

Activities

Romanian Centre of ITI (Europe)



UNITER awards gala.
Photo by Adi Bulboaca)

Activities November 2014 – May 2016

UNITER – The Romanian Association of Theatre Artists is a professional, apolitical, non-governmental and not-for-profit organization, resulting from the free association of artists from the theatre industry. As an active cultural element of national standing, UNITER is involved in supporting and developing Romanian theatre, in the use of national and universal heritage. Its activities form a network of quantifiable processes which fulfil the goals that form the basis of its existence, and the basis is a principle common to all professional organizations in the world: that is, running cultural programmes and projects that will benefit theatre professionals. UNITER develops its activities based on projects and programmes, the common principle of all professional organizations throughout the world.

The Romanian Centre of ITI – The International Theatre Institute

Since 1990, UNITER hosts the National Romanian Centre for the International Theatre Institute. The President of the Romanian Centre is Ion Caramitru, a famous Romanian actor and former Minister of Culture. The Centre does not have a fixed structure. Everyone working in the theatre industry may benefit from its services. The Centre offers professional assistance to foreign theatre people visiting Romania for research purposes.

“HOP” – Young Actors Gala

The Young Actor's Gala is part of the efforts made by UNITER to refresh Romanian theatrical life within a

stimulating framework offered to young professional actors, who are thus discovering a possibility of becoming better known and appreciated. It represents the most important Romanian programme dedicated to young professional actors. The event consists of an annual contest which takes place at the end of summer on the seaside, and lasts for a week. It represents a chance offered to young graduates of public and private universities to assert their own personality in a competition with their colleagues and it also constitutes an important “barometer” of young valuable actors. The last three editions were held under the guidance of the talented and charismatic director, Radu Afrim.

17th Edition: September 9-12, 2014

18th Edition: September 8-11, 2015

The World Theatre Day & the National Campaign “Artists for Artists”

27 March 2015, reading of the message of Krzysztof Warlikowski, Poland

27 March 2016, reading of the message of Anatoli Vassiliev, Russia

In addition to the International Message, the National Message written by Ion Caramitru was read on every Romanian theatre stage.

The Artists for Artists Campaign was started in 2002 with the aim of sensitizing public opinion in view of raising funds for the elder artists dealing with health and living problems throughout the country. The Campaign takes place every year, between March and April, this period being defined as one of theatrical

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UNITER awards gala
Photos by Maris Stefanescu



solidarity, taking into account that March 27 is the World Theatre Day. "Artists for Artists" was founded not only as a means of financial support, but also as a stimulator of artistic solidarity and as a signal for the theatre audience and the authorities.

The theatre solidarity component is ensured by the participation of artists in the creation of a charity show, which represents the top moment of the fundraising campaign, and also through the participation of theatre and artistic institutions in Romania, which collaborate with UNITER throughout the year.

Beyond the guild solidarity, UNITER also tried to attract donors, services and sponsorships, a component which managed to grow over the past few years, so as to make the "Artists for Artists" programme possible due to the already-established partnerships.

2015: Life Moments 3 at National Theatre Bucharest, attendance 1000 persons

2016 Magic Beings: The Actors at National Theatre Bucharest, attendance 1000 persons

Best Romanian Play

This is a permanent and annual project of UNITER aimed at the encouragement of autochthonous dramaturgy and to giving impetus to new texts for the theatre. Subsequently, the winning script is published in its own volume by UNITEXT Publishing House. The award is handed on the evening of The UNITER Gala Awards.

Fools' Time by Stela Giurgeanu was selected as Best Romanian Play for 2014

The Uniter Awards Gala

The 23rd edition on May 25th at National Theatre Bucharest

The 24th edition on May 9th at "Regina Maria" Theatre in Oradea

THE UNITER Awards Gala is one of the most important programmes of the Romanian Association of Theatre

Artists. It is organized every year, starting in 1991, and it awards the distinctions for the previous calendar year. It is the unmatched theatrical event of the year. The awards are given according to the principle of nominations made by a selection jury. From these nominations, another jury decides, on the night of the Gala, by secret vote, the winner of each award. The excellent collaboration with the Romanian Television – National TV Theatre, the Department for Music and Entertainment, and the Romania Cultural Radio Station of the Romanian Broadcasting Company makes it possible for the Gala to be broadcast live on TV and radio.

The Romanian National Theatre Festival

The Romanian National Theatre Festival, a cultural event of national and international importance, is organized every year by the Romanian Association of Theatre Artists (UNITER) in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and the Municipality of Bucharest. Support is given – in varying degrees - through numerous public institutions, media and cultural institutes active in Bucharest.

The Romanian Theatre Festival is the most important showcase of Romanian theatre and brings together the most relevant productions of the previous season, as well as valuable names of theatre globally. It has also proven to be a platform to send Romanian shows to the greatest stages of the world such as Edinburgh International Festival, Globe Theatre in Tokyo, Festival d'Avignon, Lincoln Centre Festival and many others. After six years, Marina Constantinescu - theatre critic, essayist and writer who has been dealing with the analysis of the theatrical phenomenon in Romania and beyond since 1990 - has come back to the helm of the festival.

The programme is composed like a puzzle, out of the remarkable figures of Romanian theatre direction, their energies, the energies of the actors, of the set designers they worked with, their feelings, and their stylistic and human obsessions. (www.fnt.ro)

24th edition, October 22-November 2, 2014

25th edition, October 23-November 1, 2015

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The House of Artists Programme

This unique programme offers social services to artists who experience difficult life situations due to old age, poverty or poor health. The programme aims, first of all, to satisfy the needs of the beneficiaries as soon as possible, and the creation of a social assistance and moral support framework. To fulfill its purpose, the partners in the project created a professional structure comprising specialized working instruments, specific human resources, a system of communication and collaboration relationships and rules, skills, knowledge and a set of values adaptable to the particular needs of our beneficiaries:

The objectives of the programme are:

- To develop social assistance at home, comprising several services which would compensate the lack of the day care centre (physiotherapy, medical assistance, social counseling);
- To create a structure of club-type activities, which could be carried out without the existence of a club-type facility (support groups with the beneficiaries, trips, birthday anniversaries, watching shows);
- To develop artistic and educational activities suggested by the beneficiaries with the programme's logistic support.

The Artists' Home also proved the fact that the offered social assistance services cannot reach their normal destination, namely the retired artist, without the support of the artistic community and the help of other elderly artists acting as mediators.

The monthly number of assisted beneficiaries fluctuated between 65 and 80.

The UNITEXT publishing house

The only editorial structure in Romania focusing on theatre exclusively, was founded and registered as a UNITER publishing house in 1993, aimed at supporting the development of written drama in anticipation of the collapse of books of, and about theatre, given the economic context after 1989. Starting from the premise that it is important for Romanian theatre also to have a written cultural foundation through the



coherent and scheduled publication of different titles, albums, etc., UNITER assured the role of supporting this important segment of national written culture – theatre books – and the UNITEXT publishing house is the instrument through which this provision is put into practice. The publishing house was conceived as a specifically distinct structure of the Romanian Association of Theatre Artists in Romania. It does not function as a legal entity of its own; it works as a department within UNITER, with its economic activity being carried out through the Association's complex structure.

Left: Romanian National Theatre Festival participating show Moliendo Café

Photo by Mihaela Marin

Right: Romanian theatre critic Marina Constantinescu on the RNTF

Photo by Adi Bulboaca