

## INVITATION

Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria

XXIV World Congress  
of the International Association of Theatre Critics  
Sofia, Bulgaria, 15-19 April 2008

In the framework of the First Showcase of Bulgarian Theatre

For contact:

e-mail: k\_filipova@abv.bg; tel.: +359 02 987 89 22; fax: +359 02 980 49 88  
Krasimira Filipova, Director of Theatre, Variety and Circus Department  
Ministry of Culture of The Republic of Bulgaria

The Minister of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria, Prof. Stefan Danailov, takes great pleasure in inviting the International Association of Theatre Critics to hold its XXIV Congress and General Assembly in Sofia from 15-19 April 2008.

Congress Theme:

“Theatre and Humanism in Today’s World of Violence”

At a time when human life is becoming more and more devalued and human beings more and more disposable, the XXIV Congress of the International Association of Theatre Critics proposes to look at violence in the theatre, and the critic’s response to it.

What makes violence on stage today so sexy? Until quite recently, violence for its own sake was the prerogative of B-feature films and junk mystery novels. What made theatre follow suit? What is the impact of the theatre of violence on the audience? Doesn't it actually make us conformists? Is there still a place for humanism among all the post-modern “isms”, including post-human or meta-human theatre? What is the relationship between violence and the aesthetics of ugliness? How does theatre stand against the right of might (and the ensuing violence) which has become a norm today on the stage of the world? And how can theatre and theatre critics preserve humanistic values on and off stage? Should they even try?

We invite papers dealing with these and like questions, with examples from the theatre of your own country or of the world.

Deadline for Papers:

Those who want to present a paper in the two-day symposium are required to submit an abstract of 400 words or less by September 1st 2007 and the final paper by December 31st. Each speaker will be given 20 minutes for presentation. If there are too many applications, papers will be selected by their relevance to the theme and geopolitical considerations.

Congress Participation:

Members are reminded that each IATC section which has paid its membership fee for 2007-2008 is eligible to send two delegates, in addition to any officer or existing members of the

Executive Committee, and those individual members who have paid their membership fee. All hotel accommodation, local transportation, and meals for delegates for the period of 15-19 April 2008 (arrival April 14, departure April 20) will be paid by the organizers, as well as theatre tickets and airport transfers. Delegates are responsible for their own travel costs to Sofia.

Practical Notices:

1. Registration forms will be sent out later this year. Delegates should fill in the registration form and send it by January 1st 2008, either by e-mail or fax (see the info in the beginning).
2. Accompanying persons of delegates and non-delegate participants will be required to pay for their accommodation, airport transfers, local transportation, theatre tickets, and meals. Information about these costs will be provided with the registration form.

I am looking forward to welcoming the IATC delegates in Sofia in April 2008,

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Stefan Danailov  
Minister of Culture

Republic of Bulgaria