

Archa Theatre 1st International Summer School 2017 Newsletter





Over the past few weeks, the first annual International Summer School that was organized by Archa Theatre in Prague offered a platform for experimentation and research in the field of contemporary theatre. The summer school included ateliers, practical workshops, and lectures by Czech and foreign theatre makers and culture professionals.

Twenty-five theatre students and professionals from 20 countries around the world – from China, Singapore, Iran, Turkey, Canada, Great Britain, and other European countries – participated in the summer school.

Participants took part in four major ateliers as the initial part of the summer school. Jana Svobodová's atelier focused on the Viewpoints method in the creation of social-specific theatre. Jaroslav Hrdlička's atelier

was on the different uses of video in the context of theatrical work. Jan Burian led students to focus on different ways of musical creation by taking the sound as an integral part of stage action. And Philipp Schenker's atelier explored the relation between objects and personal stories, by focusing on the use of objects on stage. In addition to these ateliers, Pavel Kotlík introduced principles of light design, and participants had the chance to experiment with lights under his supervision.



Apart from these ateliers, participants attended to lectures by Ondrej Hrab focusing on the historical roots of social-specific theatre, and the relation between theatre and sociology. Heiner Goebbels gave a lecture on the polyphony of collaboration in the context of performing arts. Participants also attended lectures on theatre making in various public places by Henk Keizer, possibilities of cultural interventions by Mattijs Maussen, and on principles of text writing by Pieter de Buysser.

As a major part of the summer school, participants formed small creative groups and prepared short performances under the supervision of the instructors.





Here are some feedbacks from the participants

“I had the most wonderful time at Archa Theatre and have learned so much and met some incredible people. Tiring but definitely the best experience. Just amazing.”

Robyn Ferguson

MA student in University of Glasgow

“Would highly recommend the Archa Theatre International Summer School in Prague. Some reasons why: a team of talented professionals and use of a top quality space; a chance to meet theatre-makers from all over the world; workshops in Video, Light, Sound, Viewpoints, and Object Theatre; Learn about the Archa method of documentary theatre; spend two fun weeks in Prague! 2018 – Apply!”

Cliona O Connell

Theatre maker and director

“I learned, I enjoyed myself, and I met awesome artists. What else can you ask for?”

Cristina Cordero

Playwright and theatre director

“We all were from different cultures and backgrounds, and it’s really a good experience exploring the whole world in one theatre, so I think the world would be a better place if everyone would go to this summer school.”

Sabine Ozolina,

Theatre director

“Coming here taught me an entirely different approach to devised theatre. It’s a calm environment, with no pressure, and allows freedom of creativity.”

Millie Done

BA student in Goldsmiths University of London

“Thanks for giving us the chance to experience the magic of Archa!”

Daisy Alexander

BA student in University of Glasgow

“Those magical 2 weeks in Prague was such a life-changer; I got to do what I love the most in a fully-equipped, professional theatre, devise a beautiful performance with some of the loveliest people and had the chance to learn from and befriend some of the most inspirational people I have ever encountered. It taught me that theatre has the power to change the world in small but powerful moments, and a step at a time, in time; it reaffirmed my belief in social-specific theatre and all its wonders. It gave me back my purpose and drive, which I will forever be thankful for!”

Rebecca Goh

BA student in Royal Holloway, University of London

**Next International Summer School by Archa Theatre
will be held between 25 August–7 September 2018.**

**For more information please contact
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