

## OPEN CALL FOR THEATRE PROFESSIONALS

### THE HOUR OF TRUTH #2

Produced by **Radar Sofia (Bulgaria)**

Presented at **MUSCARIUM#9 – festival de artes performativas em Sintra**

#### OPEN CALL

Do we have the courage to tell the truth?

**THE HOUR OF TRUTH** is a **concept for live performance** where **7 artists** – whose core job is not to appear in front of an audience – have **7 minutes each** to express through various performative mediums (performance, satire, interaction, lecture, dance, video, etc.) an important truth for them that is usually not spoken about on stage.

Seven theatre professionals, whose main jobs does not involve being on stage and in front of the audience (technicians, playwrights, producers, cleaners, set designers, accountants...), have between 7 and 10 minutes each to express through various performative forms (acting, satire, lecture, dance, video...) a truth that is important to them, which is not normally spoken out loud.

The combination of these performances will result in the dramaturgical backbone of the show. The format, although simple and unpretentious, opens a space for conversation about theatre, about us in theatre, and about our connections, managing to subtly trigger striking conversations about the human condition, equally interesting for those watching from an audience.

The group of participants in the performance will consist of 3 Bulgarian theatre professionals from the collectives Radar Sofia and Drama Pact and 4 Portuguese theatre professionals - the latter selected through this open call.

During the artistic residency, the participants will be asked to conduct a short preliminary exercise (about 2 hours) in which they creatively present themselves, but also create a situation in which the other participants can interact with each other.

The working language will be English.

## **WORKING PLAN**

The artist residency takes place during the week of 11-16 September 2023, at a time to be agreed, at Escola Secundária de Santa Maria in Sintra.

**Workshop days:** from 11 to 13 September

**Day off:** 14 September

**Dress rehearsal day:** 15 September

**Public performance day:** 16 September at 21h00

## **APPLICATIONS**

If you would like to apply, please do send us the following information via email to [geral@teatromosca.com](mailto:geral@teatromosca.com), until 18<sup>th</sup> August:

1. A brief written description of your professional career to date - this is not an autobiography, but a text that can be published later as a presentation of the participant;
2. A description of your proposed presentation exercise. This text can be written or recorded on video (we accept an informal recording made with a mobile phone);
3. Description of the idea for the final presentation (we remind you that each participant will have 7 to 10 minutes on stage). This text can be written or recorded on video (we accept an informal recording made with a mobile phone);

\*Texts and videos must be in English.

## **ABOUT RADAR SOFIA**

**Radar Sofia** is an artist-run residency space for theatre and performance makers in Sofia, Bulgaria. It is a member of Artists at Risk network.

**Drama Pact** is an informal collective of local writers and artists sharing resources instead of competing for them.

For more information click [here](#).

## **MORE INFORMATION ABOUT *THE HOUR OF TRUTH***

This project was presented for the first time in 2019 by Radar Sofia and Drama Pact with the support of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria and in cooperation with Derida Stage. The premiere took place during the event Night of Theatres in Sofia. This first version was developed with 6 local artists and an artist in residence, Vaiva Grainyte, co-author of the opera "Sun & Sea", the Golden Lion winner of the 58th edition of the Venice Art Biennale, 2019, representing Lithuania.

The development of this concept of performance is available for other international collaborations and aims to mix and bring together diverse contexts, points of view and experiences from different countries and areas of theatre, always updating the contents of The Hour of Truth.

At MUSCARIUM#9, **The Hour of Truth** will be led by artists **Alexander Manuiloff, Boris Zafirov, Erika Urbelevič**.

**Alexander Manuiloff** is a writer, playwright and cultural manager from Sofia, Bulgaria, now living in Spain. Alexander has worked in various fields of dramaturgy – from text-based plays to situation-performances, theatre installations and even participatory game formats. In the recent years he has been more and more drawn towards new, non-representational forms of dramaturgy and, in general, to rethinking the place of theatre in society and its power to connect people at times of an increasingly atomized and isolationist world. In the years since 2007 Alexander has had the chance to meet and work together with creators like Rimini Protokoll, Ferran Dordal (Senor Serranos, Barcelona), Vaiva Grainytė, Simona Semenic (Slovenia) to name but a few, and his dramaturgy works have travelled extensively, reaching venues on four continents (e.g.: Theatertreffen, Berlin; L'Europe de Théâtres, Paris; the International Theatre Festival of Kerala, India; Prague Quadrennial, the Czech Republic). His pieces for theatre/performance have been translated to about 15 languages and -some of them are already studied in university programmes (Georgetown University, USA, for example); they have served as inauguration performances for the opening of brand new theatres (the Theatre at the University of Kyrenia, Northern Cyprus, 2018), have been critically reviewed by professionals such as Tim Etchells, and also have managed to reach to places as far away as Kampala, Uganda, (2017) and Damascus, Syria (2021).

**Boris Zafirov** is an independent theatre maker from Plovdiv, Bulgaria, whose artistic appearance is mostly documentary based. The core of his artistic searches is related to the personal human stories and cases. From his first performance “To buy a story”, where he presents the personalities of the authentic man from the street markets, till his last show, based on the biographies of the centenarians who lived alone in the wild nature, he aimed to make the audience aware of the importance of the individuality and the personal human legend. A significant part of his approach is to involve as much as possible the team members in the whole preparation process by getting them closer to those whose stories will be presented on the stage. Being part of “Theater of responsibility” (theatre platform for social engage arts), Boris is dealing in his projects with the needs of different groups of people in risk, such as people with mental issues, refugees and Roma people.

**Erika Urbelevič** is a stage and theatre manager/producer from Lithuania now residing in Sofia, Bulgaria. She mostly works, supports and consults pieces that are crossing the boundaries of classic theatre and deal with different social, ecological and moral questions. Her working practices a lot of the times include participatory and immersive theatre elements. From 2019 she works with a Golden Lion winning performance “Sun and Sea” and has toured with the piece in 27 countries in 4 continents. In 2022 she was producing and was part of creating collective of the performance “Taxi. Attempts at covering distances” which allowed real-life taxi drivers become actors and the audience participate and influence the going of events in the play. Currently she is producing a theatre show about one of the biggest prisons of Lithuania which will allow a theatrical meeting between the audience and the prisoners. She is also involved in a production and creation of a theatre play in Naples’ problematic Scampia region. Erika is currently based in Sofia, Bulgaria.