**Statute of the Nová dráma/New Drama festival of productions of contemporary Slovak and international drama**

**Preamble**

The aim of this Statute is to define the rules, components, and principles of the festival, as well as the criteria for the selection of the competing productions.

The Nová dráma/New Drama festival of contemporary Slovak and international drama is a competition festival of performance and drama productions that have been staged in professional theatres in Slovakia in the current selection period.

The festival is the only nationwide competition festival, and it is an open forum dedicated to the presentation of contemporary Slovak and world drama.

The festival is intended for both the professional and lay public and focuses on presenting the most significant productions which co-shape the cultural and artistic context of the professional Slovak theatre scene. The festival also aims to support the creation and making of original Slovak and international drama.

**Article I**

**Initial provisions**

1. The Nová dráma/New Drama festival of contemporary Slovak and international drama productions (hereinafter referred to as the “Festival”) is a competition festival showcasing the best productions of contemporary Slovak and international drama productions staged by professional theatres in Slovakia during the current and/or previous theatre season (from 1 February till 31 January).
2. The main organizer of the Festival is the Theatre Institute, a budgetary organization of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.
3. The Festival takes place every year, during a period of 5 to 7 days in May.
4. The Theatre Institute contacts the Festival partners during the preparation stage. The partnership is defined in the Collaboration Agreement, which is signed both parties.
5. The organizational structure of the Festival:
   1. Main organizer  
      The Main Organizer ensures a smooth running of the Festival.  
      In the preparation stage, the Main Organizer contacts external experts and Festival partners.
   2. Dramaturgy board  
      The Dramaturgy Board attends and assesses selected productions of Slovak professional government-established and independent theatres.   
      Applying the Festival criteria, the Dramaturgy Board selects productions for the main programme.
   3. Festival Jury  
      The Festival Jury assesses all productions included in the main programme and decides on awarding Festival prizes. The decisions must be justified in writing.

The organizational staff of the Festival:

1. Honorary Director  
   The Honorary Director is a representative position – the Honorary Director participates in the promotion and public presentation of the Festival (press conference, Festival opening ceremony, Festival awards ceremony, etc.)
2. Director   
   The role of the Festival Director is to ensure the preparation and smooth running of the festival from an organizational and economic point of view, to participate in the creation of the programme, and to establish contacts with international guests and experts, etc. The Festival Director is also responsible for the representation of the festival, taking part in the promotion of the Festival and its public presentation (press conference, Festival opening ceremony, Festival awards ceremony, etc.).

The Festival Director has a decision-making power.

1. Executive Director   
   The Executive Director is responsible for the coordination and production related to the presentation of the main and accompanying programme. It is a representative position and involves the participation in the promotion and public presentation of the Festival (press conference, Festival opening ceremony, Festival awards ceremony, etc.).  
   In addition, the Executive Director takes part in the creation of the programme, among other things.
2. Programme Director   
   The Programme Director keeps a record of the productions which meet the Festival criteria, coordinates the work of the Dramaturgy Board (booking tickets and administering the viewing of productions), and creates and executes the accompanying programme, etc.
3. PR Manager   
   The role of the PR Manager is to promote the Festival – both the main and accompanying programmes. In addition, the PR Manager assists in looking for Festival partners, contacting media partners, informing television, radio, print, and online media and media partners. The PR Manager is responsible for interconnecting organizers, guests, and Festival participants with journalists, etc.
4. Other members of the organizational team

The other members of the organizing staff are responsible for production activities, coordination of international guests, technical support, cooperation in developing the programme, contact with domestic and international guests, distribution of promotional materials, and other activities necessary for the smooth running of the Festival.

**Article II**

**Festival programme**

1. The programme of the festival includes the main competition festival and accompanying events.
2. The main competition programme includes 10–12 productions of contemporary Slovak and international drama presented by professional theatres and theatre companies in Slovakia.
3. The accompanying events include:
   1. The Focus section  
      The Focus section is a set of accompanying Festival events that focus on a selected foreign country and its presentation in Slovakia.  
      The section includes the guest performance of an international production, presentation of a translated publication, and the Theory event. The Focus section is administered by the organizational staff, in collaboration with a chosen international curator.
   2. Festival patron section   
      The Festival patron section is a set of accompanying events related to a selected renowned international personality in the field of theatre and culture.   
      The Festival patron is a representational figure of that year’s Festival. Their role is to hold a speech at the opening ceremony, teach the Masterclass, and attend the presentation of each year’s collection of plays.

The Festival patron is selected by the organizational staff.

* 1. International conference  
     Slovak and international experts in theatre and culture submit their contributions following a public call. The organizational staff choses the conference theme and, in collaboration with the Research Committee of the conference, selects the contributions to be included.
  2. Young Critics Seminar   
     A critical seminar led by an invited expert lecturer, which takes place during the entire duration of the festival. Students at Slovak and international universities of arts and humanities will be professionally led by the lecturer to reflect on the productions of the main programme. The participants in the seminar also become members of the Student Jury of the Festival and, at the Festival’s end, award the Student Jury Award.
  3. Triathlon and the Drama contest final   
     Stage readings of the texts shortlisted for the final round of the Drama competition. Announcement of the results and awarding of prizes during the closing ceremony of the Festival.
  4. Other accompanying events   
     Other accompanying events include discussions, staged readings, exhibitions, panel discussions, informal and formal meetings and other activities to support the presentation of Slovak theatre abroad.

1. The Festival programme is put together by the Dramaturgy Board (main programme) and the organizational staff (all accompanying events).

**Article III**

**The Dramaturgy Board and the selection of productions for the main programme**

1. The Dramaturgy Board selects the productions to be included in the main programme of the Festival.
2. The activities of the Dramaturgy Board are coordinated by the Programme Director of the Festival (booking tickets to productions and organizing the viewing of the plays by the members of the Dramaturgy Board).
3. The Dramaturgy Board has an odd number of members, a minimum of three, and is headed by a chair. The personal composition of the Dramaturgy Board is different every year and is determined by the Festival’s organizational staff.
4. The Dramaturgy Board attends selected productions of professional theatres based in Bratislava and outside of Bratislava based and (government-established as well as independent), and, if the situation does not make it possible, watches audio-visual recordings of the productions provided by the theatres and theatre associations in question. However, the productions proposed by the Dramaturgy Board to be included in the main programme, must be eventually assessed based on personal attendance in the theatre.
5. The Dramaturgy Board should finish the programme no later than 3 months before the Festival starts.
6. The Dramaturgy Board is responsible for preparing the texts for Festival promotion materials, in line with the instructions of the Programme Director.
7. The Main Organizer of the Festival – the Theatre Institute – is responsible for remunerating the members of the Dramaturgy Board for their work.
8. The selection of productions can include:
9. productions based on original Slovak and world drama not older than 20 years,
10. collective devised works,
11. dramatizations,
12. productions created using innovative staging approaches – interdisciplinary or multimedia works,
13. productions that have undergone substantial adjustments of the dramatic text, not older than 20 years and exclusively in their text form, provided that the work’s annotation includes both the original author and the author of the adjustment,
14. hybrid stage forms focused on the dramatic element,
15. dramatic productions that do not use text (but not dance productions).
16. The selection may only include productions intended for adult audiences, that is, productions for spectators older than 18.

**Article IV**

**Festival Jury and Festival awards**

1. The Festival Jury watches the main competition programme for the entire duration of the Festival.
2. The Festival Jury has three members and is made up of experts in art and culture from Slovakia and abroad. The members of the jury are selected by the festival directors (Director, Executive Director, and Programme Director). At its first meeting, the Festival Jury will elect its chair.
3. The Festival Jury awards the following Festival prizes:
   1. Grand Prix Nová dráma/New Drama  
      The main Festival prize can be given awarded to one production only – based on the criteria set by the jury.  
      The visual form of the prize is created by an artist chosen by the Main Organizer.
   2. Special prizes of the jury   
      The jury may award any number of special prizes.   
      The jury may award the special prize to any component of the production (for example, music, lighting design, acting performance, etc.).   
      The visual form of the prize is created by an artist chosen by the Main Organizer.
4. A production may be awarded several Festival prizes, if the Festival jury decides so.
5. The jury awards the above mentioned prizes based on a consensual decision of all its members.
6. The City Hall of Bratislava, the Capital of the Slovak Republic, invites spectators to vote for the production to receive the Bratislava Audience Award. The voting is administered by the main organizer.   
   The votes are counted using a formula defined by the Main Organizer. The formula takes into account the size of the auditorium (capacity), occupancy, and the number of submitted ballots.  
   In case of an equal number of votes, the number of negative votes is decisive.  
   The material prize will be selected, acquired, and gifted by the Bratislava City Hall.
7. The Student Jury Award is given by members of the Young Critics Seminar, who have been selected from among university students of arts and humanities from Slovakia and abroad. During the Festival, these students are expertly coordinated by an invited professional critic or theatrologist.
8. Members of the Student Jury award the prize based on a consensual decision of all its members and under the expert supervision of a lecturer.
9. The visual or material form of the Student Jury Award is determined by the Main Organizer.
10. Festival prizes are awarded during the Festival’s closing ceremony. The Grand Prix Nová dráma/New Drama is awarded by the chair of the expert jury, the Bratislava Audience Award by the Mayor of Bratislava, or their deputy, and the Student Jury Award by the participants in the Young Critics Seminar.

**Article V**

**Final provisions**

1. The Statute is concluded for an indefinite period of time.
2. The Statute shall enter into force and effect on the date of signature of the said document.
3. The Theatre Institute, being the Main Organizers of the festival, is entitled to amend and modify the festival statute, which will then be duly incorporated into a new version of the Statute.
4. The Statute shall be published on the official website of the festival at [www.novadrama.sk](http://www.novadrama.sk).
5. The Statute is drawn up the Main Organizer of the festival.

In Bratislava, on 1 December 2023

doc. Mgr. art. Vladislava Fekete, ArtD.

**Director of the Theatre Institute**