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International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra starts tomorrow! And it will bring powerful theatre and a rich accompanying programme

Besides pioneering foreign and Slovak theatre productions, the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra (27 September – 2 October 2019) will offer a rich accompanying programme. Almost 60 events for children and adults will follow the theme of the 28th festival year – Faces of Freedom.

A need to protect nature, the importance of freedom of speech, the indispensability of tolerance and readiness to help. All of these themes find their roots in current events and public discourse, and they will take centre stage in discussions, workshops, happenings, concerts, children's programme and other events organised at the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra.

Projects besides Divadelná Nitra



The festival will also feature activities organised as part of the Association's other year-long projects. The section 'Visit at an International Festival' of the informal learning project **How to Understand Theatre** will see 15 students from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava and the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica attending Divadelná Nitra.

As a festival set on fostering reflection on art both locally and internationally, Divadelná Nitra organises the international seminar for young theatre critics **V4@Theatre Critics Residency**. This creative platform is intended for participants up to the age of 35 and has grown steadily over the past four years. This year, it will be joined by 18 critics from 11 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, under the guidance of German theatre scholar Stefan Tigges and German theatre critic Thomas Irmer.

Another important project by Association Divadelná Nitra is **Be SpectACTIVE!**, actively engaging audiences in the sphere of theatre. It was created at the end of last year and has since taken up several activities. One of these was the creation of the Audience Programme Board, a panel of 31 active audience members from Nitra and its vicinity of various age and profession. Together with the main festival curators, Júlia Rázusová and Ján Šimko, they have recommended five works from the Czech Republic and Slovakia that will be staged in the main programme with the Audience Board's seal of approval.

Shedding light on art



Saturday evening to midnight will be dedicated to the popular **Nitra White Night**, welcoming visitors at exhibitions and venues in local cultural institutions – the Nitra Gallery, Nitra Museum and Synagogue. It will open and end with a concert on the square. The event will also feature a commented tour of the **international exhibition Podoby slobody / Faces of Freedom** by curator Omar Mirza, a balloon parade and performances in the **Young Theatre** section at the Synagogue.

An exhibition titled **Faces of Freedom** at the Nitra Gallery (12 September – 24 November 2019), co-organised by Association Divadelná Nitra, draws attention to the upcoming 30th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain. It features art by 25 artists from 15 countries, and some of its objects, installations and performative artworks will be moved to Svätoplukovo námestie for the duration of the festival.

Discuss and inspire yourself and others



The festival accompanying programme opens its first evening with a live concert by **Agi Hlavenková & band**, followed by an uncovering of the **Wall of Freedom**, which will serve as a canvas for passers-by to write or draw their ideas about freedom throughout the duration of the festival. Divadelná Nitra is an ideal ground for open debate, and it will be mostly held at project **Agora Nitra's Public Living Room**, built in the Festival Tent on Svätoplukovo námestie. Saturday will see a debate on **(un)freedom in saving planet Earth** with scientist Mikuláš Huba and Daniel Kopecký from the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation. On Sunday, it will be followed by the format **"A Christian, Muslim and Jew walk into each other..."**. To his debate on the (un)freedom of faith and religion, Mário Nicolini invited Catholic priest Felix Mário OFM, Protestant pastor Ondrej Prostredník, Muslim imam Mohamad Hasna and Jewish philosopher Egon Gál. The weekend will be topped off with **Café Európa's Great Public Debate** titled 'Faces of Freedom' at the Old Theatre. Moderator Zuzana Kovačič Hanzelová will talk to the Head of Representation of the European Commission in Slovakia Ladislav Miko, former Supreme Court judge and member of the Judicial Council of the Slovak Republic Lajos Mészáros and authoress Veronika Šikulová. Monday's **Public Living Room** will see the discussion **Freedom Under the Spotlight** with Štefan Hríb and his guests on freedom of expression in the media (Martin Šimečka, György Varga and Tomasz Maćkowiak). All of these events are organised within the section Agora Nitra and are supported by:



New webpage and online presale

The 28th year of Divadelná Nitra will feature performances and events at the Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, Karol Spišák Old Theatre in Nitra, the Synagogue, Nitra Gallery, Regional Education Centre, Karol Kmeťko Regional Library as well as the Párovské Háje Culture House and at other cultural institutions, at the Festival Tent and elsewhere on Svätoplukovo námestie. Its main programme features six foreign and six local theatre productions, and the festival opens on Friday with a performance of the Czech opera ***Sternenhoch***.

All information about the upcoming International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra, which will take place between 27 September and 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:

Anténa – network for independent culture, Amnesty International, Critical Mass Nitra, Theatre Institute Bratislava, Esorg, Febiofest, Hidepark Nitra, Institute of Documentary Film, Prague, The Tatra Nitra Cinema Club, The Karol Kmetko Regional Library in Nitra, Regional Edifying Centre in Nitra, Motolino, The Nitra Gallery, C. A. Peace and Good, Nitra, The Nitra Museum, Post Bellum SK, Mareena, Milan Šimecka Foundation, Partnership Foundation – Trees of Liberty, Rozbicyklujeme Nitru Initiative, Stokráska, Tanec Praha, The Elementary School for Partially Sighted and Blind in Bratislava, The Prince Pribina Elementary School, Nitra, The J. Rosinský Elementary Arts School in Nitra

Projects of Divadelná Nitra Association supported by



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Medzinárodný festival Divadelná Nitra

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<http://www.nitrafest.sk>

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