

Look forward to Divadelná Nitra 2020!

Enter TERRITORY ETHOS.

While numerous festivals announced cancellation earlier this year, we are glad to be bearers of good news. The organisers of the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra announce that this year will be no exception and that Nitra will celebrate its holiday of theatre for the 29th time on 25 – 30 September 2020.

The theme of this year's Divadelná Nitra is **TERRITORY ETHOS**. When the organisers conceived this theme, they had not suspected how much relevance it would gain and how precisely it would reflect the current state of the world. All of a sudden, we are all in that territory. **TERRITORY ETHOS**. We are occupied by questions of living space, protection of privacy, the limits of intimacy, family relationships, generational membership, the meaning of education and culture outside educational and cultural systems, and unexpectedly also questions of our basic material existence and physical survival.

*“What is our personal **TERRITORY ETHOS** which we are willing to defend at all costs, just as we defend our honour, our families, our lives? How faithful are we to that social morality, the ethical codex we adhere to in our professional life, or personal virtues?”* asks festival director Darina Kárová, initiating a series of reflections by Slovak cultural figures and the public in a video survey about the festival theme.

An open call for artists in Slovakia

The International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra offers artists and creative collectives based in Slovakia productive in the fields of visual and multimedia art an opportunity to present their work in the festival off-programme. For more information about the open call, follow the attached link.

We are looking for visual and multimedia artworks that are:

- primarily intended for presentation outdoors
- conceived for presentation in non-gallery interior spaces
- works that have or have not been presented

- works that have or have not been realized

We are extending the deadline for submissions until 10 July 2020.

For more information, click here.

This Is Art, Too

Sculptures, buildings and monuments we know nothing about? We are surrounded by numerous interesting artworks whose value we do not suspect and whose stories or authors we have overlooked. 'This Is Art, Too' is an interactive visual installation project that uses signs with a white hand symbol on a red background flag up forgotten artworks, sculptures and buildings in the public space.

Association Divadelná Nitra has organised this project since 2014, when it was authored by artist Daniel Dida, and since 2016 it is produced in collaboration with cultural scholar Juraj Novák and visual art theorist Richard E. Pročko. The project aims to bring artworks in the public space, which represent an important asset for tourism, to the attention of Nitra locals and visitors.

The signs return to their usual places following their winter hiatus in late May, and will remain here until the end of November. A new feature for 2020 are video-guided tours of forgotten artworks, which we are planning to gradually publish online.

Follow us on social media. For 2020, we are collaborating with the Nitra Tourism Organisation and preparing an app that provides a map of marked up forgotten art and information about the project and the objects themselves.

How do our curators understand TERRITORY ETHOS?

This question was answered by seasoned theatre experts Monika Michnová, Martina Mašlárová, Róbert Mankovecký, and Miro Juráni, who are entrusted with selecting contemporary Slovak pieces for this year's festival programme. The four curators are also involved in the organisation of Dotyky a spojenia Festival. The festival's foreign theatre selection is curated by Ján Šimko and Martina Vannayová.

For inspiring answers to this thematic question, visit our Facebook, where each curator has published a dedicated video message.

Be SpectACTive! continues

Intense preparations on the new co-production projects for the Be SpectACTive! network continue over the summer months, and their results will be presented at Divadelná Nitra in September. Immediately after borders reopened, a creative team headed by Petra Fornayová travelled to partake in a residency at our Slovenian partner Plesni Teater Ljubljana. Over the course of twelve days (22 June – 3 July 2020), they carried out extensive research by involving locals and a process of intense rehearsals. In June, preparations of a teenagers' dance production likewise returned from the virtual to the 'real' world. One-day workshops with project participants organised in collaboration with Tanec Praha Festival took place in Nitra and Prague. Afterwards, the artistic team (Marie Gourdain, Jaro Viňarský, and Václav Kalivoda) met at a residency in Komařice.

Similarly, the Audience Programme Board exchanged communication through computer screens for pleasant meetings outdoors. The Board returns this year to fulfil its instrumental role in festival programme selection.

The International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra 2020 is supported by: the Slovak Arts Council – the main project partner, the Nitra Self-Governing Region, The City of Nitra, Goethe Institut, LITA – Civil Association of Authors, the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, and Flanders State of the Art.