

Theatre, Freedom, Dialogue: European Networking with Theatres from Ukraine and Belarus 2015

October – December 2015: The **European Theatre Convention (ETC)**, Europe's leading network of public theatres initiates together with the Schauspiel Leipzig the new program "Theatre, Freedom, Dialogue: European Networking with Theatres from Ukraine and Belarus". With this program we like to strengthen the newly created relations from the successful pilot project in 2014 "European Theatre Networking with Ukrainian theatre makers and theatres" and to foster the awareness for democratic procedures and hence build constructively pioneering bridges with European neighbors for a peaceful future through theatre. The program consists of three main activities that shall take place in Ukraine, in Germany and throughout Europe:

- 1) Ukrainian Theatre Showcase in Kiev, December 2015: Eight performances from public theatres and the fringe scene, workshops and discussions open a deep insight in the contemporary dramatic art scene and artistic work in Ukraine in dialogue with an international professional audience, media representatives and stakeholders.
- 2) 10 Scholarships for Ukrainian theatre makers in European theatres, October – November 2015: The intensive work program involves the scholars to take part in the daily creative process, thus offering the chance to discover working structures and artistic processes of a theatre in a foreign country. It allows experiencing different working methods, to create new contacts and expand professional relations. A scholarship meeting at the Schauspiel Leipzig (24.-16.10.2015), in the partner city of Kiev, offers the space to deepen the exchange.
- 3) 'Staging A Revolution' Festival by Belarus Free Theatre, October & November 2015: Since 2011, the founders of Belarus Free Theatre have been banished from Belarus and granted asylum in the UK. Belarus Free Theatre is based at the Young Vic Theatre from where they work with British, Belarusian and international actors, as well as continuing to create new projects via Skype with the permanent ensemble in Minsk. Their performances, which tour internationally, are often political and tell human stories from across the globe as well as from Belarus, the last dictatorship in Europe.

Supported by the **Federal Foreign Office**, "Theatre, Freedom, Dialogue: European Networking with Theatres in Ukraine and Belarus" 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://etc-cte.org/base.php?code=1021>

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

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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

Participating theatres in Ukraine and Belarus: Belarus Free Theatre, Bilyts Art Centr, Dakh Theatre, Golden Gate Theater, Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theatre, Kiev Academic "Molodij" Theatre, Lviv Academic Les Kurbas Theater, Pechersk New Drama Theater

Participating theatres in Europe: Schauspiel Graz (Austria), Théâtre de Liège (Belgium), Kote Marjanishvili State Drama Theatre in Tbilisi (Georgia), Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe (Germany), Deutsches Theater Berlin (Germany), Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden (Germany), Schauspiel Leipzig (Germany), Staatstheater Braunschweig (Germany), Theater Dortmund (Germany), Theater und Orchester Heidelberg (Germany)

“Theatre, Freedom, Dialogue: European Networking with European Theatres in Ukraine and Belarus” is initiated by the European Theatre Convention and the Schauspiel Leipzig.



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



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