Call for applications

Cassandra.

Liberty, Equality, Violence

A project by Marta Górnicka
Executive production of the Festival d'Avignon



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The Festival d'Avignon is looking for participants for a new choral theatre project: *CASSANDRA. Liberty, Equality, Violence*
Polish director and writer Marta Górnicka is known for her distinctive choral theatre, in which the voices and bodies of the performers, both individually and collectively, become powerful instruments of political expression. This time, she brings together the contemporary voices of Cassandra, the prophetess of ancient myths.

The Festival d'Avignon is therefore looking for people aged 8 to 98 with a passion for singing and dancing who would like to join the *CASSANDRA* theatre choir. No particular level of French is required: the choir is designed to speak many languages, and experiences of multilingualism or migration are warmly welcome.

The project is the second part of a transnational European triptych devoted to the figure of Cassandra. The first part, *CASSANDRA OR THE SONGS OF THE CANARIES*, premiered in Berlin on 18 April 2026. This second part will be created and presented in July 2027 in Avignon.

AUDITIONS

- 24th to 30 th November 2026 inclusive, in Avignon
- 1st and 2nd December 2026, in Marseille
- Auditions will be held in French and English.

Please prepare the following:

- Your favourite love song (for children: your favourite song)
- What would you like to say, being Cassandra, at the Place de la République in Paris, addressing cameras from around the world?
- A magic spell or nursery song from your childhood, in French or another language, with the power to heal or harm
- A quote from the press or social media about the most absurd aspect of your political reality
- Your vision of the dream world
- In your opinion, what is most needed in the environment surrounding you?
- Complete the sentences: We must… We need…

APPLICATION

Please click here to complete the form,
AND send a letter of motivation, along with a photo and a brief bio, via email to: audition@festival-avignon.com

Application deadline: Wednesday 11th November at 11.59pm

After the audition, a third phase will follow for those selected: an eight-day workshop with Marta Górnicka, taking place from 18 to 27 January 2027 in Avignon. The final cast will be definitive and confirmed after the workshop.

Commitment required to become a performer on performances:

- Be fully available to be part of workshop from 18 to 27 January 2027 in Avignon (for those selected after the audition)
- Be fully available to participate for the first period of rehearsals form 8 to 28 Match 2027 in Avignon
- Ensure complete availability for the second rehearsal period, scheduled from mid-May to early July 2027 in Avignon and surrounding area
- Premiere in July 2027 in Avignon
- Ensure availability for a tour across France and internationally during 2027/2028 season.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

CASSANDRA. Liberty, Equality, Violence is the second part of Marta Górnicka's choral triptych inspired by the figure of Cassandra, a prophetess of ancient Greece who could foresee catastrophe but was condemned never to be believed. Today, the "Cassandra syndrome" has become a defining condition of our time: the voices of entire communities and of young people are silenced, ignored or discredited. At the same time, a host of self-proclaimed Cassandras wield power over nations and societies through apocalyptic predictions.

This time, the Polish director and writer turns her attention to the phenomenon of the “public secret”: acts of violence and crimes that are widely known yet remain shrouded in denial and indifference. The show explores the taboos and the unspoken in our societies. It questions how inherited structures of power and violence, colonial histories, and the refusal to name certain realities continue to shape what can, or cannot, be said in public.

In the face of this silence, Marta Górnicka frees Cassandra from the ancient patriarchal curse and gives her a new life and a new body: a multilingual choir of performers brought together with young adults and children. She sets out in search of the Cassandras of our time: unheard voices, voices under attack, , including those whose testimonies are too often dismissed or deemed insufficient to prove the violence they have suffered. Cassandra’s song is no longer carried by a single performer, but by a diverse choir of artists, young people and children. Together they examine what we, as a society, tend to remove from our field of vision, what remains unheard inside of us, what separates us from each other, and what we have in common. What answers do they bring to the most urgent questions of our time? What do they ask of the future?

ABOUT MARTA GÓRNICKA

“The voice has a transformative power. It is a living archive of a community’s memory, of all that is most alive and most monstrous within it. It is a remedy, a form of solidarity, a ritual.”

Marta Górnicka is a director and writer who has brought new life to the principle of the chorus. Through a range of choral formats, Górnicka and her choruses confront social injustice, monstrous realities and the mechanisms of marginalisation and silencing. The CHORUS becomes a place of polyphonic expression, listening and resonance. On stage, members of different communities meet as human beings, engaging in an active dialogue about conflicts and their possible resolutions, and raising their voices together.
She created the concept of the CHORUS OF WOMEN (CHÓR KOBIET), bringing together 25 women at the Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute in Warsaw. The group was founded on the idea of “recovering / creating” a female voice, and of using this gesture to reclaim, through theatre, both women and the chorus.
In 2019, she founded the POLITICAL VOICE INSTITUTE (PVI) at the Maxim Gorki Theater, a social laboratory for modern choral theatre where she develops the CHORUS in both its formal and political dimensions. In 2025, Marta Górnicka received the International Theatre Institute Award for her body of work. Her productions have been presented at more than a hundred major international theatre festivals, including in the Cour d’honneur du Palais des Papes with *MOTHERS* at the 2024 Festival d’Avignon.

Find out more about her work: https://gornicka.com/

Marta Górnicka at the Festival d’Avignon
https://festival-avignon.com/en/artists/marta-gornicka-325136/events