

NAČO DIVADELNÁ NITRA 2014 ART, WHAT FOR?

26 SEPT > 1 OCT
INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FESTIVAL
MEDZINÁRODNÝ FESTIVAL



An opera from the outer space, as well a theatre trip will be brought to the Divadelná Nitra in form of Festival Plus performances

A spectacular world classic under a theatre tent, an impressive stage adaptation of a cult film, a surprising and hilarious “cosmic” opera for both children and parents, contemporary dance about equality, but also differences between men and women, as well as documentary theatre about a major case will be brought to the stages of the Divadelná Nitra International Theatre Festival in form of the productions of its new programme section – Festival Plus. From 26 September to 1 October 2014, the section will complement the Festival’s Main Programme offer featuring mostly independent theatre scenes and centres. Three Slovak and two Czech Festival Plus productions will also offer their answers to the question Art, what for? which is the motto of the 23rd edition of the Divadelná Nitra.

Art as a great experience right on the street will be provided to festival visitors and Nitra citizens by the popular Teatro Tatro theatre company which has been a unique phenomenon operating on Slovak theatre scene for more than two decades. Under the baton of the director Ondrej Spišák and surrounded by a world created by visual artist František Lipták, the company will perform a world classic – *The Master and Margarita* by Michail Bulgakov. A great theatrical laboratory in which creators look for answers to eternal questions: Is there a god? The last judgement? The devil? And is there love – so strong that even the devil will bow down to it? Right in front of the spectators’ eyes, the world of magic and dreams, the atmosphere of Moscow of the 1930s and the present will overlap. Starring popular actors Lukáš Latinák, Róbert Jakab, Marián Miezga, Milan Ondřík, Peter Oszlák. At the Divadelná Nitra, inside the Teatro Tatro theatre tent on the so-called different_square in front of the Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, it will be the production’s third performance.

Art that polemizes about the boundaries between good and evil, that is the offer of the Karol Spišák Old Theatre in Nitra, which had brought on stage *Dogville*, the cult film by world acclaimed and controversial director Lars von Trier. Šimon Spišák’s staging of the psychological drama, in whose film version the main role was played by Nicole Kidman, will lay before the audience a cruel picture of how far the boundaries of human kindness and abuse extend. It represents a modern memento of power and a feeling of superiority so omnipresent in the history of the mankind and manifested in the actions of every man.

Art that surprises and entertains, that is the opera *2’16” and a Half: A Space Odyssey* written by composer and conductor Marek Piaček and produced by Stanica Žilina – Záríečie. Both children and their parents will learn that opera does not necessarily have to be just high and incomprehensible art, but a funny and playful experience. The opera performers include both children and professional musicians from the Slovak Philharmonic, and it is one fine and balanced collaboration – the children gain first-hand experience in performing in an orchestra and in contemporary music, and the professional musicians take this game with the utmost seriousness.

Art that tackles taboo topics is reflected in *Boys Who Like to Play with Dolls*, a contemporary dance production by Prague-based ALT@RT ensemble formed by two dancers – Czech performer Tereza Ondrová and Peter Šavel from Slovakia. Their authorial piece breaks gender and social stereotypes, such as that pink is for girls and blue for boys, and that girls like playing with dolls while boys play with toy cars. Through dance they point to the fact that the essence of being a man or woman does not merely consist in the amount of oestrogen or testosterone in one’s body. Within their concept, movement becomes a means to express contrast between the language of body and soul, as well as between genetic predisposition and social prejudice.

Art that reports on the controversial cases in today’s society is presented in the production *Whistleblowers* produced by a renowned international theatre studio operating in Prague – Farm in the Cave. Under the leadership of their artistic manager Viliam Dočolomanský, who is Slovak by origin and a leading figure of Czech and Slovak independent physical theatre, actors and performers will present on stage a story based on true events about the practices of supranational corporations. *Whistleblowers* offer a worrying and hypnotic insight

oscillating somewhere between physical theatre, video and documentary theatre. The production uses quotes from interviews with the victims affected by the case, as well as corporate lobbyists whom the creators went to meet in Brussels. In order to include it in its programme, the Divadelná Nitra, in cooperation with Stanica Žilina – Záriečie, will organise a theatre trip to the venue of the latter for people to see the performance, thus starting a new tradition of arranging „theatre trips to see quality theatre“ throughout the whole year.

“Festival Plus will offer various spectra of creation, various point of views and working approaches, a variety of topics, an unusual concept, contemporaneity. We want to show young people, as well as children and their parents, that modern art is not boring, it is not something you go to see once or twice a year just because you have to or because it is a mandatory school activity. Art can stir great emotions, an unusual experience, it can catch your attention, help you understand things, teach you lessons, warn you, entertain or surprise you,” said Slavka Cíváňová, Festival Plus programme manager.

Tickets to Festival Plus performances can already be purchased online here: <http://nitrafest.interticket.sk/>

You can follow all updates about the Divadelná Nitra at www.nitrafest.sk and <http://www.facebook.com/divadelna.nitra>

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