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Creative freedom and personal (un)freedom

What are the stories told by walls and the two sides they separate? Where is the line between personal freedom and unfreedom? The International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra (27 September – 2 October 2019) invited creators who explore the Faces of Freedom.

Crossing the boundaries of artistic genres with endless fantasy. Divadelná Nitra will present theatre collectives who have freedom in their very DNA. Their plays promise audiences a unique experience in interpersonal relationships and offer unusual perspectives. For instance, that of a dog.

FACES OF FREEDOM like these, will be presented at the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra which will be held from September 27th to October 2nd 2019.

Dive into the depths of the dramatic imagination.



A clown show for adults. Folklore stripped to the bone by radicals of nonverbal drama. Such epithets have been applied to ***The Depths***, an original play by Czech collective Warriot Ideal, who will make their second appearance at Divadelná Nitra. Their creative team, consisting of artist Jan Dörner, musician Jan Kalivoda and mime Vojtěch Švejda, will be given free rein on stage and use its every inch to deliver one theatrical surprise after another. Be it by transforming everyday objects into musical instruments or by performing entertaining acrobatic feats. Warriot Ideal lead a dauntless expedition into the depths of the surreal to uncover the personal and social roots of our culture. In *The Depths*, they explore the possibilities of theatre as such and descend to the foundations of the Christian faith and pagan rituals.

“The Depths is a remarkably interesting production in its grotesqueness and surreal form, which grows out of entirely ordinary situations. Dörner, Kalivoda and Švejda create a spectacle that feels like the good old Three Bugs only suddenly plunged in the surreal filmic world of Jan Švankmajer or like Svěrák’s Kuky on his way from a psychedelic vacation. Their stage ritual is a defence against numbness and a celebration of the powers of fantasy,” explains Ján Šimko, curator of the foreign programme section, who considers *The Depths* a highly satisfying piece. Audiences will easily spot its references to silent film or the Czech pantomime tradition. The performance is bolstered by distinctive costumes, music and an interesting set design.

BUY TICKET - Tue/01/10/2019 - 17.00 – 18.10

BUY TICKET - Tue/01/10/2019 - 21.00 – 22.10

Anyone who wants can join.



Another production that promises to spur the audience's imagination is ***eu.genus*** by the loose Slovak artists ensemble Honey and Dust, directed by Andrej Kalinka. Audiences, too, will be invited to create. They will visit an open rehearsal in an art studio and move freely among the director and artists. The creators will offer them a chance to step on stage and 'feel it around' one hour prior and a half an hour after the performance.

Their musical-visual-physical performance thematises overlaps in theatrical genre and problematizes the idea of artistic creation, without pretence and with a subtle dose of humour. "Honey and Dust *strive always to be free in how they approach their subject matter and offer audiences a unique theatrical experience, for instance, when you are sometimes made part of their concept,*" says curator Júlia Rázusová, who chose this production for the Slovak programme section. This unusual production is underlined by a diverse musical accompaniment – from the compositions of P. I. Tchaikovsky or T. L. de Victoria to Georgian folk music.

BUY TICKET - Tue/01/10/2019 - 19.00 – 20.30**Production for 9 and 99 years old**

The Wall that split Europe. Fences built nowadays by populist politicians. The lines between freedom and unfreedom do not only take physical shape – we carry many inside our minds. Fear, its overcoming and a desire for understanding are the main themes of *Stories of Walls*, a production that brings back puppet theatre to Divadelná Nitra after a very long time.

Acclaimed director Katarína Aulitsová, who steered a progressive course in the dramaturgy of the Bratislava Puppet Theatre, does not shy from exposing young audiences to difficult topics. *Stories of Walls*, a play for children and adults based on five short stories from Michael Reynolds' anthology of the same title, is no exception. The stories make reference to 1989, the return of freedom and a renewal of basic human rights. However, Aulitsová's adaptation adds to them an element of timelessness and makes them accessible to younger audiences.

The fact that *Stories of Walls* has an international appeal is attested by recent awards from Poland – the Grand Prix at the Maskarada International Festival of Animated Forms or Best Director for Katarína Aulitsová, Best Set Design for Markéta Plachá and the Audience Performance Award for the acting of Ľubomír

Piktor at the International Festival Walizka.

BUY TICKET - Fri/27/09/2019 - 8.30 – 9.30

BUY TICKET - Fri/27/09/2019 - 11.00 – 12.00

BUY TICKET - Sat/28/09/2019 - 16.00 – 17.00

Always unhappydog will be the star at Divadelná Nitra



The subject of personal unfreedom in everyday human intercourse also intrigued Polish film director Agnieszka Smoczyńska, who will appear in Nitra with her theatrical debut ***Holy Noodle***. The production was produced by the independent avant-garde collective Komuna Warszawa, whose experiments hover on the boundary of drama, video installation and music. “*Smoczyńska’s films follow the New Wave aesthetic. She entered the world of theatre with an intimate play, whose roots can be placed in the Polish grotesque of the 1970s and 80s, the plays of Sławomir Mrożek and the golden age when Polish drama mirrored current social events and the world around us,*” explained the curator of the foreign programme section, Ján Šimko.

Noodle is an always-hungry bull terrier played by an actor, whose eyes let us in on one vacuous relationship between a woman and a slightly older man. This childless pair of creatives who work at a prestigious corporation try to vent their problems with the help of different sorts of therapy and finally resort to buying a dog. But the dog is more a toy to them than a living being they feel responsible for.

BUY TICKET - Sat/28/09/2019 - 18.30 – 19.35

New webpage and online presale

The 28th year of Divadelná Nitra will feature performances and events at the Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, the Karol Spišák Old Theatre in Nitra, the Synagogue, Nitra Gallery, the Regional Education Centre in Nitra, the Karol Kmeťko Regional Library in Nitra, as well as the Párovské Háje Culture House and at other cultural institutions, at the Festival Tent and elsewhere on Svätopluk square.

All information about the upcoming International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra, which will take place from 27 September until 2 October 2019, is available on our newly redesigned website www.nitrafest.sk. With its new website, Divadelná Nitra has also launched an on-line ticket sale on 1 August 2019, at:



Main organiser of the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra:

Association Divadelná Nitra

Main co-organisers:

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

Co-organisers:

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Medzinárodný festival Divadelná Nitra

Svätoplukovo nám. 4

950 53 Nitra

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