

Rafael Bianciotto

Theatre director • Actor • Teacher

Diplôme d'État de professeur de théâtre (French state diploma in theatre teaching)
Fulbright France recipient 2015

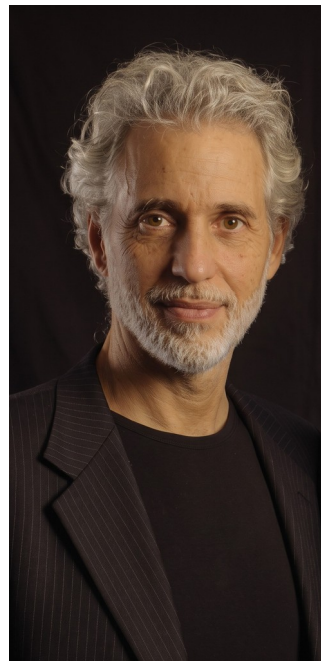
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Background

Born in Buenos Aires, Rafael Bianciotto studied computer science at the University of Buenos Aires, then trained as an actor at CELCIT from 1985 to 1989. In 1990, he continued his theatre studies at Sorbonne Nouvelle – Paris III and settled in France. His encounter with Mario Gonzalez led him to explore commedia dell'arte masks and clown. He became Gonzalez's assistant on numerous productions, including Clowner in Sweden in 1992 and Truðar in Iceland in 1994, a fully improvised show with four clowns.

He directed Molière in the United States with The Mask & Clown Workshop and founded Zéfiro Théâtre in 1998. His work as a director and actor combines classical and contemporary texts, mask performance, clown and music. His productions include Lysistrata, La Nuit des rois, Candide, La Tempête, Preuve d'amour, Péchés capitaux and Sokrates, a clown opera presented in Reykjavík in 2015.

He taught neutral mask and clown at Reykjavík Conservatoire from 1994 to 2022 and leads workshops in conservatoires and professional training programmes in France and abroad. A Fulbright France recipient in 2015, he was hosted as a Scholar-in-Residence and taught at Ramapo College and Bergen Community College in New Jersey. In 2026, he directed a project combining commedia dell'arte, mask performance and classical singing at the Haute école de musique in Geneva and Neuchâtel.



Stage direction

2026 DERNIER RIVAGE by Daniel Keene — Zéfiro Théâtre. Avignon Off Festival, Espace Alya.

2026 CAP AU NORD, a solo clown show created and performed by Françoise Simon — À Vol d'Oiseau. Avignon Off Festival, La Factory Théâtre.

2026 LA COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE, LE JEU MASQUÉ ET LE CHANT LYRIQUE — Stage direction with classical singers from the Haute école de musique in Geneva and Neuchâtel. Salle Ansermet, Geneva, 14–15 February. Project begun in November 2025.

2024–2025 DERNIER RIVAGE by Daniel Keene — Zéfiro Théâtre. Performances at Théâtre Darius Milhaud, Paris.

2024 VOL PLANÉ, a clown duo for young audiences — À Vol d'Oiseau.

2023 UN SONGE D'UNE NUIT D'ÉTÉ by William Shakespeare — Co-directed with Mario Gonzalez, France.

2023 CAP AU NORD, a solo clown show created and performed by Françoise Simon — À Vol d'Oiseau.

2022 IL N'Y A PAS DE PROBLÈME AVEC LES FEMMES — À Vol d'Oiseau.

2022 HIÐ STORFENGLEGA ÆVINTÝRI UM MISSI, a solo clown show co-written with Gríma Kristjánsdóttir — Tjarnarbíó Theatre, Reykjavík, Iceland.

2021 STRATÉGIE DE LA SEICHE by A. Reich — Production with Médiane.

2019 ORIGINES, a collectively devised clown show — Théâtre Clavel, Paris.

2015 SOKRATES, a clown opera — Reykjavík City Theatre.

2015 CANDIDE, adapted from Voltaire — Ramapo College, New Jersey, USA.

2014 PREUVE D'AMOUR by Roberto Arlt — Théâtre André Malraux. Avignon Off Festival in 2016 and 2018.

2012 LA TEMPÊTE by William Shakespeare — Espace Carpeaux and Théâtre André Malraux.

2010 CANDIDE, adapted from Voltaire — Théâtre André Malraux, Rueil-Malmaison.

2009 LA NUIT DES ROIS by William Shakespeare — National Theatre of Iceland, March.

2008 PÉCHÉS CAPITAUX, adapted from Dante's Divine Comedy — Reykjavík City Theatre, Iceland.

2007 GRAND-PEUR ET MISÈRE DU IIIe REICH by Bertolt Brecht — Naxos Théâtre, Chartres.

2005 LYSISTRATA by Aristophanes — Théâtre 13, national tour, Avignon Off Festival 2007.

1999 LA JALOUSIE DU BARBOUILLÉ by Molière, with Benoît Lavigne — Sarlat and Le Lucernaire, Paris.

1997 MOLIÈRE UNDONE, adapted from Molière's Les Précieuses ridicules — The Mask & Clown Workshop and Ramapo College, New Jersey, USA.

1996 THE FORCED MARRIAGE, Molière's Le Mariage forcé — New York, USA.

1995 MOLIÈRE À LA CARTE — Production with Des Omerant, Paris.

1994 LA COMÉDIE D'UN JOUR — A production using commedia dell'arte masks, Marseille.

Actor musician and singer

- 2025** VOL PLANÉ, a clown duo for young audiences — À Vol d'Oiseau.
- 2021** L'OMBRE DES CORBEAUX — A fiction film by Elvira Barboza.
- 2014** PREUVE D'AMOUR by Roberto Arlt — Théâtre André Malraux and Vingtième Théâtre.
- 2012** LA TEMPÊTE by William Shakespeare — Espace Carpeaux and Théâtre André Malraux.
- 2010** CANDIDE, adapted from Voltaire — Théâtre André Malraux, Rueil-Malmaison.
- 2001** AH SCAPIN, adapted from Molière's Les Fourberies de Scapin — Directed by Mario Gonzalez. Avignon; Latin American tour in 2003–2004.
- 2000** LE RÊVE ARGENTIN (Stéfano) by Armando Discépolo — Directed by Oscar Sisto, Théâtre du Renard, Paris.
- 1999** LA JALOUSIE DU BARBOUILLÉ by Molière, with Benoît Lavigne — Sarlat and Le Lucernaire, Paris.
- 1997** MOLIÈRE MALGRÉ LUI by Frédéric Smektala, based on Molière's work — Fréjus, July.
- 1996** COMÉDIES MADRIGALESQUES, a musical production based on madrigals by Banchieri and Vecchi — Directed by Mireille Laroche, Ensemble Clément Janequin. Opéra Bastille, Versailles Opera, Montpellier Opera; Japan tour in 1995, European tour and Opéra-Comique in 1997.
- 1992** L'AMOUR MÉDECIN by Molière — Directed by Mario Gonzalez. Versailles Festival, Théâtre des Quartiers d'Ivry.
- 1988** ZYRKO — Original production, directed by Alberto Cattán, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1987** DIEU by Woody Allen — Directed by Diego Golombek, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 1986** VINCENT ET LES CORBEAUX by P. O'Donnell — Directed by Diego Golombek, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Assistant directing and artistic collaborations

- 2019** LA CLOWN AIRLINES COMPANY — À Vol d'Oiseau, led by Françoise Simon. Outside artistic eye.
- 2017** LE ROI DANSE — Choreography by Marie-Geneviève Massé, L'Éventail dance company, Sablé-sur-Sarthe.
- 2011** LE PREMIER by Israel Horovitz — Directed by Dimitri Dubreux, Le Figuier Blanc, Argenteuil. Choreographic collaboration.
- 2009** LE DERNIER CRI — Théâtre du Cristal, directed by Olivier Couder, Le Grand Parquet, Paris. Collaboration on mask performance.
- 2003** DOM JUAN by Molière — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Paris.
- 2001** AH SCAPIN, adapted from Molière's Les Fourberies de Scapin — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Pau and Avignon.
- 2000** LE SECRET DES LIVINGSON by Frédéric Fort — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Paris.
- 1997** L'ÉTRANGE CAS DU DR JEKYLL ET M. HYDE, adapted from Stevenson — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Paris.
- 1994** TRUÐAR (Clowns) — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Reykjavík, Iceland.
- 1994** CYMBELINE by William Shakespeare — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Conservatoire national supérieur d'art dramatique, Paris.
- 1994** CRÉATION, various authors — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Rodemack.
- 1993** TRÉTEAUX, commedia dell'arte — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Joker, Lille. Revival in 1998.
- 1992** L'AMOUR MÉDECIN by Molière — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Théâtre des Quartiers d'Ivry.
- 1991** JEUX DE MASQUES — Directed by Mario Gonzalez, Joker, Lille. National tour.

Teaching experience

- 2026** DU MASQUE NEUTRE AU CLOWN — Workshop for the drama class at Alençon Conservatoire, 16–20 February.
- 2025–2026** HAUTE ÉCOLE DE MUSIQUE, GENEVA AND NEUCHÂTEL — Commedia dell’arte and mask work with classical singers for the stage project presented in February 2026.
- 2022–2023** Clown teacher at EMC, the musical theatre school in Paris led by Ned Grujic.
- 2016–2024** AFDAS workshop “Chœur, masques et clown” (chorus, masks and clown).
- 2018–2021** AFDAS workshop “Clown : créativité en chanson” (creativity through song).
- 2012–2017** Rueil-Malmaison Conservatoire — Masterclasses in mask performance and clown.
- 2007–2012** C.N.I.P.A.L., Marseille — Commedia dell’arte workshops.
- 2006–2015** Cergy-Pontoise Conservatoire — Workshops in mask performance and clown.
- 2004–2012** Luleå Conservatoire, Sweden — Workshops in mask performance, clown and neutral mask.
- 2003–2006** Orléans Conservatoire — Workshops in mask performance and clown.
- 2002–2015** AFDAS workshops “Shakespeare et la commedia dell’arte” — Zéfiro Théâtre.
- 2002–2004** AFDAS “Yoga & Clown” workshops with Anne-Dominique Défontaines, Normandy.
- 2001** Theatre institute in Barcelona — Commedia dell’arte workshop.
- 2000** Escuela Augusto Fernandes, Buenos Aires, Argentina — Workshop in commedia dell’arte and neutral mask.
- 1999** AFDAS workshop “Goldoni, Molière et la commedia dell’arte” with Benoît Lavigne, Sarlat.
- 1998** AFDAS workshop “La commedia dell’arte et les farces de Molière” with Benoît Lavigne, Sarlat.
- 1998** Theatre workshop with Échanges pour une terre solidaire, Guatemala and Paris.
- 1995–2002** Commedia dell’arte workshops with The Mask & Clown Workshop, New York, USA.
- 1996** AFDAS workshop “Théâtre masqué et personnages contemporains” (masked theatre and contemporary characters) with Mario Gonzalez.
- 1996** Workshop “L’acteur et le clown” (the actor and the clown), Théâtre Grand Lavoir, Paris.
- 1995** AFDAS workshop “La naissance du clown et les jouets du cirque” (the birth of the clown and circus toys) with A. Del Perugia.
- 1994–2022** Reykjavík Conservatoire, Iceland — Teaching neutral mask and clown.
- 1993** École Parenthèse — Workshop with students from Tunis Conservatoire at La Chartreuse.
- 1991–1995** Assistant to Mario Gonzalez at the Conservatoire national supérieur d’art dramatique, Paris.