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The Eleventh Between.Pomiędzy Festival of Literature and Theatre

“As I lay asleep in Italy
There came a voice from over the Sea,
And with great power it forth led me
To walk in the visions of Poesy”
(Percy Bysshe Shelley, 1819)

Kosmopolis 2020 is the theme of the Eleventh Between.Pomiędzy Festival of Literature and Theatre. We thought at first – under present circumstances – that we would move the Festival to the autumn, but we finally came to the decision to meet as we do every year in the third week of May – but in a somewhat different space and form. We’ll meet in a virtual world.

So *Kosmopolis 2020* will be a festival that is quite different from previous ones, a product of the emotions that accompany isolation and an attempt to interact with others in a responsible way. It’s an attempt to offer mutual support in hard times through culture – culture that, too, needs our support now. We can offer this support in a very simple way – promoting culture still, especially culture linked with local places and people, those who need our support at a time like this. Join us in our campaign **#Support Local Culture**.

The aim of the Festival is what it’s always been – to share reflections on culture with those who care for it. This year, we’re doing it through films, photographs, recollections, items from our archive, and a whole host of other materials. We hope this way we can reach an even bigger audience.

This year the Festival includes among its honorary patrons the **International Theatre Institute**, which, operating under the auspices of **UNESCO**, focuses on supporting the development of the performing arts and the creative people connected with them, both

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professionals and non-professionals. The principal media patron of the Festival is **The Theatre Times**, an online global source of information on the theatre.

From its beginnings in 2010, the Festival has been an important part of the cultural life of the Three Cities (Sopot, Gdańsk, and Gdynia). So this year we are part of the celebrations connected with the **Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the University of Gdańsk**. But the Festival has always had a strong national and international dimension too, and this year we are joined by participants from all over Poland and, indeed, the whole world. Our partners include: Goiás State University in Brazil, the George Enescu National University of Arts in Iași in Romania, Florida State University in the USA, the Beckett Research Group in Gdańsk, and the Embassy of Ireland in Poland.

All the events that have been part of previous Festivals (plays, author meetings, discussions, films and radio plays, theatre and literary workshops) will be transferred to virtual space. This year our programme offers some twenty-one events that bring together different areas of art. There are three thematic groupings of these.

Between.Research – presentations related to visual arts, cinema, photography, and painting, combined with seminars on the work of Samuel Beckett (in cooperation with the Beckett Research Group in Gdańsk); presentations devoted to the publications of the publishers University of Gdańsk Press, Czarne, and Maski – Terytoria Książki Foundation, and the journals *Konteksty*, *Tekstualia*, and *Topos*.

Work-In-Progress – here literature is in the foreground. Events involve the writers Mimi Khalvati, David Constantine, Tatenda Matsvai, Antoni Libera, Piotr Mitzner, Olga Kubińska, and David Malcolm. Musicians also play a big role here, including Sutari, Maciej & Mateusz Rychły, Emitter, and Brygada Kryzys.

Kosmopolis: Theatre – here we focus on the theatre. On the Festival page you will be able to see (on a one-off basis) performances by the following theatre companies: Song of the Goat Theatre, Gardzienice Centre for Theatre Practices, Wierszalin Theatre, Barakah Theatre, the Grotowski Institute, BOTO Theatre, the Wybrzeże Theatre, the Sopot Dance Theatre, and

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Festiwal Literatury i Teatru
between.pomiędzy
Sopot, Gdańsk, Gdynia, 11–17 maja 2020

Teatr Miniatura. Every event will be preceded by a short introduction, prepared by the artists themselves.

Every day there will be three events, one from each of the groupings. So anyone participating in the Festival will be able to find something to interest her or him, and in this way to become part of the Between.Pomiędzy Festival. Events like these – like all culture – is made largely by people. That’s why the organizers of the Festival want to meet its audience! From 11 to 17 May, let’s stay at home, but – in spite of everything – meet on the internet.

The Festival is organized by teachers, students, and graduates of the Institute of English and American Studies and the Institute of Polish Language and Literature. We plan to introduce MA studies in Management and Communication in the Performative Arts.

The festival is financially supported by Sopot City Authorities, The Marshall’s Office of the Pomeranian Voivodeship, and Kąpielisko Morskie Sopot.

Organizers: The Between.Pomiędzy Foundation and the University of Gdańsk

Partners: Teatr Wybrzeże, Teatr BOTO, Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Sopotu, Teatr Miniatura, Wydawnictwo Czarne, Wydawnictwo UG, Terytoria Książki, Książka dla Ciebie, Goyki3 Art Inkubator

Honorary Patrons: The International Theatre Institute, The Rector of the University of Gdańsk, The Mayor of Sopot, The Embassy of Ireland in Poland

Media Patrons: TheTheatreTimes, *Tekstualia*, *Konteksty*, *Topos*

Academic Cooperation: Goiás State University (Brazil), Florida State University (USA), the George Enescu National University of Arts in Iași (Romania)

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