

# A Year in Review

# The Story of Our Year

- Polip Festival: And Yet the Sun Rises (15-17 May, 2025)
- New Production: PRISHTINA. The Premeditated Killing of a Dream (23 May)
- New cross-continental production: Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept (17 October)
- Special edition of the showcase in 2 countries & 4 cities:  
Kosovo / North Macedonia Theatre Showcase
- Our shows on tour: Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept; Prishtina. The Premeditated Killing of a Dream; Six Against Turkey; The Whites; Negotiating Peace; The Handke Project
- Other highlights

# Polip Festival 2025 (And Yet the Sun Rises)

15–17 May 2025

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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 Kuge, the festival explored the ways resistance—rooted in histories both near and far—can be remembered, reimagined, and retold through artistic practice. The Polip Festival 2025 opened with the powerful theatre performance *The Long Shadow of Alois Brunner* by Muddar Alhaggi, directed by Omar Elerian.

At Kino Armata, audiences were invited to reflect through the screening of *Open Letters*, a documentary by Katharina Dominice, while at “Prison of Ideal” museum, the stage came alive with the thought-provoking City Theatre of Gjakova production *Do It or Die (Bëje ose Vdis)*. The festival 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*.

# New Production: PRISHTINA. The Premeditated Killing of a Dream (Premiere: May 23, 2025)

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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 control. 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" addresses 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.



# Critiques and reviews

"Neziraj's updated play is at once an outlet for grief and a rallying cry."

*Seestage, International*

"'Prishtina: The Premeditated Killing of a Dream,' wasn't a rewrite. It was something deeper. A confession, an accusation and perhaps, an attempt at redemption."

*Kosovo2.0, International*

*"This play is not just a tribute to the architect Rexhep Luci. It is an alarm about how a city's architect was killed, and with him, his dream, in a city whose soul was killed."*

*KOHA, Kosovo*





# Critiques and reviews

"Almost a reminder to us, distracted and mostly Western, how much those events still weigh, 25 years later, on the civil history of that region, on its theater—and how the documentary, memorial aspect is at the very heart of this theater."

*Quantescene, Italy*

"Pristina is like "a conscience crushed under heavy concrete blocks," and the theater becomes a space for self-reflection."

*TEB Oyun, Turkey*





# New cross-continental production: *Under the Shade of a Tree / Sat and Wept* (17 October, 2025)

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?



# Critiques and reviews

“Exceptionally impactful narrative expression.”

— *Nova Makedonija, North Macedonia*

“This should be precisely the role of theatre: to normalize what was previously unseen.” — *Avvenire, Italy*

“This show is about the value of art, then. And it could not come at a more important time.” — *The Theatre Times, Global*





# Critiques and reviews

"Greg Homann of Market Theatre and Blerta Neziraj (Qendra Multimedia) demonstrate a profound and appropriate sense of responsibility toward their subject matter."

— *Politis, France*

"The longer the play went on, the more one wanted to believe that there could be serious paths to reconciliation ... A visionary evening of theatre."

— *WELT, Germany*

"A heartfelt piece about a plight that transcends continents."

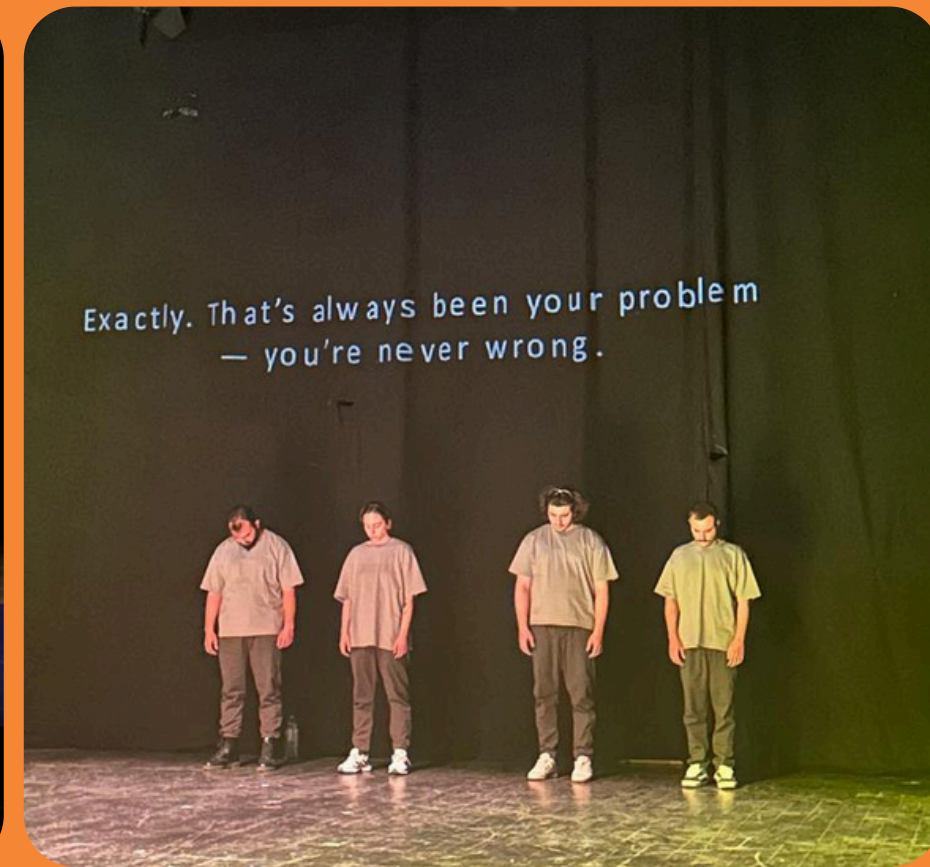
— *Seestage.org*





# Special edition of the showcase in 4 cities: in Prizren, Gjakova, Prishtina, and Skopje

For the eighth consecutive year, Qendra Multimedia brought together a vibrant community of theatre lovers, artists, and cultural professionals for its annual Theatre Showcase — an event that celebrates contemporary theatre, fosters regional collaboration, and connects Kosovo's and the region's theatre scene with the wider 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.





# Special edition of the showcase in 4 cities: Kosovo / North Macedonia Theatre Showcase

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The 2025 edition welcomed over 70 international guests, including festival curators, theatre critics, journalists, writers, directors, and theatre enthusiasts from around the globe. 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*, *PRISHTINA: The Premeditated Killing of a Dream*.





# Kosovo / North Macedonia — in Prizren, Gjakova, Prishtina, and Skopje

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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 and a playwriting workshop with Mark Ravenhill.





# Other Major Events and Highlights



- **In January 2025**, we organized Poetic Consultations at the Retirement Home in Pristina in collaboration with Théâtre de la Ville (Paris) and Teatro della Pergola (Italy), featuring artists from Kosovo. Inspired by the **Night of Solidarity 2025**, the actors—Albulena Kryeziu Bokshi, Aurita Agushi, Adrian Morina, and Armend Smajli—spent the day with elderly residents, engaging in conversations, sharing poetry, and performing songs.
- In 2025, the Seestage platform reached **27,000 active users and 42,000 views**, with the largest share of readers based in the United States, followed by Kosovo, Serbia, and Albania, and had around 30 contributors.
- “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.
- Qendra Multimedia has continued its annual writers-in-residence program, awarding this year’s fellowships to two selected applicants: Marija Dejanović (Bosnian-Croatian) and Suad Arilla (Albanian).
- 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.



# ODA Theatre Programs

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As co-managers of the ODA Theatre, in collaboration with other theaters and collectives, we hosted theatre and literature festivals, cultural events, and three theatre premieres: *The Premeditated Killing of a Dream*, *The Border*, and *Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept*. Plays such as *Shef Lumturim*, *White People*, *Six Against Turkey*, *The Border*, *Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept* and *Negotiating Peace*, *I Am the One*, *The Long Shadow*, *Prishtina: The Premeditated Killing of a Dream*, *King Lear*, *Silent Voices*, *The Dark Madness*, *Something Magnificent* were performed over 60 times, alongside numerous discussions on literature, theatre, and music, as well as book promotions, stage readings, poetry and music evenings, and other cultural performances.





# Our Shows on Tour

In 2025, we presented more than **35 performances** of our productions across multiple locations in **Kosovo and Europe.**

- Our play **"White People,"** which premiered on **24 May 2024**, toured Kosovo with **eight performances;**
- Our play **"Six Against Turkey,"** which premiered on **16 October 2024**, toured Kosovo with **seven performances;**
- Our play **"Prishtina: The Premeditated Killing of a Dream,"** which premiered on **23 May 2025**, toured Kosovo with **seven performances;**
- Our new play **"Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept,"** which premiered on **17 October 2025**, toured Kosovo with **five performances.**

**During 2025, our productions— Prishtina: The Premeditated Killing of a Dream, Six Against Turkey, White People, Negotiating Peace, and The Handke Project—have been presented at various 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



# Looking Ahead to 2026

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- The Handke Project at Mettrin Art Centre, Bánk, Hungary — 21 February 2026
  - South African tour of Under the Shade of a Tree I sat and Wept, at The Market Theatre, Johannesburg (South Africa) - 9–26 April 2026
  - POLIP Festival — 14–16 May 2026, presenting two international productions: Zoe produced by UniT and partners and Judit Seeks produced by Het nieuwstedelijk
  - Prishtina: The Premeditated Killing of a Dream at Dramatiker:innen Festival, Graz, Austria — 26–31 May 2026
  - Prishtina: The Premeditated Killing of a Dream at Shakespeare Is Dead Festival, Leuven, Belgium — 12 June 2026
  - Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept at Black Box Teater / Heddadagene Festival, Oslo, Norway — 12 & 13 June 2026
  - Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept at Mittelfest, Cividale del Friuli, Italy — 19 July 2026
  - Under the Shade of a Tree I Sat and Wept at São Luiz Teatro Municipal, Lisbon, Portugal: 20–25 October 2026
- \*More performances on our tour will be announced soon!

*Thank You*  
**for a wonderful 2025!**

**We look forward to an inspiring 2026!**

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