

1–6 OCT
2021



30. ročník Medzinárodného festivalu
30th edition of International Theatre Festival

DIVADELNÁ
NITRA

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The festival took place, and that was good enough 30. anniversary celebration in itself. ITF Divadelná Nitra 2021 ended successfully

A festival is a holiday of art. This feeling permeated the jubilee 30. edition of one of the leading cultural events in Slovakia. The International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra ended on Wednesday, 6 October. Over six days, it brought opportunities to rediscover social life and the joy of mutual contact.

“Perhaps the most important thing is that the festival took place, and that, compared to last year, we put on the programme as we had planned it. We did not have to make any amendments due to the pandemic or unfavourable weather,” reckons festival director Darina Kárová. Despite limited seating capacities and anti-epidemic measures, performances clocked a good turnout and favourable reception. 10 Slovak and foreign productions in the main programme were seen by a total of 1 235 spectators, while thirty events in the accompanying programme catered to 2 622 people.

“The festival saw an amiable atmosphere. It was evident those who dared to come to the theatre or rediscover social life took pleasure in mutual contact and a sense of belonging. At an event such as our festival, namely a holiday of art, that is the most important thing: that contact and joy we can share with adults and children through art,” emphasises Kárová. *“I think that ITF Divadelná Nitra 2021 fulfilled, both in its programme and by its very existence, the motto of our current edition –*

p r e s a h y / t r a n s c e n d e n c i e s: transcendencies between cultures, nationalities, between the political and private, between the autobiographical and social, between the documentary and the highly aestheticized, between past and present. We sought identity, truth, discovered the fates of human beings expelled from their homes and hidden crimes against humanity, but also a new hope.”

The thirtieth edition was unlike previous festivals – it was organised under crisis management conditions and in a dire financial situation. *“Until the final moments before the start we feared that, for some reason or another, it was not going to happen, that it would be cancelled, and we availed ourselves fully of the previous year’s experience. This is why we prepared no celebrations –*

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let's say the fact that the festival took place and ended successfully was a good enough celebration in and of itself," festival director Kárová summarizes the event's predicament. Organising a festival during a pandemic is a highly specific experience, and ITF Divadelná Nitra was fortunate as staff and organisational capacities were left unharmed.

"Not least thanks to our volunteers, we were able to keep all anti-epidemic measures, difficult as it may have been at times, because there are always people who literally lie waiting to find a gap between the fence posts. This is why, besides volunteers, I would like sincerely to thank all spectators who did not take our hygienic rules as a limitation but as a necessity lacking which the festival could not take place at all," accompanying programme dramaturge Miro Zwiefelhofer praises the visitors' responsible attitude. Good weather was part of this festival's good luck. *"It is always to the festival's advantage when the weather turns a favourable eye. Such was the case this year. The weekend especially felt almost like the final goodbyes of the nights of summer,"* adds Zwiefelhofer.

The festival's main programme featured 5 Slovak productions performed live and 3 foreign productions from the Czech Republic, France and Israel screened for visitors in theatre halls. Two projects co-produced by Association Divadelná Nitra for the international project Be SpectACTive!, whose world premieres were put off for two years due of the pandemic, finally saw the light of day. *"The ambition of both creative teams is to present these productions within Slovakia and abroad in the near future,"* Be SpectACTive! project manager Anna Šimončíčová gives away. *"We also want to continue in our well-negotiated collaboration with the J. Rosinský Elementary School of Art in Nitra and other of the Association's partners in the future of ITF Divadelná Nitra and bod.K7."*

As usual, the festival also hosted V4@Theatre Critics Residency, a creative platform for theatre critics from Central and Eastern Europe up to the age of 35. *"The residency in Nitra joined seven participants from the Visegrad countries. They sat in at selected festival performances in the main and accompanying programme, and subsequently analysed them at seminars,"* says the project's coordinator Tereza Bosmanová. This edition was also unique as last year the platform's participants only met online because of the pandemic.

Two large live-streamed debate events revolving around the current edition's theme took place during the festival – a presentation of papers from the upcoming publication for the festival's 30th anniversary and the Large Public Debate. The working programme was coupled with numerous debates with production creators.

As the main festival organiser, Association Divadelná Nitra would hereby like to thank for the collaboration of its main co-organisers – Andrej Bagar Theatre, Nitra Self-Governing Region and The City of Nitra, and all nineteen co-organisers from the public and private sector. The festival was supported by 19 Slovak and foreign foundations and funds, 5 main media and 10 media partners, and 24 partners from the commercial and public sector. 30 curators and collaborators, 23 staff members, and 30 volunteers were involved in its organisation. The main and accompanying programme featured 364 performers.

The International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra 2021 was held under the auspices of the President of the Slovak Republic Zuzana Čaputová, Chairman of the Nitra Self-Governing Region Milan Belica, and Mayor of The City of Nitra Marek Hattas.

Main organiser

Association Divadelná Nitra

Main co-organisers

Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra

Nitra Self-Governing Region, City of Nitra

Co-organisers

Architecture Days; Botanical Garden – Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra; Elementary Boarding School for the Visually Impaired Bratislava; iks Theatre, Bratislava; J. Rosinský Elementary School of Art in Nitra; Karol Kmeťko Regional Library; Nitra 2026; Nitra Cultural Heritage c.a.; Nitra Gallery; Nitra Region Museum; Nitra Tourist Board; Nitra Tourist Information Centre; Očami prírody, c.a.; Pod Vrškom – bookstore and antiques; Prince Pribina Elementary School in Nitra; Regional Education Centre Nitra; Theatre Institute Bratislava; Slovak Agricultural Museum in Nitra; Vila K, c.a.

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Projects of Association Divadelná Nitra are supported using public funding by Slovak Arts Council, main partner of the projects



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