



Press Release No. 2

Divadelná Nitra shall offer top European dramas

Bratislava, 24 July 2012 – What traumas from totalitarian regimes do we live with today? What manifestations of religious and political militancy do we idly witness? And what morality reigns in the society of the 21st century?

The **Divadelná Nitra International Theatre Festival**, which will run from **21 to 26 September 2012**, shall offer during its **21st edition** political and social issues of both past and present. The festival underlying theme is **guilt / innocence**.

The festival main programme will bring **13 productions from 10 countries**. Spectators will have a chance to see unique works of theatre-makers from **Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Great Britain and Slovakia**.

"The main programme focuses on contemporary plays and authorial production. We are not putting on a single classic. We present the trends of documentary theatre and political theatre," Darina Kárová, director of the Divadelná Nitra International Theatre Festival, said.

"We are turning to the past, yet we are focusing mainly on the hot present-day topics. Two World Wars, Communist totalitarianism, globalization... The geo-space of former Socialist countries seems to suffer from somewhat more problems in this regard. Deliberate pushing aside of a nation's own history, law disenforcement, creeping corruption, disrespect towards man, poverty. Together with the authors we therefore raise questions of e.g. morality, conscience, guilt and innocence," she summarized.

The **Divadelná Nitra festival is the co-producer of two outstanding foreign pieces** and it is the only entity to bring them to Slovakia. It is also launching **its own international project**.

The first one is the **festival opening performance**, a production of Argentinian choreographer based in Germany **Constanza Macras** and her **company DorkyPark** from Berlin – *Open for Everything*.

A unique documentary dance project is performed by a team composed of professional artists and an 18-member group of Roma dancers and musicians selected during a field research process in Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia. A fascinating blend of original

modern choreography and traditional Roma dance and live music with authentic stories of the performers brings an untraditional view of the present Roma issue. The director confronts the cliché view of the Roma with an open approach to their destinies.

After last year's successful cooperation, the **festival satellite city** will be **Košice**. It will be the production *Open for Everything* that will continue from Nitra to Košice and will be put on at the State Theatre Košice on 23 September.

Minor and major tragedies, individual and social failures, but most of all true human stories about the time and power will be brought to theatre stage thanks to a several-year international project of the Association Divadelná Nitra **Parallel Lives – 20th Century Through the Eyes of Secret Police**. During this year's edition of the Divadelná Nitra, in the framework of the **Parallel Forum** section, authors from six countries will present their ideas and stories that are result of research in secret archives in their respective countries. They will serve as material for productions whose premiere performances will be presented at the Divadelná Nitra in autumn 2013.

During the festival, one of the project sections – **Parallel Plus** – will present two theatre productions dealing with secret police activities in countries of former Soviet bloc.

The Divadelná Nitra participates as co-producer in the creation of a production of one of the most influential independent theatres in Russia – **Teatr.doc**. The production *Two in Your House* offers a story of a contemporary poet and dissident, but first of all opposition presidential candidate Vladimir Neklyayev. It is based on true events and asks what it is like to be prisoner in one's own home, when two secret agents move into your house, control you and dine in your kitchen. A tragicomic piece of young Russian **director Talbat Batalov** reveals both the private and public sides of this story.

The central character of the documentary production *X millimetres out of Y kilometres* of the company **Colectiv A** from the Romanian city of Cluj, directed by young playwright and director **Gianina Cărbunariu**, who has already gained recognition across Europe, is writer and journalist Dorin Tudoran, who in 1985 left Romania after 40 days of starving. The author contacted the person involved himself and shows on stage how Romanian secret service Securitate made up imaginary stories of the persecuted persons and illustrates the coercive methods they used.

Throughout its existence, the Divadelná Nitra has been an **expert in presenting top theatrical art from all over Europe and the V4 region**. This year again it brings outstanding works from Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland.

Veronika Švábová is a performer of the artistic group **Handa Gote**, a phenomenon on Czech theatre scene. In the production *Clouds* she talks about the history of an ordinary family in former Czechoslovakia – her own. The story begins in 1938 and through memories, music of the time, projecting family photos, she talks about the small history of a family whose life, like the lives of others, was influenced first by the Nazi occupation and straight afterwards by the Communist totalitarian regime.

The most important moments in Polish history, and the destinies that are bound to them, will be shown in Polish production *III Furies* of the **Teatr H. Modrzewskiej** theatre in **Legnica**. Director **Marcin Liber** created an ironic punk show composed of a blend of Polish history and ancient mythology, which belongs to the best recent achievements of Polish theatre. Two mothers tell the stories of their unfortunate lives. The first one struggles to break the curse that has accompanied her family since World War II. Back then, her

grandmother handed two women from Warsaw over to the Nazis. The other one, on the contrary, comes from a family of heroes and raised her son in the spirit of patriotism. Later on, in the effort of protecting his country, he murders prostitutes and communists. The production points out both the dark and light sides of the Polish national character and demythologises the heroism of men in World War II.

An existential metaphor of life, death and morality in present day society is brought to Nitra in form of the production of Budapestian companies **Katona J. Theatre** and **Szputnyik Anamnesis**. It is a story of a theatre director who tries to find his way in the space of a present-day Hungarian hospital looking for his mother from the Department of Internal Medicine to Pathology. Director **Viktor Bodó**, who belongs to the youngest generation of directors, yet has already gained international recognition, created an almost Kafkaesque grotesque about the condition of Hungary's healthcare system, which goes beyond the theme so very topical also in Slovakia and other Eastern European countries.

All festival **performances** will take place in the **Andrej Bagar Theatre in Nitra** and **Karol Spišák Old Theatre in Nitra**.

For the 17th time, on the opening night of the festival, prestigious awards of the past Slovak theatre season – the **DOSKY** will be awarded. The votes of theatre critics and publicists are being counted right these days.

The Divadelná Nitra International Theatre Festival will also offer **inspiring working and educational programmes**. The **accompanying programme** will again bring to the streets of Nitra approximately **70 theatre, music, visual arts and film events**.

You can follow all latest news about the Divadelná Nitra also at **www.nitrafest.sk** and **<http://www.facebook.com/divadelna.nitra>**

For more information please contact Zuzana Kizáková, PR Manager of the Divadelná Nitra International Theatre Festival, at: +421-908-663-903/ press@nitrafest.sk

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