

**BREAK THE RULES OF THE GAME:  
START AT THE BOTTOM  
DISCOVER THE STREETS  
RETHINK THE CITY  
CREATE A PLACE WHERE TO FEEL HAPPY**

LET'S KICK OFF

**URSINO BUSKERS 2017**

**INTERNATIONAL STREET PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL**

**SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 16<sup>TH</sup>, 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**CASTELLO URSINO NEIGHBORHOOD, CATANIA**

**WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION, FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE EDITION,**

**YOU DONATE**

**THREE DAYS OF ART, MUSIC, PLAYS AND MAGIC**

**TO THE CITY**

#### **WHAT IS URSINO BUSKERS?**

**Since 2014, every third weekend of September, for three days the International Street Performing Arts Festival has brought the historical center of Catania to life with jugglers, circus artists, musicians, actors, acrobats and street performers.**

**Just in a word *buskers*.**

Artists from different disciplines coming from all over the world meet around the walls, the moat, the streets and the squares that surround the Ursino Castel to offer surprise, splendor, history and free fun for the whole city.

Ursino Buskers is a grassroots festival. Conceived, organized and supported from the bottom, it was born from the idea of the Cultural Association Gammazita, endorsed by other collectives and different city associations. **The aim is to redevelop and renew the historical neighborhood of the Castello Ursino through performing street disciplines, contemporary circus, performing arts and culture.**

Together with spreading the buskers movement and culture in Sicily, it is in fact restoring one of the most ancient and evocative neighborhoods of the city of Catania which is the throbbing heart of the historical centre, nestled among the ancient fish market, the majestic Frederic II' s manor and the crowded San Cristoforo; a magic place, overflowing with contradictions, beauty, history and disrepair, craving for redemption, full of life, scents and colors. **A place where the activists of the association live in and have**

**decided to take care of, daily: experimenting with new practices of social cooperation, of urban redevelopment, transforming abandoned and disrepaired public sites into centres of cultural production and artistic diffusion, and new places of social activity.** Ursino Buskers is not merely a three-day Festival, but a complete and wider project that takes place throughout the year with courses and activities that give an alternative to dozens of kids and teens that live in the neighborhood of San Cristoforo and its surroundings.

### **WHY SUPPORTING THE FESTIVAL?**

Because Ursino Buskers is a free festival, **and it will be free for as long as it will exist. It gives surprise, astonishment and smiles to everybody, and the three previous editions have been possible because you were all there!**

We started in 2014 dreaming of a Buskers Festival in the streets of the historical centre, dreaming of a colorful, clean and lively neighborhood. We have kicked it off thanks to all of those who shared this crazy idea with us. When we started counting, **at first you were 20.000 (in 2014), then you became 30.000 (in 2015), in 2016 we counted 35.000 of you and we clearly understood that we were not mad but we were living a clear-headed madness.**

**And that's how it happened that, every springtime we start wondering:**

*<<How do we manage organizing a better edition than last years? How do we start a growth instead than a disappointment? With what kind of resources? >>*

**Many artists and lots of volunteers have donated for free, in these years, their time, energies, competences and arts, making Ursino Buskers alive. And you all, have supported us participating in the "self-financing parties", buying our gadgets, or as it happened in 2015, contributing through the previous crowdfunding campaign.**

The logics of the associational and no-profit sector are not based on business or commercial rules, but they aim for the social growth of the city in which they reside, and that's why when we check our pockets we find a lot of gratification but just a few coins, which luckily, we manage to get thanks to the small but indispensable bar of Gammazita. Hence, it's easy to understand how such a Festival, even if supported by many artists and volunteers, realized with parsimony and low budget, has evident costs in terms of energy and investments, particularly for such a small and ever active Association as Gammazita is.

At the moment we cannot count on any institutional support because, even if we don't know whether the City Council of Catania will be patron and sponsor the event, it would anyway allow to cover only a tiny part of the costs the Festival needs to face.

### **WHAT DO WE ASK?**

At this point the message is pretty clear: **Ursino Buskers exists just because many citizens want the Festival to exist and they support it, also by small economical means, thus, the 2017 edition needs you more than ever to:**

- Rent a stage for one or two areas
- Cover a part of the travelling costs, boards and accommodations, cachets for artists, coming from far away or nearby.
- Setting up performing areas
- Rent lighting and audio equipment

**Every small contribution is precious and we will promise to use it the best we can to realize a fourth edition that will exceed all expectations.**

Follow us on Facebook where we'll keep you updated on every detail. We will, as well, give full information through the web and the public assemblies on all the events that will disclose the 2017 edition of the Ursino Buskers Festival.

We also need many thinking heads and creative souls: each of you has the possibility to volunteering for #UBF2017.

## WHO ARE WE?

**THERE'S NOTHING LEFT THAN INTRODUCE EACH OTHER AND WE WANT TO DO IT ONE BY ONE. READY ? STEADY, GO!**

Manola, Florinda, Daniele, Alessandro C., Fabrizio, Serena, Veronica, Francesca, Marzia, Giovanni, Nicolò, Alessandro A., Miriam, Federica, Enrico, Serena G., Benedetta, Stefania, Mariano, Pasquale, Salvo, Alessio, Luciano, Tamara, Bruna and many more. Youngsters and less young, mostly inhabitants of the San Cristoforo neighborhood reunited into the **Cultural Association Gammazita**.

Since the springtime of 2013 we've taken care of the neighborhood enhancing cultural goods, and redeveloping streets and squares. Through music we involve children and inhabitants in the Samba Percussions Popular School "Sambazita".

We promote the buskers culture, performative arts, and performative street arts through **the Popular school of Jugglery and Social Circus** dedicated to the kids' growth, while the International Street Performing Arts festival offers courses and workshops with popular fees and open to everybody.

We spread the beauty of the shared reading practice through the "PiazzadeiLibri" project, an open-air library born thanks to the donation of books from part of those citizens who believed in the value of such a project.

Weekly we dedicate space to live music, cultural activities, history and many tales of the city. Don't you trust? Every day you can discover a different city, thanks to the myths and legends that populate it.

WHAT ELSE? :

**BREAK THE RULES OF THE GAME: START AT THE BOTTOM, SUPPORT URSINO BUSKERS 2017!**