

Massimo Cantini Parrini on Polimoda's New Master's in Costume Design: "Costume is a Universal Visual Language"

Published on 04 Oct 2025 | By IFI Correspondent



Florence, Italy – Polimoda, one of Europe's most prestigious fashion institutes, is set to launch its **new Master's in Costume Design** in February 2026. The program will be led by **Massimo Cantini Parrini**, Italy's acclaimed costume designer known for his meticulous storytelling through garments and his Oscar-nominated works.

The course redefines costume design as more than just dressing actors—it positions it as a **narrative art form**, merging history, research, tailoring, and visual storytelling. Students will gain hands-on experience in character analysis, technical design, fabric techniques, and period authenticity, while learning to translate scripts into **costumes that act as a character's second skin**.

"Costume design today is a universal visual language," Parrini shared. "It's not just decorative—it is narrative. A costume must capture the psychology of a character, make an era tangible, and communicate emotions in a way words cannot."

The Mentor: Massimo Cantini Parrini

Florence-born Parrini trained under Oscar-winning costume designer **Piero Tosi** and has since built an impressive career across cinema, theatre, and opera. His recent work on Pablo Larraín's *Maria* (2024), starring Angelina Jolie, was hailed as a "visual feast of fashion" for its ability to capture the life of Maria Callas through costumes.

With a **personal archive of over 4,500 period costumes and 10,000 vintage accessories**, Parrini brings unmatched expertise to Polimoda. His mentorship will give students a rare chance to learn directly from a designer who blends **historical rigor with contemporary innovation**.

Career Opportunities in Costume Design

According to Parrini, today's costume designers have a wide range of career paths—not just in **cinema and theatre**, but also in **streaming series, advertising, music videos, fashion collaborations, and even video games**. Italy's strong artisanal tradition continues to attract global productions, while opportunities abroad in the UK and US offer structured systems and higher pay scales.

Why Polimoda's Master's Stands Out

The program combines **theory and practice**, offering workshops, live projects, and potential internships with productions. Students won't just study costume history—they will **create under real-world conditions**, learning to meet

deadlines and collaborate with directors, cinematographers, and actors.

“Training a costume designer is not only about teaching how to make a garment,” Parrini emphasizes. “It’s about teaching how to read a script, listen to an actor, and tell a story. That is what transforms a skilled artisan into a true costume artist.”

With tuition set at **€28,000**, the course runs in **Florence from February to October 2026**, and will be taught in English, making it accessible to international students eager to enter the evolving world of costume design.

For those with a passion for storytelling through garments, Polimoda’s program—under the guidance of Parrini—marks a transformative step into a career where **fashion, theatre, and film converge**.

For more style updates & exclusive fashion stories follow indiafashionicon.com

DISCLAIMER: THE VIEWS/CONTENTS EXPRESSED/PRESENTED HEREIN, WITHIN THIS ADVERTORIAL AND PROMOTIONAL FEATURE ARE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS/EXPERT/THEIR AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE/VISHAL KHAIRNAR, TO WHICH EFFECT, PUBLICATION HOUSE/ITS REPRESENTATIVES/AFFILIATES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE/LIABLE WHATSOEVER.