



The first International Festival of Participatory Theatre and Audience Development

Puppet Theatre at the Crossroads in Banská Bystrica, 2023

Press Release

A summary from November (*Growing With Theatre 3*) and an invitation for December (*Growing With Theatre 4*)

“What is the difference between literacy and competence? To me, literacy is a base. It allows us to do the working of reading, writing, counting. Competences are something that allows us to act effectively, and they are developed over a lifetime. Take observation, for example – even a baby is predisposed to observe the world around it soon after it’s born. Competence, for us, will be the ability to think based on observation and to correctly use critical thinking in work and family life. Is it not, therefore, just a political goal, but a complex brain structure that needs to be continuously developed.”

(Darina De Jaegher, *Together Towards a New Curriculum*)

The third part of EDUFEST took part on November 23 and 24, 2023, featuring ten artists and workshops led by five lecturers. One hundred and nineteen audience members attended the performances, 70 participants attended the workshops, seventeen discussion participants from the fields of art and pedagogy took part in our *Coffee Hour: About Theatre after the Theatre* discussion. Our audiences also attended *Beautiful Helena?*, and 35 participants attended our discussion following the Slovak National Theatre’s performance of *Milada*. A special part of the programme was a presentation of three comics based on classic plays titled *Classics in the Graphic Novel*. These were part of an eponymous international project, which is realized as part of the Creative Europe initiative in collaboration with the European Union. The aim of the project is to make classic works of drama more attractive to young people through the medium of the graphic novel. Aside from graphic novels,





the project also produced various materials and workshops which can inspire pedagogical professionals in their practice. The presentation, attended by the director of the Theatre Institute Vladislava Fekete, was presented by Ivica Franeková, and featured conversations with project coordinator Dominika Zaťková, educational lector Veronika Kořínková, and artist Juraj Martiška. The presentation was attended by twelve audience members.

The November itinerary offered two performances for teenagers aged twelve to eighteen and for all who work and live with them. These were dedicated to the topic of one's relationship to their own body, facts and myths about beauty, love and sex (*Beautiful Helena?*, BNDR, dir. Zoja Zupková), as well as the individual fate of a historical figure, who stood by her opinions and was ultimately executed (*Milada*, SND, dir. Matúš Bachynec).

Once again, we did not only stay inside the theatre, but also visited classrooms. This time, we ventured out twice – to the Andrej Sládkovič high school with Katarína Minarovičová's workshop *Dismantling Gender Stereotypes as a Path to Nondiscrimination*, and to a primary school classroom with Michal Kučerák's workshop *Digital Future*.

The aim of the festival – to highlight possibilities of informal education through theatre – was also realized thanks to four extraordinary workshops (aside from the two already mentioned, we also offered *Teaching English Through Theatre Education* with lector Daniela Bačová from Bolton University in the UK, and *Freedom is Not a Happy End! History of the 20th Century in Education* with Sandra Polovková and Slavomír Hlásny from Post Bellum). The rich itinerary was enhanced by the exhibition *King Ubu in the Graphic Novel* – a comic-style reimagining by students of the famous play, which was part of the Theatre Institute project *Classics in the Graphic Novel*; as well as by our *Coffee Hour* discussion.

The November part of EDUFEST was successful, and we are pleased that our audiences left happy.



On December 13 and 14, we would like to warmly invite you to its fourth and final part, *Growing With Theatre 4*, dedicated to everyone who works and lives with young people, the future homo creativus. You can look forward to:

- *Inclusion and Theatre* seminar and workshop with lector Kateryna Lukanienko from the I. K. Karpenko National University of Theatre, Film and Television in Kyiv, Ukraine
- *Gender-aware Theatre in Theatrical Practice* with lector, director, dramatist and BDNR principal Iveta Škripková
- a performance of *Sixth Sense* by I. K. Karpenko National University of Theatre, Film and Television in Kyiv, Ukraine
- a performance of *Europe in Correspondence* by the Puppet Theatre at the Crossroads in Banská Bystrica
- an international colloquium titled *Education Through Theatre* with extraordinary guests from Slovakia and abroad. We will introduce and discuss innovative methods of collaboration between schools, theatres and the public based on the participation abroad and at home, and last but not least we will analyze:
 - what has happened and changed a year on from *Initiative 2022*
 - 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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**EDU
FEST** 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.

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The (ex) Slovak Minister of Culture, Silvia Hroncová, is parton of the festival.

Bábkové divadlo na Rázcestí
Skuteckého 14
974 01 Banská Bystrica
tel.: +421 48/ 412 55 13
mobil: +421 907 807 999
e-mail: bdnr@bdnr.sk
web: www.bdnr.sk; <https://bdnr.sk/edufest/>



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