



The first International Festival of Participatory Theatre and Audience Development

Puppet Theatre at the Crossroads in Banská Bystrica, 2023

Press Release

A summary from October (*Growing with Theatre 2*) and an invitation for November (*Growing with Theatre 3*)

„Theatre has multiple important functions, but the most important one, in my opinion, is the fact that through drama, one can learn things by doing them.“

(Tintti Karppinen, *kod magazine 10/2022*)

The second part of *EDUFEST* took place on October 19 and 20, 2023. It featured ten artists and five lecturers who led educational workshops. Two hundred and seventy-two audience members attended the performances, 81 took part in the workshops, and eleven professionals from the fields of Arts and Education took part in discussions.

October's programme offered three performances for children aged six to eleven and for all who work and live with them. The performances had various approaches to theatrical form, e.g. explaining part of the Slovak language curriculum through play, use of the live cinema technique, or a performance featuring collective acting by Divadlo Polárka from Brno. We did not remain inside the theatre building only, but also visited a primary school classroom where a lecturer from Kunsthalle Prague, Pavlína Dusilová, worked with the children during class through her workshop *Telling Through Sound*.

We were also able to fulfil the aim of the festival – to raise awareness of education through theatre – thanks to four exceptional workshops (aside from *Telling Through Sound*, we also featured a workshop with TOYBOX, *4th Floors* with Barbara Jurínová and Veronika Kořínková-Willems, and *Take the Kids to the Theatre* with Michaela Váňová). The rich itinerary was completed by an exhibition from Czech comic artist TOYBOX titled *Aquarelles to accompany Kamil the Play* and our discussion titled *Coffee Hour: About Theatre after the Theatre*.

The October part of *EDUFEST* was successful, and we are glad that our audience members left satisfied.

On November 23 and 24, we would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to *Growing with Theatre 3*, dedicated to teenagers aged twelve to eighteen and all who work and live with them. We would like to invite you to attend, for example:





Medzinárodný festival participatívneho divadla a rozvoja publika

1. ročník 2023

Zážitkové semináre. Tvorivé ateliéry. Divadelné predstavenia.

Dva dni v každom mesiaci

SEPTEMBER NOVEMBER
OKTOBER DECEMBER

Výnimoční lektori a výnimočné lektorky. Skvelé divadlá.

- the *Dismantling Gender Stereotypes as a Road to Nondiscrimination* workshop (lector Katarína Minarovičová)
- the *Teaching English via Education through Theatre* workshop conducted in English (lector Daniela Bačová, University of Bolton, UK)
- a presentation of a series of comics titled *Classics in the Graphic Novel* (a one of a kind international project which introduces young people to classic works of literature through a new medium, organized in collaboration with the Theatre Institute)
- the *Freedom is not a Happy End! History of the 20th Century in Education* workshop (lectors Sandra Polovková and Slavomír Hlásny, Post Bellum)
- a performance by Matúš Bachynec: *Milada* (Slovak National Theatre, dir. Matúš Bachynec)
- and much more!

Cultural literacy is one of the key skills defined by the European Union. The aim of our work is to strengthen the key skills that will help students find personal fulfilment, participate in society, and find work. It is possible to strengthen cultural literacy as part of formal education (e.g. at school) as well as through informal education (e.g. cultural institutions).

EDUFEST is realized in collaboration with various theatres and educational groups, such as DOX Prague, EduDrama Bratislava, The Theatre Institute in Bratislava, Kunsthalle Prague, Post Bellum, the Central Slovak Gallery, the Academy of the Arts, various elementary and high schools in Banská Bystrica, and more.

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