

**THEATRE** /  
**IS DIALOGUE**  
DIALOGUE OF  
CULTURES

European networking with  
Eastern European theatres

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**PRESSKIT**

## **About the project**

For the fourth year in a row, the European Theatre Convention (ETC) together with Staatstheater Braunschweig and Eastern European partners are setting in motion a fruitful collaboration with Ukrainian theatres and artists in 2017.

As part of the project *Theatre is Dialogue – Dialogue of Cultures: European networking with Eastern European theatres*, several activities and events aim at enabling an open cultural dialogue throughout theatre with and within Ukraine, fostering professional artistic exchange and opening new perspectives for young Ukrainian and Eastern European theatre makers.

**In order to realize these goals, the following actions are carried out in 2017:**

- 1) 7-10 May: Guest performances of the play *End of Imitation 2.0* by the Post Residency Theatre group at festivals and theatres in Heidelberg, Karlsruhe and Braunschweig (Germany).
- 2) September–November: Two multilateral fellowship programs in Ukraine, Georgia and Germany enable young Ukrainian, Georgian and other European theatre makers to enter into a professional dialogue and to connect with international colleagues in order to exchange about the public and sociopolitical role of theatre as well as about current aesthetic developments.
- 3) September: A newly built online platform promoting Ukrainian theatres and their work across Ukraine and abroad will be launched in 2017. A working group, created in the frame of the project 2016 and based in Kiev, will keep on discussing, exploring and elaborating new possibilities of promoting the independent theatre scene in Ukraine in a sustainable way.
- 4) ETC creates a sustainable intercultural network with Eastern European artists and theatre makers by strengthening ties through its Ukrainian members Dakh Theatre and Kiev Academic Molodyi Theatre.

### **Coming up next:**

From 1-18 September 2017, the ETC and our Ukrainian partners from CCA DAKH and GOGOLFEST are happy to welcome five European theatre directors in Kiev to participate in a two-weeks residency program in the frame of the multidisciplinary festival *GOGOLFEST*. Together with young Ukrainian actors, the five theatre makers Peter Cant from the UK, Katharina Schenk and Charlene Markow from Germany, Avtandil Diasamidze and Ana Tsutskiridze from Georgia will develop small scale productions to be presented on the second festival weekend from September 16-17 in front of an international audience.

Furthermore, the Post Residency Theatre Group, a collective of Ukrainian theatre makers is invited to join this year's international delegation at the Georgian Showcase, taking place in the frame of Tbilisi International Festival of Theatre from 2 – 6 October 2017. Mentored and accompanied by Uwe Gössel, vice-chairman of German Dramaturgical Society, aesthetics, forms and topics of the presented performances within current dramaturgical developments will be in focus of their international exchange. Besides visiting recent Georgian theatre performances, the young theatre makers will get the chance to network with theatre colleagues from all over the world and gain new perspectives on theatre festival management.

During October and November, five Ukrainian artists will work for four weeks at ETC member theatres in Georgia and Germany. The intensive work program involves the scholars in the daily creative and artistic processes until a production premiere, thus offering the chance to discover the working structures of a theatre in a foreign country. A scholarship meeting at the *Fast Forward* Festival at Staatsschauspiel Dresden (2-5 November) offers the space to deepen the exchange and to further network with artists from across Europe. Hosting theatres are the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Deutsches Theater Berlin and Staatsschauspiel Dresden in Germany as well as Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre in Tbilisi, Georgia.

As part of the project, ETC initiated in 2016 a work group of Ukrainian theatre professionals; most of them participants of the ETC 2015 scholarship program and representatives of both ETC's associated members Dakh Theatre and Kiev Academic Molodyi Theatre. The work group will continue its mission in 2017 with the attempt to involve members of the civil society and stakeholders in a democratic consultation process and engage in a structured dialogue between with policy-makers. The aim of the group is to elaborate new possibilities of collaboration between the independent theatre scene and public theatre houses and to explore potentials of an infrastructure that promotes independent artists and companies offering sources of funding, co-production and space. To this end and as a first result of the previous work, a new website will be launched in the frame of the project by the middle of September.

### **Looking back at actions in May 2017:**

As a result of the previous cultural and artistic exchanges from 2014-2016 and as successful continuation of the programme, this year's edition of the project *Theatre is Dialogue - Dialogue of Cultures: European networking with Eastern European theatres* featured the presentation of the production *End of Imitation 2.0* by the Post Residency Theatre Group, 2015 ETC artists in residency, at the festival Heidelberger Stückemarkt (7 May), Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe (9 May) and Staatstheater Braunschweig (10 May) in Germany. With the documentary play *End of Imitation 2.0* a group of young theatre-makers from Ukraine, who spent six weeks working in theatres in Germany, Austria and Georgia, reinvestigate their experience and explore its potential for the development of the Ukrainian theatre scene. It is about a feeling of uselessness and foreignness, but also about tolerance, joint responsibility for performance, equality and a forward-looking perspective on the world.

## Agenda 2017

- 7 May** **End of Imitation 2.0**, directed by Pavel Yurow  
Guest performances by the Post Residency Theatre Group  
11h, Zwinger<sup>3</sup>, Heidelberger Stückemarkt (Germany)
- 9 May** 20h, STUDIO, Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe (Germany)
- 10 May** 20h, Kleines Haus, Staatstheater Braunschweig (Germany)
- 1 – 18 September** **ETC artistic residency** for young European theatre directors  
**at the GOGOLFEST** in Kiev (Ukraine)
- 7 – 17 September** **GOGOLFEST 2017** in Kiev (Ukraine)
- 16 - 17 September** **Performances by ETC artists in residency at the GOGOLFEST**  
in Kiev (Ukraine)
- 2 – 6 October** **Georgian Showcase** by Tbilisi International Festival of Theatre  
Tbilisi (Georgia)
- 26 – 29 October** **ETC International Theatre Conference: “From Mythology to  
Technology”**, hosted by Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre,  
Tbilisi (Georgia)
- October – November** **ETC four-week residencies for Ukrainian theatre makers** at  
Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre, Tbilisi (Georgia),  
Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe (Germany), Deutsches  
Theater Berlin (Germany), Staatsschauspiel Dresden (Germany)
- 2 – 5 November** **Fast Forward Festival and ETC scholarship meeting**  
at Staatsschauspiel Dresden, Germany

**For more information about the project, please visit the ETC website:**

[www.etc-cte.org/theatredisdialogue](http://www.etc-cte.org/theatredisdialogue)

## **Publications about the project and general information about the theatrical landscape in Ukraine:**

[„In Focus Ukraine: European networking with Ukrainian theatres and theatre makers”](#)

2014 – An overview

[„Theatre, Freedom, Dialogue: European networking with theatres in Ukraine and Belarus”](#)

2015 – First Ukrainian Theater Showcase in Kiev; Belarus Free Theatre “Staging a Revolution” Festival; Ten Ukrainian artists in ten ETC member theatres

[„Theatre, Freedom, Dialogue”](#)

2015 – International press review of the project

[„Theatre, Freedom, Dialogue”](#)

2015 – Flyer

[„Awakening: New horizons in the independent theatre scene in Ukraine”](#)

2016 – On the necessity of new dramatic languages and expressions, The rise of a new generation of artists, New horizons – ETC scholarship programmes 2016

## ETC artists in residency at the GOGOLFEST 2017 in Kiev:



### **Ana Tsutskiridze – Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre**

She is a young Georgian theatre director studying at Shota Rustaveli State Theatre and Film University in Tbilisi. Her works include fragments from Anton Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*, August Strindberg's experimental work *Miss Julie* and she recently co-directed the performance *Bakula's Pigs* with Levan Tsuladze, artistic director at Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre in Tbilisi.



### **Avtandil Diasamidze – Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre**

He studies drama direction at Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film University in Tbilisi, Georgia. Amongst others, he directed several choreographic works, such as *Cube* at Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre and a pre-thesis to Tennessee Williams' *Glass Menagerie*. Avtandil was part of ETC's artistic residency program at the Gogolfest 2016 and will continue his work based on Julio Cortázar's novel *House Taken Over* with Ukrainian actors in 2017.



### **Charlene Markow – Schauspiel Leipzig (Germany)**

She is a German freelance author and theatre maker. From 2010-2014 she worked at Rottstr5-Theater in Bochum where she directed the productions *Die Rückkehr*, *Fräulein Else*, *Batman* and *Kassandra*. Charlene has published several theatre plays and three text volumes *Wechselbalk* (2013), *Blaupause* (2013) and *Tabernakel* (2014). Since 2015 she is working as assistant director at the Schauspiel Leipzig.



### **Katharina Schenk and Peter Cant – Deutsches Theater Berlin (Germany and United Kingdom)**

**Katharina** is a German actress. After completing her diploma at the acting school Charlottenburg in Berlin (2011), several engagements at Landestheater Schleswig-Holstein, Staatstheater Saarbrücken, Hans-Otto-Theater Potsdam, Ballhaus Ost and Deutsches Theater Berlin followed. **Peter** is a freelance theatre maker and writer from the UK. He trained at London's Young Vic Theatre from 2010-12 under the tutelage of artistic director David Lan and the support of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation. He was the assistant director on international touring productions by Patrice Chéreau (*I Am the Wind*) and Luc Bondy (*Sweet Nothings*). Latest works as librettist and director include projects with the Mahogany Opera Group (2016/2017) and ATOPOS CVC in Athens. In 2016 Katharina and Peter directed and formed a collective with Ukrainian actors in the frame of ETC's artistic residency program at the Gogolfest in Kiev. They will return to their work on *The World Doesn't End* in September 2017.



## **About the European Theatre Convention:**

The European Theatre Convention (ETC) has become the largest pan-European network of its kind, representing over 40 member theatres in more than 20 countries. Since its foundation in 1988 the ETC is an artistic theatre collaboration network developing international collaboration and artistic mobility projects with a focus on multilingualism, artistic education and European citizens in theatre. The ETC provides a professional platform for theatre makers that encourages intercultural dialogue and acts as an advocacy network representing the European public theatre sector on a political level and nurturing long-term structured relationships with European political institutions. For further information - [www.etc-cte.org](http://www.etc-cte.org).

**“Theatre is Dialogue – Dialogue of Cultures: European networking with Eastern European theatres”** is initiated by the European Theatre Convention and the Staatstheater Braunschweig.



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