

Erasmus + Traineeship 08. - 12. november 2025

Fiera Cavalli and Italian Circus Talent Festival

I was invited to join the professional horse trainer Brigitta Donnert from Circo Rolando Orfei to visit two very important events about circus and horse shows in Italy.

On the first day I had the chance to have a personal and very detailed conversation with Brigitta Donnert. I interviewed her about circus lifestyle, animal training, horse education, equestrian performing arts and further related topics. She also took the time to give me a personal coaching, referring to my questions and interests regarding my possibilities and dreams of working with the horse in the future. She shared from her own experience, her professional knowledge and her expertise as circus artist and horse trainer.

Together we visited the Fiera Cavalli in Verona. It is a huge Expo about horses with all different styles represented. We watched some small presentations and competitions that took place in different venues all over the expo area. We looked at the shops and brand new products and collected ideas and inspiration. Then we had the chance to meet Brigitta's friend and colleague Antonio Giarola. He is an Italian poet, circus and theater director and circus historian. He presented his brand new book and master class about equestrian performative art and especially horse shows in theatre or circus context.

In the evening we visited the gala show "Gala d'oro" where special guests performed their equestrian show acts from different genres. Highlight of the show was the presentation of Diego Giona and his family, who stands out with the harmonic and trustful relationship between animal and human.

On Sunday we traveled to Latina where the Italian Circus Talent Festival took place. There I met with the director and other artists from Circo Rolando Orfei. Also a lot of circus family members related to Brigitta, more colleagues and friends of her and a lot of talented young artists. We watched two shows on Sunday afternoon and already saw all the participants of the talent festival.

On Monday was the final gala show with all participants together and the honouration of all winners with prizes. The whole festival was a great experience to meet a lot of new people for networking. I got a wider understanding of who is who in the circus world and how are the procedures of a talent festival. For me this is a great inspiration to set a new goal for myself to take part in this festival next year.

There was only one horse act, educated by Stefano Rossi and performed by Dayana Martini. It was very interesting to observe details about the horses' behaviour in this act after I talked so much about horse training with Brigitta before. I could recognize methods and analyze it with Brigitta afterwards. It was visible that the horses had a deeper bond to their master Stefano Rossi and paid more attention to him in the background than to his student Dayana in the ring. But anyway it was a beautiful act and even won second place in the festival.

After seeing this I became very motivated to take part with my vaulting act one day, because horse acts became very rare these days and I think I would have good chances.

The next day we traveled back from Latina to Verona where we had accommodation for one more night. We spent one cultural day discovering the city and walked around the old town of Verona. We followed the story of Romeo and Juliette.

On our last day of the traineeship we visited the circus school of Verona. We could see the training facilities with different areas for all kinds of disciplines. Also we could talk to teachers and the supervisor of the students who live and study there. It was very interesting for me to see how the system of the school is similar or different to my university and to the circus school I visited years before in Berlin.





Antonio Giarola

Il cavallo in scena

Manuale pratico
di drammaturgia equestre

















