

YEAR-END

2025

A YEAR IN REVIEW

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POLIP FESTIVAL



The 2025 edition of Polip Festival unfolded under the theme “And Yet the Sun Rises: Creative Articulation of Resistance Across Histories, Geographies... Beyond Walls.” Organized by Qendra Multimedia in collaboration with Molla e Kuqe, this year’s festival explored how resistance—rooted in histories near and far—can be remembered, reimagined, and retold through artistic practice.

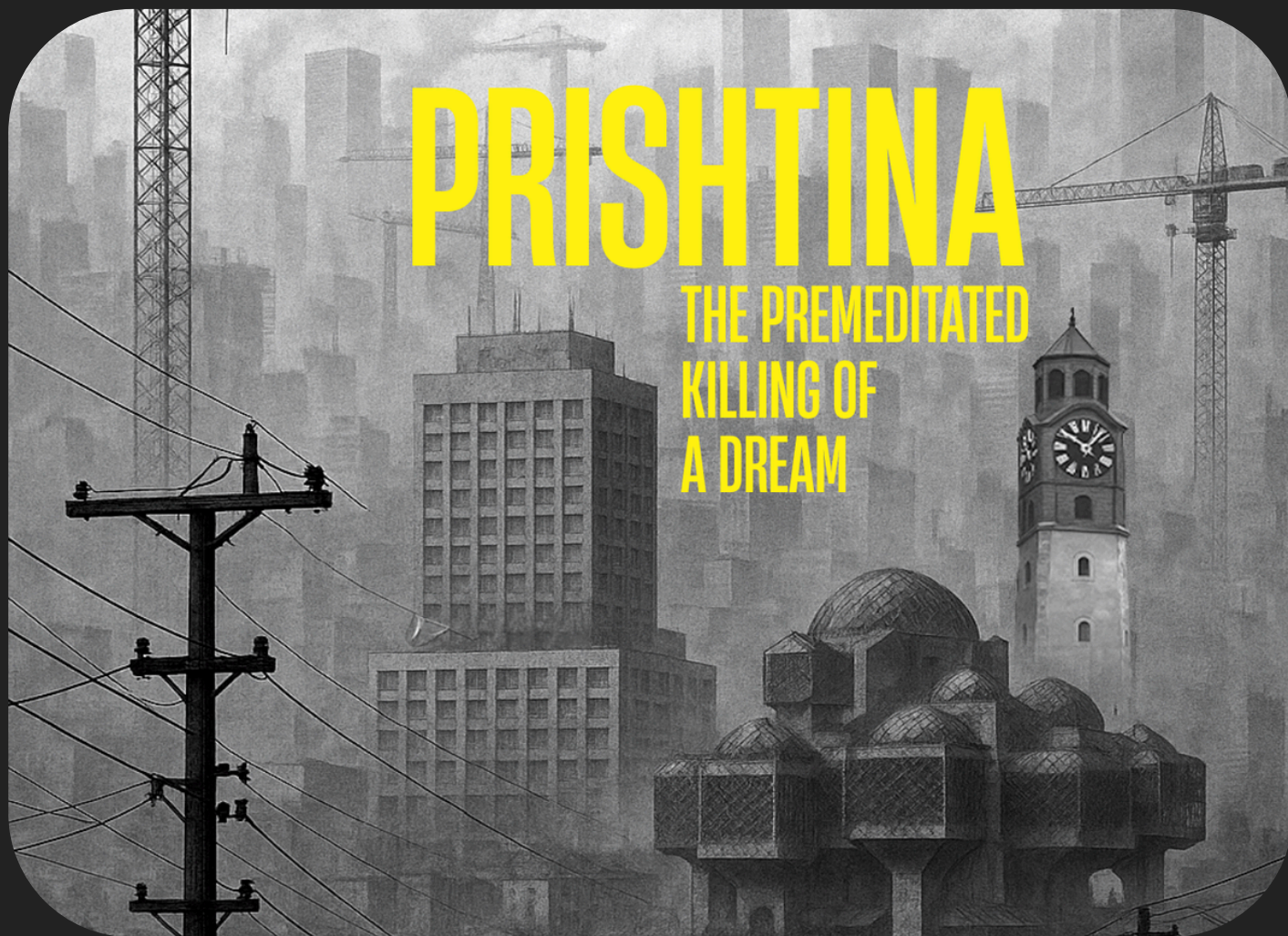


The festival opened with the theatre performance *The Long Shadow of Alois Brunner* by Muddar Alhaggi, directed by Omar Elerian. At Kino Armata, we screened *Open Letters*, a documentary by Katharina Dominice that takes us back to 1934, when Switzerland began issuing seasonal residence permits to immigrant workers, revealing early structures of migration control and exclusion. The theatre performance *Do It or Die* (Bëje ose Vdis), written by Jeton Neziraj, pays homage to more than 12,000 political prisoners from Kosovo in former Yugoslavia. Within the museum’s prison cells, audiences also encountered an intimate performative reading of testimonies by former women and men political prisoners from Kosovo.

The festival further hosted two panel discussions: *The Past Haunting the Future: Creative Articulation of Historical Momentums*, and *(Non) Main Character Syndrome? Women’s Representation in Balkan Literature*. These conversations brought together artists, writers, and scholars to explore the intersections between social struggle and creative expression, as well as the visibility, agency, and representation of women in literature—both as subjects and as creators.

NEW PRODUCTION: PRISHTINA. THE PREMEDITATED KILLING OF A DREAM

PRISHTINA. The Premeditated Killing of a Dream premiered on May 23, 2025, at ODA Theatre in Prishtina. It has been performed eight times to date



About the play

The starting point of this play is the story of a crime, which happened 25 years before, in a recently liberated Prishtina, which was then administered by the United Nations Mission in Kosovo. At that time, and almost alone, Rexhep Luci, architect and Prishtina's head of spatial planning, tried to establish urbanism controls. But that was not a time of people who thought about the future. Rexhep Luci is like Ibsen's Dr. Stockmann. Except that for his truth about Prishtina, he paid a much higher price.

“PRISHTINA. The Premeditated Killing of a Dream” address the issue of illegal construction on stage and invites us to rethink our relationship with, and responsibility for the city, at a time when this destructive cycle has become institutionalized and normalized. In the 25 years since the end of the war, the city of Prishtina has transformed into a large construction site – perhaps the biggest site on the planet. A parallel, ghost city, looms over it, a threat to life and the future.

NEW CROSSCONTINENTAL PRODUCTION: UNDER THE SHADE OF A TREE I SAT AND WEPT

Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept premiered on 17 October in Gjan City Theatre. It has been performed six times to date

under
the shade
of a tree
I sat
and wept



About the play

In 1990, with war on the horizon, a group of former political prisoners, students and intellectuals from Kosovo initiated a historical movement for blood feud reconciliation. Many public 'sessions' took place and hundreds of families reconciled during this process. 1,275 blood feuds and conflicts were resolved in total. Over half a million people attended the last public session of reconciliation.

Through archive and newly-collected testimonials, a group of artists from Europe and Africa reflect on the lessons that the 1990 Blood Feuds Reconciliation Campaign in Kosovo and the 1995 Truth and Reconciliation Campaign in South Africa offer us today – lessons that could serve us in a world once again engulfed in violence and conflict. If 30 years ago, the truth was believed to be able to liberate us, what liberates us in today's post-truth age? When we forgive, do we forgive unconditionally?

SPECIAL EDITION OF THE SHOWCASE IN 4 CITIES: KOSOVO / NORTH MACEDONIA THEATRE SHOWCASE

For the eighth consecutive year, Qendra Multimedia brought together a vibrant community of theatre lovers, artists, and cultural professionals through our annual Kosovo Theatre Showcase—an event dedicated to celebrating contemporary theatre, fostering regional collaboration, and connecting Kosovo’s theatre scene with the wider international community. The 2025 edition welcomed more than 70 international guests across Prizren, Gjakova, Prishtina, and Skopje, including festival curators, theatre critics, journalists, writers, directors, and theatre enthusiasts from around the world.



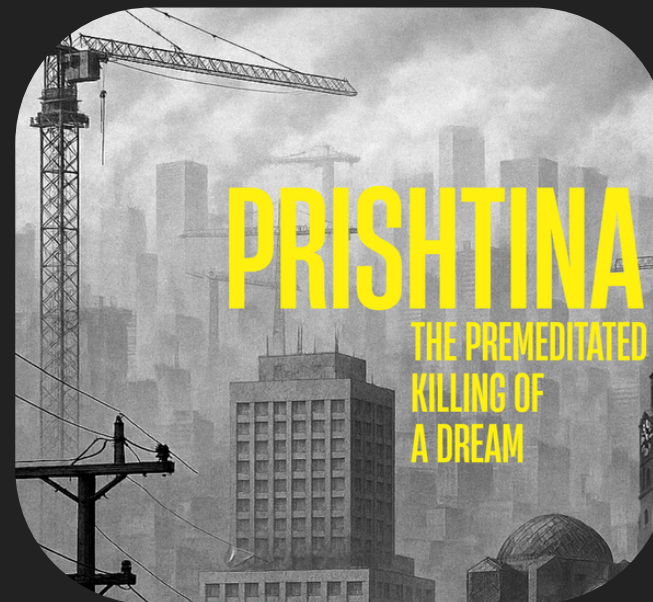
This year’s edition was organized in collaboration with North Macedonia, featuring works from both countries that explored themes of war, memory, political and ethnic conflict, and their lasting impact on people and history. **Among the shows, the festival showcased the plays Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept, Hunger, Inhuman, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, The Border, The Son, Do It or Die, The Blind and PRISHTINA: The Premeditated Killing of a Dream.**

The showcase also included three discussion panels: **“So You Want to Be a Playwright?”**, **“Theatre in North Macedonia: Where Are We? Where Do We Want to Go?”**, and **“Whose Stories Count? Theatre Beyond Propaganda.”** In addition, there was a lecture performance titled **“Black Notebook Confessions”** by Robert Alagjozovski. The program also included a cultural visit to the House-Museum of Mother Ferdonije Querkezi and concluded with a staged reading titled **Many Identities? Kill Some of Them!**, featuring Mark Ravenhill and performed by 14 workshop participants.

OUR SHOWS ON TOUR

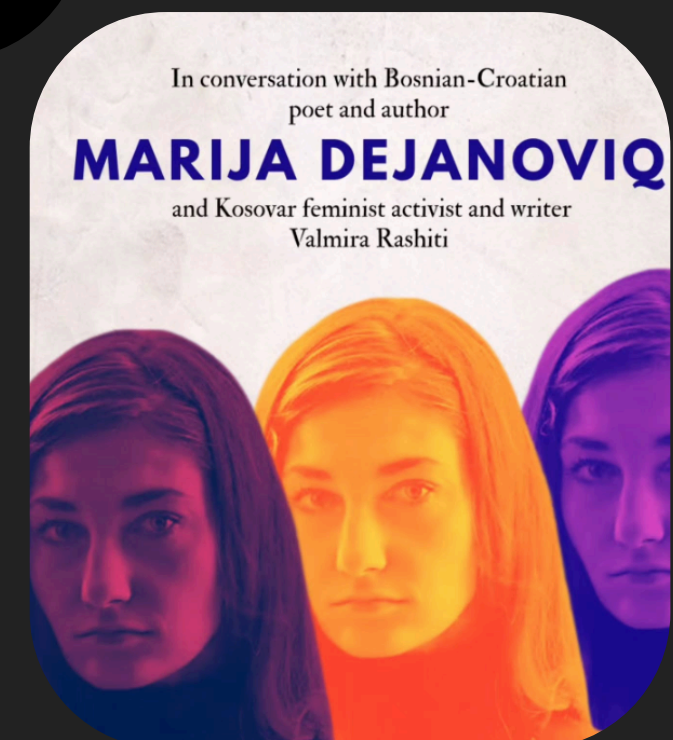
Our productions “Six Against Turkey,” “Negotiating Peace,” and “The Handke Project”, “Prishtina. The Premeditated Killing of a Dream” were presented at these venues, in different theatres around the world.

- March 20 & 21 – Negotiating Peace at Black Box Teater in Oslo, Norway, as part of the Oslo International Theatre Festival
- April 14 – Six Against Turkey at the National Theatre of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- May 8 & 9 – Negotiating Peace at Teatro Della Pergola, Florence, Italy
- June 14 – The Handke Project in Graz, Austria, as part of the Dramatikerinnen 2025 Festival
- June 20 & 21 – Negotiating Peace at Zona K in Milan, Italy, as part of the LIFE - Theatre Arts Media Festival
- September 14 – Prishtina. The Premeditated Killing of a Dream, at National Theatre of Sarajevo

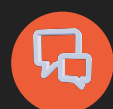


OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- “Qendra Multimedia, in collaboration with the Prizren City Theatre ‘Bekim Fehmiu’, Maladype Theater (Hungary), and Mettrin Arts Center (Hungary), presented the premiere “inHuman” on September 19 in Prizren
- Our play “The Whites”, which premiered on May 24, 2024, toured Kosovo with eight performances in theatres across Prishtina, Prizren, and Ferizaj
- In collaboration with Kometë, on November 5, 2025, we organized a feminist conversation between Bosnian-Croatian poet and author Marija Dejanović and Kosovar feminist activist and writer Valmira Rashiti. The discussion focused on Dejanović’s creative practice and, from a feminist perspective, explored themes in her work related to language, migration, and resistance. During the event, Dejanović also read excerpts from her work
- Qendra Multimedia continued its annual writers-in-residence program, awarding this year’s fellowship to the two selected applicants, Marija Dejanović and Suad Arilla

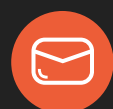


THANK YOU FOR AN AMAZING YEAR



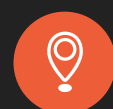
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