

News from Slovenia - Maribor Theatre Festival coming up in October!

The programme for the 54th Maribor Theatre Festival is ready. In the second half of October, Maribor (Slovenia) will once again be the epicentre of the theatre (and theatre related) meetings and exchanges. Conceived to be international and inclusive, the Maribor Theatre Festival remains after decades the main Slovenian theatre festival and a platform that is increasingly developing in the direction of international affirmation of Slovenian theatre, training, audience development, and connections. New and expanded contents dictate that we retain the fortnight format we introduced last year, expand the content once more to a number of venues around town; along with its home stages at the Slovenian National Theatre Maribor.

The Competition Programme this year will present twelve Slovenian productions, the choice of the festival selector – a playwright, director and theatre educator Matjaž Zupančič – and an extensive selection of Slovenian and international producers in the Accompanying Programme. The selection follows the principle that any selected production is chosen for an important achievement, a noticeable shift in the theatre season, and that the competition and accompanying programmes together allow us a relatively comprehensive insight into the actual state of Slovenian theatre art. The performances in the Competition Programme and both selections for young audiences will be followed by discussions with artists. Honouring its mission, this year's edition of the festival is emphasizing the complexity and breadth of theatre creativity, offering a wide range of aesthetics and different approaches, and with that trying to encourage diversity and connectedness in our theatre space and expression. Recently, we've also been trying to take advantage of the ever-increasing international facet of the festival and use it as a showcase, a platform to promote and assert Slovenian theatre to foreign selectors, artistic directors, critics and journalists, therefore, the majority of the performance will be subtitled in English. Development of new audiences and inclusion of international students were styled into a permanent programme segment last year, Young and Student Theatres will be expanded and joined by foreign partners, and in collaboration with the Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film, and Television, The University of Ljubljana, we're developing different ways to actively include students. Together with the Association of Theatre Critics and Researchers of Slovenia, we are preparing an international symposium about theatre criticism, with the International Theatre Institute, an important regional meeting with a number of foreign guests.

Save the date and welcome to Maribor Theatre Festival!

Aleš Novak, Artistic Director

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