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The Twelfth International Between.Pomiedzy Festival of Literature and Theatre

“You turn on without moving from your place the light above you. Your eyes light on the watch lying beneath it. But instead of reading the hour of night they follow round and round the second hand now followed and now preceded by its shadow.” (Samuel Beckett, “Company”)

As we do every twelve months, in the first half of May, we invite you to take part in the International Between.Pomiedzy Festival of Literature and Theatre. The Twelfth Festival will be held between 10 and 16 May, for the second time in virtual space (www.between.org.pl and **fanpage on FB**). The Festival consists of meetings with poets, writers, and translators, showings of theatre recordings, the premiere of a radio play for children, discussions, student projects, conferences, and seminars. Together with the Miniatura Theatre, we also plan a walk with a virtual guide along the longest block of flats in Gdańsk Przymorze. All this is supplemented by an educational programme for high-school students.

This year, the Festival organizers – the Between.Pomiedzy Foundation and the University of Gdańsk – are joined by SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Warsaw. Among the Festival’s partners are Polish institutions – BOTO Theatre, Theatre ZAR, the National Museum in Gdańsk – and ones from abroad – from the USA, Brazil, Ireland, Austria, and Romania. The Festival aims to showcase the results of research in the Humanities and to encourage cooperation among artists, scholars, and everyone interested in literature.

The following people and institutions will be guests of the Festival: the well-known English-language poets Paula Meehan, Mimi Khalvati (the meetings with these two poets will be in English but will be available in simultaneous Polish translation), and Jen Hadfield; the

writers Natasza Goerke, Andrzej Stasiuk, and Paweł Próchniak; Teatr Powszechny in Warsaw, Theatre ZAR, and Song of the Goat Theatre. Many other creative figures will join us too.

From 10 May on the internet page www.between.org.pl, we will make available material organized in three thematic categories: 1) Youth, 2) Literature and Theatre, and 3) Research. Each category will be divided into seven chapters. The most up-to-date information about the programme can be found on the [Foundation's Facebook profile](#). Most events are free of charge, while for some reservation is necessary, and the recording of the play by Teatr Powszechny is ticketed.

An important element in this year's festival is a cycle of meetings entitled **Theatre in the Three Cities**. Our cooperation this year with the Miniatura Theatre has taken on a new dimension. On Sunday afternoon, you can take part in a walk – inspired by the play *Beton* (Concrete) – along the longest block of flats in Gdańsk's Przymorze district, accompanied by a virtual guide. We will also show the premiere of the radio play for children *Silna grupa ze śmietnika* (The Strong Group from the Rubbish Dump), directed by Iwona Borawska. The Between.Pomiędzy Foundation is co-producer of the play. In a series of meetings on theatre life in the Three Cities, we plan meetings relating to *Archives of the Theatre* (with Małgorzata Abramowicz) and *Memory of the Theatre in Gdańsk* (with Mieczysław Abramowicz), and the premiere of a recording entitled *BOTO Reads: Sybilla*. On the Festival's internet page, you can also see recordings of a performance by the dance-theatre collective DzikieStyl Company, photographs by Jerzy Bartkowski and Karolina Trapp, and visual work by Iwona Bandarewicz Paweł Wróblewski, and Lee Ranaldo.

As part of our work with Polish institutions, we welcome as guests at the festival authors connected with the celebrated publishing house Czarne. In a series of meetings entitled **Czarne at Between**, there will be conversations with Andrzej Stasiuk about his latest novel *Przewóz*, and with Paweł Próchniak and Natasza Goerke. There will be a conversation, too, with the Director of Teatr Powszechny in Warsaw, Paweł Łysiak, and with Paweł Sztarbowski and others involved in the play *How to Save the World on a Small Stage*. A permanent feature of the Festival is the Gdańsk Beckett Seminar, co-organized this year with Trinity College Dublin, Florida State University (USA), and the Federal University of Goiás (Brazil). Participants in the Seminar are artists and academics from the USA, Brazil, Ireland, the UK, Russia, Pakistan, and China.

Education is, as always, a key element in the Festival. Organized in cooperation with specific schools and cultural institutions, our workshops, lectures, and meetings are aimed at high-school students and their teachers, those who work in cultural institutions, and everyone interested in literature and theatre. Our education programme is local (the webinar *Remus, or A Kashubian Tale*), national (*Tadeusz Różewicz: tradition – avant garde*), and international (*The Poetry of David Constantine, From Poe to Miéville: Excursions into the (New) Weird*, and *Otherworldly* – on the poems of Elizabeth Bishop). The festival also hosts an undergraduate and doctoral student conference **Island of Youth 2021**, during which, alongside talks on academic work, attendees will be able to encounter student projects and experience a happening organized by Martin Blaszk with students from Arts Management courses at the University of Gdańsk.

The programme of the Twelfth International Between.Pomiędzy Festival of Literature and Theatre is rich and varied. We invite you to take part in this week-long journey, mapped out for the second time in virtual space at www.between.org.pl.

Join us for these events:

- play recordings: *Jak ocalić świat na małej scenie* (How to Save the World on a Small Stage) – Teatr Powszechny, Warsaw; *Anty-Gone* – Song of the Goat Theatre; *Anhelli. The Howl* – Theatre ZAR; *Reality Disappears After Walking* – DzikiStyl Company; three recordings made by the George Enescu National University of Arts in Iași (Romania); and several recordings of pieces inspired by Samuel Beckett’s short works;
- radio play: *Silna grupa ze śmietnika* (Strong Group from the Rubbish Dump) – Miniatura Theatre;
- meetings with authors – poets, writers, translators, publishers: Paula Meehan, Mimi Khalvati, Jen Hadfield, Wolfgang Görtschacher, Andrzej Stasiuk, Natasza Goerke, Paweł Próchniak, Agnieszka Pantuchowicz, Marian Polak-Chlabicz, Olga and Wojciech Kubiński;
- workshops, laboratories, and theatre meetings: S.E. Gontarski, Robson Corrêa de Camargo, Nicholas Johnson, Octavian Saiu, Tomasz Wiśniewski, Kalina Stefanova, Marvin Carlson, Peng Tao, Wang Chong, Kathryn Syssoyeva, Diana Zhdanova, Przemysław Wasilkowski, Adrianna Cudnik, Barbara Świąder-Puchowska, Małgorzata and Mieczysław Abramowicz;

- meetings and open lectures: David Fuller, Jerzy Jarniewicz, Camille Manfredi, Robin MacKenzie, Tadeusz Rachwał, Izabela Witoszko, Paweł Łysak, Paweł Sztarbowski;
- happening: Martin Blaszk with Arts Management students;
- academic and student sessions.

The Festival in numbers

- 26 hours of conference
- 14 meetings and conversations
- 9 theatre performances
- 8 seminars and academic workshops
- 5 internet exhibitions of visual work and photographs
- 2 theatre workshops
- 1 happening
- 1 radio play

Organizers: The Between.Pomiędzy Foundation, University of Gdańsk, SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities

Academic Co-operation: Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), Florida State University (USA), Goiás Federal State University (Brazil), The George Enescu National University of Arts in Iași (Romania), University of Salzburg (Austria)

Partners: The Embassy of Ireland in Poland, Czarne Publishing House, Teatr BOTO, Teatr Miniatura, Teatr ZAR, Goyki 3 Art Inkubator, Polish Association for the Study of English (PASE), “Książka dla Ciebie” Bookshop, Máskara Theatre (Brazil), The National Museum in Gdańsk

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Honorary Patrons: The Rector, University of Gdańsk; the Rector, SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities; the Embassy of Ireland in Poland

Media Patrons: *The Theatre Times*, *Tekstualia*, *Konteksty*, *Polish Journal for English Studies*, *Poetry Salzburg Review* (Austria).

12. Międzynarodowy Festiwal Literatury i Teatru
between.pomiędzy
Trójmiasto 10–16 maja 2021

Festival Concept: Tomasz Wiśniewski

Organizers: Tomasz Wiśniewski, Katarzyna Kręglewska, David Malcolm, Ewelina Stefańska,
and Małgorzata Woźniak.