

**International Interdisciplinary Seminar
for University Educators**

**Hero's
Figure
in**

**Contemporary
Roma Drama**



CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

In the frame of

European Roma Theatre - Contemporary Cultural Heritage Shapes Our Future
within



Creative
Europe



organisers:



Association for
Contemporary
Art Promotion

ARTHUB
BUCHAREST

In partnership with
Independent Theatre Hungary



Független
színház

Invite

UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS to the THE INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY SEMINAR

Romania & region (online, in English)

9-10 / 16-17 / 23 April 2021

The Seminar focuses on the **European Roma theatre and drama**, poorly known to the Roma community, the general public or the professionals in the cultural field and aims to **disseminate and increase interest in contemporary Roma theatre and drama as a material for study and analysis, as models and (micro)narrative representative for Roma community and culture.**

The seminar is designed as a preparatory phase for conceiving a theme of study with students and developing an independent short course in the next academic year (2021-2022).

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

In ancient Greece, Elizabethan England, revolutionary France or modern America, the active dramatic character, able to make decisions and set changes based on his/her own ideas, values and beliefs, was a catalyst for the democratic system and a mirror of the society. The figure of the "hero" and his/her destiny presented through theatre was inspiring exemplary narratives, offering models, engaging or strengthening communities. The Roma theatre has a special role as part of the European cultural heritage.

Our program gives the opportunity and the tools to examine and get to know a corpus – European Roma Theatre and Drama - in relation to contemporary society and its challenges or values. It offers the methodology applied in the different humanist disciplines.

WHAT WE OFFER

- * Opportunity to participate in a five-day long free of charge Seminary with lectures, applied workshops and group session, facilitated by international artists and experts with academic experience ;
- * Getting to know the history of European Roma theatre & drama and a first contact with the contemporary theatre archive – texts of the plays, videos etc.;
- * Getting to know interdisciplinary methodology and examples of previous courses developed with students by international academics;
- * Opportunity to integrate and develop a new course for the next academic year (2021-2022) in relation with Roma Theatre;
- * Follow-up, mentoring, knowledge sharing during the realisation and evaluation of the course plans;
- * **Fee** for the educators who realise and complete with their students a semester course in the next academic year (2021-2022);
- * Opportunity to get in contact and establish professional network with other international academics from Human Science field;
- * Opportunity to be invited to publish/contribute in academic publication or to have a lecture about the experience - the methodology (theme, plan, etc.) and the results - of the course in other international projects.

WHAT WE EXPECT

- * Active participation, ONLINE, in all activities of the the five-day long seminar (**9-10 & 16-17 & 24 of APRIL 2021**)
- * Good knowledge of English (comprehension, speaking, writing);
- * Well-elaborated, detailed **course plan** within a month after the workshop has ended (by the end of Mai 2021);
- * Execution of a university course related to the topic in the next academic year (2021-2022);
- * Sharing the experience and the results of the course after their realization (course report).



HOW TO APPLY

Download and fill [the form](#) . Send it together with your professional CV until **12th of March 2021** to: clara.traistaru@gmail.com

For further information, contact Clara Traistaru, Project Manager at:
+40727378428 or clara.traistaru@gmail.com.

Short description of the lectures & workshops:

LECTURES

Community Theatre in a Segregation

Eszter VÁGI (HU)

My seminar in ELTE Faculty of Humanities Budapest was on participatory and community theatre methods and possibilities.

In this intervention I would like to share the details of this above-mentioned university course. I also will talk a little about a five-year-long program in a Hungarian segregation, called Eltáv (On the leave – Autonómia). The participants will also get the chance to try out some of the methods and exercises, those that can be used on-and offline as well.

Strong Voices Staged. The „Roma Heroes” and its historical, social, cultural and artistic contexts

András MÜLLNER (HU)

In 2017, at the Department of Media and Communication, ELTE University, I lead a course, in collaboration with the Independent Theatre. The course was based on the actual Roma Heroes-series (four dramatic monologues), and aimed at searching for the explanatory contexts of the dramatic speaking subjects. Revealing the media context means that me and my students read the critical reception of the dramas in online media, and then we went on to research the adaptation and the literary background (like Mariella Mehr's novel and Dijana Pavlovic Speak, my Life!), and the sociological and cultural context of ethnicity (Scottish travellers, Roma people in Romania, Jewish people in Switzerland). Questions of methodology and genres were also highlighted (the connection between the storytelling and dramatic monologue), and the postcolonial aspects of the dramas, too. At the beginning the points of view of our analyses were the questions as follow: who is speaking? to whom is she/he speaking? whom is she/he representing? what kind of Romani identity she/he has? In my seminar in the Creative Europe project, I will shortly sum up our work in the above-mentioned course, and then I try to take as many examples as I can to show how we approach the Roma Heroes.

András Müllner (b. 1968) is associate professor at the Department of Media and Communication in Eötvös Loránd University of Sciences, Budapest, and head of the Minor Media/Culture Research Centre affiliated with the department. Müllner is holding a PhD in Literary Theory (2001). His main research interest is the Hungarian neoavantgarde art and the visual culture, with special regard to the representation of minorities. Together with his students, he organizes



the Roma Visual Lab, a university course and a film program, where documentaries about Roma people are screened and analysed in the frame of critical theories. In recent years he edited more collections of essays in different subjects, like e.g. the special issue of the Apertura journal about the blood libel in Tiszaeszlár and its visual memory, and the special issue of the Replika journal on Marshall McLuhan. Currently he leads a research focusing on "The history and current practices of Hungarian participatory film culture, with an emphasis on the self-representation of vulnerable minority groups".

Teaching as a Common Work and Result: Roma Culture and Theatre in the University Education

Zoltán KELEMEN (HU)

At the University of Szeged Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Department of Comparative Literature there is a 3 + 2 years' teacher training of Drama and Theatre studies since 2018. The part of this training in the autumn semester of the 2020/2021 academic year time opened to keeping an optional seminar in the topic of the Roma Theatre and culture. It became a really interactive program with many invited speaker, online and offline theatrical events and free discussions with experts and actors as well as Theatre-makers. The lecture would like to reports about the common work of the seminar leader and the students, features the results and the edifications of this semester through the work of the speakers and the students, who finally prepare some special tasks according to their study interest during the semester.

Key words: average heroes, identification and cultural memory, storytellers, Roma drama, melodrama, historical- and group-identity, pharrajimos (Roma holocaust), social discrimination, tradition, narration.

Zoltán Kelemen (b. 1969) studied Hungarian Literature and Language and Philosophy in JATE University (Szeged, Hungary,) and KLTE University (Debrecen, Hungary). He is teaching at University of Szeged, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences from 1995. 2002. PhD degree, 2011. habilitation. 2017-2020 Head of Department of Comparative Literature. From 2004 published five own books and edited many others. His next book will be published in this summer, *Az olvasó beleír* (The Reader Writes in. Selected Critics). He investigates Roma literature and culture from 2004.

WORKSHOPS

Use of Storytelling in the building of resilient communities

Sonia CARMONA (ES)

Is it possible for the art of storytelling to encourage and add to the cohesion of an urban collective consciousness? How does it develop the perception of the multicultural nature of our cities?

Is it possible for the diverse communities within an urban transitory environment to pro-actively converse about oral heritage and creatively participate in the making process of such a collective consciousness?

The workshop will be divided into two parts:

Part 1: Story circles

Attendees are asked to bring an object that has a very special significance in their lives. We would be holding a story circle dealing with



these objects and their particular life story attached to it. Meaningful connection.

Part 2: Putting together your own workshop

We will afterwards reflect on the necessary phases that are involved in a building resilient communities workshop through storytelling.

Roma Heroes

Independent Theatre (HU)

It helps participants to get to know and discuss the variegation, challenges and values of Roma plays, Roma dramatic heroes and communities. Furthermore, it helps discover the hero in themselves and in their environment by introducing their own stories with creative tools.

In the first part of the workshop we will talk about heroes in general: who can be a hero and why. Then the participants get acquainted with four Roma plays, which were written by Roma people, are addressed to the Roma but not only to them. Together with the youngsters we get to know the hero/heroes, analyse and discuss them through the plays. After watching and exploring the different parts of the plays, the attendees introduce the works to each-other and discuss the main points like why the characters can be considered heroes.

On the second occasion we focus on the participants' own heroes and hero stories and they deal with the stories and the themes with creative tools, for instance, improvising some theatre scenes, creating fine art, writing essays etc. Finally, all groups introduce their works for each-other and reflect on their experience.

The Roma Hero in Theatre – intersectional perspective and tools for changing the narrative

Alex FIFEA (RO)

How do we approach the construction of the theatrical character from an intersectional and inclusive perspective? What is the role of the Heroine or Hero in the empowerment of Roma communities and how can education about theatre (popularization of theatre) and theatre itself lead to a change in the general narrative about Roma? These are some of the questions that the workshop aims to answer in two parts (theoretical and practical) over two hours.

In the first part we will analyse the cultural product between documentary theatre, cultural, social and political manifesto and protest against abuse of authority, injustice, denunciation of systemic racism starting from two of the shows whose author or co-author I am: *YOU HAVEN T SEEN A THING!* and *Bambina, the queen of flowers* (2017). *Parts of the analysed texts will be made available to participants 15 days in advance for consultation.

In the second part, we will go through a situational exercise together, participants can have their own experience of implementing an artistic product through specific techniques (with guidance) or are invited to present a personal perspective on the subject starting from their own specialization. We will discuss acceptance and assumption and their impact on the international and international university system by creating good practices and cultural exposure to the university



environment, so that today's students can receive the tools they need to change the widespread toxic narrative at address of Roma communities.

Alex Fifea (b. 1980) is an actor, documentarist and playwright. He performs, writes and directs social and political theatre projects. He graduated from UNATC's Actor's Art section in 2007. He directs and writes (co-author) *Infinitely Positive* (2020); writes and performs in *Spaghetti with bread* r. Paul Dunca, Vera Ion; documents, writes and performs in *90* (2017) and *TABU* (2018) r. David Schwartz; initiates, writes (co-author) and performs in *Bambina, Queen of Flowers* (2017), plays in *The Great Shame* (2017) by Alina Șerban; plays in *Looking Through the Skin* (2016) directed by Alex Berceanu; writes and plays in *YOU HAVEN'T SEEN A THING!* (2015) R. David Schwartz; plays in *We Weren't Born in the Right Place* (2014) r. David Schwartz and Alice Monica Marinescu etc.



Association for
Contemporary
Art Promotion

Co-funded by the
Creative Europe Programme
of the European Union



PROGRAM CO-FINANȚAT DE:

