

Puppet Theatre Criticism Workshop

Bialystok (Poland), 20 to 25 June 2022

Contemporary puppet theatre and form theatre use means that require different knowledge and skills to describe and analyse performances than in the case of dramatic theatre. This type of theatre is becoming more and more interesting and meaningful. Unfortunately, still few critics can describe it. That is why the organizers decided to hold in Poland (a country with a significant role and history of puppet theatre), in Bialystok known as the "Polish capital of puppetry", during one of the most important puppet theatre festivals in Europe, workshops on puppet theatre criticism.

The Polish Section of IATC and Association of Polish Stage Artists (ZASP) is offering a workshop for young theatre critics, which will take place from 20 to 25 June 2022 in Bialystok (Poland), thanks to the support of the International Festival of Puppetry Schools. There will be three working groups, one in English, one in French. And one in Polish. If you are interested, you must apply as soon as possible, to be one of the five (5) candidates accepted in each group. For this, you must be a critic aged between 18 and 35. All candidates are invited to send their application form with a brief CV (just one page!), 2 or 3 samples of articles already published in media or internet.

Make sure you have a good verbal expression of the English, French or Polish language.

Accommodation can be in shared rooms, and meals are included for breakfast and dinner (according to Polish tradition in the time of lunch). You will receive a free pass for all the shows and for the discussions that will take place during the Festival.

The candidacies will be accepted until 6 June 2022. They must be sent to the director of workshops, Konrad Szczebiot: konrad.szczebiot@e-at.edu.pl

A final list of all chosen participants will be announced as soon as possible, to allow time for preparing your trip and for obtaining, if needed, a visa for Poland.

The names of the monitors:

Lucyna Kozien

Former general and artistic director of the Banialuka Puppet Theatre and director of the International Festival of Puppetry Arts in Bielsko-Biała (since 2003), theatre critic, editor-in-chief of the Puppet Theatre magazine. A graduate of Polish Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow and Postgraduate Journalism Studies at the Jagiellonian University. Currently, the 2nd Vice President of the POLUNIMA Puppet Center, previously (in 1989-95) also a member of the Board of PO ASSITEJ - International Association of Theatres for Children and Youth). Author of plays and stage adaptations staged in Banialuka, incl. Tales of a boy and

wind and Zbojnicka's story. Author of several books in the field of theatre, recently incl. the monographs of the Banialuka Puppet Theatre (Banialuka Puppet Theatre 1947-97 and Banialuka Puppet Theatre 1997-2007), 100 performances of the Polish puppet theatre (co-edited by Marek Waszkiel), the album Theatre without borders (published on the occasion of the jubilee 25th edition of the International Puppet Theatre Festival) and publications from the Puppet Theatre series (about puppet theatre artists: Jerzy Zitzman, Aleksander A. Labiniec, Jan Dorman, Włodzimierz Dobromilski, Krzysztof Rale). She published her texts about the theatre, among others on the pages of Animator, Puppet Theatre, Beskidzki Cultural Informator, Stage, Art for Children, Theatre, Around the Theatre, Relation-Interpretation.

Winner of, among others:

The National Competition "Closer to the Theatre" and "Scenes" for "outstanding achievements in popularizing the theatre" (1988),

Golden Mask - journalists and critics' awards for creative contribution to the development of the theatre (1997),

Awards of the Minister of Culture (1998),

Nomination for "Icarus" - Art Award of the President of Bielsko-Biala (2002 and 2008),

Awards of the Polish ASSITEJ Center for the Critic of the Year 2005 - "for an outstanding critic of theatre for children and youth" (2005),

Awards of the Marshal of the Silesian Voivodeship in the field of culture (2007),

Silver Medal "Gloria Artis" (2007)

Icarus - Awards of the Mayor of Bielsko-Biala in the field of culture and art for outstanding activity so far (2012)

Octavian Saiu

Professor Octavian Saiu is a scholar and professional theatre critic. He holds a PhD in Theatre Studies from National University of Theatre and Film (NUTF) in Romania, with a thesis about theatrical space, and another PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Otago in New Zealand, with a thesis about Samuel Beckett and Eugène Ionesco. He completed his PostDoc in Modern Literature at the University of Otago and has been awarded his Habilitation in Theatre and Performing Arts. He teaches in the Postgraduate Programme of NUTF, the Doctoral School of Sibiu University and the Centre of Excellence in Visual Studies of the University of Bucharest. He was Visiting Fellow at the University of London, School of Advanced Study, and has taught courses and offered master classes as Visiting Professor at various universities in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, as well as the Grotowski Institute. He has been actively involved, as Conference Chair and Invited Speaker, in several major theatre and academic events around the world, including the Theatre Olympics, Wuzhen Theatre Festival, as well as Edinburgh International Festival, where he was Chair of the Samuel Beckett Conference in 2013. Since 2004 he has been Chair of the Conferences of Sibiu International Theatre Festival. He is the Chair of the Shakespeare Studies Conference, organized by Craiova International Shakespeare festival in partnership with the International Association of Theatre Critics (IATC). He was Adjunct Secretary General of IATC and President of the Romanian Section Theatre Studies of IATC. He has published academic articles in several

international journals, as well as eleven books on theatre. He received the Critics' Award in 2010, the Award of the Union of Theatre Artists (UNITER) in 2013, and the Order of Cultural Merit from the President of Romania in 2020.

Alina Epîngeac

(PhD in Theatre and Performing Arts) is a theatre critic, lecturer and scholar. She has been a member of the International Association of Theatre Critics, Romanian Section – Theatre Studies since 2016. She is the author of *Manipulation through Theatre. crisis – creation- catharsis*, published by The University Print in 2020.

Between 2012 and 2015 she worked as artistic assistant for the 'Little' Theatre in Bucharest, and between 2015-2016 she was creative manager for Theatre Arts Group. As a theatre critic she wrote for yorick.ro online magazine (2012-2019), *Amfiteatru* (2019-2021) and collaborated with *Clipa* – cultural magazine, *BeWhere!* and *The Time*. She is the co-author of the anniversary album 'Little' Theatre. 50 years, and has started a cultural blog project, *d'E-pîn-geac..* In 2016 she was nominated for the National Theatre Prize for theatre criticism.

Since 2021 she has been a University lecturer in the Theatre Studies Department of the National University of Theatre and Film in Bucharest.

Deadline for candidature for the workshops: **6 June 2022.**

The candidature must be sent to the director of the workshops, Konrad Szczebiot: konrad.szczebiot@e-at.edu.pl

A final list of all chosen participants will be announced as soon as possible, to allow time for preparing your trip and for obtaining, if needed, a visa for Poland.

Co-Organizers of the workshops: The Polish Section of International Association of Theatre Critics IATC and the Association of Polish Stage Artists (ZASP).

Monitors: Lucyna Koziem, Octavian Saiu, and Alina Epîngea

Director of the workshops: Konrad Szczebiot