

V4 / VALUES / DN 2017

A project by Association Divadelná Nitra

Partners of the Project

Institute of Art – Theatre Institute, Prague, Czech Republic

Theatre Institute of Zbigniew Raszewsky, Warsaw, Poland

Trafó – House of Contemporary Art, Budapest, Hungary

Theatre Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia

Center for Culture in Lublin – Eastern European Performing Arts

Platform, Lublin, Poland (for Moldavia, Ukraine, Belarus and Armenia)

Divadelná Nitra Association, Svätoplukovo námestie 4, 950 53 Nitra, Slovakia

www.nitrafest.sk

➔ BRIEF CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

Project V4 / VALUES / DN is a continuation of the projects based on cooperation between Divadelná Nitra Association and art institutions, theatres, artists and foreign cultural institutes of V4 and EaP countries.

It is a structured project with the intent to develop communication, networking, cultural exchange, presentation and artistic reflection in choose geopolitical space.

Parts of the project:

1. V4@THEATRE CRITICS RESIDENCY 2017
2. V4 THEATRE PRESENTATION
3. V4 FILM PRESENTATION
4. V4 NETWORKING / REMINISCENCES

The most important part of the project, V4@THEATRE CRITICS RESIDENCY (in 2017, it will be the 3rd year), is focused on supporting the contacts among theatre critics from the selected countries and on development of critical reflection across the Central and Eastern Europe.

In 2017, there will be 14 selected critics from the V4 and EaP countries (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia and Armenia), for the last time under the leadership of the renowned theatre critic and theoretician Patrice Pavis (France).

The workshop of the critics will take place during the International Festival Divadelná Nitra (September 22–27, 2017); the productions from Slovakia and abroad presented at the festival will form the basis for critical reflection and teamwork.

V4 THEATRE PRESENTATION will be a presentation of theatre works from the V4 countries and from the selected EaP countries at the International Festival Divadelná Nitra. The workshop participants will also contribute to better information and knowledge about the given area with their lectures about the state of performing art in their countries.

Film screenings on the theme of the festival have been a component of the festival since its origin. In the section V4 FILM PRESENTATION, we are planning to show the productions and co-productions from the V4 countries and from the selected EaP countries.

Within the V4 NETWORKING / REMINISCENCES, the organizers of the festival would like to help establishing partnerships and networks among the present guests and performing artists. A component of the meetings will be also a reminiscence of the basic facts from the festival's history which are as well connected with the cooperation of V4 countries.

➔ DETAILED CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PROJECT

In 2016, the International Festival Divadelná Nitra celebrated its 25th jubilee.

25 years of the festival's existence means also 25 years of meeting V4 cultures through presentation of theatre productions from the V4 countries, cooperation with theatre professionals and critics, involvement with discussions and debates, mutual influence and knowledge of depth and variety of their cultures.

In 2016, also the Visegrad group celebrated 25 years since its foundation, which has been remembered by Divadelná Nitra with special activities.

Project V4 / VALUES / DN stems from a 3-year long intention of Divadelná Nitra Association called FUNDAMENTALS. It will present a process of searching for values – human, spiritual, intellectual, social as well as historical, through works of art presented at the festival, but also discussions, accompanying events and social activities.

Project V4 / VALUES / DN wants to search for / name / stress common values of the cooperating countries, richness and variety of performing arts and cooperation and to contribute to the development of artistic reflection.

It is a follow-up to the success of the first 2 years of V4@THEATRE RESIDENCY. In 2017, it will include another country in the spirit of opening up to the Eastern European countries – Armenia.

Because of its attempt to develop and nurture critical thinking and writing about theatre, the project will support 14 young theatre critics from 8 V4 + EaP countries (CZ, HU, PL, SK a UA, BY, MD, AM), and thus it will bring about the exchange of information about theatre and performing arts in the domestic countries of the participants and the discussions on the subject of the productions seen at the festival. The project is for its participants an opportunity for their professional development under a supervision of highly renowned professional – French theatre critic and theoretician Patrice Pavis.

The theme of the festival *Fundamentals – a search for values* will be reflected through a presentation of the theatres from the V4 countries (V4 THEATRE PRESENTATION) – the productions by talented V4 and EaP artists from at least 5 countries, dedicated to the main theme of the festival; film screenings of the V4 countries (V4 FILM PRESENTATION); and development of partnerships, cooperation and networking (V4 NETWORKING / REMINISCENCES).

3-year period 2017–2019 of the International Festival Divadelná Nitra is interconnected through the notion FUNDAMENTALS, in the sense of looking for the principles and the essence of life of man as well as of society in the contemporary world. The process of reflection will generate for every single year of the cycle an independent subtitle, a unique theme. A play with the idea of FUNDAMENTALS and the use of its individual components brings about unexpected opportunities for interpretation and contexts.

FUNDAMENTALS = *principle / principles, essence, a basic principle*

We are in the midst of devaluation. Ideas such as **home, family, faith, loyalty, justice, compassion, beauty, identity, memory** are being permanently doubted and are losing their content. Citizens as well as political representations of many countries are getting strongly radical. We are living in the world of extremes in which there is TOO MUCH communication, pleasure, desire for success, egotism, paranoia, aggression, xenophobia, words, speed, noise and smog. But also too much suffering and bondage. On the other hand,

TOO LITTLE joy, privacy, sources, hope in a new beginning, positive models and moral authorities.

We are the witnesses as well as the participants of a unique process in which there is a CLASH of two worlds, past and future, happening. The contemporary society is radically changing as a result of informatization, development of science and technique, commercialization, globalization, growing liberalism and individualism, but also war conflicts, problems of living together with the immigrants and doubting own identity. From the other side, there are tendencies at work such as looking for new RESOURCES in form of return to tradition and nature, community living, creative transformation of society or shared economy. We still have within reach the original values in form of Christian morality or cultural heritage, there are still alive witnesses of unique events of the 20th century, although more and more space is being occupied by new generations, new way of living, new priorities.

We are interested in DIFFERENT DESTINIES, (un)common lives, important personalities as well as simple people who show unbreakable willpower, strong faith, strength not to surrender, desire to stand up and go on. To the roots, to the sources, to silence, to the bottom. We will try to get to the fundamentals as well as to see into the future. To investigate present as well as future values.

Giving titles to values such as BASIS, ESSENCE of life of man as well as of society shall create the thematic foundation of the next 3 years 2017–2019.

➔ MORE INFORMATION ABOUT V4@THEATRE CRITICS RESIDENCY

the INTENTION of the international workshop V4@THEATRE CRITICS RESIDENCY 2017 is to develop critical thinking and writing about theatre, to initiate evaluation of theatre works from Slovakia as well as from abroad during their presentation at an international forum, with the presence of creators from various countries, and thus to contribute to the development of critical reflection as well as to the status of the theatre critic. For the Slovak environment, it will be a BENEFIT in the form of knowledge exchange, developing foreign contacts, recruiting a precious group of young critics and participating in communication with the EEPAP network countries. The project is a continuation of successful seminars from the years 2015 and 2016.

In 2017, it will be a widened format – with more countries (V4+Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia, Armenia) as well as participants (14 critics). The essence of the seminar is 7-days long work with a mentor (French theatrologist Patrice Pavis) which will take place during the IF Divadelná Nitra, with the conditions created by ADN. The participants of the seminar are chosen by the partners in the participating countries on the basis of a challenge from ADN in the form of an Open Call.

The term of the seminar: 21 September 2016 (arrival) – 28 September 2017 (departure).

7-days long art residencies with Patrice Pavis at the IF 2017 are opened to young theatre critics no older than 35 years of age from the V4 countries and from 4 EaP countries: Belarus, Moldavia, Ukraine and Armenia.

V4@Theatre Residency is a creative hub for young theatre critics who, under the supervision of internationally acclaimed theatre theoretician and practitioner Patrice Pavis, will participate at the 26th year of the International Festival Divadelná Nitra. They will see all the performances of the main program and selected events of the section Festival Plus and of accompanying events. For 7 days, they will work together with Mr. Pavis as their mentor, mediator and helper.

Their task will be, besides regular watching and analyzing of seen productions, to prepare and present a view at the present state of the performing arts in their country (the theme will be announced in advance by P. Pavis and Divadelná Nitra), to create at least 3 reports / articles about the performances at Divadelná Nitra and its program, or to prepare an interview with an artist performing at the festival for the V4@Theatre blog.

At the festival, they will visit the public discussions with the artists presented at the festival, and every day they will consult and confront their opinions through the discussions and reflections within the group led by P. Pavis.

The presentations and discussions of the V4@Theatre participants will be open to public – to the theatre professionals and students who will visit the festival.

Number of the participants: 14 (2 from each of the countries: CZ, HU, PL, SK; 1 or 2 from the countries: MD, BY, UA a AM) + 8 substitutes (1 from each country).

PARTICIPATION CRITERIONS

1. Theatre critic – professional;
2. Citizen of a V4 country or one of these countries: Belarus, Moldavia, Ukraine, Armenia;
3. Advanced English (in spoken as well as written form);
4. Age up to 35 years;
5. Interest in improving one's presentation skills; in developing critical reflection, ability to write and analysis of theatre works and festival dramaturgy;
6. Preference will be given to applicants who already have been professionally involved with theatre critics (not students);
7. Selected persons shall prepare in advance a presentation about the present situation in performing arts in their country, about contemporary trends, connections, art generations, other actual themes and international cooperation among the V4 countries in the area of performing arts.

➔ „V4 DIMENSION“ OF THE PROJECT

V4 / VALUES / DN is a manifestation of the values of the common space and is an opposing force to negative phenomenons in our countries – social extremism, political populism, history ignorance, absence of culture, art commercialization.

The project refers to the role of the festival which it plays in the presentation, propagation and support of performing arts of the V4 countries during its long existence. Divadelná Nitra has acted as the space for discussions on the subject of performing arts of the V4 countries, as the initiator of several projects of V4 cooperation, and as a co-producer of several productions.

Project V4 / VALUES / DN will bring the participants of the events a view to the newest artistic creation (theatre performances, films, artistic interventions in public space) from the V4 and EaP countries.

V4@THEATRE RESIDENCY will offer professional development to 14 theatre critics from the V4 and EaP countries. The project will become a platform for cooperation, and exchange of information and thoughts about contemporary performing art in the region.

➔ TARGET GROUPS

1. THEATRE PROFESSIONALS

- 1) Theatre critics no older than 35, selected on the basis of an open challenge in 8 V4 and EaP countries – together 14 participants and 8 substitutes.
- 2) Theatre professionals from V4 and EaP countries, as well as from other European countries who will visit the festival.

2. PROFESSIONAL AS WELL AS AMATEUR PUBLIC:

- 1) Spectators of theatre productions of the International Festival Divadelná Nitra;
- 2) Adults as well as children: the citizens of Nitra and other Slovak towns – the visitors of the accompanying events;
- 3) Representation: the representatives of local and national state organs, cultural institutions, cooperating representative agencies and cultural institutes of V4 countries and other European countries;
- 4) Tourists visiting the festival and Nitra;
- 5) Journalists and media from Slovakia as well as from V4 countries and other European countries;
- 6) Art students and their teachers.

➔ EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- **V4@THEATRE CRITICS RESIDENCY** – 7-days workshop led by Patrice Pavis (FR) for 14 participants from V4 and EaP countries
 - BLOG V4@THEATRE with articles, interviews, news of the participants of the residential stays;
 - 8 PRESENTATIONS situations of the contemporary theatre art in 8 countries (V4 + Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia, Armenia);
 - 5 matinées – Breakfast with... – DISCUSSIONS of Slovak and foreign critics about the performances of the International Festival Divadelná Nitra 2017;
 - Regular contributions to the V4@Theatre, interviews with artists...;
 - ex post REVIEWS – critics, news about the project and/or evaluations of the selected productions in the media of participating countries;
 - FINAL EVALUATION of the project – published at the website nitrafest and websites of the partners;
- **V4 THEATRE PRESENTATION** – theatre performances from the V4 and EaP countries (1 CZ, 1 HU, 1 PL, 2 – 3 SK and 1 from BY, MO, AM or UA);
- **PUBLIC DEBATES WITH SELECTED ARTISTS** from V4;
- **Public PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS** on the subject of the contemporary trends in performing art, artistic reflections of festival performances;
- **V4 FILM PRESENTATION** – screening films from the V4 and EaP countries;

■ V4 NETWORKING / REMINISCENCES

- MEETINGS of the representatives from the countries of the EEPAP network.
- MEDIA outputs and the publicity of the project.

➔ PLANNED PR ACTIVITIES

- Challenge of the V4@Theatre Critics Residency in the countries: AM, BY, CZ, HU, MD, PL, UA, SK / June 2017;
- Announcement of the selected participants of the V4@Theatre Critics Residency (press report and newsletter) / July;
- 2 press conferences of the International Festival Divadelná Nitra in Bratislava / July, September;
- Program brochure of the festival: 8 000 copies Slovak version, 1 000 copies English version / July;
- Festival posters: 500 copies / September;
- Festival catalog: 1 700 copies / September;
- E-invitation: 5 000 addresses / September;
- Leaflets: 200 copies / September;
- Outer banners of the performances of the V4: 3 copies / September;
- City lights: 20 copies / September;
- Tickets and e-tickets: 3 000 copies;
- Festival advertisement in print media: 5 x / September;
- Advertisement on TV and radio: 300 spots;
- Online advertisement cca. 500 000 clicks;
- 5 press reports in Slovak and English;
- 10 newsletters in Slovak and English (each sent to 5 000 e-mail addresses);
- www.nitrafest.sk;
- V4@THEATRE blog and social websites (facebook, twitter, youtube);

➔ PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF ADN IN THE AREA

Divadelná Nitra Association (ADN) is the major organizer of the International Festival Divadelná Nitra. During 25 years of its existence, it has regularly presented new names and works of established artists from the V4 countries (in the main programme 51 productions from the Czech Republic, 24 from Poland, 23 from Hungary, 157 from Slovakia).

The Association has been offering many educational activities, conferences and discussions on cultural policy, cultural management and theatre critique. In 2013–2014, it presented the results of the international project *Parallel Lives – the 20th Century through the Eyes of Secret Police*. ADN was its initiator and co-producer of these works: 6 new productions from Germany, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia, 6 documentary films (SK), 3 publications and several tens of accompanying activities.

➔ CONTINUATION OF THE PROJECT

Divadelná Nitra Association is starting a journey to next 25 years of the Festival; during them, it will present independent artists and theatre productions from the V4 countries as well as from other EaP and European countries. The festival will continue to deepen the dialogue and cooperation among the V4 partners, artists, critics and spectators. We believe that the workshop V4@Theatre Residency will continue to develop, that it will open up to more participants from the EaP and other European countries, and thus it will brisk up the exchange of ideas, reflections and thoughts on theatre.

Based on the evaluation of the last 25 years, the creative teams of the Association are formulating new intentions in frame of cooperation with the V4 and EaP countries with the aim to create new opportunities for the artists from the V4 and EaP countries, theatres, producers and other theatre professionals.

➔ EXPECTED RESULTS AND POSSIBLE RISKS

Stressing the V4 dimension in the area of art and theatre will open up important social, political and cultural questions of the contemporary Europe and the V4 region.

The cooperation with the partners in the V4 countries will develop.

We want to continue the tradition of theatre critics' residencies (V4 & EaP) which have gained a good reputation among its participants and for many people (especially from the Eastern European countries) it represents a unique opportunity for communication and establishing foreign contacts.

The risk of Divadelná Nitra Association's intents is the lack of financial resources – the Association is for a long time in danger of lowering quality of single projects because of lowering subsidies from public resources.

**Association
Divadelná Nitra**
Svätoplukovo námestie 4
950 53 Nitra
tothova@nitrafest.sk
www.nitrafest.sk

