

# F U N D A M E N T A L S Z B Z Q S X \* G R X J K  
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S L A T # E U F K R T > S E P T E M B E R O V E †  
~~L A N O I T A N R E T N I M E D Z I N Á R O D N Ý~~

## The ELITES ended the Divadelná Nitra Theatre Festival 2017 with more than 6200 viewers altogether

Standing ovation and star actors from the Drama of the Slovak National Theatre ended the 26<sup>th</sup> *International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra* in September 26 with one of the most capturing productions – **the ELITES**. Irony and satire characterized the play about the creation of a powerful class that even today rule Slovakia. Directed by Jiří Havelka, it also covers the topics of **#memory**, **#truth** and **#democracy**.

The five-day theatrical feast (22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017) introduced to us 10 productions from 7 countries (Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Poland, USA, Slovenia, Slovakia) on its stage under the common thematic banner **#FUNDAMENTALS**. The main programme together with the accompanying events contemplated the fundamental values of human life and society.

The 14 performances within the main programme were visited by 3,650 viewers. The accompanying programme with 38 events scored an audience of 2,000. 600 people participated in the discussions held in the morning and after the performances within the working programme. Altogether, 6,250 visitors attended the performances and events held during the whole year by the organisers of the festival.

## CHECK OUT VIDEO DIARIES OF THE FESTIVAL

[VIDEO DIARY OF DIVADELNÁ NITRA 2017: 1st DAY](#)

[VIDEO DIARY OF DIVADELNÁ NITRA 2017: 2nd DAY](#)

[VIDEO DIARY OF DIVADELNÁ NITRA 2017: 3rd DAY](#)

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[VIDEO DIARY OF DIVADELNÁ NITRA 2017: 4th DAY](#)

[VIDEO DIARY OF DIVADELNÁ NITRA 2017: 5th DAY](#)

## Diverse and inspirational edition



The 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra was diverse and inspirational, appealing to a variety of attendees and guests. The sympathetic, even enthusiastic responses of the audience during the performances testify for this, together with the creators and participants of the programmes. During the last discussions theatre professionals from various countries

noted the diverse form of artworks presented on the festival, surpassing the boundaries of traditional drama, the ambition of the creators and the board of the festival to take risks regarding the themes and expressive means and the noticeably younger audience.

“Overlapping – geographically, culturally, and in age. Both in time, styles and various fields. The search for values as the crowning glory within the theme of the festival #fundamentals, represented in the visual as large word search puzzles showcased in every event venue. *Divadelná Nitra 2017* enabled us to lead a dialogue with the current socio-political situation, as perceived by creators from various countries, whose work was a part of the festival. Their confessions, attitude and message strongly resonated with and brought added value to the public. Lively discussions of the spectators with the creators held after the plays introduced this year provided proof, that men of today are still interested in such dialogues.” said the festival director Darina Kárová. The opening ceremony of the Festival was attended by Minister of Culture Marek Maďarič.

## Start in Tarantino´s style

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The ceremonial introduction of the *Divadelná Nitra 2017* festival brought to stage the work of Slovak Pavol Liška for the first time. He went to the USA 25 years ago and became famous. The Nature Theater of Oklahoma, which he established with his partner Kelly Cooper in New York, belongs to one of the most awarded Off-off Broadway groups not only in the USA, but in Europe as well. After

starring as guests on prestigious festivals, among which is the *Festivale d'Avignon* and the *Theatertreffen* in Berlin, they began *Divadelná Nitra 2017* on 22<sup>nd</sup> September with the production **PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS**. In it, they explore and ironize the "American Dream" in a Tarantino's style. The text combined "high" and "low", mixing the banality of speech with philosophical references, delivered in an intense and masterful performance by the members of the *EnKnapGroup Dance Company* from Ljubljana, Slovenia, who come from six different countries (Great Britain, Sweden, Hungary, Slovenia, Belgium, Croatia). Their performance was rewarded with a standing ovation.

## Crowded halls and standing ovation



The whole 26<sup>th</sup> edition of the Festival carried the spirit of lasting applause, lengthy and lively discussions after the performances, impactful theatrical experiences and surprises, and crowded halls.

The production performed on Sunday, **BLACK BLACK WOODS**, brought one of the apexes of the festival. The famous Czech *Cirk La Putyk* joined forces with the Greek-Slovak artist group *Rootlessroot* (directors and choreographers Jozef Fruček and Linda Kapetanea) and during four hours of exquisite and physically challenging performance introduced the story about how each son fights with its father.

Right on the second day the production **ACTOR AND CARPENTER MAJER TALKS ABOUT THE STATE OF HIS HOMELAND**, one of the most provocative and most awarded Czech plays from the *Studio Hrdinů* in Prague, received an extraordinary response. The monodrama casts the popular Czech actor Stanislav Majer, who accurately, meaningfully and soberly comments on the conditions in the Czech Republic, its presidents and the people. The production by Kamila Polívková struck the audience in such way, that the discussion with the creators after the play lasted until midnight.

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The audience viewed the meditative production performed by a real son and father pairing – Rostislav Novák, Jr. and Rostislav Novák, Sr.

## Unique performancies



The festival Monday offered quite an unbelievable picture about two human fates called **ZVIZDAL' [Chernobyl so far, so close]** produced by the *BERLIN* company from Belgium. The production team Bart Baele, Yves Degryse, Cathy Blisson visited a married couple in their late years for five years. Since the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion in 1986 they lived in seclusion in a

contaminated area for almost three decades, on a place that everyone else left. The form of the performance was extraordinary as well, as it combined theatre with film. The audience sat on two sides of the film-screen, the documentary was accompanied by live shots of realistic replicas of the Ukrainian farm in different seasons.

Four actors with various levels of hearing impairment enabled the audience to see a world that is different from the worlds of French, German, or Polish. The production of the Polish theatre *Nowy Teatr ONE GESTURE* by Wojtek Ziemilski, which gained the prestigious main award on a Swiss festival right before the *Divadelná Nitra* Festival and is considered to be one of the top ten most important Polish performances of the year, authentically portrays everyday situations that the deaf people face, for example a visit to the doctor or at a public office. Sign language gained aesthetic value on the premises of the theatre as it reminded us of dancing or miming. The discussion after the performance proved to be interesting as well, as it was held in five different sign languages and three European ones.

## Sold out domestic works

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The festival traditionally involved domestic works as well. They were chosen by this year's curators of the Slovak programme appointed by the organizers of the festival: Miklós Forgács, the dramaturge of the *Thália* Theatre in Košice and his colleague, director József Czajlik. The first standing ovation of the festival audience was claimed by the

performance **JÁNOŠÍK** from the local *Andrej Bagar Theatre* on Saturday. It was an exploration of the Slovak national hero, uniquely conceived by the visionary director Rastislav Ballek. The visitors of the festival even travelled on Saturday evening, into the former king's town of Bátovce. A unique, site-specific project took place on four different places there, created by the most distinct independent Slovak creators. Potôň Theatre, Debris Company, Honey and Dust and Sláva Daubnerová joined forces and under the management of **Iveta Ditte Jurčová and Michal Ditte** created the artwork **MIRACLES**. The audience returned from the search after Miracles back to Nitra only after midnight. Sunday was marked by the production of Ruthenian artists from the Alexander Duchnovich Theatre in Prešov. They brought Dostoyevsky's work **POSSESSED** in a vivacious portrayal under the direction of Braňo Mazúch, who we could also see on the stage.

The selection could not miss the winning play of the Nová drama 2017 festival **WAR'S UNWOMANLY FACE** from the Slovak Chamber Theatre Martin under the direction of Marián Pecko, which was based on the novel by the Nobel Prize laureate for the year 2015 Svetlana Alexievich. Suggestively portrayed by the whole women ensemble of the theatre based in Martin with Jana Ol'hová at the front, the audience could see stories of women who took part in the Second World War as soldiers in the first line.

Each festival day the public could meet with the creators personally and speak to them at the morning discussions called *Breakfast with...* and on the evening discussions right after the performances in the auditorium.

**Rich accompanying events**

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The *Divadelná Nitra* International Theatre Festival brought, even during the unfavourable weather during the weekend, more than thirty accompanying events – exhibitions, films, concerts, discussions and events for children.

During the first early evening of the festival the music happening added a unique touch to the atmosphere. The

sounds of shepherds signalling tools several meters high – trumpets and *fujaras* (overtone fipple flutes) came from different corners of the town square and the surrounding buildings, referencing within the theme of #FUNDAMENTALS the Slovak tradition and cultural heritage. During the festival a different square in front of the *Andrej Bagar Theatre* was decorated with a large graffiti painting *A Memory of Iraq*, which was created by 55 children, healthy ones together with visually impaired ones and asylum seekers from Iraq within the integration project *Darujem ti Tulipán (A Tulip for You)*.

Large success with the children and their parents was also achieved by the sold-out production of *Little Red Riding Hood* of *Teatro Tatro* in the Fairytale Hut on different square.

## Educational projects



*Divadelná Nitra* greeted young critics from the V4 and Eastern Partnership countries on their premises this year for the third time. The *V4@Theatre Critics Residency* seminary for critical observation as a creative platform for theatre critics under 35 years old hosted 13 critics from 7 countries.

*Divadelná Nitra 2017* continued its year-round project that educates about theatre informally *Ako na divadlo (How to Understand Theatre)*, that is active since the year 2008. Its two parts were attended by 41 high school and college students altogether.

## Artists, technicians, volunteers...



programme.

Nitra was visited by 210 professionals – artists, production managers, technicians and other organizing forces from the 10 hosting groups within the main programme and other 40 technicians from both theatres based in Nitra, as well as other external co-workers that participated to ensure the realization of the

The *Divadelná Nitra 2017* festival was prepared by the organizing team of 22 people. Even this year it couldn't have managed without the help of volunteers, who are traditionally involved since the establishment of the festival. 70 young people partook in the organizing and added to the atmosphere of the festival.

## About #FUNDAMENTALS

**#justice #tolerance #freedom #peace #home #family #roots #tradition  
#identity #nature #memory #honesty #respect #friendship  
#faith #education #authorities #understanding...**

... We live in an age of deteriorating values + in a world of extremes, too much > longing for success and pleasure, too much egoism, aggression, xenophobia + too many words, high speed, noise and smog. And too little < justice, respect towards people, humility and love. The concepts of home, family, faith, loyalty compassion, beauty, identity, memory are constantly being questioned and lose their subject matter. † We live in conflicting interests. The development of science and technology, commerce, globalisation, increasing individualism and as an answer \* the return to tradition, living in communities, to nature, to cultural heritage. ... The peculiar term #fundamentals expresses the foundations, the basic principles, the essence of things, their heart. On the DN17 we want to explore the basic values. That's why we branch the term fundamentals into many keywords # # # During *Divadelná Nitra* we searched for values left out or forgotten in the theatre performances, films, expositions, concerts, workshops and discussions together with the audience + and in the interactive visual.\*

***International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra under the auspices of Minister of Culture of SR Marek Mad'arič, Milan Belica, the Chairman of the Nitra Self-governing Region and Jozef Dvonč, Mayor of the City of Nitra.***

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Project A Tulip for You is supported by Ministry of Culture of SR, the main partner of the project, and other partners.

Project V4@Theatre Critics Residency is supported by International Visegrad Fund, the main partner of the project, and Slovak Art Council.

Project How to Understand Theatre is supported using public funding by Slovak Art Council, the main partner of the project

**Main organizer:**

Association Divadelná Nitra

**Main co-organizers:**

Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, Karol Spišák Old Theatre in Nitra, Nitra Self-Governing Region, The City of Nitra, Theatre Institute Bratislava

**Co-organizers:**

Amnesty International, Institute of Documentary Film, C.A. Peace and Good, Klokanček Child Care Centre, Living Memory, Post Bellum SK, Private Conservatoire in Nitra, Regional Edifying Centre in Nitra, Slovak Blind and Partially Sighted Union – Regional Centre in Nitra, Elementary School for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Bratislava, The J. Rosinský Elementary Arts School in Nitra, The Karol Kmeťko Regional Library, The Nitra Gallery The Nitra Museum, The Prince Pribina Elementary School, The Tatra Nitra Cinema

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All actual information you can find at: [www.nitrafest.sk](http://www.nitrafest.sk) and [www.facebook.com/divadelna.nitra](https://www.facebook.com/divadelna.nitra)

> Contact

International Theatre Festival

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## The main media partners



## Media partners



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