

# QENDRA MULTIMEDIA

A YEAR IN REVIEW - 2022



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

# KOSOVO.

# THEATRE. SHOWCASE.

25-30.10

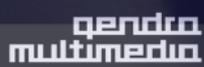
# 2022

10 THEATRE SHOWS+

NETWORKING EVENTS

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

LONG NIGHTS WITH RAKI+



REGJISOR:  
ERSON ZYMBERI

AUTOR:  
JETON NEZIRAJ

AKTORË:  
TRINGA HASANI  
SEMIRA LATIFI  
KUSHTRIM QERIMI

SKENOGRAFIA: BEKIM KORÇA  
MUZIKA: TRIMOR DHOMI  
KOREOGRAFIA: GJERGJ PREVAZI  
KOSTUMET: YLLKA BRADA  
MENAXHERE E PRODUKSIONIT: AURELA KADRIU

DRIAT: MURSEL BEKTESHI  
MBËSHTETJA TEKNIKE: PAJTIM KRASNIQI, BUJAR BEKTESHI  
ASISTENTE E PRODUKSIONIT: FLAKA RRUSTEMI  
VIDEO: ILIR GJOCAJ

# BUJRNESHHA

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

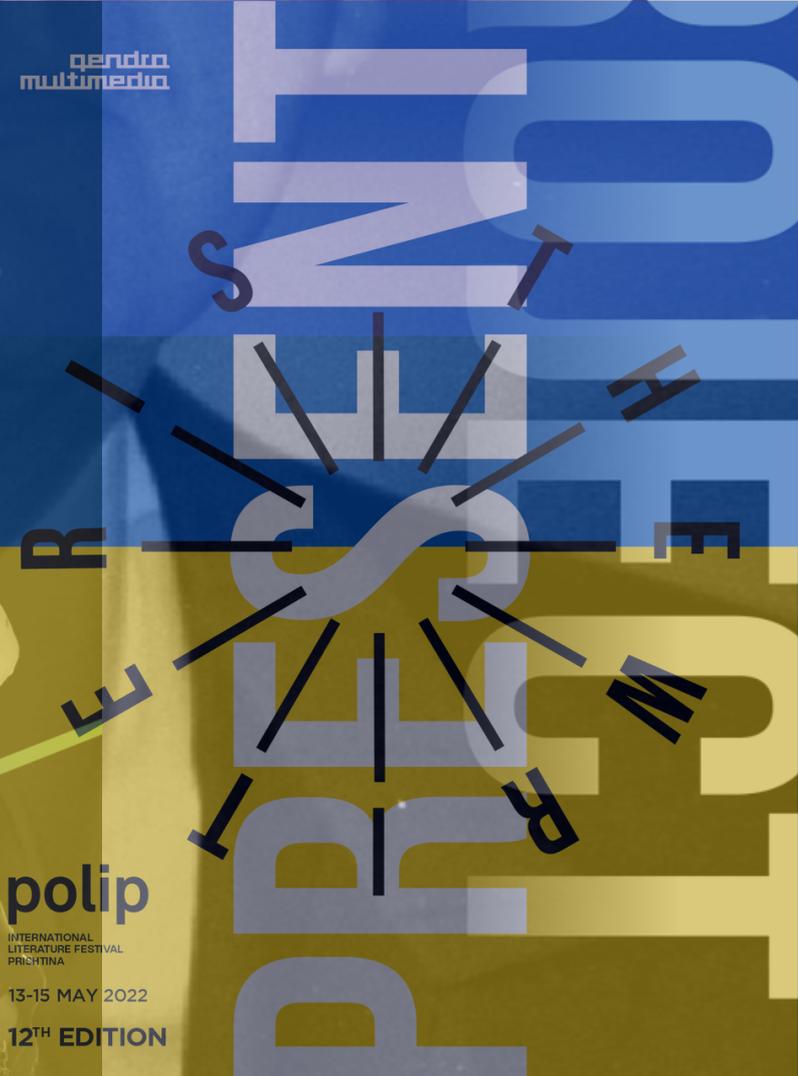


# polip

INTERNATIONAL  
LITERATURE FESTIVAL  
PRICHITINA

13-15 MAY 2022

12TH EDITION



- polip – International Literature Festival, Edition XII
- Kosovo Theatre Showcase, Edition V
- The Sworn Virgin
- The Handke Project in coproduction with Mittelfest & Teatro della Pergola (Italy); Theatre Dortmund (Germany); International Theatre Festival Scene MESS & National Theatre Sarajevo (Bosnia & Herzegovina)
- Shows on tour: The Handke Project, The Sworn Virgin, Balkan Bordello, The Return of Karl May, In Five Seasons: An Enemy of the People, Audience by Vaclav Havel

- SEEstage platform expanded.
- ODA Theatre Program with over 100 events
- Literary and Artistic Residencies
- Books published
- Wide local, regional and international media attention

# Polip – International Literature Festival 2022

13–15 May

## THE WRITER IS PRESENT?!

26 artists and authors from Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Turkey, Germany, Austria, The Netherlands, France, Sweden, Denmark, UK

Three reading sessions

Three book launches

The Blind Man by Mitja Cander (Albanian edition published by Qendra Multimedia)

The Flowers of Srebrenica by Aidan Hehir & David Frankum (Published by Qendra Multimedia in Albanian and English)

The Imaginary Albanian by Aleksandar Pavlovic (Albanian edition published by Qendra Multimedia)

Three panel discussions:

- Who is Telling Stories and Who is Sharing Stories?
- War in Ukraine – What Can Writers and Translators Do Now?
- Historical Narratives and Collective Memory as Origins of Ethnic Wars, or as Means for Healing and Reconciliation for Post War Societies? How Can Writers Influence the Outcome?

Two music performances:

- With Edona Reshitaj & Band
- With Linda Rukaj

12<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

# Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2022

25-30 October



- Over 70 guests: theatre critics, journalists, theatre managers and festival selectors from over 20 countries of the world.

- 8 locations around Kosovo and it featured:

11 theatre productions from Kosovo, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina: Husino's Miner; Top Girls; The Handke Project; Kosovo for Dummies; Afterloss, Death Hour; The Sworn Virgin; History Now Performance; Our Son; Marxist - Leninists of Switzerland; Stiffler.



- 6 networking and educational programs:
- Panel Discussion | Critics: Can They Rescue the Art of Theatre? And Can Theatre Rescue the Art of Criticism?
- Panel Discussion | Theatre Beyond Our Own Backyard
- International Theatre Market with theatre professionals from Italy, Poland, Kosovo, Slovenia, Israel, Austria
- Stage Readings and Q&As with authors | New Plays, New Worlds with Steven Morris; Sarah Hehir and Agnesa Mehanolli.
- Workshop | Analytic: A Theatre Criticism Workshop with Natasha Tripney and Tom Mustroph
- Workshop | History Now: With Lilach Dekel-Avneri and Allex (Liat) Fassberg.



# The Sworn Virgin



KOREOGRAFIA: OJEROJ PREVAZ  
KOSTUMET: YLLKA BRADA  
MENAXHERE E PRODUKSIONIT: AURELA KADRIU  
DRITAT: MURSEL BEKTESHI

*"... the play explores the Western obsession with the Burnneshë, the way international journalists and researchers often exploit and distort the phenomenon as being a product of a primitive society."*

*"...The play also warns that a consumerist society, one that swallows everything it is served, is susceptible to deceptive information, and when dense academic language is used, the truth might get even more distant and blurry." - SEEstage.org*

*"...Added layer was the exploitation of a Burnneshë as a quirky example of a queer show at a London variety show." - newsingermany.com*

*"Jeton Neziraj highlights, in the time of #MeToo, a new form of oppression, unexpected, which goes beyond the genre that we have chosen. Until the end, Sose wonders about his true identity. This drama is played out in great tension. The director Erson Zymberi opted for a bi-frontal scenic device. No decor, few accessories: a suitcase, a mirror and a much more kitsch element, a real bathtub. On the other hand, sumptuous costumes, in symbolic colors: white for the burnneshë, red for the Drag Queen." - UBU, European Stages*

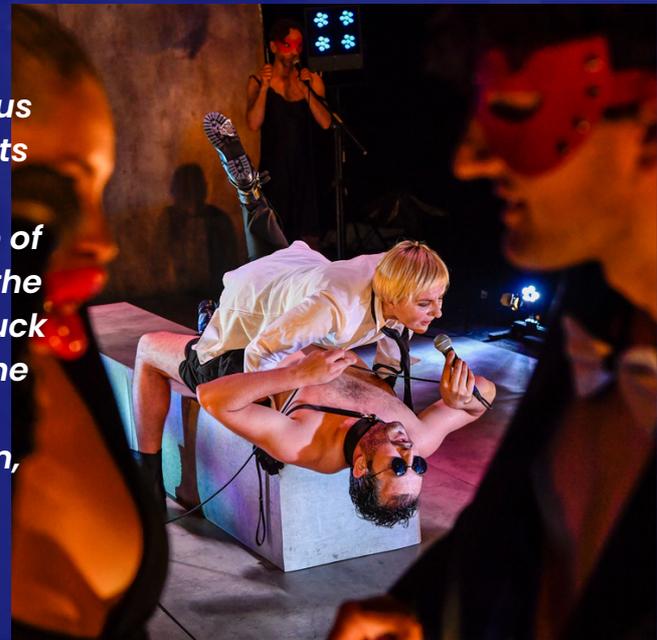
*"The Sworn Virgin invites us to reflect on the human body, the social context and systems that determine a certain view on bodies." - Sbunker*

# The Handke Project



Produced by Qendra Multimedia in association with Mittelfest & Teatro della Pergola (Italy); Theater Dortmund (Germany); International Theatre Festival Scene MESS & National Theatre Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

*“The Handke Project is an important, very courageous performance in English, investigating where the limits of political correctness are, and whether theater should deal with this at all. It testifies to the courage of the festival and the performance that at the end of the performance the actors shout not only the slogan Fuck you Handke, Fuck you Swedish Academy, but also the slogan Fuck you Salvini into the theater space as a guideline, asking the audience to repeat it with them, while the sponsor of the festival The Friuli region is governed by a member of Salvini’s party, the Italian far-right.” – Index.hu (Hungary)*



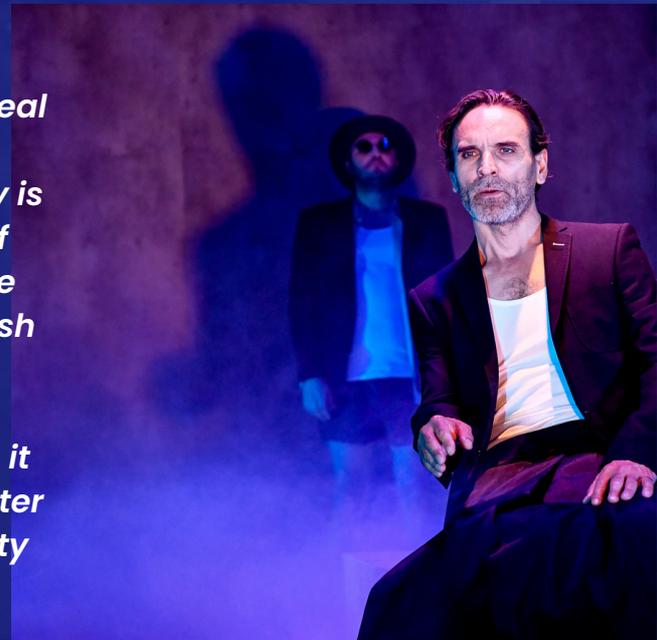
*“Director Blerta Neziraj, moreover, raises a fundamental postmodern question of Lyotard: who legitimizes legitimizers? The show rejects Nobel’s aesthetic authority and humiliates his political legitimacy.[...] Jeton Neziraj is against fascism. He is against literature that pats fascism or gets transformed into a “Troy Horse” for the general public. In an artistic sense, Neziraj has taken a position and – through art – he does not let the public decide or guess about Handke.” – Latif Mustafa – sbunker (Kosovo)*

# The Handke Project



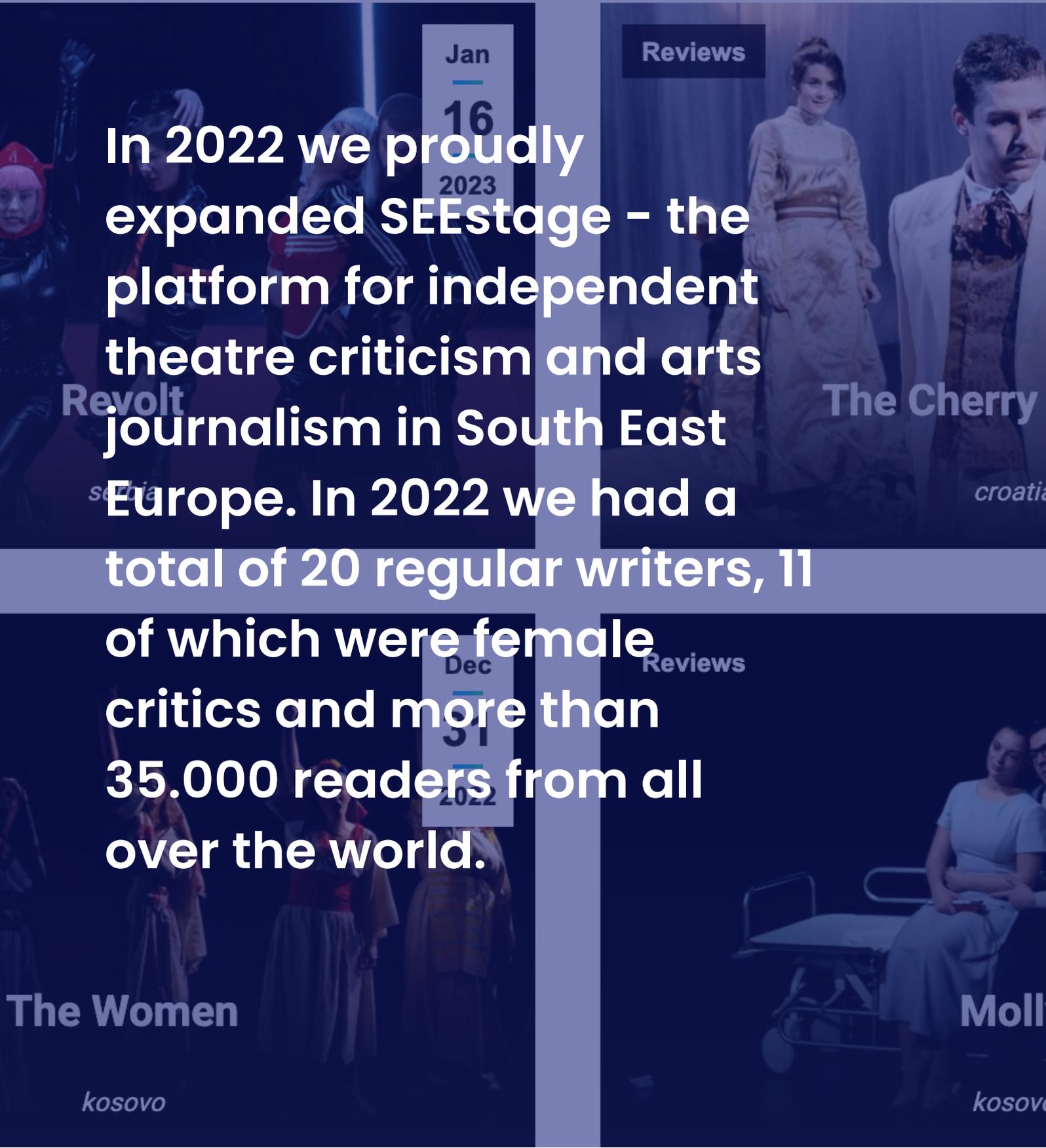
**“[The Handke Project] was perhaps the most anticipated (or at least “hot”) event of Mittelfest, a festival that for more than thirty years has compared cultures, theater and arts of Central Europe in centuries, with the cultural pulse of the continent.” – Il Manifesto (Italy)**

***“Neziraj strips away Handke’s artistry to reveal the real man beneath. Scenes are taken from his own work and actors take turns playing Handke. [...] ...the play is a monument to human suffering, particularly that of those caught up in the Srebrenica genocide. the little boy’s innocence, his childish joy of skiing and the rush of the landscape seen from his perspective and not Handke’s (who at last is no longer centre stage) widens the narrative out, contextualizes it and gives it meaning, depth and humanity. And there is no greater illustration of artistic responsibility than this.” – Verity Healey – The Theatre Times (International)***



***“And here, we enter the land of Peter Handke, the Peter Pan-like subject of Kosovar playwright Jeton Neziraj’s blistering satire... [...] Neziraj is widely regarded as Kosovo’s national playwright, akin to what Vaclav Havel is to Czechoslovakia. And Neziraj shares Havel’s innate playfulness and awareness of cruel, bureaucratic absurdities – all serving as a thin mask for the author’s fury. All of these qualities emerge in flashes and clashes, like a fireworks display, through Blerta Neziraj’s staging. Together, writer and director transform fury into an artistic bullet. – Steven Leigh Morris – Stage Raw (Los Angeles, USA)***

SEEstage platform – [www.seestage.org](http://www.seestage.org)



In 2022 we proudly expanded SEEstage – the platform for independent theatre criticism and arts journalism in South East Europe. In 2022 we had a total of 20 regular writers, 11 of which were female critics and more than 35.000 readers from all over the world.



In 2022 we had over 60 shows of our six productions around Kosovo, Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, USA, Italy, Germany, France, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The shows we toured were:

- The Handke Project
- Balkan Bordello
- The Sworn Virgin
- The Return of Karl May
- In Five Seasons: An Enemy of the People
- Audience by Vaclav Havel



# Our work was awarded

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of the Republic of Kosovo Award for International Representation – Jeton Neziraj

Best Show – The Handke Project at the 52nd edition of Ferizaj Theatre Festival, Kosovo

Best Directing – Blerta Neziraj for The Handke Project at the 52nd edition of Ferizaj Theatre Festival, Kosovo

Best Costumes – Blagoj Micevski for The Handke Project at the 52nd edition of Ferizaj Theatre Festival, Kosovo

Best Actor – Arben Bajraktaraj for The Handke Project at the 52nd edition of Ferizaj Theatre Festival, Kosovo

Best Show – Balkan Bordello at Nisville Jazz Theatre Festival, Serbia

Best Directing – Erson Zymberi for The Sworn Virgin at the 32nd edition of The Festival of Albanian Drama "Talia e Flakës", Kosovo

# ODA Theatre Program

In 2022, in collaboration with ODA Theatre, we hosted rich and engaged monthly programs of readings, book promotions, discussions and theatre performances among which:

13 theatre shows performed over 60 times and;

...many discussions on literature, theatre and culture; book promotions, stage readings, poetry and music evenings.

# Residencies

In 2022 we hosted six literary and artistic residencies among which:

- Two literary residencies within our Prishtina Has No River Writers in Residence Program:

Nada Bobicic from Montenegro

Djordje Bozovic from Serbia

- Two literary residencies within our READ Literary Residency Program

Daim Myftari from North Macedonia

Radmila Petrovic from Serbia

- Two artistic residencies within our Reconnection 2.0 Artistic Residency Program

Anja Drljevic from Serbia

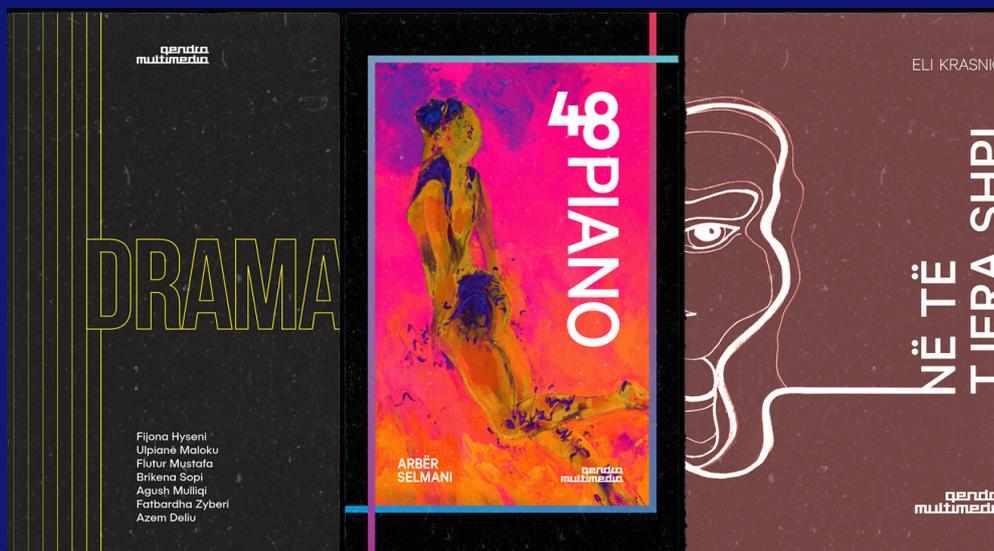
Marija Kalabic from Serbia

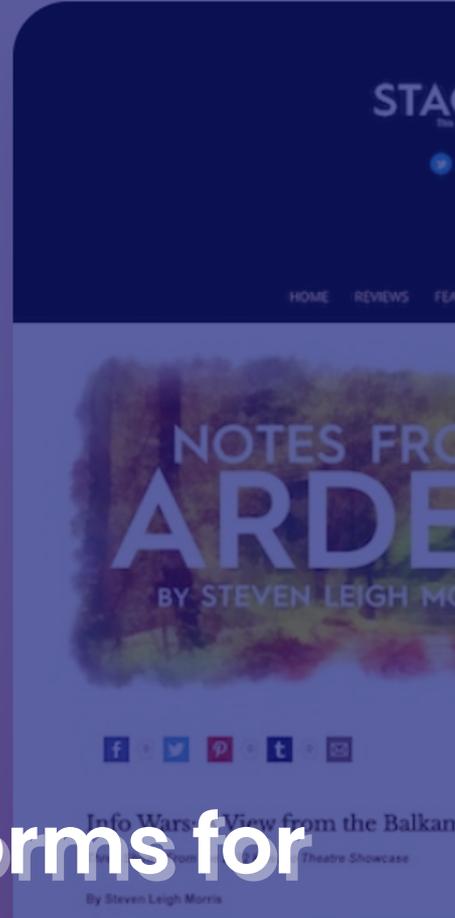
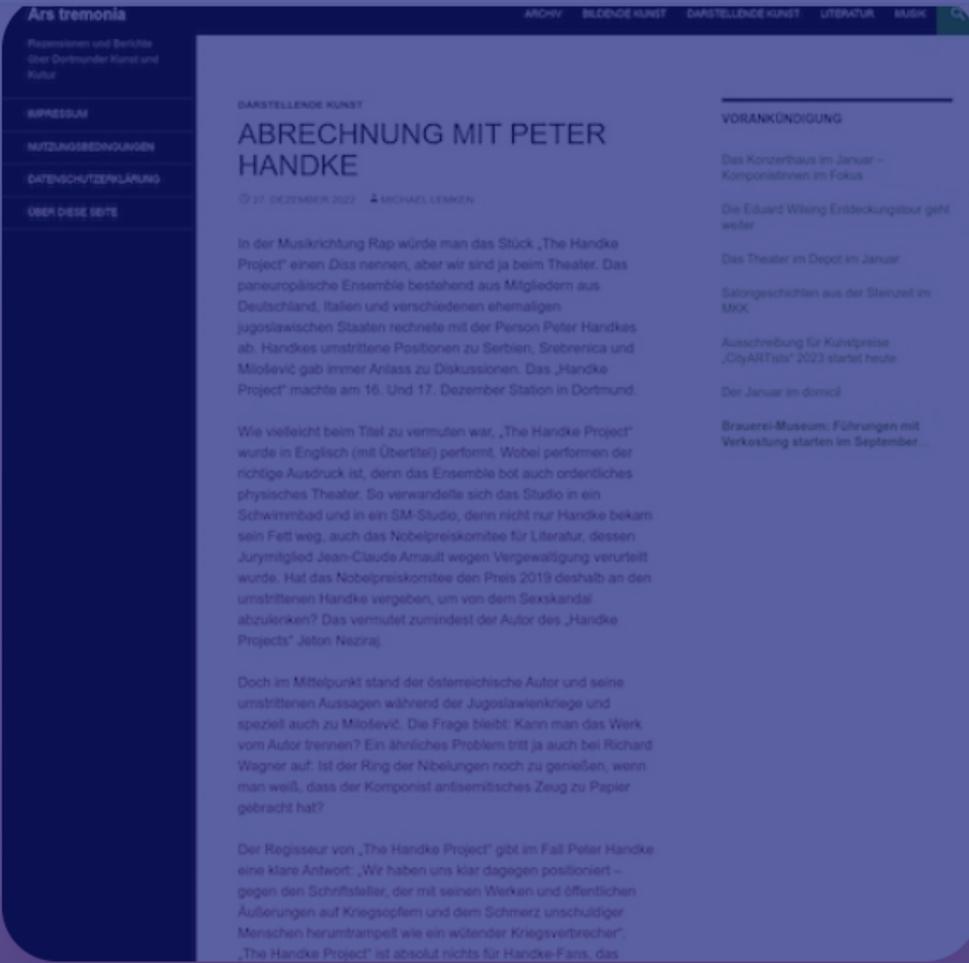


## Publications

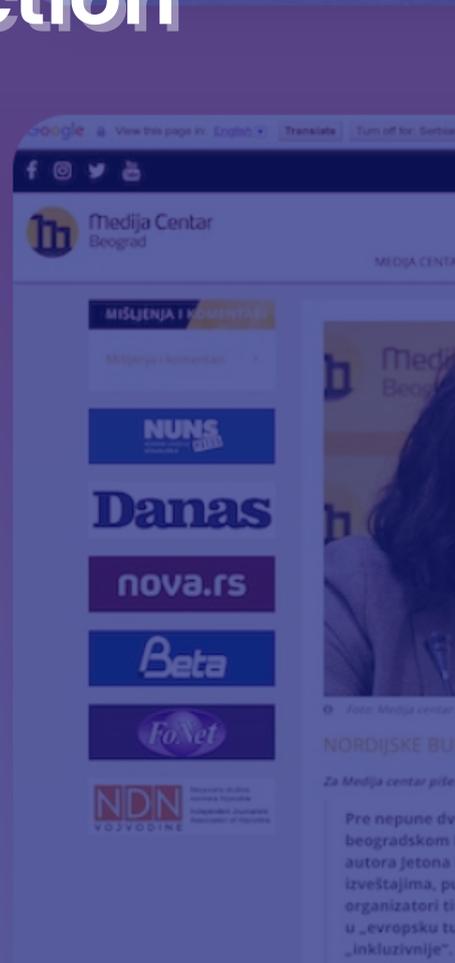
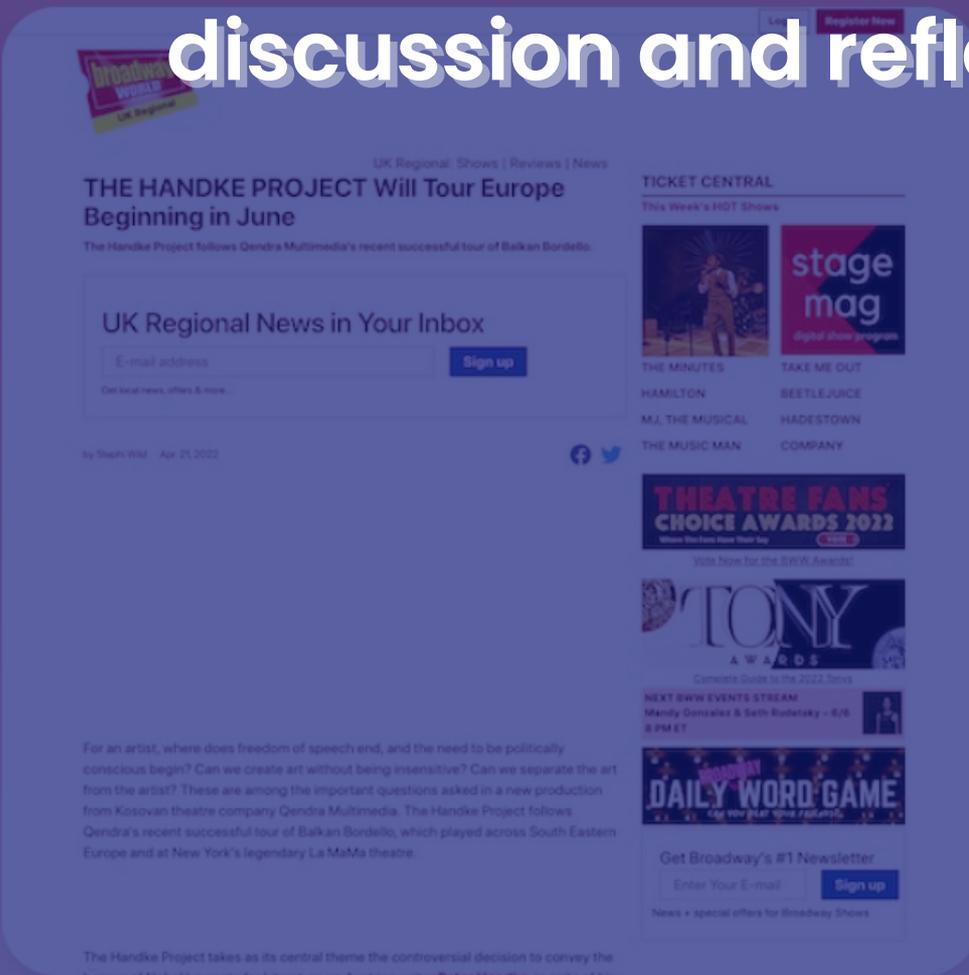
We published six books

- The Blind Man (Albanian Edition) by Mitja Cander
- The Flowers of Srebrenica (Albanian and English Edition) by Aidan Hehir and David Frankum
- Imaginary Albanian (Albanian Edition) by Aleksandar Pavlovic
- Në tjera shpi by Eli Krasniqi
- 48 piano by Arbër Selmani
- Drama Collection – Group of young writers





# Our work created platforms for discussion and reflection



**SRB // Šest lica propituje pisca – The Handke Project**

**ENG // A New Theater Production Calls Out Nobel Laureate Peter Handke for his Fascist Apologia**

**ALB // The Handke Project: Të delegjitimosh legjitimuesit**

**ENG // Kosovo Theatre Director Takes on Controversy Over Handke Nobel Prize**

**ENG // Handke is the Product of the Times in Which We Live**

**ENG // Peter Handke: Literary Genius or Lunatic Genocide Denier**

**ALB // Virgjëresha shqiptare dhe Drag Queen i Londrës: Shkëlqimi i dramës së Jeton Nezirajt**

**ENG // The Handke Project Will Tour Europe Beginning in June 2022**

**SRB // Balkan Bordello na sceni La Mame**

**ALB // Askush s'e do Agamemnonin: Drama e Nezirajt edhe në New York Times**

**ENG // New York Times: Balkan Bordello Review**

**ENG // With Brilliant Costumes and Dark Humor Balkan Bordello Explores the Legacies of War**

**SRB // Jeton Neziraj: Jedva čekam da Njujork vidi „Balkan bordello“**

**ENG // Previewing March 31 and Opening April 1, Balkan Bordello Explores the Effects of War**

**ENG // Balkan Bordello on the Road with the Great Jones Repertory**

**ENG // Balkan Bordello: A Cross Cultural Exploration of the Chain Reaction of Violence**

**ALB // Balkan Bordello në Teatrin Prestigjioz të Nju Jorkut**

**ENG // Review: King Lori Instagrations**

**ENG // The Return of Karl May at Segal Film Festival**

**ENG // Unmapping Theater: German Theater and its Attitude Towards the East**

IT // Jeton Neziraj e Il Kosovo in Scena

ENG // Blerta Neziraj: As a Female Director in Kosovo You Have to Fight Constantly

ENG // Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2022 Female Stories from Kosovo: How Two Plays Look at the Loneliness of Balkan Women

ALB // Handke: Përsëritja e së keqes  
ENG // SEEstage's Favorite Theatre Shows of 2022

ENG // Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2022: Father and Father and the 1600 Still Missing from the Kosovo War

DE // Audio Interview: The Handke Project Am Schauspiel Dortmund

DE // „The Handke Project“ in Dortmund Demontage eines Nobelpreisträgers

BiH // Boric: Handke Recidiv Zla

ALB // Trupi, banesa e fundit e qenies

RO // Showcase Kosovo II: Iubirea Aproapelui

RO // Showcase Kosovo I: Povara Memoriei Colective

ENG // Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2022: A platform for collaboration

BiH // Predstava Handke Projekt: O ulozi upitnika u relativizaciji genocida

POL // Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2022: Oblicza teatru z Kosowa: Handke, queer i pljeskavica

ENG // Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2022: Info Wars: A View from the Balkans

DE // Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2022: Das wichtige Theaterfestival in Pristina

DE // Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2022: Balkan Theaterfestival im Kosovo

ALB // Periferia e një veçantie njerëzore - viktimat që flasin

SRB // Balkan bordelo najbolji na Teatarskom festivalu Nišvila

IT // Il feroce j'accuse contro Peter Handke e il suo appoggio al regime serbo di Slobodan Milosevic

IT // Il caso Handke: la luce, le ombre, la stupidità

SRB // Neziraj: Srbija treba da se dehandkeizuje

ENG // Desert Hearts: The Handke Project Review

ENG // Kosovo Theatre Showcase 2022: Israeli and Kosovan Artists Reflect on Identity in Prishtina

**THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL 2022!**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING AND SHARING  
THE SUCCESS OF 2023 WITH YOU!**

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**Facebook: Qendra Multimedia**

**Instagram: [qendramultimedia](https://www.instagram.com/qendramultimedia)**

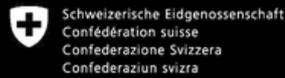
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