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CAN THEATER FEST

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Can Theater Fest – festival of the future

A unique theatrical-ecological project that raised the global environmental awareness of the local community, took place in Novi Sad in July 2022, organized by the Citizens' Association EKO ART and the Belgrade Children's Theater Čarapa and supported by the company Ball packaging Europe Belgrade and the Foundation "Novi Sad" – European capital of culture".

Novi Sad is the European Capital of Culture for 2022, and on this occasion a series of diverse cultural programmes have been organized throughout the year: from concerts and theater performances, exhibitions, performances, film screenings, premiere events, to art workshops and festivals, with a number of local and regional theater, film and music stars.

A noble idea

Among all these programmes, one was the most impressive, because with its concept it united everything that is most important for humanity at any moment - children, young people and ecology, which directly placed it among the festivals of the future.

The Can Theater Fest was held from 24 to 28 July 2022 in the Edšeg Cultural Station. During the five days of the festival, it was visited by thousands of children, young people and their parents, whose smiles, shouts of joy and delight, and bursts of applause will be remembered for a long time even in the post-festival days.



Did you know?

For many years the world's largest producer of aluminum was Australia, but due to problems with the quality of the ore, which was too rich in silicates, it was overtaken by China. This Far Eastern country today produces 1/5 of the world's aluminium.

Theater about important issues

The festival was created with the idea of combining theater for children and ecology, to raise the awareness of the youngest about the importance of preserving the environment. On the one hand, the audience had the opportunity to see nine plays on different themes, and some important topics for growing up: empathy, friendship, parental divorce, falling in love, love, solidarity, loneliness...

"The Goose on the Moon", "When the Tree and the Flower Saved the World", "Beauty and the Beast", "Marital Troubles from the Viewpoint of the Hand", "The Little Big Prince", "Jovanče and Marika", "Shoes in Love", "The Cricket and the Ant" and "Suspicious Face" brought artists from Serbia, but also from the entire region, Croatia, Macedonia and neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Awakening ecological consciousness

On the other hand, the Can Theater Fest showed the children in a concrete way, awakening in the children a healthy entrepreneurial spirit, how what they recycle can have an ecological value, thanks to which, for example, they can go to the theater. And that is actually the originality of the ecological moment of this festival, for which tickets could not be bought for ordinary money, but the ticket was an ecological message - "ecological money" made of aluminum.

That aluminum coin, the first "environmental currency" registered in the world, was given to every spectator who brought empty cans. This paid the entrance to all the festival performances. They had to bring five empty cans to get one coin. After handing over the cans at the entrance, the children received a ticket to the festival, and the can would immediately start its new path in life - recycling.

Did you know?

Aluminium is a chemical element with the symbol Al and atomic number 13. This silvery-white light metal is the third most abundant element and the most common metal in the Earth's crust. Aluminium has many advantages: low density and resistance to corrosion.

Recycling cans

During the Can Theater Fest, with these ecological coins, children could buy some other interesting things that raised environmental awareness: a pencil with seeds that they could sow after the pencil was used up, notepads and educational books made of recycled paper, bags made of recycled material...

The fact that over 15,000 cans were collected during the five days of the festival shows how heartily the children and their parents gathered



around this idea. Cans were collected individually, but also collectively. They were also collected by some kindergartens, which then brought the children to the performances in an organized way. Among the audience were grandparents, relatives...



Involvement of the local community

Some cafés and dozens of residential communities in Novi Sad were also involved in the whole project, because the organizers, in cooperation with these communities, placed boxes for collecting cans in the entrances of the buildings weeks before the festival, so that the residents of the buildings jointly contributed to the children more easily finding the cans that took them to the Can Theater Fest. In short, the entire local community rallied around this noble idea.



Live recycling

Among the various interesting points of the festival, the one with the Can Man recycling cans with the children in the yard of the Edšeg Cultural Station was especially interesting for the children. The Can Man was the young actor Nikola Popović who, like many visitors to the festival, heard for the first time about the ecological potential of an empty can that can be recycled indefinitely.



HOW THE CAN THEATER FEST WAS BORN

The Can Theater Fest was born as a further step in the development of the Can Ticket project, which has existed since 2009. The Čarapa children's theater, the Eco Art Association and School Plus are the creators of this project, which for 13 years has been gathering children, parents, young people, grandparents and the wider population in its programmes, whose idea is to educate children about environmental protection and recycling, and all through theatrical arts for children. In its 13 years of existence, almost 80,000 children and parents have passed through this project, and over half a million drinking cans have been collected.





“Ball packaging Europe Belgrade”

The first Can Theater Fest was created from an idea of Valentina and Novica Pavličić. In fact it came from their “Can Ticket” project, which for 13 years has been teaching children and young people about recycling and the importance of environmental protection through theatrical art. The Can Theater Fest was organized by the Čarapa Children’s Theater, the Citizens’ Association Eko Art and Škola Plus in cooperation with the Every Can Counts Initiative, and the local companies Maior Domus and Salaš 137 gave a helping hand. The main sponsor of Can Theater Fest was Ball packaging Europe Belgrade.

A project of importance for the whole country

The organizers of this exceptional cultural event believe that it is important to teach children about the importance of preserving the human environment through art, through theater, because it is an excellent way for children to learn values that are worth fighting for: why it is important to be a good person, persistent and consistent, to protect the weaker, to preserve our environment - nature which is the source of life in every sense, which we often forget today. We have once again been shown this very loudly in this pandemic time, which reminded us that it is important to respect the living spaces of all living beings, not to steal - neither from humans, nor animals, water, or trees, whether they are near Novi Sad, or any other city on planet Earth, regardless of whether it is at the favourite picnic spot of Fruška Gora or in the distant Amazon. How important this project was for the whole country is also shown by the fact that it was supported by the “Novi Sad - European Capital of Culture” Foundation, in which The Danube Sea programme also took place.



Creativity of the spirit, responsibility of the man

We always want the best for our children, from the basic things for life - food and drink - to the best schools and education, including extracurricular activities. These programmes teach children how to fight for a dignified life - on a human scale. The Can Theater Fest was one of the places of enlightenment, education and education about why it is important to embrace nature, preserve it and learn from it, and thus build a better future for humanity.

The tree is the closest relative to mankind

The Can Theater Fest has taught us to take care of every tree and every flower, because without trees and flowers we cannot breathe. When nature gets sick - flowers and trees disappear, and children can't play and grow... That's why the tree is the closest family to mankind, as close as sister and brother, father and mother, uncle, aunt or uncle, grandmother and grandfather, no matter who.

Theater and ecology

The Can Theater Fest is a unique combination of theater and ecology that reminds us of everything we have seen during the two and a half years of the pandemic: why it is important to take care of each other as humans, and to protect our environment today, more than ever. Children's theater is one of the possible stops on the way. It teaches them values that are worth fighting for: why it is important to be a good person, to be persistent and consistent, to protect the weaker, to protect our environment - nature, which is our source of life in every sense, which we often forget today. The theater, as a place of supreme creativity of the spirit, is here to remind us again and again how important it is to take care of each other,

to protect the planet and all the living beings on it, to respect each other's living spaces and not to steal - neither from other people, nor from animals, nor from grasses, water, or trees, whether they are close to us in Fruško Gora or in the distant Amazon

When you know, you know

During the Can Theater Fest, in the courtyard of Edšeg, an ecological and theatrical ear overheard this conversation:
Girl: How long does the Can Theater Fest last?
CTF Volunteer: A few more days, 28 July is the last performance.
Girl: Phew!
CTF Volunteer: Why?!
Girl: We have to collect cans every night!
CTF Volunteer: So where do you find them?
Girl: Everywhere! Don't just go to the Danube Park. There are none there, but on the river Lim... [The Serbian "Lim" means the sheet metal material of a can] Well, there are a lot of them there...





Children's writer

Writers are the Homers of their time, they know that children see far and deep, that their eyes are an opportunity to save the world.

It is very possible that the playwright Nebojša Romčević had this in mind when he wrote the text for the opening of the festival, which was spoken by the young actors Vuk and Luka Šekerović. They announced important environmental messages very seriously, with a convincing dose of responsibility.



Sung, to the smiles of many children

With song in the sunshine, with a handful of beautiful children's smiles and a lot of love and attention to nature, that's how the first Can Theater Fest in Novi Sad began. The singing came from an exultant choir of the Happy Place kindergarten, which sang the environmental anthem of the Can-Ticket Festival. The atmosphere of singing, sunshine and smiles remained until the very end of the five-day "can party". The smiles only multiplied, and the singing continued even in the days after the festival...

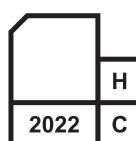


Edšeg Castle

Can Theater Fest took place in a magnificent building - today it is the Cultural Station and once it was Edšeg Castle. Its history begins way back in 1890, when it was built in honour of the centenary of the Shooting Society. The architect of this building was Đerđ Molnar, also the creator of the concept of the Novi Sad City Hall. Edšeg was built in an eclectic style typical of the end of the 19th century. The main hall is richly decorated, and the ceiling itself is painted with scenes of hunting and village life interwoven with geometric and floral motifs. After decades of decay, Edšeg was renovated in 2012 with the idea of hosting cultural events and programmes, but unfortunately it was rarely used until 2018, when it was handed over to the 2021 Foundation for management.

A GLOBAL FESTIVAL IN THE EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

The first Can Theater Fest took place with the support of the Novi Sad - European Capital of Culture Foundation, as part of their Danube Sea programme. The idea of this festival is to show children in a concrete way how what they recycle has an ecological value, thanks to which they can then go to the theater.



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Ecological pixels

Every day, during the Can Theater Fest, two spray artists drew visual messages to the world on cans arranged in a wall. Urbi et orbi - about planet Earth, nature, children, empathy, friendship, understanding. Nikola Tošić and Petra Simić are the authors of that unique ecological mural popularly called pixelata. The Can Theater Fest taught us something else: pixelata is a project by Spanish designers who create a work of art by painting and inserting a can into a previously prepared construction.



Did you know?

Aluminium in its elemental state is almost impossible to find. In nature, it is found in combination with over 270 other minerals. The basic ore for extracting aluminium is bauxite.

Can Bazaar

The Can Bazaar was one of the places in the courtyard of the Edše Cultural Centre where children liked to hang out. Pads made of recycled paper, a pencil with seeds that can be sown, handbags made of recycled material, but also excellent books. Some of those books, like the Physical Education Primer, reminded us why it is important to have a healthy body - because it is only there that a healthy spirit resides. Others taught us about the importance of good speech and respect for spelling. There were also books that reminded us of important historical figures, and there were books that develop our mathematical meanderings. All in all, it was a small library of important things, a list of skills that clarify the soul and lead us on the path of the knowledge and skills that we need to build new images of the world, ones that are tailored to mankind - for the benefit and dignity of humanity.





Alu-coin: the first socially responsible currency

Alu-coin is the first socially responsible currency in the world. It is entirely made of aluminum. It is actually the "ecological money" of the Can Theater Fest, which was used to buy a ticket to this festival, but also other interesting items of use that have an ecological meaning. To get one Alu-coin they had to bring five empty cans.



Recycling ad infinitum

At the Can Theater Fest, we learned that a can can be endlessly recycled. The kids took it very seriously - they went on collecting cans until the last day of the festival. They brought them in huge quantities, and a girl called Sara admitted that she dreams about them all night. During the few days of the festival, it seemed that Novi Sad became a cleaner city.



The Can Man and recycling in action

Excellent plays, an enticing Can Bazaar, environmental stories and raising awareness of the importance of nature conservation, are just some of the events that kids could attend at the first Can Theater Fest. Among the events that they particularly liked was the daily meeting with the Can Man welcomed them every day in the Edšeg grounds and taught them on the spot how to recycle them. In his unusual "tin suit" that was covered with glasses, with a helmet and fancy spectacles, the Can Man chatted with each child separately and patiently explained the recycling process, which - at least to some extent - saves nature.

The Can Man was the young actor Nikola Popović, a fourth-year acting student at the Synergija Belgrade Faculty of Film and Dramatic Arts. According to Nikola, he was best prepared for this important role for children by Vesa from the Duško Radović Children's Theater, who sewed his phenomenal costume based on the idea of costume designer Jelena Stokuća. He immediately connected well with the children and they became inseparable friends during the Festival.





THEATER AND ECOLOGY, ONE SOUL IN TWO BODIES

Valentina Pavlicic is an actress at the Terazije Theater and artistic director of the Čarapa Children's Theater, which organized the first Can Theater Fest in Novi Sad at the end of July 2022, a unique festival for children and young people in which theater and ecology became one soul.

How was the Can Theater Fest born?

It was created as a further step in the development of the Can Ticket project, which has run since 2009. The Čarapa children's theater, the Eco Art Association and School Plus are the creators of this project, which for 13 years has been gathering children, parents, young people, grandparents and the wider population on their programmes, which aim to educate children about environmental protection and recycling, all through theatrical arts for children. Almost 80,000 children and parents went through this project in 13 years, and over half a million drinking cans were collected.

The main feature of this programme is that tickets for our event are not paid for with money, but with empty, used cans. Whoever brings five empty drink cans - gets a coin, an alu-coin. With Alu-coin, children buy a ticket to our event, in which nine excellent performances from Serbia and the region will be performed over five days. In the Edšeg Cultural Centre where the plays are performed, children and their parents will be able to participate in an entertaining and educational pre-program.

Knowledge is power

Recycling became an important part of the aluminium industry in the 1960s when the increase in the use of beverage cans became a serious potential for recycling, which has since become socially commendable.

What do children get out of this festival?

With all the fun that awaits them and a lot of useful things to hear, children usually remember one of the many lessons: when they bring and recycle just one empty drink can, they contribute to saving so much energy that they can watch cartoons for free for three hours on the TV. Besides this, nine great performances await them.

How can children find the empty cans?

The simplest way is - and this is what I tell everyone who calls us and says that they don't buy canned drinks - to go into the first café: 70 percent of them pour drinks from cans that they then throw in the rubbish; approach the waiters politely and ask them to save you the cans that they would otherwise throw away. Come during the evening and pick up the cans. You will have so many of them that you will be able to watch all the festival performances. Also, if someone is celebrating a birthday and canned drinks are served, they can save the empty cans for you. You can also place a box in your building and write a message to your neighbours: "Dear neighbors, please do not throw empty cans in the rubbish, but in this box. I want to go to the Can Theater Fest. If you contact us, we can also provide you a box like this."

What is alu-coin and what can children buy with it at the festival?

Alu-coin is the first socially responsible currency. It is made of aluminum, in fact from the upper part of the can that has an opener. It has a special stamp and is very attractive for children. When they bring the cans, our volunteers count them and replace them with a suitable number of alu-coins. For these alu-coins, the children can buy a ticket to the festival and various other interesting things in the Can shop: good books in the Can bookstore, a pencil with tree seeds in the Can general store, a bag made of recycled material, a notepad made of recycled paper, and much more.

What was your idea when you started looking for plays to put on?

What is their common denominator?

The idea was to create a mosaic of images in which each piece would have its own colour and therefore be irreplaceable. One play for two-year-olds is about love, told by two shoes in love. The second, which also talks about love, addresses teenagers. To them, two hands, a female and a male, speak about the pains of love and the marital relationship. The third play talks about how a tree and a flower can save the world, about why children in the future might stop growing and start shrinking if we cut down forests today. One performance at the festival reminds us why Nušić's humour is better than all the styles that can be found on YouTube. There is also the crazy energy of the performance Beauty and the Beast in which ballet dancers invite us to be physically active, to express all emotions with our bodies. Then, thanks to the play Jovanče and Marika, otherwise known as Ivica and Marica, we will be reminded why it is important to be resourceful and how love and mutual care make us stronger, and how to distinguish good from evil. The classic fairy tale The Cricket and the Ant teaches us to be diligent, not lazy. There will also be a performance in which wonderful dolls will tell fairy tales about a goose on the moon, and a story about how children grow up whose parents are too busy, which is why they miss wonderful moments together. It is a whole kaleidoscope of topics that can interest everyone, and their common denominator is that they have an artistic approach to important topics that are adapted to children of different ages.

What do you think of children's theater today, and what should it be like?

Children's theater today is like a fortress that resists the onslaught of digital and all other electronic media. The efforts of many artists who dedicate themselves to the defence of that fortress are worthy of praise, and I would like to praise all my colleagues for that.

The Can Theater Fest sends a strong environmental message: is it more important for children or their parents to understand it?

We believe that children and parents are like connected vessels in physics. Whoever first adopts some knowledge or habit will pass it on to the other. Whether it's children or parents, it doesn't matter and that's why this festival addresses everyone: children, parents and the general population. That's why I invite children, parents,

grandparents, neighbours, friends, all those who happen to be in Novi Sad from 24 to 28 July to come to the Can Theater Fest at the Edšeg Cultural Station, to have fun there and learn many useful things about ecology and life in general. I invite Belgraders and people from other cities to come to the festival. Now there is a fast train and it is easy and fast to reach Novi Sad. Two hours of carefully created programme for children is worth coming for, Novi Sad is a wonderful city for walking, and all together it can be a nice memory that both children and parents will remember.

gy. When their words inspired us to change, the spotlights on the stage were turned on and we all quickly entered the castle to see what interesting things awaited us there! We sit down, the show begins, the murmur slowly subsides. Where does imagination live? I've always wondered too! Today, watching the play *Goose on the moon* by the Zvezdica theater, I had the opportunity to find out! I also learned that I can go anywhere in my imagination! And I never dreamed that I could reach an incredible place, where people have only ever been once, that I could reach the moon! This morning we were all on the moon together. And a magical duck took us to the moon, it helped us fly! We went on a long journey with the hero Jovan, who plays the flute and wants to find his girlfriend, and we landed on the moon! And I never dreamed that someone would already be there! On the moon, we met a beau-



only your imagination, then you have to see this magical show! I mean, you don't have to believe me, I didn't believe Jovan and the goose at first either, but then when we got to the moon, I realized that there was no going back and that this fairy tale had no end! Neither does our imagination, and I will use it much more often after this performance! See you on the moon, bring a flute or a hat if you need to patch it!"

(Pavle Hrnčić, student of cultural studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad)

AND WHAT WERE THE PERFORMANCES LIKE?



Goose on the Moon

This hot summer morning marked the beginning of the Can Theater Fest at the Edšeg cultural station in Novi Sad. The courtyard of the old castle was filled with children who, through choral singing and two very serious monologues, reminded us of the importance of recycling and eco-

tiful Chinese princess and a big scary dragon! And not only did we meet them, but we also saw how our Jovan managed to find his way on the moon and what happened to him during his crazy adventure! If you want to know how to patch a hat in space, why a Chinese princess is trapped on the moon, how to fight a dangerous dragon and how to do it all using



How a tree and a flower saved the world

"If we were a tree for a day, we would definitely choose to be some tall green tree. We would like to be in a forest, to have other trees next to us, to not be alone. It is easy to be a tree in the forest, but what is it like to be a tree in the city? Who would want to be a tree in the city? Well, in the city you are without air, on concrete, with noisy traffic and a lot of rubbish... Like the tree in the play "How a Tree and a Flower Saved the World" by the Čarapa Children's Theater from Belgrade. Through a performance in verse, with many surprises, we follow the adventure of forester Lalet and an oak tree in the city. Forester Lale teaches us to clean the city of garbage and to plant more flowers and trees! Our common goal is to save nature and forester Lale teaches us how to do it. And the oak, a tree that coughs and sneezes from life in the city, reminds us of the consequences of pollution and how it will affect our lives in the future. And speaking of the future, in this play we also meet Milenica, a girl from the future who continues the story of the big oak tree! She tells us that the children of the future are left without forests,





and without forests there is no clean air. And when there is no clean air, how are they going to play outside? And when they don't have a place to play, they can't grow! And when they don't grow, children shrink. Who will save us from such a future? Nobody wants to live somewhere where they can't play! What kind of world is it where there are only parking lots and concrete, what kind of world is it without greenery in the city? If you want to find out where the key to our problem is hidden and who it is that will lead us to a better future, where the oak will not sneeze and where children will be able to play, then you must come and meet the forester Lalet. Just watch out, there's also Pera from the high-rise, the dangerous leader of the car gang! These are some very scary characters, they don't know how to appreciate the oak and love concrete more than trees. If you see them destroying nature, quickly inform the forester Lalet so that we can save our planet! And yes, if you see an oak tree standing alone on concrete, check if it's alright, because without it there is no future. If it's suffering, quickly call forester Lalet to help him, because nature can only be our friend and never just something to use!"

(Pavle Hrnčić, student of cultural studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad)

Beauty and the Beast

"We've all heard of a cartoon, full of music and colours, in which a teapot and a candle are characters that follow the story of a beauty and a beast. But, did we all watch the dance performance "Beauty and the Beast" by the Una Saga Serbika theater from Belgrade? There are no spoken words in the performance, and it's as if all the words just solidified into one incredibly vivid choreography. We usually think that if we go to the ballet, we will be bored, there will be some people there and they will dance and we will not understand so much... But it doesn't have to be like that at all! Because this is not a classical ballet, this is a mixture of classical

and modern ballet and a powerful theatrical weapon, better known to everyone as pantomime! The mixture of all these techniques just inspired the audience to more dance and more music. Well, that's what makes us alive, isn't it? Although many in the audience already knew the story by heart, they did not take their eyes off the stage for a single second. Those vivid facial expressions, that strong pantomime and those movements accompanied by melody and rhythm evoked even more the cartoons we know so well. Music can work wonders, especially if it is connected with dance, and this show offers us that perfect combination. There are many characters, but the teapot and the candle will surely remain the most memorable for you! You have no idea how interesting their lives can be! And the huge, terrible beast, which through dance and love slowly turns back into a man is a very well-known story to everyone, but told through ballet, it acquires a completely new meaning. And only when Beauty dances and lights up the stage with her dance, it seems to us that we are in a cartoon, not in reality! If you want to be inspired by this wonderful story about a love that turns a beast into a man, that changes evil into good, then the sooner the better to the theater! I won't even tell you which other characters are on the stage and what exactly awaits you, I'll just tell you to exercise well and relax to the beauty of this dance so that later we can all dance together!"

(Pavle Hrnčić, student of cultural studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad)



Marital troubles from the viewpoint of

"Have you ever thought what two hands, a pair of gloves and words can convey? If someone told you that a show could be made based on just these three things, would you believe them? A young actor from Osijek, Toni Leaković, did just that. Thanks to Toni's imagination and talent, we were able to see the full range of emotions on stage by watching nothing but two hands. In an extremely creative and minimalistic way, he shows the everyday life of a couple that we can hear in most homes. With a witty text and well-known verses of the song "Hands" by Darko Rundek, he made both the young and the old in the audience laugh. Although the show was fun to watch, you have to digest its messages. Everything shown in the play is real. A married couple love each other, they have their daily problems; a visit by mother-in-law, housework, the



desire for a new job, jealousy. But they run away from all these problems. We all run from problems sometimes, but at the end of the day they catch up with us. In my opinion, there was a lack of a healthy and realistic representation that would teach children how to really deal with disagreements. Although these two hands part due to everyday disagreement, in the end they realize that their split was a mistake and that they cannot live without each other. Of course, all this is shown through the prism of comedy, which is one of the elements of satire and can be interpreted as an attempt to criticize this type of relationship. However, this beautiful work lacks only the small detail that would show us how this outcome came about. In this way a message is sent that everything will end well and that there is a "magical solution", without mutual effort. If that small educational detail were included, this play would be a great instrument that could show children what a healthy relationship between spouses looks like. The performance ended with a big round of applause for young Toni, and the audience could hear how surprised the children were to learn that everything was done by one actor. With his great voice transformation, he successfully fooled the audience who were convinced that two people were acting in the play."

(Marija Đurđević, psychologist)

A Croatian portal brings a review of the same play, from the pen of the playwright Divna Stoajnova

Little Big Prince

"Children have to forgive adults a lot." - Antoine de Saint-Exupéry.

The URA Belgrade Theater with the play The Little Big Prince perfectly portrays this timeless classic, communicating both with children and their parents. In all aspects, the director Milena Coka Đorđević insists on preserving children's innocence from the heedlessness of adults. The world of adults is

not clear to the Little Prince, why is everyone in a hurry, why don't they stop to smell the roses? In his curiosity about this unknown world, the Little Prince wants to grow up as soon as possible. The charming Sandra Arsenijević plays the role of the favorite hero from the beginning to the end of the play, managing to balance between a child's naivety and cunning, all the time being where the real and imaginary worlds intertwine. While watching the performance, I was thinking all the time where I and my peers would have ended up if they had taken us to such performances and such plays. Looking at the hall full of children, whose attention was focused on the stage for an hour, I felt like a child myself, I couldn't remove the smile from my face and I felt carefree. I managed, for a moment, to become aware of and hug the child inside me."

(Nikolina Đenadija, film student)



Jovanče and Marika

ТЕАТАР
БАБЕЛ
НАМЕРО
ПОИГАЊИ

"On Tuesday evening the Can Theater Fest held a special joy for the little ones with the brilliant actors from Bitola/Macedonia. The performance of the play Jovanče and Marika (in Serbian Ivica i Marica) drew us into the frightening and dangerous world of brother and sister. Nikola Projčevski and Julija Mirčevska, who play our protagonists, managed to bring Jovanča and Marika closer to us with their clear expression so that we get attached to them and cheer on their happy ending. Petar Spirovski, who plays the father and Katerina Anevaska Pilenceto, who plays both the mother and the witch, managed to make the little ones sad, a little scared and angry with their phenomenal acting. This further encouraged them to empathize with the main characters. The director Vasko Marovski did an excellent job of making the actors actively hold the audience's attention by dancing, while the music had an additional effect in enlivening the atmosphere of the play. The scenery and





costumes themselves were mostly white, and each character had a distinct red piece of clothing/prop that described them. This made the actors' expressions stand out even more. The creatively imagined lighting, which was in the scenography itself, pointed us both temporally and spatially to where the characters are. Jovanče and Marika managed to show the audience that if they work together, care for each other and learn to be resourceful, they can achieve their goals and be happier. Although the play was performed in the Macedonian language, thanks to the actors who used physical theater techniques, emphasizing their emotions and states and using their bodies, there were no problems in understanding the play itself. And it seemed that the audience left with a positive impression of the performance of the whole piece."

(Marija Đurđević, psychologist)



much. One evening, the owner hears the shoes talking and realizes that they love each other, so she decides to have her maid clean them and leave them in the closet next to each other. As the shoes are extremely beautiful, the maid decides to secretly give them to her old aunt. The shoes become happy with their new owner, because she walks slowly and the shoes are touching non-stop. In addition to the great acting, this play is also made interesting by the combination of puppet theater, for which the direction of Boban Jovanović should be credited. The music and lighting also contributed to keeping the audience's attention thanks to the technical leadership of Saša Jović. This performance was a delight to many, and its success is best illustrated by the happy children in the audience.

(Marija Đurđević, psychologist)



Shoes in Love



"In the play Shoes in Love by the Pepino theater from Niš, the audience was greeted by an extremely colorful scenography by Blagovesta Vasileva. Actors Luka and Dragana Jovanović made the little ones laugh with their first appearance. During the play, they asked children questions and encouraged them to answer, which gave this play an interactive character. Every time, the little ones answered the questions loudly and excitedly and thus actively followed the play from the very beginning. This sweet love story begins in the shop where we meet two shoes in love. After a woman buys them, the everyday life of these two shoes changes drastically. They no longer spend the whole day next to each other, but because of the footsteps of their new owner, they pass each other. Every night they come up with tactics so they can see each other more often, which gives the woman problems with walking. Because of her frequent seizures, she turns to a funny, clumsy doctor who does not help her





The Cricket and the Ant



"The dynamic duo Anando Čenić and Dragana Ilić and the City Theater of Gradiška bring to the stage one of the most instructive fables - The Cricket and the Ant. With his performance, Anando Čenić, with guitar in hand and infectious songs, manages to put Cricket's flaws into the background, until the very end of the show, so he would appeal to the audience. At the beginning, the audience laughs and sings side by side with Cricket, while the other animals, performed by Dragana Ilić, work hard and prepare for winter. The scenography follows the change of seasons, from green and yellow, to brown and white. The story would normally end with Ant refusing to help the lazy Cricket. What makes this performance special is the communication with the audience and the offer of an alternative. The children are given the opportunity to choose the end of the play. Does Cricket deserve to freeze and sing in order to warm himself, or at some point in life one should simply ignore the ego and turn out to be a better person? The opinions of the children in the audience varied a lot, making this experience even more interesting. The actors ask the children what they learned during the play, which gives them a voice, an opportunity to express their opinion and defend their position at such an early age, while not imposing any "right" answer on them. The question remains open, who are all the crickets in today's society, and who are the ants? Do the first live at the expense of the others? Would you rather be Cricket or Ant?"

(Nikolina Đenadija, film student)



Suspicious Face



"Okret theater from Kovino brought its adaptation of the satirical comedy Suspicious Face to the Can Theater Fest in Novi Sad. Even before the play begins, Vladimir Savić's scenography, introduces us to the time of the rule of the Obrenović dynasty, showing the classic interior of the Serbian houses of that time. Then, Jerotije Pantić, played by Marko Nikolić, comes on stage, reading a letter addressed to his daughter Marica. The way he moves, the way he reads a letter and addresses his wife Anja characterize Jeroti as a controlling character with limited devotion to the government or state. He has already been fired from the post office for reading other people's letters, but he still cannot break the habit, which will again cost him his career. The audience reacted throughout the performance, the children found these caricatures of "serious" people funny, especially the character of Aleksa Žunjić, a spy from Srez, performed by Danijela Tanasković (in addition, Danijela also portrays Anđa's character). Parents also enjoyed the play, and mostly the witty and well thought-out jokes about those times, the government and society. By far the most impressive part of the play is the short film they shot, also made as a parody of old black-and-white thrillers, which only strengthened the effect and crystallized the message of Nušić's work even more: Give a man power and you will see what he is really like."

(Nikolina Đenadija, film student)



The cutest critics: the youngest audience about the plays...

The children's performances at the first Can Theater Fest awakened the imagination, introduced them to creative worlds and evoked a range of feelings. Children's descriptions of what they experienced are the best evidence of the impact the plays had on the little ones - great people who grow up ready to teach us adults some lessons. After the presentation, they spoke honestly, in their own unique ways, about their impressions...

GOOSE ON THE MOON

What did you like the most?

Victor: "The Play"

And what in the play?

Victor: "The goose"

And what was the most interesting for you?

Alexander: "The most interesting to me was Jovan"

Alexandra: "When he played the flute"

Did you like the show?

Maša(6): "Yes!"

What did you like the most?

"What we sang."

Mima: "I liked the goose the most, it was very funny!"

HOW A TREE AND A FLOWER SAVED THE WORLD

What part of the play did you like the most?

Iskra: "When... well, when... the evil one, who wanted to cut the wood, when... when he came back and when he became good and when he decided to plant trees and when they took off"

Which part was the most interesting for you?

Lazar: "When that tree came out."

Do you have a favorite character?

Lazar: "That tree!"

And how was it for you at the show and the festival?

Lazar: "Wow..great, yes, great!"

Mihailo: "My name is Mihailo, I also liked the tree, bye-bye"

Which part of the play was the most interesting for you?

Andrej: "When... well... when... there was a living tree."

What did you like most about the play?

Milena: "When they turned the trees around."

Did you learn anything?

Milena: "Mmm...I forgot!"

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

What did you like most about the play?

Sara: "I liked that the prince proposed to the princess."

Lana: "Me too!"

And your favorite character?

Both: "Princess!!!"

How was it for you?

Both: "BRILLIANT!"

Which of the characters did you like the most?

Sara: "I liked this beast the most..."

Vanja: "And I liked the one as a boy who pretended to be important!"

How did you like the show?

Milica: "Nice!!"

Is there anything you particularly liked?

Milica: "Well, I liked it when they danced!"

Who did you like best in the play?

Matiija: "I like the princess and the strongman the most!"

MARITAL TROUBLES FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THE HAND

Who did you like best in the play?

Srna: "The hand!"

Which part was your favorite?

Grigorije: "The one when she wanted to beat him!"

How did you like the show?

Maria: "She's beautiful."

What did you like the most?

Maria: "EVERYTHING!"

What did you like the most?

Vanja: "I liked those talking hands!"

THE LITTLE BIG PRINCE

How did you like the show?

Kalina: "She was beautiful."

And what did you like the most?

Kalina: "Part one!"

What did you like the most?

Nikola: "I loved when that snake came and I loved the music!"

Dunja: "I liked it the most when the little prince started talking about what he saw on his journey."

Which character was your favorite?

Dunja: "The Little Prince and the Fox are my favourites!"

Did you like the play?

Iskra: "Yes!"

Do you have a favourite character?

Iskra: "The fox!!"

Why exactly the fox?

Iskra: "Well... because... because it's my favorite animal!"

What did you like most about the play?

Stefan: "I liked how he told his story!"

Nina: "I liked it most when the real rose came!!"

Which of the characters did you like the most?

Vanja: "The snake!!! Because I thought she was a little pretty."

JOVANČE AND MARIKA

Who did you like best?

Filip and Thea: "IVICA AND MARICA!"

And why them?

Filip: "Well.. because Ivica was smart."

Thea: "Was she smart? Ivica or Marica?"

Filip: "Ivica!!"

What did you like the most?

Teodor: "That story!"

And your favorite character?

Teodor: "Ivica!"

What did you like the most?

Grigorije: "When that witch came!"

Why?

Grigorije: "Because she is very funny!"

SHOES IN LOVE

How did you like the show?

Vanja: Super!"

Who did you like most?

Vanja: "I liked those shoes the most?"

Why?

Vanja: "Well.. they were really funny to me."

And which part did you like the most?

Vanja: "Mmmm, just the shoes!"

How was your show?

Nikolina: "Good:"

Who did you like best?

Nikolina: "That boy... that boy who did the cure, I didn't like him the most, but he was the funniest."

Which part did you like best?

Oliver: "Hmmm... the one with the doctor!"

Why?

Oliver: "Because... mmm... I don't know why..."

Which part did you like best?

Jovana: "When the doctor wanted to operate!"

Natalija: "When that woman tripped and had to go to the doctor!"

THE CRICKET AND THE ANT

What did you like the most?

Minja: "I liked the most that the little ant helped that cricket, this cricket."

Who did you like best?

Minja: "That little cricket!"

Did you have a good time?

Minja: "VERY!"

Do you have a favourite character?

Dolores: "Yes, Ant! Because he was telling Cricket how... how good behavior... mmm... gets!"

Which character did you like the most?

Sara: "Ant, I thought he was the cutest when he looked like this (imitates Ant), somehow, he was very cute!"

Vanja: "I liked this spider, it had a web, so it caught, um, a grasshopper."

Which part did you like best?

Frida: "I really liked everything!"

Mona: "When it was winter, the ant forgave him."

SUSPICIOUS FACE

What did you like the most?

Sara: "I liked it the most... hmm... when the daughter broke things!"

What did you like most about the play?

Mia: "The actors and the energy, Đoka was the best for me. I really enjoyed it!"

Emma: "The humour, the tone, the mess, it was very interesting. All the actors are

good and interesting, we couldn't single out anyone in particular."

Do you have a favorite character from these?
Frida: "No, for me they were all very good."

When hardworking hands come together...

Many hands in our lives have played various roles. We will always remember the influence of some of them. The ones that hug us to this day are the tender hands of mothers and grandmothers who have the softest caress, aunts who send you skywards, the dear hands of friends, then the "Hands" of Ranko Marinković, then the hands of the love of our lives, among them Rundek's stunning "Hands" parts of which were also heard in one of the performances of the Can Theater Fest.

This festival was created by many hardworking hands, and it always proves that, whenever hardworking hands come together, anything is possible, anything is possible...

Media with the Can Theater Fest

All the leading media in the country were with us, both local and national. I would like to thank them immensely for understanding the message spread by the Can Theater Fest. Thanks to all of you: Seecult, Moj Novi Sad, Dnevnik (Kultura, Novosadska hronika, TV dodatak), Autonomija.info, Luftika, RTV Vojvodine (Razglednice, Arterija), Novas, Danas, TV N1, RTS, TV Prva, TV Kanal 9, Novosadska TV, Blic, Gradske info, City magazine, Kritikaz.com, Politika, Vojvodina.uživo, bhportal.ba, Bepac.com.



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