

ARTORIUM 2026

19.-22.10.2026

16th international festival of higher arts schools



FESTIVAL BULLETIN / EN

Banská Bystrica
Faculty of Dramatic Arts / Academy of Arts

artorium. full stop.

student theatre. full stop.

independent theatre. full stop.

theatre. full stop.

art. full stop.

expertise. full stop.

transparency. full stop.

no conflicts of interest. full stop.

let's go for a run. full stop.

shame. full stop.

embarrassment. full stop.

solidarity with the staff

of the Slovak Arts Council. full stop.



On stage.

19.10.2026 / 16:00

Miracle

Bábkové divadlo na Rázcestí / Puppet Theatre at the Crossroads

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Oxygen

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Behind the Mask

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Portal

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19.10.2026 / 16:00

Bábkové divadlo na Rázcestí / Puppet Theatre at the Crossroads

Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava / Slovakia

Ludmila Riznerová Podjavorinská

Miracle

An unwanted pregnancy, fear of condemnation and the killing of a child. Miracle returns to Ludmila Riznerová Podjavorinská's ballad and a subject society is often quicker to punish than to understand. Behind personal tragedy, it exposes the pressure of religious rules, social shame and women's unequal position.

Katarína Šafaříková's production combines the poem with Slovak folk songs inspired by Béla Bartók's collections. Their images of sexuality and relationships also reveal hypocrisy within familiar traditions. Students of the Academy of Performing Arts ask what happens to someone pushed to the margins by their own community. Literary and musical memory meets the experience of women whose bodies and lives are judged by others.

DIRECTION

Katarína Šafaříková

MUSIC

Juraj Bielik

COSTUMES

Justína Jaňáková

CHOREOGRAPHY

Jozef Vaľo

LIGHTING DESIGN

Soňa Meszárošová, Jaro Ďuriš

PRODUCTION

Nikola Zelinová

CAST

Vanesa Facunová, Nora Gandi, Oliver Horváth, Karolína Kozáková, Zakharii Lupiichuk, Samuel Michalík, Marek Mráz, Denisa Oláhová, Lucia Šimková, Mátyás Takács.



19.10.2026 / 19:30

Large Studio / Theatre of the Academy of Arts

Academy of Arts, University of Novi Sad / Serbia

Ljubomir Simović

The Šopalović Travelling Theatre

Should actors perform while people protest in the streets and universities are blockaded? Acting students from Novi Sad approach Ljubomir Simović's play through their own experience of civic resistance. Their encounter with the Šopalović travelling company becomes an examination of their profession and responsibility.

Directed by Boris Liješević, the production connects the dramatic characters' positions with the performers' experiences of protests and university blockades. Its open form asks when theatre is needed and what its presence or absence can mean. The audience is drawn into the question: what purpose does art serve in a society that challenges the conditions of its existence, and what role do we want to play?

DIRECTION

Boris Liješević

CAST

Master's acting students of the Academy of Arts, University of Novi Sad.

a.

20.10.2026 / 17:00

Small Studio / Theatre of the Academy of Arts

Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica - Faculty of Dramatic Arts / Slovakia

Ivan Vyrypajev

Oxygen

Sanyok falls in love with red-haired Sasha and kills his wife. Told by HE and SHE, the story raises questions of desire, violence and personal responsibility. What remains of moral rules when a person mistakes their own truth for an excuse?

Ivan Vyrypaev structures Oxygen as ten strongly rhythmic scenes. Fragments of narrative, irony and harsh language capture a generation trying to navigate collapsing values. Stanislav Bílý's production explores the need to breathe again and the danger of placing personal desire above another person's life. Where does the search for freedom end and ruthlessness begin?

DIRECTION

Stanislav Bílý

PEDAGOGICAL SUPERVISION

Petra Kovalčíková, Jaroslav Daubrava

TRANSLATION

Romana Maliti

SET AND COSTUME

Nina Vidovencová

PRODUCTION

Michal Ditte

TECHNICAL COLLABORATION

Jozef Mituch, Marián Vereš, Martin Matouš

CAST

Alina Kravchenko (SHE), Kristián Schrenk (HE), Dominika Výrostek
Misárová (VOICE).



20.10.2026 / 19:00

Large Studio / Theatre of the Academy of Arts

Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava / Slovakia

Maxim Gorkij

There's No Place Like Home

Based on The Philistines

In the Bessemyonov family's living room, people live close together yet find it increasingly difficult to understand one another. A world falling apart meets a world struggling to emerge. Home becomes a place where the future is negotiated through everyday family conflict.

Pavol Viecha's adaptation of Gorky's tragicomedy The Philistines follows the tension between preserving an established order and wanting to live differently. Major social change unfolds in the familiar space of a living room, in relationships and failures of understanding. A text more than a century old reminds us how little a shared address can mean when everyone inhabits a different world. The promise of the title gradually loses its certainty.

DIRECTION

Pavol Viecha

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Alex Mihalík, Peter Kepeňa

DRAMATURGY

Katarína Káziková

ASSISTANT DRAMATURG

Michaela Jančošková

SET DESIGN

Paulína Binderová

ASSISTANT SET DESIGNER

Katarína Šotterová

COSTUMES

Sára Hunčárová

LIGHTING DESIGN

Nina Kuchtová

MAKE-UP

Rebecca Vargová

MUSIC

Sára Gál, Adriana Moravčíková

PRODUCTION

Emma Vašková, Lucia Serdahelyová

INTERNAL CRITICISM

Katarína Ridillová

CAST

Sára Gál, Adriana Moravčíková, Mário Mačičák, Mária Miklošková, Alex Frič, Samuel Ducár, Richard Hainc, Nazar Kulchykovskyyi, Kateryna Kolisnichenko, Viktória Svoradová, Marián Kužma, Barbora Panáková, Katarína Novotková, Adrián Hudák.

21.10.2026 / 17:00

Bábkové divadlo na Rázcestí / Puppet Theatre at the Crossroads

University of Ljubljana - Academy of Theatre, Radio, Film and Television / Slovenia

Peter Alojz Marn, Ula Talija Pollak

The Passion According to Peter, or The Long Way Home

A young person leaves the periphery for Ljubljana and enters adulthood alongside a new city. The desire to belong meets the ambition to move beyond the world he came from. What can he take with him, and what must he sacrifice to be accepted?

Peter Alojz Marn and Ula Talija Pollak draw on autofiction and a shared process of creating material for the stage. Through one life story, they explore social background, identity and the difference between material and cultural resources. Leaving home reveals boundaries that moving cannot erase. Who defines success, who is allowed to transcend their social position, and is it still possible to return home?

DIRECTION

Peter Alojz Marn

DRAMATURGY

Ula Tališa Pollak

MUSIC

David Nik Lipovac

SET DESIGN

Živa Brglez

COSTUMES

Nina Gorišek

LIGHTING DESIGN

Veronika Hana Grubič, Domen Lušin

CAST

Peter Alojz Marn.

a.

21.10.2026 / 19:00

Large Studio / Theatre of the Academy of Arts

Projekt Batyskaf / Slovakia, in co-production with ARCHA+ / Czechia

Adam Dragun

Alex

GUEST PERFORMANCE

In August 2023, Adam Dragun receives a message from a dramaturg at a prestigious Slovak theatre institution who has lost faith in his work and in theatre itself. Dragun is asked to help him create a solo performance. He also sees an opportunity to fulfil his own dream of becoming a major director. Their search turns into a dangerous mixture of creation, amateur psychoanalysis and self-presentation.

For two years, Dragun records conversations, messages and the process's dead ends. Re-enactments, screen recordings, video, live camera and stage action form a documentary performance about burnout, ambition and the need to create when theatre's meaning begins to collapse. Adult exhaustion meets a child's idea of acting, gradually blurring the boundaries between protagonist, director and the material of the work.

DIRECTION, WRITING, CONCEPT AND PERFORMANCE

Adam Dragun

SET DESIGN, CONCEPT AND DRAMATURGY

Klára Dolník

DRAMATURGY

Roman Poliak

DRAMATURGY AND IDEA

Mário Drgoňa

VIDEO AND LIVE CAMERA

Eva Gabrižová

PROJECTION AND LIGHTING

Ondrej Mankovecký

MUSIC AND SOUND DESIGN

Oliver Dragun

LIGHTING DESIGN

Lukáš Klíma

EDITING

Petra Štefancová

PRODUCTION

Ivo Dobrovodský, Barbora Maksymovová

DRAMATURGICAL CONSULTATION

Sodja Zupancic Lotker, Wojtek Ziemilski, Olga Ciężkowska, Branislava Kuburović

CAST

Adam Dragun, Anna Tóthová, Mário Drgoňa, Eva Gabrižová.

22.10.2026 / 17:00

Small Studio / Theatre of the Academy of Arts

Kyiv National I. K. Karpenko-Kary Theatre, Cinema and Television University -
Faculty of Theatre Arts, Department of Puppetry / Ukraine

Kateryna Lukianenko

Behind the Mask

Daily routine, collective pressure and war enter individual lives and the most private hopes for the future. Behind the Mask explores these experiences without words. Masks, shadows, tabletop puppets and animated objects create images of a world in which people struggle to preserve their own identity.

Director Kateryna Lukianenko and the creative collective combine four forms of puppetry through movement, light and visual composition. The production addresses dictatorship, collective consciousness and the personal consequences of war: forced mobilisation, the loneliness of mothers raising children without a partner, and children's dreams that endure despite trauma. Large-scale events take the form of fragile human lives.

DIRECTION

Kateryna Lukianenko

SET AND COSTUMES

creative collective

MUSIC BY

Meredith Monk, Too Many Zooz, Vivienne Mort

MUSICAL SUPERVISION

Anastasiia Povieshcnenko

CAST

Anna Usova, Oleksandra Vychavka, Anton Bodiako, Eugenia Pelepko,
Viktoriia Yarytyk, Mariia Karetnyk, Artur Manukian, Roman Ovcharenko.



22.10.2026 / 19:00

Large Studio / Theatre of the Academy of Arts

Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica - Faculty of Dramatic Arts / Slovakia

Dodo Gombár

Portal

Twelve scenes bring young people into situations where familiar answers no longer work. Words can wound, while silence can reveal what the characters dare not say. Portal follows a generation seeking support in a world that continually exposes it to doubt.

Dodo Gombár wrote the text for the master's graduation production of acting students at the Academy of Arts. As author, dramaturg and director, he focuses on encounters at the limits, precision of expression and the tension between what is spoken and withheld. Uncertainty and the need to find direction connect the scenes. Meaning also emerges in the pauses, when words can no longer conceal what is happening.

DRAMATURGY, DIRECTION AND SET DESIGN

Dodo Gombár

ACTING COACH

Richard Sanitra

MOVEMENT COLLABORATION

Mária Tóčík Knoppová

PRODUCTION

Zuzana Budinská

THEATRE MANAGER

Michal Ditte

CAST

Romana Babicová, Veronika Gašperanová, Samuel Konečný, Alina Kravchenko, Eva Kubaliaková, Alexandra Sokolová, Anna Suráková, Tibor Szalona, Timotej Taraba.



Movement. Writing. Film.

Movement workshop

Led by Zebastián Méndez Marín.

Creative writing workshop

Led by writer Soňa Uriková.

Student films

Two film blocks present work by students of the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica.

Discussions

Performances are followed by discussions led by students, lasting up to 30 minutes.

Beyond the stage.

19.10. / 15:30

Discussion: L. Kerata & K. K. Bagala

Cinema hall

19.10. / 19:00

Festival opening

Outside the Large Studio / Faculty of Dramatic Arts

20.10. / 09:00-14:00

Arts workshop I

Faculty of Dramatic Arts

20.10. / 14:00-16:00

Film block I

Cinema hall

21.10. / 09:00-14:00

Arts workshop II

Faculty of Dramatic Arts

22.10. / 14:00-16:00

Film block II

Cinema hall

OFF PROGRAM / ACADEMY

19.10. / 22:30 · 20.-22.10. / 22:00

Behind the festival.

DRAMATURGY

Michal Ditte

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Janka Šúrová

FILM TEAM COORDINATION

Veronika Hollá

TECHNICAL TEAM

Jozef Mituch, Marián Vereš, Martin Matouš

FESTIVAL TEAM

Students of the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Academy of Arts
in Banská Bystrica

See you at the theatre.

Organiser

Faculty of Dramatic Arts, Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica
Horná 95, Banská Bystrica

Venues

Theatre of the Academy of Arts - Large and Small Studios
Bábkové divadlo na Rázcestí

Programme and reservations

divadlo.aku.sk
artorium.aku.sk

Support

Supported using public funding by the Slovak Arts Council, the project's main partner.

projekt z verejných
zdrojov podporil
hlavný partner projektu

u. fond
na podporu
umenia



Akadémia umení
v Banskej Bystrici
– Fakulta
dramatických
umení

BÁBKOVÉ
DIVADLO
NA RÁZ CESTÍ



Programme subject to change.



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BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

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