

Call for Conference Papers

Theatre as a Value-based Discourse – Slovak Theatre and Contemporary European Theatre Culture

Organizers: Association of Slovak Theatre Critics and Theoreticians
The Institute of Theatre and Film Research of the Slovak Academy of Sciences

To be held on 5 and 6 October 2017, Bratislava

Baseline conference

What is contemporary European theatre like? In recent years, it has been sceptically believed that big personalities or grand themes have vanished. There is too much mediocrity and there are no personalities of the 20th century calibre who would have the power to move the theatre forward, to expand its forms and styles and to establish ingenious schools that would create new space for experimenting. And, above all, to shape a theatre responsive to the needs of our time. Modern theatre should also take an active part in a value-based discourse, bring up current themes that reverberate in unison with Man of our time, which is particularly complex and full of conflicts. Society needs such kind of theatre and we have it. But, can we recognize it? The conference focus is on the analysis of values represented by contemporary drama in recent decades and their connection with the newly-conceived values of a society of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. There is a need to define the state of theatre and its capacity to express, through artistic means, the theme of Man and his/her role in modern society, to explore to what extent theatre can fulfil its mission, from social, ethical or philosophical points of view, to be the stage of the world and to mirror Man's soul.

Conference goals

The objective is to present papers on theatre ensembles and theatre personalities who pose life-provoking themes in the world of conflicts. Each domestic or foreign speaker is invited to present an original example and through a kaleidoscope of papers the conference participants will be given the opportunity to observe what contemporary theatre is like, what personalities, ensembles or themes it offers. New emerging initiatives are expected to be inspirational. On the other hand, this also applies to older theatre and drama personalities, highly respected names, art streams, schools that have been around for many years or that re-emerge to join in the discourse with the generations of theatre professionals.

Conference thematic areas

Theatre personalities and modern theatre

The value message of the older personalities of theatre and drama for contemporary drama creation

Theatre acting as a support for or destruction of values?

Art theatre and/ or opinion theatre

Theatre language as a quest for a paragon

Message to the future

Between 1987 and 2016, in Taormina for the first time and most recently in Craiova, the Europe Theatre Prize was awarded. The main prize was awarded to the most esteemed personalities of European theatre and also The Europe Prize New Theatrical Realities went to tens of theatre professionals who contributed to the creation of theatre arts on the verge of millennia. Currently, for lack of funding, the event has come to a halt. Should it be renewed, will we be able to name the inspirational processes which contribute to making headway in our theatre? In European theatre? It is expected that also our conference will give answers to the questions, be to a modest extent.

Conference Submission:

Please, make the conference submission by turning in a completed registration form to the following address: katarina.ducarova@savba.sk by **30 June 2017 at the latest**.

The title of your presentation together with a short abstract (1,000 signs max.) and keywords shall be stated in Slovak and/or English language.

Upon review by the members of the conference programme committee the authors of handed in conference papers will receive a written invitation to the conference. The participation of invited conference speakers is free of charge.

Individual papers shall be presented within a standard time limit of 20 minutes.

Selected conference papers having the form of final studies (approximately 20 pages long), on the basis of "a double-blind peer review" will be incorporated in the conference proceedings to be published in 2018. The summaries and conference agenda will be posted on the following website: www.udfv.sav.sk.

Should you have any queries, please, contact the organization committee members:
dasaciripova@yahoo.com

Conference programme committee:

prof. PhDr. Miloš Mistrík, DrSc. (scientific guarantee)

prof. Ján Zavarský

doc. PhDr. Nadežda Lindovská, PhD.

Mgr. Michaela Mojžišová, PhD.

PhDr. Elena Knopová, PhD.

Conference organization committee:

PhDr. Katarína Ducárová

Mgr. Dáša Čiripová

Mgr. art. Lucia Mihálová

Mgr. art. Zuzana Spodniaková

The conference has been promoted by:

The Slovak Arts Council

Association of Slovak Theatre Critics and Theoreticians

ITFR SAS

- within the framework of the projects APVV No. 15-0764 and VEGA No. 2/0170/16

