

Wednesday, 12 March 2008  
Programme SOFIA

Here are some additional informations about the 24th IATC Congress which will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 14 April (arrival date) to 20 April (departure date).  
Some plays are described after the programme.

## PROGRAMME

### Monday 14 April

- Arrival of the Congress participants
- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. – ‘Quake’ (in the hall of the ‘Satire Theatre’)
- 9:45 – 11:30 p.m. – Welcome Cocktail Party

### Tuesday 15 April

- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. – Address by Alvis Hermanis
- 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Session – Presentations
- 11:30 – 12:00 p.m. – Coffee Break
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. – Session – Presentations
- 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Buffet Lunch
- 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. – Session – Presentations
- 4:30 – 4:45 p.m. – Coffee Break
- 4:45 – 6:00 p.m. – Session – Presentations
- 7:00 – 9:45 p.m. – ‘Outcasts’ – in the National Theatre ‘Ivan Vazov’
- 10:00 p.m. – Buffet Dinner

### Wednesday 16 April

- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. – Address by David Edgar
- 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Session – Presentations
- 11:30 – 11:45 a.m. – Coffee Break
- 11:45 – 1:30 p.m. – Session – Presentations
- 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Buffet Lunch
- 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. – Session – Presentations
- 4:30 – 4:45 p.m. – Coffee Break
- 4:45 – 6:00 p.m. – Session – Presentations
- 7:00 – 9:45 p.m. – ‘The Dance of Death’ – Theatre-Laboratory ‘Sfumato’
- 10:00 p.m. – Buffet Dinner

### Thursday 17 April

#### Bulgarian Theatre Day

- 10:00 – 10:20 a.m. – Address by Prof. Margarita Mladenova
- 10:20 – 10:40 a.m. – Address by Prof. Mladen Kiselov
- 10:40 – 11:30 a.m. – Presentation by Dr. Violeta Decheva
- 11:30 – 11:45 a.m. – Coffee Break
- 11:45 – 12:45 p.m. – Documentary ‘Theatre on the road...’
- 12:45 – 1:30 p.m. – Discussion
- 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. – Buffet Lunch
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. – awarding of the Thalia Prize to Jean-Pierre Sarazaac by the Minister of Culture Prof. Stefan Danailov

- 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Documentary ‘Black box’
- 5:00 – 5:15 p.m. – Coffee Break
- 5:15 – 6:00 p.m. – Discussion
- 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. – ‘Macbeth’ (in the National Theatre ‘Ivan Vazov’)
- 10:00 p.m. – Buffet Dinner

#### Friday 18 April

- 10:00 – 1:00 p.m. – IATC General Assembly
- 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Buffet Lunch
- 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Session of the IATC Executive Committee
- 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – ‘Daddy’s always right’ – in the hall of Theatre’ 199’
- 10:00 p.m. – Buffet Dinner

#### Saturday 19 April

- 10:00 – 6:00 p.m. – tours (around Sofia and to the Rila Monastery)
- 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. – ‘Rhythm and Blues’ – Little City Theatre Off the Channel
- 10:00 p.m. – Farewell Cocktail Party

#### Sunday 20 April

- Departure

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## IATC WORLD CONGRESS SYMPOSIUM

### 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 invites us to take a look at violence in theatre, and the critics to respond to the question: What makes violence on stage so sexy today?

Up until recently, violence was the prerogative of the second class feature films and junk mystery novels. What made theatre follow suit? What is the impact of the theatre of violence on the audiences? Doesn't it actually make us conformists?

Is there still any space left for humanism among all other post-modern ‘-isms’, including post-human or meta-human theatre? What do violence and the aesthetics of the ugly have in common? How can theatre stand in the way of the right of might (and violence ensuing thereof) which has become a norm on today’s world stage? And how can theatre and theatre critics help preserve human values on and off stage? Should they even try that?

#### Keynote Speakers:

Alvis Hermanis, Latvia  
 Prof. Margarita Mladenova, Bulgaria  
 Prof. Mladen Kiselov, Bulgaria  
 David Edgar, Great Britain

Speakers:

Akiko Tachiki, Japan

In Pursuit of Tolerance – the Contemporary Significance of “The Oresteia Trilogy”

Aglia Stefanova, Bulgaria

Violence in Contemporary Theatre – Rhetorics and Ethics

Brent Meersman, South Africa

Cultural Weapons

Carmelita Celi, Italy

Titus Andronicus: non docet

Carmen Stanciu, Romania

Collateral Victims

Chin A Lee, South Korea

Form and Meaning of Violence in the Korean Theatre World

Deepa Punjani, India

Fleeting Images of an Under-Explored Theme: Violence and the Indian Stage

Georges Banu, France

New Writing and Rough Language

Halima Tahan, Argentina

Argentina: Extreme Situations in a Theatre on the Periphery

Ian Herbert, UK

Whose Violence?

Ivan Medenica, Serbia

Old Age and Slowness in Theatre: a Humanistic Alternative to the Violence of Eternal Youth and Modern Life's Speed

Kalina Stefanova, Bulgaria

The Time Is Out of Joint. (Are Critics Born with the Cursed Spite To Set It Right?)

Katayoun Hosseinzadeh Salmasi, Iran

Non-Violent Theatre in a Violent Society

Louise Ghirlando, Malta

Violent Truth: Justifying the Representation of Violence Emerging from Social Rupture

Manabu Noda, Japan

The Politics of Stage Violence in Japan Today

Margareta Sorenson, Sweden

To the Memory of Anna Politkovskaja - or The Importance of Being Earnest

Matti Linnavuori, Finland  
The Entertainment Value of Suffering

Michel Vais, Canada  
Theatre, Violence and Criticism: Citizen or Critic?

Paulo Eduardo Carvalho, Portugal  
Telling and/or Showing Violence on the Contemporary Stage: Some Portuguese Instances

Randy Gener, USA  
Contemporary American Playwrights and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Sanja Nikčević, Croatia  
How to Impose Violence as a Trend?

Tiago Bartolomeu Costa, Portugal  
Are We Here Only for Art's Sake?

Tomasz Miłkowski, Poland  
Violence? Nothing Special.

Valda Čakare, Latvia  
Representing Violence: Therapy, Entertainment or Challenge?

Yun-Cheol Kim, South Korea  
The Theatre of the Ugly: Uses of Stage Violence in Post-Dramatic Theatre

Person in charge of the Symposium: Kalina Stefanova, Director Symposia, IATC

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#### SHOW CASE OF BULGARIAN THEATRE

14 April – 7:00 p.m. – ‘Quake’ by Nikolai Haitov – Plovdiv Dramatic Theatre – at the Satire Theatre Aleko Konstantinov

15 April – 7:00 p.m. - ‘Outcasts’ by Ivan Vazov – National Theatre ‘Ivan Vazov’

16 April – 7:00 p.m. - ‘The Dance of Death’ by A Strindberg – Theatre-Workshop ‘Sfumato’

17 April – 7:00 p.m. – ‘Macbeth’ by W. Shakespeare – Rhodopean Drama Theatre ‘N. Haitov’ – at the Ivan Vazov National Theatre

18 April – 7:00 p.m. – ‘Daddy’s always right’ – ‘Credo’ Theatre - at the Theatre 199

19 April – 7:00 p.m. – ‘Rhythm and Blues’ – Little City Theatre Off the Channel

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## Daddy is Always Right

A show which will surprise those who think Andersen's stories are only good for bedtime reading.

'Credo' Theater presents a philosophic tale about love and the effort to save it, about the ability to chase away the winter of our indifference and weariness with devotion to the person we love and accepting the misfortunes of our mundane life with a smile on our face.

This can be found in the story about an old couple who went to a fair where one kiss was worth more than gold and love was the most precious commodity.

'Daddy's always right' is the second title on the 'Credo' Theater's play bill. After the phenomenal success of 'The Overcoat' – the contemporary Bulgarian theater's blockbuster abroad – Nina Dimitrova and Vasil Vasilev – Zuek swapped the Russian freeze for the Danish but preserved the heat of their artistic performance. After the show's premiere in Denmark in August 2005 it was performed in countries from different climate zones and with different theatrical culture. The audiences and the experts appreciated the original interpretation of the popular story and the authors' ability to make older audiences see a reflection of the eternal journey to the 'Other' in the icy Andersen mirror with a lot of humor and loving affection.

This is a show about the real value of the things in life, cozily huddled in dazzling snow-drifts - a story, which happens in the cold and can warm up a man's soul.

On the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of 'Credo' the Union of Bulgarian Actors awarded the company with 'Icarus' for their contribution to popularization of Bulgarian theatre abroad.

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## Theatre Workshop 'Sfumato'

'THE DANCE OF THE DEAD' By August Strindberg

Adaptation and production Margarita Mladenova  
Stage and Costume Design Daniela Oleg Lyahova  
Cast: Svetlana Yancheva, Vladimir Penev, Tsvetan Alexiev

Margarita Mladenova about 'The Dance of the Dead':

Strindberg – 'The Dance of the Mortals'

The unromantic, shamelessly cruel point of view on the human being between Eros and Tanatos.'The Dance of the Dead'.

- Can you love the ugly face of a fellow-man? (Dostoevsky)

- I can not, this is beyond my powers. (Strindberg)

Love has degraded to Hatred. Hatred as passion, a form of life, an element of destruction. Death doesn't come, because it is already here, it has come a long time ago. Dead alive. Living death. Death dancing with us. Us dancing with Death.