

## Divadelná Nitra Responds to the state of the society

Puns with a prefix, but also a syllable -RE this year are the theme of the **International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra**. The biggest and the most famous festival of performing arts in Slovakia will start in Nitra in September 28th this year and take place until October 3rd.

"It may be the respond of those accumulated anniversaries, our so-called "years with number 8" 1848. 1918. 1938. 1948. 1968. 1998", says Darina Kárová, the director of the festival.

"They call for the need to look back, to think about past events, to re-evaluate the interpretation of history and our opinions. At the same time, they raise questions about our future actions, what should we do to avoid repeating mistakes of the past and to cope with new challenges in social, political, economic, environmental and private spheres so that we can begin to act differently - more friendly to each other and to the environment we live in ", she adds.

As long as there are flashes back to such notions as **reminiscence, recapitulation** or **reversion**, forward-looking questions find their answers in such terms as **restart, revitalization, reconstruction, and recycling**.

The theme of the 27th edition of the festival - RE will be disclosed in various forms by theatre companies and creators from Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Portugal, Germany, the United Kingdom, Lebanon and, of course, Slovakia. The main programme of the International Festival Divadelná Nitra will include 13 productions and performances.

The most remarkable International Festival of performing arts in Slovakia with a help of its programme wants to respond to current social events, to enter the public debate and contribute to its shifting in order to spread social awareness and define values.

"A feeling of life on the edge, at the turning point, the need for a change of paradigm" is a motto of the project, which was one of the main resources of this year's festival programme. There are also moments associated with many notions that contain the prefix RE: **Again, anew, answer**". " This is the basis for the title and theme of the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra 2018 – RE. The key idea is to pay attention to the state of society and world, respond of the era, forecasts. "

Divadelná Nitra with its theme has predicted the social development many times already. Also, with the last year's theme **Fundamentals**, where creators talked about the world of extremes, in which there is too much desire for success and enjoyment and too little justice, humility and love, the festival anticipated the events of the following months, and not only in Slovakia.

In addition to the main festival programme, there is also a rich accompanying programme for children and adults in sections: **Festival for children, Young Theatre, other square, RE Agora Nitra**. Theatre productions, movies, concerts, exhibitions, reading, debates, workshops – all these events with the theme -RE will take place not only in Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, Karol Spišák Old Theatre in Nitra, but also on the premises of other cultural institutions, as well as in the Festival tent or in the Svätopluk's square and the adjacent streets.

" With a true spirit of upcoming events we also offer the opportunity to play with RE, to search for it in various activities of the festival, to find its new meanings, and thus to participate actively in the implementation of the theme and festival as a holiday of art", explains Darina Kárová, director of the festival.

Moreover, other year-round projects of Divadelná Nitra Association will take place during the festival: informal education for young people **How to Understand Theatre** which will welcome 15 students from various theatre schools, the integration art activities of the project **A Tulip For You** for visually impaired children, children from schools in Nitra and Iraqi asylum seekers, including the Black Box, which has recently gained success at the Pohoda festival.

Association Divadelná Nitra will also offer a project to re-discover artistic and architectural works in the public space of Nitra - **This Is Art, Too**. And for the fourth time already the international seminar in artistic Reflexion **V4@Theatre Critics RESidency** will be held for young critics from nine Central and Eastern European countries.