

# Biography of Chiara Muti

Actress, writer, and director, Chiara Muti trained at the Paolo Grassi Drama School and perfected her studies at the Piccolo Teatro School of Milan, directed by Giorgio Strehler. She made her stage debut in 1995 alongside Valeria Moriconi, and since then, has been a leading figure in major Italian festivals and theaters, alternating between classical playwrights and contemporary authors. Among her roles, she is remembered for: Anguelique in Marivaux's *La madre confidente*, Giulia in Molnár's *Liliom*, Iphigenia in Quintavalle's *Le Erinni*, Lady Macbeth in Longoni's *Macbeth Clan*, the stepdaughter in Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author*, *Salomé* by Wilde, *Agave* in Euripides' *The Bacchae*, *Francesca da Rimini* and *Teresa Guiccioli* in Spadoni's *Ridono i sassi ancor della città*, and *Antigone* in *Antigone* by Sophocles (directed by Brecht).



A versatile singing-actress, she performs a wide range of works and melodramas from composers including Monteverdi, Benda, Debussy, Liszt, Prokofiev, Honegger, Strauss, Bizet, Weill, and premieres by contemporary composers Sollima, Betta, Ceccarelli, Panni, Tamborrino, Colasanti, and Corghi, with whom she collaborated on four new works: *Pia* with texts by Yourcenar for the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome, *Il dissoluto assolto* by Saramago for the National Theatre of San Carlos in Lisbon, *Giocasta* with texts by Mazzocut-Mis for the Olympic Theatre of Vicenza, and *Blanquette* with texts by Daudet for the Sienese Musical Week.

Other notable roles include Tatiana in Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin* for the Chigiana Academy, Honegger's *Jeanne d'Arc au bûcher* for the Spoleto Festival, Weill's *Marie Galante* for the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome, *Sherazade* for the Parco della Musica in Rome and the National Theatre of Algiers, Debussy's *Le Martyre de Saint Sébastien* in Montpellier, and Colasanti's *Arianna*, *Fedra e Didone* at the Bologna Municipal Theatre.

Since 1997, she has consistently balanced her theatrical commitments with cinema. Among her films are: *Onorevoli detenuti* by Giancarlo Planta, *Il guardiano* by Egidio Eronico, *La via degli angeli* by Pupi Avati, *Il partigiano Johnny* by Guido Chiesa, *Musikanten* by Franco Battiato, and *Rosa e Cornelia* by Giorgio Treves, for which she won the 2000 Grolla d'Oro for Best Leading Actress.

Among her awards are the Anna Magnani Prize, the Special Mention at the Eleonora Duse Prize for theatrical criticism, and a nomination for the Olimpico Award for her portrayal of Antigone at Le maschere del teatro. She has a fruitful artistic collaboration with writer-director Ruggero Cappuccio, for whom she was the lead actress in *L'Orlando Furioso*, *Desideri Mortali*, and *Natura Viva*. She also works with Belgian choreographer and director Micha Van Hoecke, coauthoring the dance-theater performances *Pèlerinage*, *Salomé*, and *Baccanti*. In 2007, she made her directorial debut, creating performances she also wrote and starred in: *Il Regno di Ruckel* for the Salerno Theatre, *Il sogno di Ludwig* at the Ravello Festival, and *Cardo Rosso* at the Ravenna Festival. A pivotal partnership is her collaboration with actress and director Elena Bucci, with whom she co-created three new works: *Folia shakespeariana*, *Lumina in Tenebris* for the Ravenna Festival, and *Due regine* for the Pompei Theatrum Mundi.

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In 2023, she wrote, directed, and performed *L'Enfant oublié* for L'Offrande Musicale and the Aix-en-Provence Festival. She debuted as an opera director with Hindemith's *Sancta Susanna* conducted by Riccardo Muti for the Ravenna Festival in 2012. In 2013, she directed Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* at the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome, Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* at the Opéra National Montpellier, and, in 2014, Puccini's *Manon Lescaut* at the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome. In 2016, she opened the season at the Petruzzelli Theatre in Bari with Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*. In 2018, she inaugurated the season at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples with Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, and in 2021 she debuted at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino with *Madama Butterfly* by Puccini. In 2022, she directed the world premiere of Nicola Piovani's *Amorosa presenza* for the Teatro Verdi in Trieste and returned to the Teatro Regio in Turin with Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, concluding her tour of the Daponte Trilogy. In 2023, she directed Bellini's *I Puritani* at the Teatro Massimo in Catania and in 2024, she debuted at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan with Rossini's *Guillaume Tell*. In 2025, she directs a new production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* at the Teatro Alighieri in Ravenna and will return to the Teatro Regio in Turin in 2026 with Verdi's *Macbeth* conducted by Riccardo Muti.