



Kulturni zavod ODER / STAGE Cultural Institute
SLOVENIAN CENTRE ITI
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Report of the Slovenian Centre ITI

Ljubljana, 10 June 2024

On behalf:

ACTIVITIES REPORT OF THE SLOVENIAN CENTRE ITI /July 2022 – April 2024/

September 2022 – January 2023

REORGANIZATION OF THE SLOVENIAN CENTRE ITI

The Slovenian Centre of the International Theatre Institute (SC ITI) was formed with Slovenia's independence. In 1999, it was not registered; there were no members, financial resources, or firm continuation, but we kept communication with the organization, and so it was only in 2008 that we revived its activity under the auspices of the Association of Dramatic Artists of Slovenia and acted as an active national centre in the form of a legal section of the Association. Status was defined in the Association's Charter and confirmed by the ITI Worldwide and its governing bodies. The Association's Charter had to change, and SC ITI could no longer meet professional diversity requirements and international networking. Our Centre decided for transition, but kept the previous partnership and a new NGO, Cultural Institute ODER (STAGE), Cultural Institute for Performing Arts Ljubljana became a sit of the national centre. Registration was completed in January 2023 according the legislative recommendations, and its Charter was adopted to serve the international nature of the SC ITI and was recognized by the state court and registration regulations in the Republic of Slovenia.

NGO enables the continuity of SC ITI, a diverse profile representation - individual members and collaborators from non-governmental and public sphere, collaboration with partner network, and respects the rules and guidelines of ITI Worldwide, as it was able to do in the past. It aims to represent an open, inclusive, and fluid platform for activities of the global non-governmental network and the needs and actions of our country's performing arts community. SC ITI actively supports worldwide events, such as ITD and WDD, collaborates in this field with home NGOs, and connects its activities with the most important Slovenian events, such as The Week of the Slovenian Drama Festival. At the beginning of 2023 SC ITI developed a new web platform to promote activities, which are also regularly announced and published in event catalogues, printed materials, festivals' websites, and social and press media to foster visibility.



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Our network partners support SC ITI programs over the collaborative applications to the Ministry of Culture. We have also received funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, public institutions, and non-governmental associations. Our main network partners are the Week of Slovenian Drama Festival and Preseren Theatre Kranj, Association of Slovenian Ballet Artists and Ballet Through Lines Web Platform and Association of Dramatic Artists of Slovenia.

THE GUEST HOUSE 2023 and 2024

SC ITI and THE WEEK OF SLOVENIAN DRAMA FESTIVAL KRANJ, SLOVENIA

The Guest House is a newly created collaboration platform between the national Festival and the SC ITI, where we discuss current home and international topics through arts, creation, resilience, and humanity, and the venue where we host creators from different communities and real-life experiences. A platform where an open space for debate and exchange is created enables respectful dialogue and opens the perspectives of the artist's roots, work, and challenges.

1. 4 April 2023, on Zoom and on-site

THE VOICE OF THE NEW BELARUS

Co-organizers: Slovenian Centre ITI / Oder (Stage), Cultural Institute for Performing Arts, People's Embassies of Belarus in Ljubljana, Association of the Belarusian Diaspora in Slovenia and the Week of Slovenian Drama Festival in Kranj, Slovenia

The talk was a meeting point of Belarus artists in the diaspora – activist Nadzeya Luchanok and playwrights Andrei Kureichik and Diana Balyko, together with American John Freedman and his wife, Oksana Mysina. We opened up a new perspective on addressing the artist's position towards the state of repression-led politics, with film streaming (*Love Is Stronger Than Fear*, internationally awarded short film by Freedman and Mysina, based on Andrei Kureichik's eponymous play).

2. 4 April 2024, on-site

SALT OF THE EARTH, Round Table

Co-organizers: Slovenian Centre ITI / Oder (Stage), Cultural Institute for Performing Arts, and the Week of Slovenian Drama Festival Kranj

In times of conflict, not to speak about the humanitarian catastrophe and devaluation of human dignity and rights, it is essential to take a stand for humanity's highest values. It is always an enormous challenge for event organizers. *Salt of the Earth*, unfolded the stories and experiences of the Middle East, aiming to underline the importance of the arts. Two artists of different backgrounds shared insights into their work, living, aspirations, and hopes in this turbulent time. Our guests at the venue were Ofira Hening and Ramzi Maqdisi.



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7 - 14 NOVEMBER 2023

NEAPfest, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Tatjana Ažman received the Rubens Barbot Special Prize for contributing to the democratization of art, participated at the panel and conducted a masterclass in the scope of the festival program.

Activity was supported by the Foreign Ministry of Republic of Slovenia.

ONGOING PROJECT

THINKING AND RETHINKING BALLET, Series of Online Interviews

Supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, the *Slovenian Ballet Artists' Association*, and the *SC ITI / Oder (Stage), the Cultural Institute for Performing Arts* launched a web page section, and talks streamed on Youtube with esteemed ballet personalities from around the World.

THINKING AND RETHINKING BALLET is an exceptional platform, in collaboration with the ITI, that offers contemporary insight into this content about personalities and the essential aspects of ballet art and fosters the dialogue between art and society with diversity and international reach. Among most recent international guests from dance, dance education, choreography, criticism, artistic directors' field were Alastair Macaulay, Jennifer Hommans, Szilard Macher, Mário Radačovský, Gabrielle Haslinger, Hellen Pickett, Cathy Marston and Annabelle Lopez Ochoa.

Editors: Nataša Berce, Tomaž Rode; Talk Host: Tatjana Ažman