who produce an original show written and performed entirely in Latin or Ancient Greek. The contest is divided in two sections: one for

performances in Latin and one for performances in Ancient Greek. Performances must have a minimum duration of 30 minutes and a maximum duration of 70 minutes. In order to be considered, the production must involve a minimum of three actors. Registrants may compete with only one entry. Each production must furthermore thoroughly reference the theme of the Festival: *Mare Somniorum/Όνειράτων πέλαγος*

Article 2 – CONTEST ORGANIZATION

The 2026 Certamen is comprised of two phases.

Article 2.1 Phase One: selection

Groups indicate their interest for participating in the Certamen through the application form available on this page of the Schola Humanistica website:

<https://www.scholahumanistica.com/thalia-2026/>

The required written and audiovisual materials must be sent by no later than January 15th, 2026 to segreteria@scholahumanistica.com so they can be issued to the selection committee.

The required materials are as follows:

1- The application (Form A), containing a synopsis of the play with a description of the number of characters, the actors and preliminary director's notes. This synopsis may be in Latin, Ancient Greek, Portuguese, French, Italian, Spanish, English, German or Polish. The synopsis must address how the theme of “*Mare somniorum/Όνειράτων πέλαγος*” has been incorporated into the work. It must be indicated whether the performance is in Latin or in Ancient Greek.

2- A video of 3-10 minutes that portrays a representative and salient scene from the play. The video must be submitted via WeTransfer to the same email address as above (segreteria@scholahumanistica.com)

By submitting these materials, applicants grant permission to Schola Humanistica to store and use the video for promotional purposes, thereby relinquishing copyright.

The selection committee will identify the groups who have qualified as finalists of Thalia 2026 by no later than March 1st, 2026.

The selection committee will also send the names of the finalists to Schola Humanistica who will promptly notify applicants. Applicants will be required to confirm the acceptance of their finalist status and pay the application fee within seven days (see article 4).

Schola Humanistica will then coordinate with each group of finalists the date and time of their performance.

Article 2. 2 – Phase Two: competition

Finalists will compete in the Certamen to be held in Braga in a date between 20th July and 9th August, 2026.

The groups of performers will be responsible for travel expenses, lodging expenses, and for the transportation of any materials pertaining to the production. Lodging may be arranged in any of the hotels affiliated with the competition at the expense of the performance group.

Each performance will take place in the presence of the jury, the other performers in the competition, and the participants enrolled in THALIA as audience members.

Each group must send by May 1st 2026 to segreteria@scholahumanistica.com the complete text of the play and the complete subtitles of the play, in Latin or Ancient Greek and in English, following the model that will be provided by Schola Humanistica in order to avoid exclusion from the competition.

By accepting the invitation to proceed to the final round of the competition, each performance group grants Schola Humanistica the right to store the audiovisual material collected during the festival (photographs, videos, recordings of the competing companies and the performances represented) and use it for documentary and promotional purposes.

Article 3 - AWARDS CEREMONY

After the last show in competition, the jury will convene to award the following prizes at its sole discretion:

- - CORONA AVREA to the best performance in Latin: € 9.000
- - ΧΡΥΣΟΥΣ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ to the best performance in Greek: € 12.000
- - CORONA ARGENTEA to the second best performance in Latin: € 6.000
- - ΑΡΓΥΡΟΥΣ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ to the second best performance in Greek: € 8.000
- - CORONA AENEA to the third best performance in Latin: € 4.000
- - ΧΑΛΚΟΥΣ ΣΤΕΦΑΝΟΣ to the third best performance in Greek: € 5.000
- - CALAMVS AVREVS to the best original script in Latin: € 2.000
- - ΧΡΥΣΟΥΝ ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ to the best original script in Greek: € 3.000
- - PERSONA AVREA to the best leading actor: € 1.000
- - ΧΡΥΣΟΥΝ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΙΟΝ to the best leading actor: € 2.000
- - PILEVS AVREVS to the best character actor: € 500
- - ΧΡΥΣΟΥΣ ΠΙΛΕΟΣ to the best character actor: € 1.000

Awardees of the festival will be announced at a gala to take place the last day of the festival. The jury reserves the right Schola Humanistica not to award the entire prize money

Article 4 – REGISTRATION AND ADMISSION TO THE FINAL

The procedures for registration and participation in the competition include the following:

Article 4. 1 – Registration

Registration will be open from January 1st 2025 to January 15th 2026 (described above in Art. 2.1) and must be submitted through the form available on this page of the Schola Humanistica website:

<https://www.scholahumanistica.com/thalia-2026/>

Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Art. 4. 2 – Advancement to the final round and registration fees

Each performance group in the finalist round is required to pay € 50 per person for every member of their group (defined as the actors and director of the group). This sum must be paid via bank transfer to the following account:

Schola Humanistica srl
IBAN: IT63A0880712100000000037872

BIC/SWIFT: ICRAITRRBSG
Reason: Certamen - [name of the performance group]

Failure to pay this fee by the deadline will result in the withdrawal of the performance group from the competition.

Performance groups admitted to the finals are required to confirm their participation in the Certamen. Once notified of their selection for the competition, performance groups are required to send Form B duly signed and together with the registration fee.

Performance groups who have proceeded to the finalist round are granted free entry to all events for Thalia. Performance group members are defined as actors and the director.

Article 5 – JUDGES

The selection committee (first step) comprises one member from Schola Humanistica and one external judge.

Judges for the Certamen comprises five members who represent the perspective of philologists, educators, actors, and experts of theater.

Schola Humanistica