



qendra
multimedia

QENDRA MULTIMEDIA

A YEAR IN REVIEW 2019

www.qendra.org

A YEAR *IN REVIEW* – 2019

WHAT WE **DO**:

QENDRA MULTIMEDIA is a cultural organization in Prishtina. Its main focus is in contemporary theatre and literature. It is considered to be of the most interesting and provoking theatre companies in South Eastern Europe. Qendra was founded in 2002 by a group of artists aiming to create an alternative form of art production to address political and social issues with clarity and imagination. Qendra produces and coproduces fresh and innovative theatre performances and other literature and cultural events, for local and international audiences. Artistic exchanges with international partners are crucial in the work of Qendra.

IN 2019, QENDRA MULTIMEDIA:

- organized the 9th edition of polip – international literature festival;
- organized the second edition of Kosovo Theatre Showcase;
- implemented the second year of the Culture for change program;
- organized debates on culture, arts, theatre, cultural development;
- organized the Writer's Residency program "Prishtina has no river"
- Qendra's theater performances were shown more than 60 times, across Kosovo and internationally.

QENDRA *IN NUMBERS*

- More than *100 cultural activities* organized in Kosovo;
- More than *30 theater performances* presented in New York, Tirana, Belgrade, Zürich, Lyon, Bern, Ludwigshafen, Bratislava, Lausanne Milano and elsewhere;
- Some *20,000 audience members*, locally and Internationally have been directly engaged in our theater and literature work and other cultural activities;
- Some *100,000 audience members* were engaged in Kosovo and Internationally through out our program “Culture for Change”.



ONE OF THE READING EVENINGS AT POLIP 2019

QENDRA IN MEDIA

Our work in 2019 has been widely presented in local and international Media, including: The Guardian (UK), Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Germany), Mediapart (France), Theater der Zeit (Germany), The Stage (UK), Los Angeles Times (USA), Balcani Caucaso (Italy), Prishtina Insight (Kosovo), Danas (Serbia), Exeunt (UK/USA) etc.

THE GUARDIAN

"In Five Seasons: An Enemy of the People, opened at the National Theatre... The play tackles the unchecked illegal construction that has seen the city of Pristina grow rapidly in the years after the war."

EXEUNT

"Qendra Multimedia, last year set up a showcase in the capital of Pristina, inviting the world to come to their work. [...]..It's not hard to spot a theme, then, in the work being staged: plays insisting that the sicknesses of a society must be acknowledged in public if it's ever to make a full recovery. In the face of a rank lack of accountability, theatre-makers demand that shameful stories of a fledging nation are retold, reheard. Learned from"

THE STAGE

"There's a tendency when writing about theatre to bandy about words like 'necessary' and 'bold', in a way that can dilute their meaning, but last week in Prishtina, the capital city of Kosovo, I saw work where no other words would do"

GEORGE SOROS

"A theater [Qendra Multimedia] in Kosovo is not afraid of using art to confront entrenched prejudices and to build empathy"

polip - INTERNATIONAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

OVERVIEW:

In May 2019 (10-13 May), polip festival gathered about 40 local and international writers, poets, journalists, editors, cultural and human rights activists to read and discuss on the current literary trends as well as creating literature in new post-truth contexts and distorted realities. This year, polip was launched along the first edition of Graphic Novel Festival – Gran Fest. Program of polip 2019:

<https://polipfestival.wordpress.com/program/>

RESULTS:

Polip and Gran Fest festivals hosted about 40 local and international writers and artists that were engaged in public reading, panel discussions or live concerts that were organized in a course of 4 days. During the festival days were organized: 2 exhibitions by international graphic novel artists, 4 public readings with local and international writers, 3 concerts, 4 panels with local and international intellectuals, 4 talks with artists, one workshop and one film screening. During the four days of the festival there were around 1,500 people participating in the festival events.



KOSOVO THEATRE SHOWCASE

OVERVIEW:

In November 2019 (31 October – 3rd of November), the Kosovo Theatre Showcase gathered local and international theatre directors, actors, play writers, journalists, editors and cultural activists to promote the Kosovo theatre and discuss on culturally related topics. The Showcase 2019 marked the collaboration of Qendra Multimedia with the Kosovo National Theatre, National Ballet of Kosovo as well as the City Theatre in Gjilan and City Theatre in Ferizaj. During the showcase, Qendra premiered its newest play “In Five Seasons – The Enemy of the People”. Program of Theatre Showcase 2019: http://qendra.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/FINAL_PROGRAM_KOSOVO_THEATRE_SHOWCASE-2019.pdf

RESULTS:

Kosovo Theatre Showcase hosted about 40 local and international artists. During the Showcase was performed 1 premiere, 7 earlier plays produced by Qendra and theatres in Gjilan, Prishtina and Ferizaj as well as 2 panel discussions, one public reading and one concert. According to the estimates, Kosovo Theatre Showcase was attended by 3,000 people.



SEQUEL OF “IN FIVE SEASONS: THE ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE”

CULTURE FOR CHANGE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW:

During 2019, Culture for Change program continued to support Kosovo cultural organizations. In addition, the Culture for change team organized a series of events to support public libraries and school libraries in remote Kosovo schools by inviting children's writers and promoting the culture of reading among youngsters. Moreover, this program organized a cultural event with elder people with no care and instigated a research on Kosovo's cultural landscape.

RESULTS:

In 2019, the Culture for Change program launched its second call to support cultural organizations. In total, 46 organizations benefited from the Culture for change grants scheme (220,000 euro). In total there were 220 book titles donated to public libraries. In activities with public libraries were present about 500 pupils and students. It is estimated that in Culture for change supported events were present about 100.000 people of different ethnic backgrounds across Kosovo.



IN-HOUSE PRODUCTION

OVERVIEW:

In 2019 Qendra Multimedia premiered “In Five Seasons: The Enemy of the People” during Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2019. This play and other earlier plays produced by Qendra Multimedia have been presented across Kosovo some 30 times, in different cities and locations. In addition, earlier plays produced by Qendra Multimedia were presented some 30 times in Tirana, New York Belgrade, Zurich, Milan, Ludwigshafen, Bern, Lausanne, Lyon, Bratislava and other EU cities.

RESULTS:

In total, the plays produced by Qendra Multimedia were performed about 60 times in 2019 in Kosovo and internationally. According to approximate estimates, there were about 20,000 people attending Qendra’s production works both in Kosovo and internationally.



SEQUEL FROM “55 SHADES OF GAY” PRODUCED BY QENDRA MULTIMEDIA

WRITERS IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW:

In 2019, 6 regional and other European writers were hosted by Qendra Multimedia as part of residents' program "Prishtina has no river". As a result, the local audience had the opportunity to be engaged in public readings and discussions on literature that were organized with general public, marginalized groups and youngsters.

RESULTS:

In the course of writers program, in 2019 were organized 6 public readings. About 500 people participated in these public reading events. In addition, 10 participants attended a four-day workshop during November with renowned European playwright Roland Schimmelpfennig in Pristina that was organized by Qendra Multimedia.



Gendra Multimedia work in 2019 *was supported by:*



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Rockefeller
Brothers Fund

Philanthropy for an Interdependent World

**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**



Allianz
Kulturstiftung
... for Europe



LA MAMA
EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE CLUB

AUSTRIAN
EMBASSY
PRISTINA



The logo for Qendra Multimedia is displayed on a solid blue square background. The text "qendra" is positioned above "multimedia", both in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are black with a white outline, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

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