

## Press release

15 January 2019

### **Divadelná Nitra is looking for active audience members to take part in the programme selection**

#### ***Locals from Nitra will play an important role in the Festival's Audience Programme Board!***

*Would you like to take part in choosing the programme of the largest international theatre festival in Slovakia? Would you like your voice heard in deciding which plays will be seen by audiences at Divadelná Nitra? Would you like take a look into the festival's curatorial process? And finally, do you care about what goes on in your hometown?*

#### **Association Divadelná Nitra, the main organiser of the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra, announces an open call for joining the Audience Programme Board.**

A group of 12 – 20 Nitra locals will have the chance to take part in the selection for the festival programme. During February through June 2019, they will attend seven meetings and a number of discussions with theatre experts and festival organisers. The members of the newly founded Audience Programme Board will get to see video recordings of theatre productions as well as live performances.

In the end and under the guidance of the project coordinator, they will recommend four pieces to be staged at Divadelná Nitra 2019. They will join forces in the dramaturgical selection along with the Board of Curators, a panel of professionals responsible for the festival programme. Together, they will learn about the festival's dramaturgical process and explore contemporary foreign and Slovak drama. In September 2019, this group of active Nitra residents will attend the festival, where they will have a chance to confront their observations in discussions with Slovak as well as foreign guests.

The call is open for all citizens from the city of Nitra as well as all individuals active in the city, including those who work or study here.

“The members of the board need not be especially knowledgeable in theatre. Rather, we are interested in appealing and engaging people who want more than merely to observe performances from the comfort of their seats,” explains the manager of the Be SpectACTIVE! Project, Anna Šimončíčová.

By creating the Audience Programme Board, Association Divadelná Nitra aims to reflect on the needs and opinions of audiences from Nitra, to contribute to the local citizens' engagement and cultural responsibility and to provide them with an opportunity for self-development, expression and actively spending one's time in community.

“This project continues in the track of the Association’s previous educational activities. We now turn our attention to the newest trend in audience work in the form of so-called participative dramaturgy. By doing so, we attempt a shift from a perspective of creating ‘for’ audiences to creating ‘with’ audiences. We here follow the lead of many of the world’s cultural centres that have chosen to work with their local communities,” says Anna Šimončíčová, explaining the intention is to allow Nitra to join the ranks of modern European creative cities.

“For us, festival organisers, too, the Audience Programme Board is a promising tool and also a mirror allowing us to confront our artistic priorities and views with the needs of those whom we hold most important – audiences. We believe it is a good way to learn more about those whom we create the festival for and, above all, that, together with audiences in Nitra, we will find new ways of constantly stepping out the festival’s comfort zone,” adds Anna Šimončíčová.

**You can find the open call and practical information at**

[http://www.nitrafest.sk/images/files/Vzva\\_Be\\_SpectACTive.pdf](http://www.nitrafest.sk/images/files/Vzva_Be_SpectACTive.pdf)

The Audience Programme Board is one of the main outputs of the four year-long BeSpectACTIVE! Project, of which Association Divadelná Nitra is part. For the second time now, this internationally acclaimed project established by a network of 19 European partners has received funding from the European Union’s Creative Europe Programme. In the upcoming four years, the community-oriented project will offer extensive activities contributing to the participation of citizens in local cultural life, their engagement, audience development, support artistic production and the exchange of international contacts as well as research in the field.

**The call is open from 15 January 2019 to 15 February 2019.**

More about the project:

<http://www.bespectactive.eu/>

<http://www.nitrafest.sk/domov/ProjektyAsocie/be-spectactive/o-projekte/>

**For further information, please contact the project manager**

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