

Press Release / For Immediate Release

## **Theatre is Dialogue – Dialogue of Cultures: European networking with Eastern European theatres 2016**

**Berlin, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016:** As a part of the project *Theatre is Dialogue – Dialogue of Cultures: European networking with Eastern European theatres*, the European Theatre Convention (ETC) and our Ukrainian partners from CCA DAKH are happy to welcome ten European theatre makers in Kiev to participate in a residency program with Ukrainian artists. The activity takes place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> September in the frame of the multidisciplinary *GOGOLFEST* (15-25 September), where the residency participants will perform their newly developed small scale productions in the presence of an international audience on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

The European Theatre Convention (ETC), Europe's leading network of public theatres, has initiated the new project *Theatre is Dialogue – Dialogue of Cultures: European networking with Eastern European theatres* together with Staatstheater Braunschweig and in collaboration with Ukrainian and Georgian partner theatres. In 2016 we aim at strengthening and further developing the civic and cultural relations with Eastern European theatres, which have been successfully established in the frame of the preceding projects *European Theatre Networking with Ukrainian theatre makers and theatres* and *Theatre, Freedom, Dialogue – European Networking with theatres from Ukraine and Belarus* in 2014 and 2015. Our objective is to foster the role of theatre as a space of open cultural dialogue, to display free and democratic values in the Ukraine, and to initiate and support impulses to develop a required infrastructure in Eastern European theatres. This year's program focuses on a series of multilateral fellowship programs taking place before the end of 2016.

The project kicked-off in July, with a first scholarship program as part of the *ETC European Theatre Academy* during *Festival d'Avignon*. Five Ukrainian theatre makers were selected to join the master classes and workshops, to exchange experience with European colleagues from both public theatre institutions and the independent performing arts sector, and extend their know-how and skills to internationalize their work environment, professionalize their international competences, and position their work in the international performing arts scene in Europe and beyond.

Two more scholarship programs for Ukrainian and Moldavian theatre makers will take place in October and November. The first one consists of a 5-days residency at the *Georgian Showcase* in the frame of *Tbilisi International Festival of Theatre* in Georgia (4-8 October). Five scholars will follow a series of workshops, get an insight into the different festival direction areas, meet and establish important connections with theatre professionals from Georgia and other Eastern European countries to work on further collaborations between Ukrainian and Eastern European theatres. Five more theatre makers can apply for a scholarship to work for four weeks at a theatre in Austria, Georgia or Germany. The intensive work program involves the scholars in the daily creative and artistic processes, thus offering the chance to discover the working structures of a theatre in a foreign country. It allows creating and expanding professional relations, and a scholarship meeting at *Fast Forward Festival* at Staatstheater Braunschweig (24-27 November) offers the space to deepen the exchange.

**European Theatre Convention - Convention Théâtrale Européenne**

**Executive office**

c/o Deutsches Theater · Schumannstr. 13 a · 10117 Berlin · Germany  
T +49 (0)30 28441 460 · F +49 (0)30 28441 488  
E [convention@etc-cte.org](mailto:convention@etc-cte.org)

**EU office**

c/o European House for Culture  
Sainctelettesquare 17 · 1000 Brussels · Belgium

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

**Head office**

c/o SYNDEAC  
8 rue Blanche · 75009 Paris · France  
Association loi 1901  
N° Siret 379 738 230 00026 · CODE APE 9499Z

Bank Crédit Coopératif  
IBAN FR76 4255 9000 1741 0200 2023 864 · BIC CCOPFRPPXXX



**Staatstheater Braunschweig**  
Neu seit 1690!

Supported by the **German Federal Foreign Office**, *Theatre is Dialogue – Dialogue of Cultures: European networking with Eastern European theatres* promotes civic structures of collaboration between countries of the eastern partnership with European and German partners to develop new joint projects.

**For more information about the project visit the ETC website: <http://www.etc-cte.org/base.php?code=1080>**

**Notes to Editors** –The European Theatre Convention (ETC) founded in 1988, is a non-profit-making membership organization representing the publicly funded theatre sector in 20 countries. Its aims are to create, protect and promote theatre art and its linguistic diversity in Europe and beyond; to act as a transnational theatre network to foster cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue; to act as a platform for professional exchange, development and capacity building of theatre-makers in an international context and to advocate for the public theatre sector at EU, member state and local levels. Further information – [www.etc-cte.org](http://www.etc-cte.org)

**Scholars at the ETC Academy in Avignon:** Mariia Borakovska (Acting school TESTO, Kharkiv), Igor Matiiv (New Stage Theatre, Kiev), Andrii Palatnyi (CCA DAKH, Kiev), Nataliia Syvanenko (Kiev Academic “Molody” Theatre), Pavel Yurov (“DramPortal”, Kiev)

**Scholars selected for the GOGOLFEST residencies:** Tamara Semzov (Schauspiel Graz, Austria), Britta Ender (Theater und Orchester Heidelberg, Germany), Katharina Schenk (Deutsches Theater Berlin, Germany), Yannik Böhmer (Deutsches Theater Berlin, Germany), Maximilian Hanisch (Staatstheater Braunschweig, Germany), Alexander Elovshvili (Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre, Tbilisi, Georgia), Avtandil Diasamidze (Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre, Tbilisi, Georgia), Peter Cant (Independent stage director, London, UK), Wieke ten Cate (De Toneelmakerij, Amsterdam, Netherlands)

**Participating theatres in Ukraine:** DAKH Contemporary Art Centre, Kiev Academic “Molody” Theatre

**Participating theatres in Europe:** Schauspiel Graz (Austria), Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre, Tbilisi (Georgia), Deutsches Theater Berlin (Germany), Staatstheater Braunschweig (Germany), Theater Dortmund (Germany), Theater und Orchester Heidelberg (Germany)

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



**Staatstheater Braunschweig**  
Neu seit 1690!

With the support of the **German Federal Foreign Office**



Federal Foreign Office

**For press queries** please contact Teresa Pfaud, project coordinator, ETC  
Email: [convention@etc-cte.org](mailto:convention@etc-cte.org), Tel: + 49 30 28 441 207, [www.etc-cte.org](http://www.etc-cte.org)

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