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**Asociácia / Association
Divadelná Nitra**



Dear friends,

we would like **to invite you** to the International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra 2022 to be held in Nitra, Slovakia on 23 – 28 September 2022.

The leitmotif of the 31st Festival edition is *f r a g i l i t y*. Fragility as an expression of a sense of threat or vulnerability. Yet, it also signals the opposite of violence – care, empathy, tenderness, in short, something that is missing in this world. Fifteen productions within the main program, as well as a rich off-programme menu, will explore various forms of fragility. The 31st edition will focus on emerging stage actors and established creative artists from local and international context.

The Association Divadelná Nitra is pleased to offer you **tickets** to individual Festival performances at a special price intended for our partners, collaborators and theatre professionals. Should you wish to purchase your tickets, please contact:

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We are also pleased to offer you **accommodation** at special Festival price.

E-mail: ubytovanie@nitrafest.sk

Further information is available at www.nitrafest.sk and at our Facebook & Instagram profile [@divadelnanitra](https://www.facebook.com/divadelnanitra).

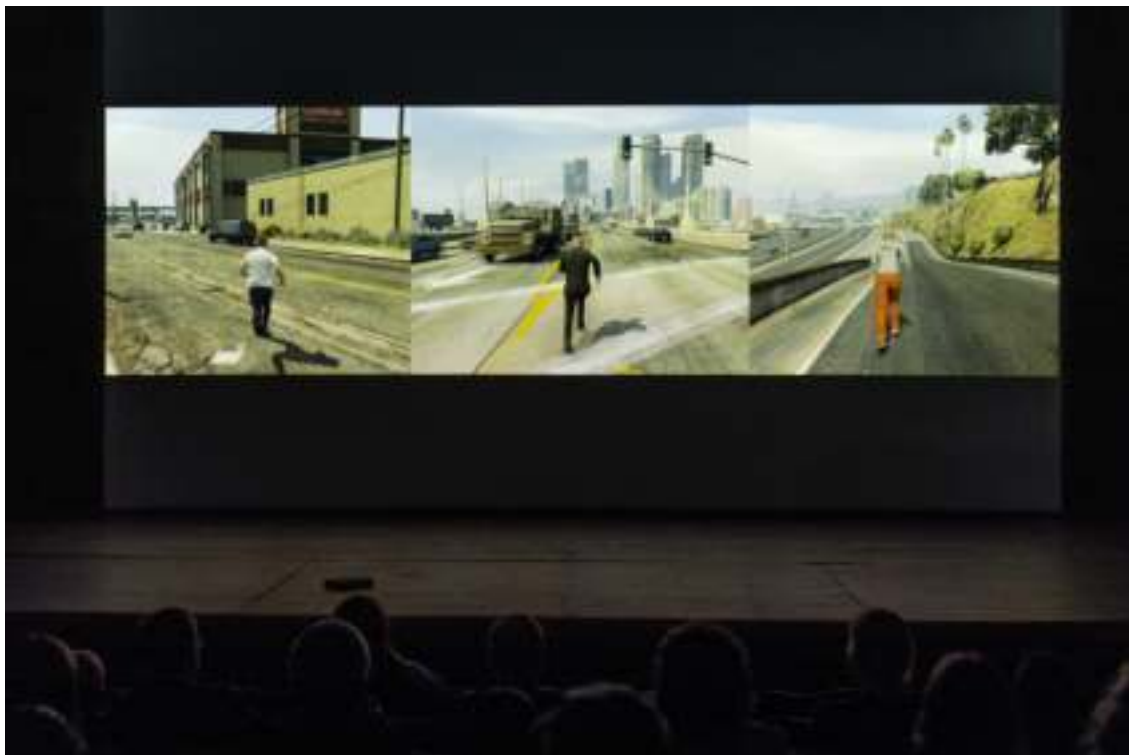
Lavish menu at the 2022 International Theatre Festival Divadelná Nitra

New names from abroad

Fragility as the leitmotif of the 31st edition of Divadelná Nitra links **15 productions within the main programme** that will feature from 23 to 28 September 2022. After two pandemic-struck editions of Divadelná Nitra (2020 and 2021), the 31st Festival edition will be business as usual: international theatre companies will be back live! The main programme will thus feature 8 ensembles with productions created by 9 countries – ensembles from Croatia, Austria, France, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Spain, and Slovenia. “It is vital that international ties are restored live. An international festival without live presentation of international ensembles loses its point,” says the Festival director, Darina Kárová. The Festival opens with the acclaimed Croatian choreographer, stage director and performer **Matija Ferlin** making his debut at Divadelná Nitra. Through a legendary passion story, Ferlin examines the body of an aging dancer, who can no longer move as he once did. His solo *Sad Sam Matthäus* was inspired by the most famous setting of the Gospel of St. Matthew – *St. Matthew Passion* by J. S. Bach. The monumental oratorio from 1727 will be heard in its entirety on stage in the Great Hall of The Andrej Bagar Theatre. We are specially delighted by our selection now that *Sad Sam Matthäus* earned Matija Ferlin the prize from the Association of Theatre Critics and Researchers of Slovenia for **Best Slovenian Production** of the previous season awarded at the 57th Maribor Theatre Festival.



Another new name at the 2022 International Festival Divadelná Nitra 2022 is **Jan Mocek**. The young Czech stage and visual artist will take the audience to the parallel world of online video games (MMOG – massively multiplayer online game). Through live video, 3D animation and YouTube formats, *Virtual Ritual* reveals the concealed connections between the real and virtual worlds.



During one of the pandemic lockdowns, **László Göndör**, 35-year-old Hungarian stage actor, decided to move in, for over a month, with his

together and made a documentary production *Dreaming with My Grandma*.



In *Encyclopaedia of Pain. Chapter I: Mum's the Word*, Spanish author and stage director **Pablo Fidalgo** talks about institutional violence, about experiences of several generations of pupils and students at Church schools. Like the aforementioned artists, Mr Fidalgo will feature in Nitra for the first time, with his as yet most personal and political text.



youngest generation of Polish contemporary dance. The artist already well established on the international scene will perform two of his original solos created five years apart. *Jumpcore* and *Amando* enthrall with their original dramaturgy, minimalist, yet impressive dance and movement expression, and startling musical ambience.



The main programme further includes *PRIMA*, the latest piece by **Viktor Černický**. One of the most successful and award-winning Czech artists of Slovak origin, he works in Prague. In his work he regularly brings together different artistic disciplines, whilst primarily focusing on dance and movement theatre. In *PRIMA*, in addition to a group of professional performers, local residents will also become actors. Selected participants can prove to themselves that indeed anyone can dance and move – with pleasure, enthusiasm, respect and empathy, spontaneously and without inhibitions.



Slovak showcase of fragility

Mária Danadová's curatorial selection includes five diverse works. Two come from the independent creative context, two are productions of brick theatres, and one is the fruit of international cooperation.

Timeout Burnout is an original author's solo by **Lukáš Bobalik**, member of the youngest generation of Slovak contemporary dance, directed by **Maja Hriešik**. The one-man dance tennis match is a game of endurance. Bobalik is accompanied by two brilliant musicians – singer Peter Mazalán and guitarist Jakub Mitrík. *Timeout Burnout* is a sports event, installation and performance that portrays human dance on the edge of the ruins of a burned-out society.



The Pôtoň Theatre arrives to the Festival with the production *Swing Heil!* created by the artistic couple **Iveta Ditte Jurčová** and **Michal Ditte** in cooperation with the **Horácke Theatre Jihlava**. The work is the story of the dancer, choreographer and artist Nina Jirsíková. She was probably the only Czech woman deported to the Ravensbrück concentration camp for dancing in the ballet production *The Tale of Dance*. The piece also presents the fate of Anna Goldsteinerová from the town of Pulkau in Lower Austria. She was beheaded for letting local young jazz and swing aficionados to meet in her flat.



After seven years, the Košice-based **Theatre Thália Színház** is returning to Divadelná Nitra with a production about addiction as seen through the eyes of a

actor **Róbert Lucskay** to Thália after over twenty-five years abroad. The multi-genre stand-up is also supported by two distinguished theatre artists – stage director **József Czajlik**, and playwright and dramaturg **Miklós Forgács**.



The second dance piece in the 2022 Slovak selection is the experimental performance *Soft Spot*, created in collaboration with Slovak dancers **Soňa Ferienčíková** and **Martina Hajdyla**, and progressive Hungarian choreographer **Adrienn Hód**. It is a performative probe into the relationship between body, personality and meaning, with the faces of the dancers being concealed by black masks until the last moment.



Slovak Chamber Theatre in the city of **Martin** is a regular at Divadelná Nitra. The ensemble arrives to the 31st Festival edition with the award-winning production *D1 (working title)*. It is an ironic look at the still missing motorway between Bratislava and Košice, as well as at Slovak national mentality. The production, the author and stage director of the production is **Lukáš Brutovský**, artistic director of the Martin Theatre. *D1 (working title)* featured at all major Slovak festivals and earned a number of awards, including the Grand Prix and the Bratislava Audience Award at the 2021 Nová dráma/New Drama festival, and the Award from the Academy of Theatre Creators for Best Production of the 2020/2021 season.



distinctive theatre group Odivo, with Ms Danadová as co-founder, collaborated on the piece with the brilliant puppet technologist and puppeteer **Ivan Martinka**.



The Slovak programme also features *Until Silence Reigns*, a production of The Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra. The extraordinary learning project of the author and dramaturge **Slavka Cíváňová**, stage director *Iveta Ditte Jurčová* and the Nitra Theatre ensemble highlights the inevitability of protecting fragile nature and the environment. The production combines interactive audio and video installations with performative input by actors. Drawing from documentary material (civic protests against unauthorized logging in the valleys Tichá and Kôprová dolina in 2007), they present contemporary view of man's relationship with countryside and of the state of Slovak forests.



Ukraine section

The Association Divadelná Nitra was at the birth of an exceptional project *Chronicles of War, Hate and Love*. Right after the outbreak of the war, the Ukrainian art group **WE: media theater** started to document war events and collect witness testimonies. Reports from different cities and towns arise from the need for artists not to be bystanders and react to the war. The project resulted in an artistic record of the dramatic present in Ukraine through a performative presentation. One of the authors, **Sashko Brama**, Ukrainian independent theatre activist, stage director, screenwriter and playwright, featured within the main programme at 2015 Divadelná Nitra with a socio-politically engaged production *R+J*.



The programme of the Nitra White Night brings, inter alia, opening of an exhibition *A Poster A Day. Neverending Posters?*. The **Mykola Kovalenko** posters address the war in Ukraine. The Ukrainian graphic artist now lives in Slovakia.

The Festival includes a discussion *Testimonies* with eyewitnesses of the war in Ukraine – **Viera Dubačová**, **Lucia Štasselová** and others.

In cooperation with the NGO **Mareena**, the off-programme includes events dedicated to the inclusion of migrants and facilitation of multicultural understanding: a tempting pop-up community dinner *Get to Know Thy Neighbour!* or a workshop for the preparation of a bilingual children's folder book *Let's Talk, Read and Create Together!*

Off-programme events for all ages

As has been customary at Divadelná Nitra, the 31st edition will offer public discussions, concerts, street shows, open-air theatre performances on the square, work of young emerging theatre artists and night adventures on Saturday during *Nitra White Night*. The well-established *KníhKupecká* is scheduled within off-programme.

Moderator **Oliver Rehák** of the daily *Denník N* arrives again to Divadelná Nitra to seek with his guests answers to questions related to the Festival theme.

The programme line Festival to the Children is dedicated the youngest audiences. It includes performances *A Girl with Great Ingenuity* (Tuš Theatre),

Theatre will present its production *Book Thief* for audiences aged 10+. The Festival for Children will again include a day-long integration workshop *A Tulip for You* for children with and without vision impairment. Visitors will also be able to experience an environment for the people with and without vision impairment in the Festival permanent installation Black Box.

Every year, Divadelná Nitra provides space for presentations by emerging theatre artists.

The **Youth Theatre** section will now present as many as three ensembles: The **Elementary School of Arts in Vráble** arrives with *Man* – stage adaptation of the texts by the Australian artist and writer Shaun Tan; **The Dezider Kardoš Private Conservatory** in Topolčianky with *Break* – stage production of a text by the Slovak playwright Michaela Zakuťanská; and students of the **Nitra Private Conservatory** come with an original adaptation of the Ödön von Horváth play *Don Juan Returning from War*.

The *Balaton 1982* street show brings together artists and artistic groups from the countries of the Visegrad Four. To be performed in the Nitra city centre, the captivating production combines pantomime, physical theatre and clown show in a fun and interactive way.

The lavish menu on the music stage of Divadelná Nitra includes the singer **Zuzana Mikulcová**, the legendary **Vrbovskí víťazi**. The concert by **Katarzia**, native of Nitra, opens the Nitra White Night.



Complete programme of the 2022 International Theater Festival Divadelná

Online ticket sale for performances at the 31st edition of the International Festival Divadelná Nitra via [GoOut](#) is open.

Further information about performances, online ticket sales, Box Office ticket sales and bookings is available by phone +421 949 853 333 and via email vstupenky@nitrafest.sk.

International Festival Divadelná Nitra 2022 is held under the auspices of **Mr Milan Belica**, the Chairman of the Nitra Self-Governing Region and **Mr Marek Hattas**, the Mayor of the City of Nitra.

Lead convener

Association Divadelná Nitra

Main co-organisers

The Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra, Nitra Self-Governing Region, City of Nitra

Co-organisers

Botanical Garden of the Slovak Agricultural University in Nitra, Domof Creativity, Regional Public Enlightenment Centre in Nitra, Creative Centre Nitra, NGO Mareena, Gallery of Nitra, NGO Nitra Culture Centre, Nitra Regional Museum in Nitra, Books and Second-hand Booksellers Pod Vříškom, Joint Boarding School for Pupils with Sight Impairment, Bratislava, NGO Vila K, The Prince Pribina Elementary School in Nitra, The Jozef Rosinský Elementary School of Art in Nitra

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