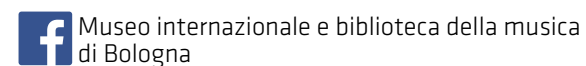




Istituzione Bologna Musei
Museo internazionale e biblioteca della musica
(International museum and library of music)
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From Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 am > 4 pm
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 10 am > 6:30 pm
Every Tuesday from July 26 to September 13: 4 pm > 9 pm
closed: Mondays (except Holidays)

Full fee € 5 | Reduced fee € 3
(Reduced fee available up until July 17 by handing in the
Egitto. Splendore millenario exhibition ticket)
Free admission on the first Sunday of every month

how to get there

From railway or bus station:

on foot> from Piazza Medaglie d'Oro follow Via Indipendenza to Piazza Maggiore, turn left into Via Rizzoli, at the Two Towers continue on Strada Maggiore to number 34 | approx. 2 km
by bus> lines 25, 27. Bus stop: first on Strada Maggiore
by car> underground parking structure at Piazza VIII Agosto



in partnership with



Fondazione
Arnaldo Pomodoro



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La passione di Cleopatra

Visions and masks
by Arnaldo Pomodoro

June 24 to September 18, 2016

Museo internazionale e biblioteca della musica



In 2016 Bologna has become the Capital of ancient Egypt. The two towers, Bologna's most iconic landmark, set the stage to make the greatness of Egypt, the ancient, unique civilisation whose immortal charm has enraptured all the world for ages. Egypt is the land of the Pyramids and the Pharaohs but also the land of groundbreaking discoveries, adventurous archaeology, the most passionate and painstaking art collection and the most meticulous research and study.

The exhibition *Egitto. Splendore millenario* to be hosted by the Archaeological Museum has had a strong visual and scientific impact but it has also been an absolute first, a unique event with no equals in Italy or abroad: the Egyptian collection of the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities (Leiden) one of the top ten collections in the world and the Bologna collection, among the top Italian collections according to size, quality and preservation status have joined forces to create a unique journey unravelling along about 1,700 square metres of art and history.

At the same time, the exhibition *La passione di Cleopatra. Visions and masks* by Arnaldo Pomodoro will bring in the Museo della Musica halls the amazing costumes and set design drawings by Arnaldo Pomodoro for the opera *La passione di Cleopatra*, staged in Gibellina as part of the 1989 Orestyadi.

La passione di Cleopatra was staged on July 21, 1989 at the ruins of Gibellina, a small town near Trapani (Sicily), rebuilt after the Belice earthquake that destroyed the whole area in 1968. The opera, written by the Egyptian poet Ahmad Shawqi was produced by the Gibellina Mu-

nicipality and directed by Cherif, with sounds and music by Paolo Terni, scene design and costumes designed by Arnaldo Pomodoro and made by Gianni Versace.

The newspapers at the time of the premiere wrote that «Maybe we have finally found the true winner of the battle Anthony and Augustus fought on Cleopatra's skin: Arnaldo Pomodoro, who truly rules the scene with his ghosts of places and people, those machines hanging in-between baroque theatre, abstract art and science fiction, these costumes that are basically invented sculptures and at the same time objectification of the unconscious... monumental costumes where the iconographic research on the Valley of the Kings ruins is enriched by fairytale, fantasy elements.»



As is well known, sculpture maestro Arnaldo Pomodoro who turns 90 in 2016 started working as a scenographer in his youth and he probably even imagined he would have a career as a theatre scenographer.

Pomodoro would, eventually, tread on other artistic paths which would lead him to become, while still young, one of the greatest Italian sculptors of the second half of the 20th century. Nevertheless, his love for the stage never died and led him in 1972 to design stage and scenery for Kleist's *Das Käthchen von Heilbronn*, directed by Luca Ronconi and staged on the Lake of Zurich. Theatre for Arnaldo Pomodoro is the area of research par excellence: «Working in the theatre has broadened up my horizons and encouraged me to try new approaches and new ideas for larger sculptures; theatre gives me a sense of creative freedom, I feel like I could actually make my visions tangible and concrete».



From that day Pomodoro's relationship with the theatre stage continued uninterrupted as he poured on the stage the same ideas and reflection he experimented upon in his sculptures, in a sort of creative and invention continuum marked by a constant relationship between the architectural form and the historical space, the stage is a place where showing and seeing take on a different tint and quality altogether.

Over the years Pomodoro dedicated his talent to the unforgettable *Orestea* by Emilio Isgrò (1983-1985) staged in Gibellina in 1983 and he also collaborated for a long time with director Cherif, reaching artistic peaks like *La passione di Cleopatra* and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* (1998) and also with director Ermanno Olmi, starting with Verdi's *Un ballo in maschera* (Leipzig, 2005), Vacchi's *Teneke* at Milan's La Scala (2007), Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and Janáček's *Šárka* at La Fenice in Venice (2009).

From *La passione di Cleopatra* come the amazing bronze masks, the decoration, the stage design models exhibited in the museum, as part of a well designed exhibition path partly restaged in halls 6 and 7 with dedicated volumes and opera librettos (part of the library collection) and ending in the famous "Egyptian Hall" decorated by Gaetano Lodi.

The Bologna native Gaetano Lodi studied the immense painting and iconography corpus of 14th and 12th BC Egyptian art over several stays in Cairo where, from 1873 to 1877 he decorated one of the dining rooms of the Ghisek harem, plus other decorations in the Khedivale palace and he also made the drawings for a Richard Ginori tableware set for the viceroy.

