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Important projects of Association Divadelná Nitra took place despite the difficult pandemic situation



With 10 performances in the main programme and 30 accompanying events, the 29. International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra (26 – 30 September 2020) also featured a wide array of activities within its educational and working programmes. Important projects of Association Divadelná Nitra took place despite the difficult pandemic situation, as the organisers adapted them to new regulations or moved them online.



How To Understand Theatre?

The annual ITF Divadelná Nitra regularly features a section of the project **How To Understand Theatre** titled Visit at an International Festival, which offers theatre students a chance to explore current tendencies in contemporary theatre and provides them with an **opportunity for dialogue**. This year the project was joined by 10 students from the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica, and the Private Conservatory in Nitra.

Besides sitting in at performances, participants also joined discussions dealing with specific productions – Artists talks, where Divadelná Nitra arranged meetings with curators, festival organisers and featured artists. During their stay, students also participated in five meetings dedicated to **expert discussions** under the guidance of theatre scholar doc. Mgr. Miroslav Ballay, PhD.

The project is not over with the end of the festival, and we are currently preparing the following section titled Theatre Travels, which for understandable reasons cannot take place in its original form this year. However, we have come

up with a different way to enable encountering theatre and are

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On 30 October, all registered participants in the project will gain access to a **live stream of Sláva Daubnerová's physical-visual production Masterpiece**, where the author bids farewell to her career as a performer. The project will also feature a discussion with Sláva and Martin Pšenička, Czech theatre scholar and Head at the Department of Theatre Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University Prague.

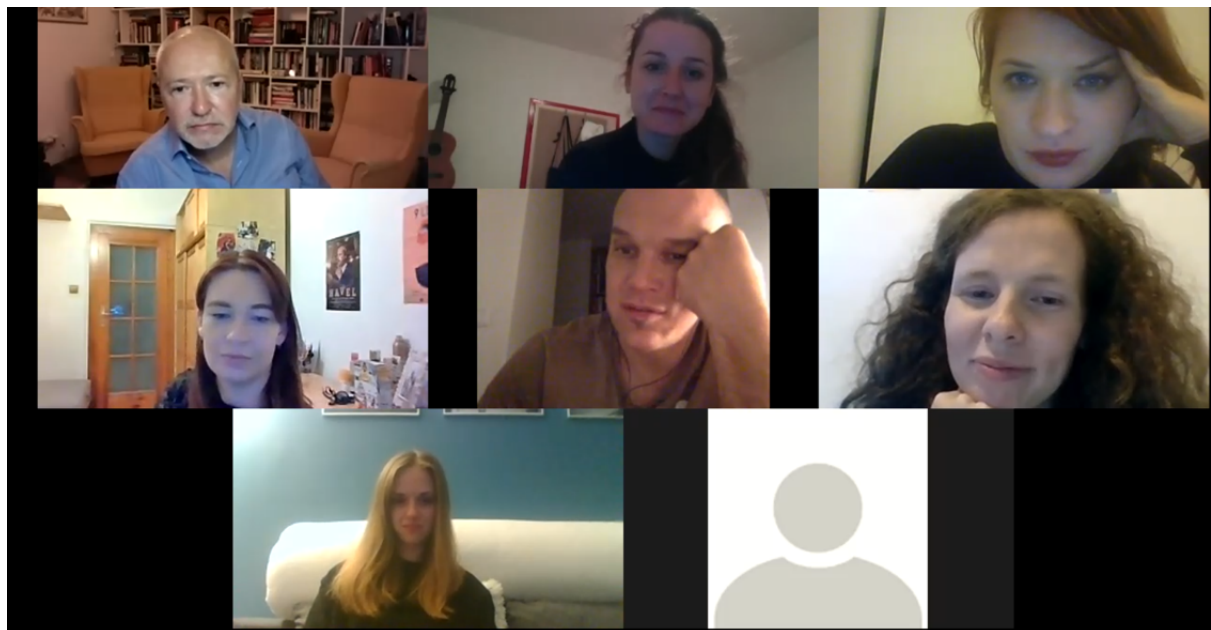


Be SpectACTIVE!

During ITF Divadelná Nitra 2020, spectators also had a chance to see the newest outputs of the international project **Be SpectACTIVE!**, organised within a network of 19 European partners and aimed at engaging audiences and fostering participation in artistic processes. The main programme featured a choice of five works co-selected by the **Audience Programme Board** since February 2020. A special programme was prepared for its members – including meetings, discussions, visits of performances and festival activities.

At the festival, audiences could also see the preliminary form of **Blue is the Colour**, a production by **Petra Fornayová** and her artistic team. Her work-in-progress was created during a residency at Plesni Teater (Ljubljana, Slovenia) and during rehearsals in Bratislava and Nitra. Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the creators rescheduled its premiere to the spring of 2021.

Similarly due to the epidemic situation, the premiere of the international dance production **Icarus** (concept and direction: Marie Gourdain) was called off shortly prior to the festival. The work is co-produced with Tanec Praha Festival and the Jozef Rosinský Art Elementary School in Nitra and created with teenagers from both cities. **Spectators will have an opportunity to see the results of their creative work at the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra 2021.**



V4@Theatre Critics Residency

Like many other of our activities, the ongoing crisis also affected the project **V4@Theatre Critics Residency**, which is why it **took place online**. The project clocked up **14 participants from V4 countries**. In accordance with their daily duties and ongoing changes in each of the countries, the online workshop saw them take turns at seminars, lectures and discussions. This

year's online residency programme was mentored by German theatre critic and scholar Stefan Tigges and Croatian theatre professional living in Germany Darko Lukić.

Participants gained access to **six video recordings of selected productions from the festival's main programme**. As the situation gradually changed over the course of the festival, in the end participants had an opportunity to see recordings of productions not staged at the festival proper. Over the eight days of the online seminar, they joined in-depth analyses of selected productions with **Stefan Tigges**, a lecture by **Darko Lukić**, discussions with the productions' actors and creators, and debates with participants from the Association's other educational projects. Because the online residency took place in parallel with the festival, **participants could watch live streams of festival concerts and discussions translated into English**.



A Tulip for You

A Tulip for You took place at this year's ITF Divadelná Nitra in its planned form. The festival saw its customary Friday workshops with Prince Pribina

Elementary School children, an arts and crafts workshops where the children made a 6-metre-tall ornamental snake, and the usual rhythmic workshops with drummer Thierry Ebam at the festival square. The project's Black Box was stationed in front of the Andrej Bagar Theatre.

The **Black Box** object is a black cube where, in ordinary circumstances, visitors can enter to experience first-hand and in total darkness what a task as simple as preparing breakfast is like for someone who is blind. They get to know the principles of Braille, a blind person's tools, and walking with a white cane.

The experience culminates with an exhibition of extraordinary art created by blind children, whose making is unimaginable even for the sighted.

Due to strict hygienic measures, these activities took place during ITF

Divadelná Nitra 2020 in front of the Black Box in the form of a 'pen'.

Inside the cube, visitors could visit **an exhibition of the works of visually impaired children from the project Tulip Online**, sought out on a round of travels across Slovakia in August. After the Elementary Boarding School for the Visually Impaired in Bratislava was closed during the first pandemic wave, its children scattered all around Slovakia and were only reachable over the internet.



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International Theatre Festival

DIVADELNÁ NITRA 2020

25. — 30. september

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