



# COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

## IN SIENA, ITALY

### MAY 16 - 27, 2017



## Course Description

Spend two weeks in beautiful Siena, Italy, studying Renaissance comedy and even performing your own scene in an 18th-century palace! The course will cover the history, theory, and technique of Commedia dell'Arte including traditional characters, plots, and *lazzi*. The ensemble will improvise and devise new scenes throughout the course and will present a final performance of original masked comedy in the historical style. Instruction will occur in English, but participants are encouraged to speak their own languages in performance.

The course is accredited for three hours of college credit through The University of Mississippi and will be led by one of their faculty members. Classes are scheduled Monday through Friday. Students will attend classes in the acting studios of Study in Italy, located in the Siena historical center, and the final performance will be held in Study in Italy's very own historical theater in Palazzo Sergardi, the Piccolo Teatro.

The program includes housing, welcome and final dinners, and two excursions (Florence and Pienza) as well as a Survival Italian module as part of the program.

## Teaching Faculty

**Matthew R. Wilson** is a professional actor and director, as well as one of American's leading experts in Commedia dell'Arte. He studied, taught, and performed Commedia dell'Arte with Antonio Fava in Italy before founding the award-winning Faction of Fools Theatre Company in Washington, DC. He is the International Coordinator of SAT's worldwide Commedia dell'Arte Day every February 25th and the author of two chapters in *The Routledge Companion to Commedia dell'Arte* (Routledge, 2015) as well as the play *A Commedia Christmas Carol* (Playscripts, Inc., 2013). Prof. Wilson holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Classical Acting and is completing a PhD in Theatre & Performance Studies with a focus on the history of Commedia dell'Arte. He has toured his own *The Great One-Man Commedia Epic* around the world since 2004, including tours of Italy, runs in London and New York City, and a special performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC.

Visit [MatthewRWilson.com](http://MatthewRWilson.com) for more information.



## Program Fee and Policy

**Program Fee: USD 3,750**

Program Fee includes:

- *Commedia dell'Arte* Course
- Three hours of college credit through The University of Mississippi
- 10 hours of Survival Italian offered by Study In Italy
- Double/Triple occupancy room in shared student apartments. Complete furnishings, including linens are provided. Accommodations will be within walking distance or short public bus transport to the academic center.
- An on-site orientation in Siena, conducted by Study in Italy
- A welcome dinner and a farewell dinner
- A day trip to Florence
- A half-day excursion to Pienza

### Requirements

Minimum 2.5 GPA, good academic and disciplinary standing at UM, course instructor and your academic dean's office approval.

Application Deadline: March 8, 2017

For more details and to request an application: [info@studyinitaly.it](mailto:info@studyinitaly.it) ; [mrwilson@olemiss.edu](mailto:mrwilson@olemiss.edu)





## Why Siena?

Siena is an ancient center of medieval art and culture, situated in the **heart of Tuscany**.

It's a very livable city of approximately 53,000 inhabitants with a vibrant culture life.

In the historical center, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, you can walk in the world-famous **Piazza del Campo**, which twice a year hosts the Palio races, a competition among the traditional *contrade* (town neighborhoods). You can visit the Cathedral with its amazing marble flooring and frescoes; the Baptistery with bronze panels by Donatello, among others; the Town Hall, where you can go up to the **Torre del Mangia** for a spectacular view of the town and countryside.

The cultural scene includes many museums, theatres, and festivals, among which are the well-known concerts at the **Accademia Musicale Chigiana** and SienaJazz.

Just outside Siena, typical Tuscan landscape with rolling hills, cypresses, medieval villages and vineyards are what made Tuscany famous! Just a ride through the breathtaking countryside is in and of itself an experience!

### Palazzo Sergardi

The Siena branch of Study in Italy, Palazzo Sergardi dates to the 18th Century. It is located in the heart of the old town, and features frescoed ceilings, views on the Tuscan countryside, and its very own 80-seat theatre.

### Cuisine

Tuscan cuisine is famous for hearty meat dishes, such as the **bistecca fiorentina**, arista, prosciutto, as well as robust primi piatti like **pici**, **pappardelle**, **panzanella**, **pappa al pomodoro**, **ribollita**. And who doesn't know the famous **Tuscan wines** such as Chianti, Brunello di Montalcino, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, Vernaccia di San Gimignano, Morellino or the world-class Super Tuscans! And no Tuscan meal is complete without **cantucci (biscotti)** and a glass of Vin Santo!





Founded in 2000, Study in Italy is the **leading educational service provider** for study abroad programs in Genoa and Siena, Italy. Study in Italy organizes programs of varying lengths for students of Italian language and culture year-round. Over the years students attending programs have come from Harvard University, University of Maryland, University of Pittsburgh, Eastern Illinois University, Texas Christian University, Dickinson College. Moreover, our courses have also been granted credit at MIT, University of Delaware, Georgetown, Washington & Lee, Princeton, Rice, Notre Dame and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, among others.

Quality instruction is guaranteed: all Study in Italy **instructors are specially trained** in the teaching of Italian to foreigners and possess specific degrees and qualifications in that field. A **communicative method** is used, and Study in Italy's motto is: *Ridendo, s'impara!* or *Learn while you're laughing!* Classroom time is balanced with cultural opportunities that complete the student's experience in Italy.

Study in Italy's founder and director, **Suzanne Branciforte** (B.A. Harvard, M.A. and Ph.D. UCLA) is the author of *Parliamo italiano!* (Wiley & Sons, 5th edition) as well as introductory Italian text *Si, lo so!* (Juvenilia Editore). Her extensive experience includes more than 25 years as a teacher of Italian to foreigners. She has taught at the Università per Stranieri di Siena, the University of Genoa and Milan's Università Cattolica. As a Master teacher, she trains teachers of Italian as a Foreign/Second Language. She was consultant for the Italian Section of the University of Lausanne (Switzerland) for innovation in pedagogy. Her experience teaching at universities in the United States and in Europe gives her the expertise to interface with American universities for both academic and bureaucratic matters.

Whether a faculty-led program, or a tailor-made individual program, Study in Italy caters to the needs of institutions and students. As a full service provider, Study in Italy handles logistics such as locating appropriate housing, as well as furnishing excursions and orientation tours. For our full offering, consult our website: [www.studyinitaly.it](http://www.studyinitaly.it)



## CONTACTS

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