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For three decades, ITF Divadelná Nitra reflects on the world around us. The jubilee 30. edition takes place in early October.



A search for answers to questions posed by our age. For thirty years, the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra responds to events happening all around. From the very beginning, a theme has been the staple of each year's festival edition. This year will be no exception – the jubilee 30. edition is subtitled *presahy/transcendencies*.



**Transcendencies as acts erasing boundaries between people, cultures, and communities; transcendencies as connections between past and present, private and public; transcendencies as junctions of physical existence and spiritual life, life and death, nobility and baseness; transcendencies as mixture of genres and artforms. All this is reflected in a choice of ten productions featured in the main festival programme and a rich accompanying programme prepared for the visitors of ITF Divadelná Nitra from 1 to 6 October.**



**Videospot**



**ITF Divadelná Nitra is concerned for health and safety, and we are prepared for all possible situations.**

ITF Divadelná Nitra is one of many festivals that felt the effects of COVID-19 last year and one a few that successfully executed its programme as planned – live. The experience was highly demanding on organisation and tested the ability of our festival teams to adapt to extraordinary circumstances. The skills gained were reflected in preparations for the 30. edition, which will take place with special attention to safety but also to a first-rate spectator experience. All organisers will be fully vaccinated and the event will follow current anti-epidemic measures.

If circumstances permit, the main programme's Slovak section and accompanying programme will air live. In order that ITF Divadelná Nitra might also feature foreign theatrical artworks (impossible last year for well-known reasons), the organisers have decided to follow the trend of contemporary European festivals and put on stage productions in the form of impressive video recordings. Some will be broadcast online, while others will be screened in the theatre hall. Of utmost priority will be as high fidelity of image and sound as possible.



### ITF Divadelná Nitra promotes live presentation of Slovak theatres

As usual, this year's spectators at ITF Divadelná Nitra will have a chance to see ten progressive and distinctive productions. Their selection is diverse, but each work carries encoded within itself the theme of 'transcendencies', though approached from a different angle. The programme is largely dedicated to Slovak theatres.

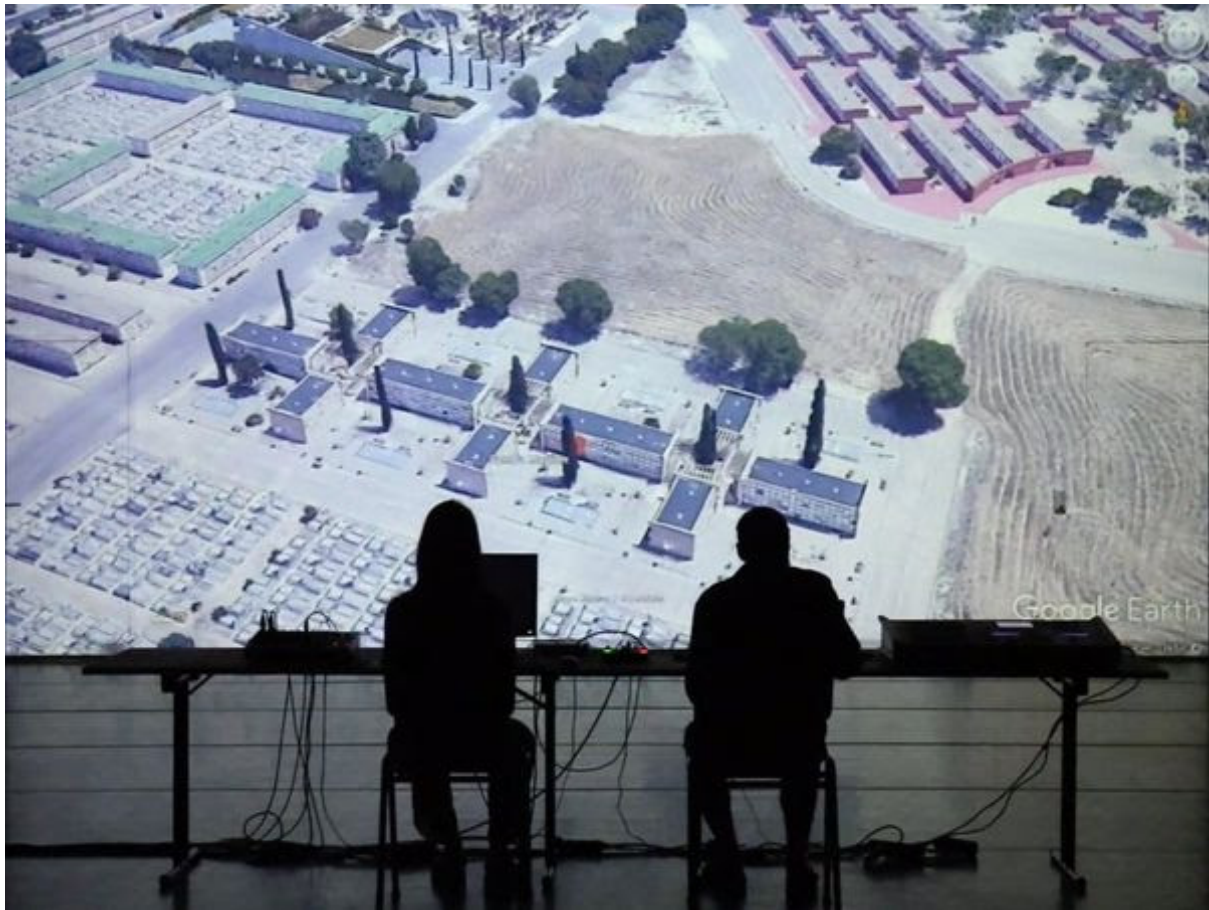
The festival will open with one of the most remarkable productions by the Slovak National Theatre in the recent seasons – **War and Peace**, directed by Marián Amsler. The director made use of a blend of theatrical action and live cinema, creating gripping scenes of battle that linger in the spectator's mind long after the screen disappears from the stage.

Other productions deliver a message to the present age even if they are based in traditions and folklore or controversial past events. **The Tinker**, a comedy about the life of 19th century Slovak intelligentsia in multicultural Hungary, assumes a different shape in a production for the Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra in head with director Lukáš Brutovský, becoming a provocative parody and grotesque about the maladies afflicting Slovakia within the central European region.

A brilliant and visually powerful synthesis of drama, movement and folklore is offered in **The Bonnet** a play by the Jozef Gregor Tajovský Theatre in Zvolen based on the acclaimed eponymous book by Katarína Kucbelová directed by Peter Palik.

Past events seeping into the present are also at stake in the tragicomedy **Lebensraum** by the young collective of LAB Theatre, produced by the Academy of Performing Arts and directed by Kateřina Quisová.

A documentary production about one of the seminal figures in the history of Slovak theatre titled **Borodáč or Three Sisters** will be brought to Nitra by director Júlia Rázusová and the State Theatre Košice.



Foreign productions in exceptional quality on the large screen

*“In the wake of seasons when theatre performances surfaced online, we looked for works that thematised or availed themselves of interesting overlaps between the internet, video-art, film, and theatre,”* Ján Šimko, one of the curators of the foreign programme section of ITF Divadelná Nitra, explains the mark which the

pandemic left on the festival's programme.

One such piece is the Czech video-film **Eyewitness** by director Jiří Havelka, originally intended as a stage production. *"We tried to factor in transcendencies of substance as well as form. The online format in itself transcends the theatrical space to which we had been accustomed before the pandemic,"* says curator Martina Vannayová.

Overlaps of diverse artforms and especially of identity and culture feature in the charming production **Mailles** by the French ensemble Compagnie Kadidi directed by Dorothee Munyaneza.

The trio of foreign productions will conclude with the French-Israeli-Belarusian work **Necropolis** by director Arkadi Zaides, mapping the death sites of refugees who arrived in Europe, including Slovakia and surrounding countries



### Postponed world premieres of Slovak dance productions

Spectators at ITF Divadelná Nitra can look forward the postponed premieres of two international productions that could not be put on last year due to the COVID-19 outbreak. These were created for the European project Be SpectACTIVE! By undertaking these projects, Association Divadelná Nitra fulfils

its ambition of supporting Slovak artists in international production and promoting their position on the world theatre scene.

**Blue is the Colour (or Why Rinse a Plastic Yoghurt Cup if Some People Fly to Thailand Four Times a Year)** is the title of a multi-genre artwork by choreographer and performer Petra Fornayová exploring diverse visions of the future of our world.

The dance production **ICARUS**, created in collaboration between professional dancers and teenagers from Prague and Nitra under the guidance of director Marie Gourdain (France), digs into feelings caused by our age and impending adulthood.



**More than 30 accompanying events at ITF Divadelná Nitra 2021**

As usual, the festival's main programme will be accompanied by numerous events of all kinds – discussions, concerts, programme for children and the young, stand-up comedy, and guided tours.

The festival's 30. anniversary will be commemorated by the theory event *Transcending Divadelná Nitra 1992 – 2021* joined by the authors of a

prepared jubilee publication by the same title. We will organise *Artists talks* – discussions with creators, and the Large Public Debate *Presahy / Transcendecies* about the festival theme with special guests, streamed live by Denník N and moderated by Oliver Rehák. The evening spotlight in the Square will belong to concerts by *Vydrapená Bužírka Punk System*, *Genius Locci*, and *Sto múch*. Later, stand-up comedians *Samo Trnka*, *Peter Petiar Lachký*, *Gabo Žifčák*, *Simona Salátová* and *Joe Trendy* will hold nothing back.

Visitors will not miss out on a rich children's programme titled *Festival for Children*, featuring several performances – a contemporary French fairy tale adaptation *The Big Word Factory* by the Karol Spišák Old Theatre in Nitra, a story about an ordinary Max with an extraordinary imagination titled *Wild Things* by the independent theatre company ODIVO, a tale full of songs *Laughter is the Best Medicine* by ZÁBAVKA Theatre, a production of the well-known story *Popolvár* with unusual puppets by BABADLO Theatre, the aerial laboratory *Aero* for anyone who feels like flying away by ODIVO company, and Tomík the Clown's interactive stories *Circus Topsy-Turvies* and his *Bubbly Fishing* happening. The Festival for Children will also feature an all-day integrational workshop for visually disadvantaged and sighted children *A Tulip for You* with a drum session by Thierry Ebam, while adults can pay a visit to the *Black Box pen* – a zone for the sighted and unsighted.



### **ITF Divadelná Nitra develops international contacts**

Over the summer, representatives of ITF Divadelná Nitra visited the partner festivals Tampere Theatre Festival (FI), Santarcangelo Festival (IT), and Festival Kilowatt (IT), proving that cultural events can be organised live even under a strict hygienic regime and during a global pandemic.

Being set in the summer, the two Italian festivals held their programme predominantly outdoors. The organisers in Tampere – like ITF Divadelná Nitra – decided to strengthen their focus on local productions. Foreign artworks were featured through a live stream by Proton Theatre from Hungary.



The 30. International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra will take place in the Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra (Great Hall and Studio), Svätoplukovo námestie, Zobor Monastery, Párovské Háje Culture House, Vila K, the Synagogue, Kupecká ulica, and the premises of other festival partners (Regional Education Centre Nitra, Karol Kmeťko Regional Library in Nitra, Nitra Gallery, Nitra Region Museum, Slovak Agricultural Museum in Nitra).

Association Divadelná Nitra and co-organisers will ensure compliance with all hygienic and anti-epidemic measures during the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra 2021 in accordance with current regulations of the Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic, directions of the Regional Public Health Authority in Nitra, the epidemic notice of the Director of the Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, and valid notices of co-organisers. For more information about current measures, visit our website.

Events organised during ITF Divadelná Nitra 2021 directly by the festival are classified under following 'Covid Automat' categories: indoors – OTP (fully vaccinated/tested/recovered from COVID-19), outdoors – Basic (no restrictions).

**Tickets to shows can be purchased online via GoOut and from 6**

**September 2021 at the festival box office (bod.K7, Štefánikova trieda 7) on working days from 3.00 PM to 5.00 PM. Given higher concerns for health and safety, the organisers recommend visitors purchase their tickets online.**

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International Theatre Festival

DIVADELNÁ NITRA 2021

1. - 6. October 2021

*presahy/transcendencies*

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