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## DAH Theatre in 2011

### Festival and Conference *Passing the Flame*

In June 2011, DAH Theatre celebrated a significant achievement: Its **20th anniversary!** DAH is the only professional theatre group working in Serbia that has existed for so many years.

**Between June 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 Dah Theatre's *Passing the Flame* event hosted such significant theatre creators as Eugenio Barba and Odin Teatret (Denmark), Peter Schuman and Bread and Puppet Theatre (USA), Jill Greenghalgh (Wells), Rena Mirecka (Poland); Gennady Bogdanov (Russia) and many others.**

*Passing the Flame* was a project consisting of both a Festival and Conference whose main themes were: encounters between different generations of theater practitioners, the importance of continuity and endurance in culture, the transmission of knowledge in the field of theatre, and how knowledge existing in an ephemeral art form such as live performance might be documented and preserved for posterity.



### The premiere of the performance *Tender, Tender, Tenderly*

As a part of the Festival DAH Theatre presented their new performance *Tender, Tender, Tenderly* at the Bitef Theatre. The performance is a co-production between Dah Theatre and the Cultural Centre of Novi Sad and features a collaboration between DAH Theatre and The Secondhanders

This concert-performance deals with the theme of nostalgia and its cultural influence on the former Yugoslavia. It explores the possibility of a cultural space employing the form of a concert and the musical heritage of an area that was once culturally unique. It is a space not defined by geography or historical data but composed of the immeasurable experiences of living with a common fantasy – of living in “the best country in the world”.



## **International School for Actors and Directors**

The final element of *Passing the Flame* was the presentation of DAH Theatre's 10th International School for Actors and Directors. Every year the DAH Theatre Research Centre offers an intense three-week program of events and practical workshops for both actors and directors using contemporary theatre techniques.



## **The project *In/visible City***

Dah Theatre is the first organization from Serbia to be authorized by the European Commission as the coordinator and a manager of project funded by the EU programme "Culture 2007-2013". The project is lead by Dah Theatre with collaboration from artistic organizations based in Denmark, Great Britain, Macedonia and France.

The main goal of the project *In/Visible City* is to promote different ethnic cultures through dialogue using contemporary theatre tools. *In/Visible City* began in Belgrade in 2005. Sessions of the current project were presented in Belgrade (Serbia) in June and in Skopje (Macedonia) in November.



## **Networking Memories 2011/ 2012**

DAH Theatre is a part of a second EU project *Networking Memories*. The project's purpose is to create a new and sustainable network featuring 8 cultural and civil society organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Kosovo and Serbia (Dah Theatre) with the aim of involving citizens in the realization as well as in the conception of multi-country joint activities.

Sanja Krsmanović Tasić is a member of the *NETWORKING MEMORIES* artistic team. She worked as the Movement Director and Choreographer to create a new performance "*Little School of Remembrance - Cabaret for the nostalgic*". It premiered on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September in Priština and on the 29<sup>th</sup> in Peja. In 2012 the collaboration will continue in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Italy.

## **Collaboration with PLAYHOUSE Centre**

Dijana Milošević and Jugoslav Hadžić collaborated with the Derry Playhouse arts centre, Northern Ireland on the project "I Can". The book [Acting Together on the World Stage: Moral Imagination and Resilience](#) was

presented during the programme at the Playhouse's International Culture and Arts Network. Dijana Milošević and Cynthia Cohen lead a Master-Class in Arts & Peace-building for community artists.

## **Inside the Laboratory**

The annual program **Inside the Laboratory** continues as it has since 2004. Designed for professional practitioners, students and scholars from different fields it aims to present the "secrets" behind DAH Theatre Research Center's working methods, its ethics and esthetics.

## **Guest performances at DAH Theatre**

### **Specci e memorie**

In March 2011, the Italian theatre company **Specci e memorie** presented their performances *L'ultimo Celo* and *La Mia Marina* at Dah theatre.

### **Birgitte Grimstad**

In November 2011, Dah theatre in collaboration with the Norwegian embassy hosted Birgitte Grimstad; a leading figure in the Norwegian music scene since the sixties. Birgitte held a vocal master-class and presented the work *My life* and the performance *Who was Hans Christian Andersen?*

## **Tours**

In 2011, Maja Mitić led several workshops in Great Britain; at the University of Essex, at Goldsmith's University in London and at the University of Kent.

Dijana Milošević was nominated and participated at the International Award Ceremony "Rosamund Gitder/Martha Coigney" in New York (USA), organized by the League of Professional Theatre Women. Dijana participated at the Brandeis University as a part of the Peacebuilders and Art programme.

Sanja Krsmanović Tasić participated at the Magdalena Project's 25<sup>th</sup> Year Festival *Legacy and Challenge* in Cardiff (Wales). She also led a workshop ART NEST for the Festival participants.

As a part of the project Without Borders – Inclusion, Culture and Art in Bijelo Polje (Montenegro), Sanja led dance workshop with people with and without disabilities.

## **Dah Theatre participation in Festivals**

### **BITEF POLYPHONY, Belgrade, Serbia**

As a part of the Bitef Polyphony programme Dah Theatre presented their performance *In/visible City*.

### **SELF POWERED Festival, Belgrade, Serbia**

As a part of the Independent Cultural Serbian Scene Festival *Self Powered*, Dah Theatre presented the performance *The Nastasjević Code*.



## SKUPI FESTIVAL, Skopje, Macedonia

As a part of the Skupi Festival in Skopje (Macedonia) Dah Theatre presented their performance *Crossing the Line*.

## OFF FRAME, Belgrade, Serbia

As a part of the first regional socially engaged theatre OFF FRAME, Dah Theatre presented their performance *Crossing the Line*.



The critic Zlatko Paković called the performance *Crossing the Line* 'the one and only truly politically engaged performance that we have had the chance to see in Serbian Theatre since October 5, 2000'

## Danas IX

subota - nedelja, 8 - 9. oktobar 2011.

### „Prelazeći liniju“ jedina istinski politička predstava

Pre dve i po godine, u Dah teatru je izvedena premijerno predstava „Prelazeći liniju“, u režiji Dijane Milošević, koja nije imala tu priliku da učestvuje na velikim festivalima u konkurenciji za neku od prestižnih nagrada. U njoj se ne izgovaraju imena srebreničkih žrtava, niti se događaju incesti u Sarajevu dok snajperisti ubijaju njegove građane, niti se, pak, u kabaretskom tonu, ironično uzvikuju nacionalističke zapaljive floskule. Nastaloj na osnovu knjige „Ženska strana rata“ koju su objavile Žene u crnom, u njoj glumice Sanja Krsmanović Tasić, Ivana Milenović i Maja Mitić izgovaraju reči srebreničkih majki kojima su deca ubijena na sopstvene oči, reči silovanih žena i svedokinja drugih ratnih užasa. „Prelazeći liniju“ jedina je istinska politička predstava koju smo od 5. oktobra 2000. do danas videli u srpskom pozorištu.

Zlatko Paković

Critic translation:

Daily newspaper **Danas**, October 2011.

The performance *Crossing the Line*, which premiered two and a half years ago, directed by Dijana Milosevic, did not have the chance to participate at festivals nor to be in competition for some of the prestigious awards. In this performance (like in many others) there are no victim's names pronounced, no incest traumas happening in Sarajevo while snipers are killing its citizens. There are no inflammatory nationalistic platitudes ironically shouted in a cabaret manner.

Based on the book *Women Side of War*, published by Women in Black organization, actresses Sanja Krsmanovic Tasic, Ivana Milenovic and Maja Mitic are speaking out words of mothers from Srebrenica whose children were killed before their own eyes, the words of raped women and witnesses of other horrible atrocities. The performance *Crossing the Line* is the one and only true politically engaged performance that we have had the chance to see in Serbian Theatre since October 5, 2000.

**Zlatko Paković.**