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Ukrainian playwrights supported in new project led by Kulturhuset Stadsteatern



Illustration: Luda Tymoshenko

Kulturhuset Stadsteatern is initiating a collaboration with partners in Ukraine, Poland and Sweden to support Ukrainian playwrights to continue working during the current war of aggression. The two-year project is called Triangle for Ukrainian Artists. Some of the results will be presented at the Swedish Theatre Arts Biennale in 2025.

One of the initiators of the project is **Nina Röhlcke**, Senior Project Manager for international cooperation at Kulturhuset Stadsteatern:

- When we meet Ukrainian artists in Sweden, they testify that their most important need is to be able to continue working. Networks, security and community with other cultural creators are crucial to keep up their energy and faith in the future. Despite the burning war, Ukraine's theatres, concert halls and libraries have more visitors than ever and the demand for art that reflects the new reality is high. We, the partners in the Triangle for Ukrainian Artists project want to create a sustainable model that gives everyone involved an international creative context and long-term opportunities to collaborate and spread new voices from Ukraine, says Nina Röhlcke.

The project partners in the three countries are: Kulturhuset Stadsteatern in Stockholm, Theatre of Playwrights/Centre for Modern Ukrainian Drama in Kyiv, Rikstolvan in Österlen, Sweden, and Villa Decius in Krakow, Poland and Scensverige - Swedish ITI. The project is supported by the EU.

Andrii Bondarenko, playwright, and member of the Theatre of Playwrights in Kyiv:

- This gives us an opportunity to enter a contemporary European theatre context. We now see it as our main task to build a modern theatre institution based on democratic values and vision, unlike the Soviet totalitarian theatre. Triangle for Ukrainian Artists gives us the chance to communicate with colleagues from European countries, exchange experiences, share thoughts, visions and ideas, says Andrii Bondarenko.

The project includes writer residencies, material support, translations, collegial networks in three countries, mentoring and methodological exchanges for Ukrainian playwrights. The selection of playwrights and the planning of residencies will be completed by the end of 2023. The art scene Rikstolvan in Österlen is responsible for the residency.

New short plays at the Performing Arts Biennale 2025

Within the framework of the project, the Ukrainian Theatre of Playwrights (Театр Драматургів) commissions ten newly written short plays from Ukrainian playwrights. Rikstolvan offers them residency to work in safety for a period of time. Six of the ten newly written short plays will be translated into Swedish and made available for readings in theatres around Sweden. Some of the newly produced short plays will also be performed at a theatre festival in Kyiv and presented at the Performing Arts Biennial in Sweden in 2025. On the Theatre of Playwrights stage in Kyiv, a Mini-Plays-Festival with the texts from the residencies will be presented.

Ukraine Meetings at Kulturhuset Stadsteatern

Triangle for Ukrainian Artists also includes readings, meetings and festivals where Ukrainian playwrights can interact with their Nordic colleagues and showcase their work. At Kulturhuset Stadsteatern, Ukraine Meetings will be held, an after work/meeting format where Swedish and Ukrainian artists present their work to audiences and specially invited guests from the theatre industry and organisations.

Documentation for artists in exile or in conflict zones

The Polish Villa Decius Institute for Culture (Willa Decjusza) in Krakow has extensive experience in working with the Ukrainian diaspora and endangered artists. They play a central role in the project by collecting, documenting and sharing the project's methods and experiences with others working with artists in exile or in conflict zones.

The project runs for two years, from December 2023 to December 2025. Through the project's emphasis on long-term sustainable networks, especially after the war, the aim is for these networks to live on and grow organically even after the end of the project. Read more about the project here:

<https://kulturhusetstadsteatern.se/triangle-for-ukrainian-artists>

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