



**NON**  
**BUON COMPLEANNO**  
**ANDERSEN!**

(A VERY MERRY UNBIRTHDAY TO ANDERSEN!)

**SHORT STORIES, ILLUSTRATIONS  
AND SHORT PLAYS  
CONTEST**

**'La Compagnia degli Gnomi'**  
theatre company and cultural association

as part of the 4th edition of the international artistic event  
**"BUON COMPLEANNO ANDERSEN!"**  
**("HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANDERSEN!")**

organizes the  
**3rd international short stories, illustrations and short play contest.**

This edition is entitled **"Buon NON Compleanno Andersen!"** (A Very Merry **Unbirthday to Andersen!**) and revolves around the **revelation of the paradoxes of life** through the languages of the absurd and of satire.

Beginning from this edition, a new section is introduced, dedicated to **contemporary drama.**

The term for inscriptions is the **8th of November, 2008.**

**Citizens of any country, past the age of 18**, can take part in the contest.  
There is **no entry fee** for contestants.  
Eventual **postal charges** will be responsibility of the contestants.

**Prizes** will consist in the promotion of works and authors.

**A Jury of experts** will judge the works and award the **first prize** to:  
**best short story, best illustration and best short play.**

The Jury has the right to award **special prizes**.

The Jury, with well-documented reasons, has the right to not assign any award for one or more sections.

**Contestants may participate in all three sections**, but they must not match works of different sections (for example: don't match your illustrations to your short story).

The contest's objective is to promote contemporary drama, literature and iconic language and, more specifically, to promote the talent of up-and-coming artists and authors; moreover, contest and event mark the renewal of an important cultural meeting point, a place for exchange and debate about the narrative arts and art in all its forms: an actual lab for project and ideas, a virtual playground which yearly shape-shifts in different real sites.

"Buon Compleanno Andersen!" was created in Perugia – city which still hosts the core of the event.

Since 2006, "Buon Compleanno Andersen!" has been widening its influence to other places, such as Palermo and Cervia (Ravenna).

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

# NEW SECTION - SHORT PLAYS

## PRIZES

The best short stage play will be put on stage by 'La Compagnia degli Gnomi' and it will debut on the programme of the artistic event "Buon Compleanno Andersen!".

The Jury will have the right to award **special prizes** to other short plays. Moreover, the Jury will have the right to suggest that some of these other plays be produced, if possible.

**IMPORTANT NOTE** the prize of this section will be awarded only if the work/works chosen by the Jury satisfy acknowledged rules of **contemporary essential theater**, such as: a performance centered on the actors' skills and ability, a bare, simple, not fundamental scenography, scarcity or absence of effects – for example lighting – adaptability to different or non-conventional spaces. Should these guidelines not be respected, the Jury will restrict the prize to a special mention. The theater company which will stage the play reserves the right to modify and cut the text in order to adapt it for the stage, in regard to the staff's needs and to the director's interpretation.

## ENROLLMENT CONDITIONS

Each author may submit a single short play, PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED and UNPERFORMED, in one of the following languages:

**Italian (including dialects), English, Spanish.**

For plays in English, Spanish or in lesser-known dialects, please include a translation in Italian, even if it isn't accurate, so that all the jurors may appreciate the text. In case of performance, the play will be probably translated into Italian.

## THEME

### - IN OR OUT (OF ONE'S MIND)

These are some of the possible associations born of the ideas of "in" and "out":

**In:** inside, interior, inmost, intimate, familiar, substantial, source, hospitable, comfortable, accepted, appropriate, private, typical, close, deep, recognizable, neighbor, prisoner, present, coherent, closed, known, secure, captured, interned, invisible, near...

**Out:** outside, exterior, extraneous, foreigner, stranger, strange, abstruse, excluding, absurd, absent, apparent, aside, apart, open, wide-open, separate, unknown, discovered, manifest, revealed, rejected, displaced, fool, superficial, formal, inhospitable, unreal, alien, free, faraway...

The theme asks playwrights to connect the ideas of "in" and "out" and the meanings or associations ascribed to them (inside/outside, familiar/extraneous, closed/open...).

Since the theatre language and context have their own peculiarities, the ideas of "in" and "out" may be used on a meta-theatrical level: the difference between "in" and "out" *may* (not *must*) correspond to the difference between "identification" and "estrangement", "scene" and "stalls" or "backstage", action and narration...

## TEXT LIMITS

Submitted texts' maximum accepted length is **2.350 words**.

The author's **name** and **surname** must appear on the first page.

In case the author wishes to submit a longer text, he/she may explain the motivation to the contest's office by email.

## ENROLLMENT

The text must be sent by email before the **8th of November 2008**, as a **.doc attachment** (attachment's title and text's title must be the same), at the email address:

[buoncompleannoandersen@gmail.com](mailto:buoncompleannoandersen@gmail.com)

Accompanied by the following attachments (in .doc format):

- translation in Italian of the text if it is in English or Spanish;
- copy of the **enrollment form**, duly filled in.

# SHORT STORIES SECTION

## PRIZES

The best short story will be illustrated by an artist chosen by the Jury.

The best short story and illustration/s inspired by it will be published, care of 'La Compagnia degli Gnomi'.

The story will be read in public by an actor during the award ceremony and other events during "Buon Compleanno Andersen!".

The Jury has the right to award **special prizes** to other short stories. Moreover, the Jury has the right to suggest the publication of some of those short stories.

## ENROLLMENT CONDITIONS

Each author may submit a **single short story**, PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED, in one of the following languages:

**Italian (including dialects), English, Spanish.**

For stories in English, Spanish or in lesser-known dialects, please include a translation in Italian, even if it isn't accurate, so that all the jurors may appreciate the text. In case of performance/public reading, the story will be translated in Italian.

## THEMES (2)

### - MATHEMATICALLY ABSURD – CARROLL'S CLOCK

Absurdity, paradox, irony and oxymoron have precise rules: linguistic rules, mathematical rules, physical rules... Just as Alice's Wonderland is governed by the "mental game" of mathematician Lewis Carroll, no "absurd world" – our world included - is just a simple chaotic set of circumstances: there's always a *fil rouge* and, if there is not, it is just because we are unable (or unwilling) to see it.

### - SATIRE IN 16

Satire is a variant of the absurd. The satyr is vital expression of natural power and bodily instincts. Satire is the ability to turn the world upside down and reveal its hidden face. The satirist has a demon inside the body. Written satire jumps unto the page, incarnating in a type font. Say "Garamond", point 16.

**NOTE:** the short story may fit both the themes: in such cases, the author must point it out in the **enrollment form**.

## TEXT LIMITS

Submitted texts' maximum accepted length is **3 pages - paper size A4** - i.e. between 380 and 430 words per page, for a **total of maximum 1230 words**.

Suggested fonts: **Garamond 16, Arial 14, Times New Roman 16.**

The author's **name** and **surname** must appear on the first page.

In case the author wishes to submit a longer text, he/she may explain the motivation to the contest's office by email.

## ENROLLMENT

The text must be sent by email before the **8th of November 2008**, as a **.doc attachment** (attachment's title and text's title must be the same), at the email address:

[buoncompleannoandersen@gmail.com](mailto:buoncompleannoandersen@gmail.com)

Accompanied by the following attachments (in .doc format):

- translation in Italian of the text if it is in English or Spanish;
- copy of the **enrollment form**, duly filled in.

# ILLUSTRATIONS SECTION

## PRIZES

**An author, chosen by the Jury, will be assigned to write a short story inspired by the best illustration.**

**The best illustration will be published, together with the story it inspired,** care of 'La Compagnia degli Gnomi'. The Jury reserves the right to award **special prizes** to other illustrations.

Both first prize and special prizes will be **on show** during the **"Buon Compleanno Andersen!" International Exhibition**. The Exhibition may tour different cities.

Moreover, the Jury may suggest the publication of some of the special prizes.

## ENROLLMENT CONDITIONS

Each artist may submit **up to 3 illustrations**, PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED.

**Any technique may be used**, from aquarels to computer graphic.

**Original works' size** must not be greater than cm 50 x 70.

## THEMES (3)

### - MATHEMATICALLY ABSURD – *ESCHER'S STEPS*

In illustrations as in literature, absurdities and paradoxes are based on precise rules: rules of color, optical rules, geometrical, mathematical... or literary rules, if the absurdity underlies a story rather than ruling the image. Any possible world can be explored on paper and so made... unbelievably believable. Escher's rational distortions prove the point. The "mental game" conquers sight and thoughts through technical skills at a graphic level and through yet other sleights-of-hand on other levels (symbolic, narrative, logical, geometrical, optical...)

### - FREEHAND SATIRE

"Satire resides in cartoons". "It is hard to make people laugh in front of an illustration" : commonplaces, clichés.

The illustration or the implied story can arouse laughter or make people smile. Illustrations, when satirical, can turn the world upside down, deal with social or universal themes, make fun of the viewers.

"Freehand" in the theme's title stands for "freedom of choice": any technique may be used, and freedom must be expressed through each illustrator's distinctive characteristics and skills.

### - NIGHT VISION

What can be seen in the dark? Who can see what in the dark? Who can't see anything? What do you see? What can you imagine to be there? And what color will it be?

**NOTES:** in case the author wishes to submit 2 or 3 illustrations, these may be part of the same story or not; also, each illustration may fit more than one theme: the author must point these cases out in the **enrollment form**.

## ENROLLMENT

Illustrations must be scanned (**MINIMUM 200 dpi**) and sent by email before the **8th of November 2008**, as a **JPEG or TIFF attachment** (attachments' titles and illustrations' titles must be the same), at the email address:

[buoncompleannoandersen@gmail.com](mailto:buoncompleannoandersen@gmail.com)

Other required attachments (.doc format):

- copy of the **enrollment form**, duly filled in.

Attachments must not exceed **5MB per email**.

If necessary it is possibile to send an email for each illustration.

**WARNING: colors of the illustrations' files must respect colors and contrast of the original works. Illustrators selected for the exhibition will be required to send the original works.** The original works must be **adequately framed**. The organization will return the original works at the end of the event. **Postal charges** will be responsibility of the illustrator.

# JURY

Works - short plays, short stories, illustrations - which adhere to the rules and regulations will be judged by a **Jury of experts**, composed of University professors, journalists, publishers, writers, artists, theater directors etc. Jurors' names will be communicated during the period of the contest. The Jury decisions are mandatory and cannot be appealed.

# IMPORTANT

- 1 Winners are invited to take part to the award ceremony.
  - 2 Winners will be informed by email 10 - 12 days before the award ceremony.
  - 3 The Jury reserves the right to modify the present document at any moment.
- Any variation to the present document will be communicated on the web page:  
[www.buoncompleannoandersen.splinder.com](http://www.buoncompleannoandersen.splinder.com)

# RIGHTS

The winning works' right will remain the authors'.

**The authors will freely lend the rights to promotion, editing, publishing, reading, performance, exhibition...** to the cultural association 'La Compagnia degli Gnomi' and to the publisher 'edizioni Corsare'.

All material attaining to the work may be used by the Cultural Association 'La Compagnia degli Gnomi' for promoting the "Buon Compleanno Andersen!" event.

All material (audio-video-photographic...) produced during the award ceremony and attaining to the works and the authors may be used by the Cultural Association 'La Compagnia degli Gnomi' in order to promote the "Buon Compleanno Andersen!" event.

In any other form, works which haven't won will not be used by the Association in any way.

# PRIVACY

Non-winning participants' data will not be in any way communicated to third parties.

Participants emails' addresses will be added to the Association's mailing list and will be used only for cultural promotion.

Participants may explicitly request 'La Compagnia degli Gnomi' to remove their emails' addresses from the mailing list.

Winners' personal information will be used only in order to promote the "Buon Compleanno Andersen!" event and for publishing purposes.

[www.buoncompleannoandersen.splinder.com](http://www.buoncompleannoandersen.splinder.com)  
[www.compagniadegliognomi.splinder.com](http://www.compagniadegliognomi.splinder.com)