



The first year of the international festival of participatory theatre and audience development

**Puppet Theatre at Rázcestí in Banská Bystrica 2023**  
**Press release**

**1st edition of EDUFEST**

**International festival of participatory theatre and audience development**

A pilot project within the context of Slovak theatre, the first in the given area, which will be held from September to December (always two days in a given month) for a different age group of children and teaching professionals working with children and youth, as well as the public. During the Festival, learning workshops will be held on topics such as how to use theatre and the potential of theatre in school and personal practice, how to systematically develop creativity, and facilitate emotional and mental growth using theatre techniques. Learning activities are closely connected to theatre performances with discussions about the analysis of the themes addressed in an analysed piece, and the aesthetic and ethical experience of theatre. 2023 EDUFEST features Slovak, Czech and Ukrainian theatres and distinguished specialist specialists on theatre education, creativity development, human rights topics from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and UK. The Festival concludes on **14 December 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** with an international colloquium **ONE YEAR AFTER THE INITIATIVE BB 22. LEARNING THROUGH THEATRE.**

Part 1 introduces Innovative methods of cooperation between schools, theatre and the public based on experience and participation abroad, which will be presented by leaders in the field from the Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine and UK.

Part 2 of the colloquium is dedicated to current methods of cooperation in Slovakia. It includes a working meeting of Slovak guests from theatres, universities and independent associations who will analyse the current state of learning through theatre / theatre education in Slovakia. (Simultaneous translation from and into English. Online platform.)



**Why come to the international festival of participatory theatre and audience development:**

- a unique chance to perceive the learning / educational level of theatre and get tips on how to apply it in practice
- see international productions
- learn how to implement theatre elements in work with children and youth at workshops
- to discuss
- every theatre has a learning / educational character, even if it is not created with the aim of educating; in every performance there is a chance for the discovery of various aesthetic and ethical impulses that can be used in practice and in personal life
- to make theatre accessible to the widest possible strata of population (theatre buildings are not important, what matters is live communication with people)
- to experience a wide range of stage productions with elements of new circus, an interactive storytelling production, an interactive outdoor production, musical emotions in the next production from the cycle of toddlers, a theatrical one-act play with a tasting of selected words, an author's theatre about Maria Montessori who changed the education of children, an author's docudrama from home and from abroad
- learn how to apply theatre elements to work with children and youth at workshops, because we learn best in an active way
- to meet outstanding lecturers with interdisciplinary knowledge of pedagogy, psychology and theatre
- impulse: from passive visit to theatre to active encounter.

In addition to performances, workshops and discussions, there will also be presentations of books by Michaela Vaňová *With Kids to the Theatre* about why communicate with children in the theatre and about the theatre? How to prepare children for a visit to the theatre? The author connects the practice of a theatre lecturer and actress of the Minor Theatre with theoretical knowledge of preschool and elementary school pedagogy and a series of three comics books based on well-known plays, which were published by the Theatre Institute as part of an international project called *Classics in a Comics Novel*. This project combines a comics novel and classic stage texts with to stimulate the relationship of high school students to the theatre and bring drama closer to them in an engaging and understandable form.

Accompanying events are complemented by an exhibition in BDNR foyer entitled **Watercolour Drawings for the Play Kamil** and student cartoon ideas about the well-known play from the international project of the Theatre Institute in Bratislava *Classics in a Comics Novel*.



Discussions **About Theatre After Theatre** will be held over coffee and led by Ivica Franeková.

Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region is the founder of the Puppet Theatre at the Crossroads.

The main convenor of the Festival is the Puppet Theatre at the Crossroads in Banská Bystrica.

EDUFEST is created in cooperation with a range of theatres, educational associations, inter alia DOX Prague, EduDrama Bratislava, Theatre Institute in Bratislava, Kunsthalle Prague, Post bellum, Central Slovak Gallery in Banská Bystrica, Academy of Arts, primary and secondary schools in Banská Bystrica.

The Festival is held under the patronage of the Minister of Culture Ms Silvia Hroncová. The Festival was supported by the Slovak Arts Council and the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region.

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