

Festival of Feminist Culture and Action

Firstborn Girl 7

This Body Which Is Not One

9 — 12 May

The human body has always been a place of control, resistance, discipline and disobedience, and particularly a place where gender roles have been practiced and examined. The body and the corporeality are the viewpoints of this year's festival. By referring to Luce Irigaray's words we coined the slogan *This Body Which is Not One* as a base and an incentive for what we believe in. We embraced the idea of rejecting the concept of equality, such equality that implies battling of statuses, manipulations and uncompromised overtaking of attributes for success with the purpose of equalizing and becoming the same as the *Other*. Irigaray reminds us that from a gender perspective we are all different and that the equality that we are constantly advocating for, should in fact, be a joint fellowship without hierarchy. *Othering* (E. Sheleva) does not in any way imply *equalization* but an essential understanding of the differences that we primarily recognize within our body which is not one.

Irigaray points out that female sexuality and body have always been socially and culturally shaped according to masculine parameters, in a meaningless comparative manner resembling the making of a sample and a copy. Therefore, we challenge this perception and try to point out that the bodies that we speak and think of are always plural and are being created under the influence of various often unique experiences.

This year's *Firstborn Girl* program will cover several aspects of the treatment, image, identification and body perception, whether it involves a relationship with established institutional power, an acute socio-cultural dynamics, or an individual experience of self. We will have the opportunity to find out more about the old/ young, ugly/beautiful body as perceived in Macedonian folk culture. We will talk about women's health and pleasure, as well as pain and seclusion. Finally, we will discuss the image of the body throughout cyberspace, constrained by stereotypes and stigmas and how it affects the public opinion.

At last, we ask ourselves whether we should follow Irigaray's idea of *écriture feminine* and create *our own ghetto* (E. Bakovska), or seek for *a room of our own* (V. Woolf)? Instead of searching for one right answer we will attempt to establish an open space promoting the unconventional diverse bodies which defy the patriarchy. Through divergent and confrontational union, this *Firstborn Girl* feminist festival will create one collective body consisted of a multitude of diversities.

Jana Kocevska

*this text was written under the influence of PMS

Comment for:

Visual identity

At a time of visual overload we rarely encounter works that can communicate friendly, transmit familiar vibrations and at the same time be intriguing. Maria Strajnić (Serbia), a photographer, architect and illustrator who recently created her alter ego Love.rs, creates soft, genderless figures that stretch, ride, play, provoke, offered us the ideal visualization of this year's theme of the Festival, as well as the opportunity for Tiiiit! Inc's team for the first time to collaborate with a designer outside of Macedonia. Love.rs communicate with all recognized and unrecognized, discovered and undiscovered bodies and encourage us to think about how the body is defined in relation to the Other, about its duality and changeability. Love.rs constantly reminds us that there is *no body which is one*.

— Jana Stardelova

Performance program

"Mother, virgin, prostitute: these are the social roles imposed on women" Irigaray implies. Our bodies are already performative. A woman on stage - that already means or has to mean something. Purity, nobility or temptation.

This year's *Firstborn Girl* performance program gives the stage to several outstanding artists who boldly faced the dilemma of every woman performer - how to deconstruct the fixed representative sign of the dominant culture, how to liberate our bodies from the narrow frame without denying it or opposing it, but embrace it as our artistic focus and medium. Fiercely, by releasing theirs, they are also liberating our bodies from the narrow boundaries and transferring the won autonomy into an authentic means of artistic communication.

I wish that this will be an incentive for the local theatre scene, so that in the future we can see more frequent and bolder attempts of staging women's experience, re-examining of the constructed identity of *femininity* and an interpretation of the personal as political - because the deconstruction of gender representation on stage carries a potential of a new political theatre, which is much needed.

— Kristina Lelovac

Film program

filmer en femme / filming as a woman

"Because we women are supposedly all the same! Nuisances, frivolous, gossips, bitches, sluts, etc!"

Quote from *Réponses de Femmes*, Agnès Varda, 1975

"One million women in France have abortions every year. Condemned to secrecy, they do so in dangerous conditions, while under medical supervision, this is one of the simplest procedures. Society is silencing these millions of women. I declare that I am one of them. I declare that I have had an abortion. Just as we demand free access to contraception, we demand the freedom to have an abortion."

Manifesto of the 343 Sluts, Le Nouvel Observateur, April 5th, 1971.

Thirteen years before making *Réponses de Femmes* and nine years before signing the *Manifesto of the 343 Sluts*, Agnès Varda made *Cléo from 5 to 7*. For all the bodies of all ages and backgrounds, walking side by side to oppose unjust states, societies, places, and spaces, this year the film programme of *Firstborn Girl Festival of Feminist Culture & Action* is devoted to Agnès Varda.

— Kumjana Novakova

Discursive program

This year's discursive program tries to keep up with the festival's theme in all its complexity, timelessness and contemporaneity. *This body, which is not one*, is capable of bringing joy, growth, to endure pain, to experience multiple orgasms, to transform, to dance, to give birth, to fight, to break free. We aim at addressing the ways in which our society and institutions treat female bodies, how can we "use" our body to express our identity, choices, and free will, how to actively work on accepting and loving our body, as well as giving it the pleasure and enjoyment that it deserves.

— Kalia Dimitrova

Visual program

We're embodying objectification, orgasm, femininity, shame, intimacy, games. The fascination of being naked in front of others will be presented through Marija Angelovska's and Jana Jakimovska's exhibitions. Both exhibitions on this year's festival *Firstborn girl* are in digital print – a contemporary medium suitable for this modern society that is undoubtedly focused on corporeality.

Marija's exhibition is a curated fusion with the festival's theme, whilst Jana's works found impeccable fit into the idea of demystification of the taboos.

Between these walls, instead of talking about the female body, we will be watching it, gently reminding ourselves how does it feel to be who we really are when we are left alone with our intimacy.

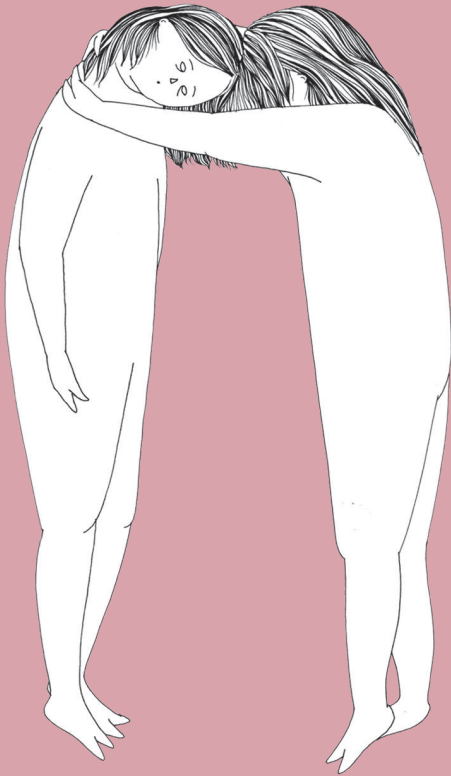
— Monika Jamandilovska

Music program

This year's musical programme showcases the strong relationship between feminist thought and artistic performance. Three female-fronted musical acts with political, anti-fascist and emotional lyrics will present their form of rebellion in today's society. For Nalyssa Green and *Post Lovers* from Greece, this will be their first appearance for the Macedonian audience.

I believe that music is a powerful tool through which *ISKRA Tourbooking* and *Firstborn Girl* can influence the development of the feminist music culture in the region.

— Elena Peljhan



Program

9
MAY
THURSDAY

10
MAY
FRIDAY

11
MAY
SATURDAY

12
MAY
SUNDAY

- 12:00** Discussion: Gynaecology and obstetrics: services, availability, and treatment
- 19:00** Exhibition opening: "This Objectified Body"
— Marija Angelovska
- 20:00** What is Film?: "Cléo de 5 à 7" – Agnès Varda
- 22:00** DJ Set: Emi Ermilova

- 18:00** Discussion: Can U follow us?
(The Female body in the Insta age) – Medusa
- 19:00** Lecture: "Exoticism and Sensationalism of Folk Corporality"
— Iliina Jakimovska
- 20:30** Performance: "SONNY" -- Nataša Živković
- 21:30** Performance: "The Refugee" – Lana Zdravković
- 22:00** Concert: Mavi Phoenix, Bon Praskiza, Donplaya, Prince\$\$ Donatsu

- 17:00** Sex Toys Workshop: "Play-sure – The Experts Guide to Erotic Toys and Great Sex" – Marika Smith
- 19:00** Discussion: Feminism and Porn: Friends or foes?
- 20:30** Performance: "I, Victim" & "Second time" – Simona Semenič
- 22:30** Concert: Nalyssa Green, Post Lovers, DZRETI

- 13:00** Body Flow: Ivana Kocevska
- 13:00** Bazaar
- 14:00** DJ Set: Tea Shaldeva
- 15:00** Sunday Lunch: Breakfast Club
- 18:00** Children's program: "Counter fairytale" a theatre play for kids – Shadow Puppet Theatre Shadows and Clouds
- 20:00** PeachPreach Slam: #серакажувам
- 22:00** Drag Show: Boris Gay

Parallel Program

Exhibition: "O" – Jana Jakimovska

Panel discussion

Gynaecology and obstetrics: services, availability and treatment

9 May, Thursday— 12:00

Plateau

Moderator: Marija Bashevka (*Reaktor* - Research in Action)

Speakers: Venko Filipche, Ana Daneva Markova, Ljatifa Shikovska and
Elizabeta Bozhinoska



Having proper treatments for our reproductive health and being effectively informed about health services are guaranteed human rights. The inappropriate treatment, the physical and psychological harassment, the ignorance of pain, the deprivation of choice during pregnancy and giving birth, are serious everyday violations of women's human rights that must be addressed publicly. The process of providing reproductive health services has institutional, financial and subjective barriers that require a systematic solution. The panel will examine the above mentioned topics in order to further discuss health services' in the reproductive health area and their availability for all women, especially those who come from vulnerable social groups.

Together with the Minister of Health Venko Filipche, the chairwoman of the Safe Motherhood Committee Dr. Ana Daneva Markova from the Clinic of Gynecology & Obstetrics, the health mediator Ljatifa Shikovska and the Association for Health Education and Research – HERA's program director Elizabeta Bozhinowska – we will talk about the attitude of gynecological and obstetrical institutions towards women in our country. And, finally, we will highlight the reproductive health issues that women are experiencing and are rarely spoken about in order to ensure quality based, effective and friendly health services in the future.



Exhibition

This objectified body

9 May, Thursday— 19:00

Gallery

Marija Angelovska

*exhibition opening & official opening of the festival



Marija Angelovska is a conceptual multimedia artist who shares her ideas on the social platform *Instagram* by also pointing out the benefits of the internet that enables her to express her views to the broader audience, in a way that most of the less privileged women weren't capable of doing so before. So far, she has taken part in various group exhibitions in the Netherlands.

Her performance and digital art is focused on finding solutions for diverse, significant socio-political contemporary problems. Her work is not only about gender, feminism or porn. She targets all the problems at once, even those that we usually perceive as private. While addressing censorship and oppression, the artist likes to 'play' with the idea of harassment in a way that will make others rethink their own interaction with each other.

The limitations of showing her work on an online platform are now an essential segment in her work and are actually a quirk that makes it integral. Through them, she succeeds to understand the extended gender inequality amongst the creative individuals in the internet world – censorship being part of it. However, Angelovska has become more than a passive observer of these phenomena and amongst the answers, she's already providing with her art – she maps all the possible strategies for influencing that were not available for artists in the past, as well as all of their active roles in the contemporary life.

What is Film?

Cléo de 5 à 7

9 May, Thursday— 20:00

Cinema Frosina

Agnès Varda

in collaboration with the Museum of Contemporary Art's Film & Video Programme and European Film Festival Cinedays

Released in 1962

Runtime: 90 min.

Cast: Corinne Marchand, Antoine Bourseiller, Dominique Davray, Dorothee Blanck, Michel Legrand



The story of the young singer Cléo starts at 5 pm in the morning. While waiting for her X-ray results she is suddenly faced with the prospect of her death. In this in-between period, she meets her lover, a pianist, a friend, and a soldier. Walking through Paris, little by little, she opens her eyes on the world.

Agnès Varda the pioneering member of the Left Bank, was endlessly curious filmmaker whose interest in the margins of society and female subjectivity, together with her vocational background in photography, resulted in one of the most playful and fiercely political bodies of work in the film history. *The Grand Mother of the French New Wave* has received among other awards and nominations, a *Silver Bear* at the Berlin Film Festival, an honorary *Palme d'Or* at the Cannes Film Festival, a *Golden Lion* at the Venice Film Festival and an honorary Oscar.



Dj Set

Emi Ermilova

9 May, Thursday— 22:00

Plateau



Ermilova started playing house music in 2008, performing at many bars and clubs in Skopje, including *Sektor 909* and *Epicentar*. Currently, she is a resident DJ at the club *Minus One*. Emi likes to listen to house, acid and electro music and this is what she plays during her DJ sets. She is inspired by DJ Tom Trago, Red Axes and Ross from Friends.

Discussion

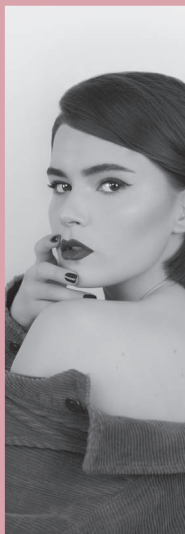
Can U Follow Us?

(The Female Body in the Insta age)

in collaboration with Medusa

Moderators: Kalia Dimitrova and Ena Bendevska

Speakers: Marija Angelovska, Aleksandra Trpeska and Kika Aveiro



The complex relationship between the female body and the media is a disappointing reflection of the way society treats women and their right to exist and express themselves autonomously in their environments. The absence of representation and the unrealistic beauty standards that women face throughout history has been strengthened by censorship, harassment and uninvited comments, criticism and attacks.

This panel will therefore address the problems that the female body encounters, as well as the comments, the expectations and the unrealistic standards imposed by users of different platforms as well as the society. In addition, the panel will problematize all possible ways, patterns and forms of expression for (re) appropriation of space offered by social media as a field for the autonomous expression of the female body. Our speakers will break into these topics through their experiences and their social media presence.

The panel is an initiative coming from the feminist online platform Medusa (www.meduza.mk) and will be moderated by the editor-in-chief Kalia Dimitrova and the social media editor Ena Bendevska (@meduzaplatform). This panel's speakers are the multimedia artist and feminist Marija Angelovska (@marijangelovska), Aleksandra Trpevska (@majestic.at) – who has been working with digital marketing for five years and uses the power of social networks to convey her lifestyle and self-care messages and Kika Aveiro (@kikaaveiro) – a *Body Positivity* activist, a plus-size model and a social media influencer. All three of them are active advocates for self-acceptance and free expression with their presence on social media and unapologetically criticize cyber censorship and bullying.

Lecture

Exoticism and Sensationalism of Folk Corporality

10 May, Friday — 19:00

Women's room (foyer Frosina, first floor)

Ilina Jakimovska

in collaboration with CRNC - Centre for the Research of Nationalism and Culture



This lecture will deal with the ways in which ethnology and cultural anthropology question the body, as well as with the ethical and other dilemmas arising from it. While focusing on what is unusual and disgraceful in some “exotic” cultures (including the Balkan’s), many neglect an important question: do body practices within these cultures represent a gross violation of human rights and should they be suppressed, or rather, tolerated and respected as part of an authentic tradition – in the name of the cultural diversity?

Professor **Iliana Jakimovska**, Ph.D. teaches full time at the Ethnology and Anthropology Institute on the Faculty of Natural sciences and mathematics – Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. Her doctorate thesis is titled “Body in folk culture: standardization, upbringing, control and punishment”. Amongst other things, she has done research about women’s social engagement from the rural 19th century until today’s political protests, the atypical sexual behaviour in Macedonian folk art heritage, as well as the use of folklore in the contemporary rhetoric of politics and the popular discourse in Macedonia. She is the editor of the portal *Off.net*’s cultural section *BookBox* and has worked as an ethnological consultant in Milco Manchevski’s films. Furthermore, she is an author of two poetry books and a collection of short stories titled: *Sun in a jar* and *The Most Important Game*.

Performance

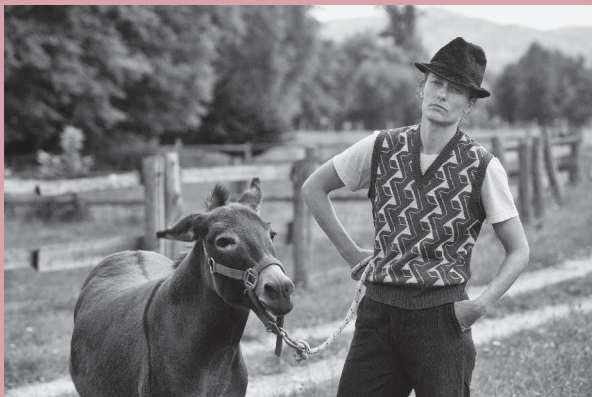
SONNY

10 May, Friday — 20:30

25th of May Hall

Nataša Živković

in collaboration with the International Festival of Contemporary Arts – City of Women, Ljubljana and MOT+



Nataša Živković is an independent versatile Slovenian artist who has been working in various fields of performing arts: theatre, contemporary dance and film. She is an actress, a choreographer and a dancer on both institutional and alternative scenes, as well as a mentor and a professor of ballet and contemporary dance.

Performed by Nataša Živković, Daniel Petković, Loup Abramovici
and Slobodan Malić

Space design and scenography: Lenka Đorojević

Lighting design and technical direction: Špela Škulj

Photography: Nada Žgank

Advising: Teja Reba

Executive Production: Eva Prodan

Production: *City of Women*

Co-production: *Bunker* – Old Power Station

“Sonny! – calls me a relative when I visit her in Montenegro”

Sonny is an interdisciplinary undertaking that is interested in women’s *images* in cultures, that includes anthropological research of specific phenomena in a form of performance. It expresses a fascination with the pictures and the stories of the sworn virgins (or virgins) from the remote parts of Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo and Metohija. *Unwanted* is actually “a common girl’s name in (our) Montenegro” – it is said in the Women’s Right Centre poster of a campaign against selective abortion practice in 2017. Additionally, “a woman is a sack made to endure”, is written in Lekë Dukagjini’s *Kunan* from the Middle Ages, practised in North Albania and Kosovo.

Also, “Montenegro’s last *virgins* has died. Her last wish was for her family-grave epitaph to describe her as her father’s only surviving son.” – was written in Blic, 2016. It is why the artist analyses these stories in relation to the question of women’s survival in men’s world, asking us in what kind of a society we live in. Her performance consists of an emotional capture of the system’s hole which maintains that same system through a gender performance (or with a Performing Gender), in which framework dancing generates essential changes.

Special thanks to *Maska* and *Mladinsko Theatre*

In the framework of Performing gender – Dance makes differences.

The project is supported by *Creative Europe*, the Ministry of Culture and the City of Ljubljana.

Performance

The Refugee

10 May, Friday — 21:30

Buffet Frosina

Lana Zdravković



"The Refugee" is a performance that came out from the re-thinking of the refugee issue through a gender perspective. It embodies a woman that is fleeing from war, poverty, misery, as well as from patriarchy, machismo, and sexism. The performer's naked body symbolises (her) bare life (or *homo sacer*), as well as the fact that refugees are not powerless victims who have no desire to enjoy or fight for their own emancipation. This performance was created for the *Image Snatchers'* (or *Tatovi podob's*) burlesque evenings in Ljubljana, where it is regularly performed.

Lana Zdravković is a performer in the *Kitch* tandem from Slovenia, where she explores the field of the subversive, political, and emancipatory potential of the kitsch phenomenon. She is a member of the already mentioned collective *Image Snatchers'* that works in the area of burlesque, cabaret and circus. As a performer, she is also part of the platform for contemporary performing arts *Via Negativa Lab*. At the same time, she is a researcher at the *Peace Institute*, a publicist, and a political activist.

Concert

Mavi Phoenix, Bon Praskiza, Donplaya, Prince\$\$ Donatsu

10 May, Friday — 22:00

25th of May Hall

In collaboration with the music festival Taksirat and Password Production



“Lo-Fi pop heroine Mavi Phoenix will bewitch you” – The Fader

The 22-year-old Mavi Phoenix is a living proof that every artist with true talent can accomplish international fame no matter where they come from. Mavi started her musical career with singing, rapping, and producing when she was only eleven years old, and since then she has developed her own distinct style of music production. Her work has caught the attention of some important names in the music industry, such as *i-D*, *Nylon*, *The Line of Best Fit*, *The Fader* and *COLORS*. She has performed at plenty of European festivals, including *The Great Escape* in Barcelona and *Primavera Sound* in Porto, and before playing at *Roskilde* in Denmark. This year Mavi will perform at *Firstborn Girl!*

Sex Toys Workshop:

Play - sure – The Experts Guide to Erotic Toys and Great Sex

11 May, Saturday – 17:00

Women's room (Foyer Frosina, first floor)

Marika Smith



The goal of this interactive and educational workshop that empowers female sexuality is to help us be curious about sex and to accentuate the importance of our own sexual pleasure and the energy we are putting into it. Although the workshop is mainly intended for adult females or non-binary audience, it is important that we emphasize that most of our sexual functions, emotions, and needs are the same for all humans, regardless of our genitalia and gender. During the workshop, we will develop new ways of thinking about sexuality, listen to the experiences of others, try and see how it is to wear a *strap-on*, exercise, and challenge ourselves to answer questions that may strengthen our self-esteem.

Marika Smith is a sex inspirator, counsellor, lecturer and a freelance writer from Stockholm who has specialised in sex and relationships. The concept of Marika's work is called *Sexpiratorion*, since the main idea is to use positive aspects of sex to inspire people to learn, grow, and feel better about themselves in their intimacy and love life. Marika has a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Ethnology from Stockholm University, specialising in applying several cultural perspectives to sexuality, such as BDSM, cultural heritage and consumption.

Discussion

Feminism and Porn: Friends or Foes?

11 May, Saturday — 19:00

Women's Room (foyer Frosina, first floor)

Moderator: Ivana Dragsic

Speakers: Lana Zdravkovic and Sarah Held



Women watch porn. Women play in and shoot porn movies. Feminists too. Contrary to these facts there are still myths that only men enjoy porn, that porn actresses do not enjoy their work, that feminists hate porn and that the porn industry is managed by men. Okay, the last one is relatively true.

So, the question that arises is whether the alternative porn productions can change the way we perceive porn movies? Whether and how can porn be a type of protest against socio-cultural norms? What are the possibilities of the porn industry for education, emancipation, and the release of sexual inhibition? What would happen if we, instead of being exposed to sexist mainstream pornography, have access to porn materials that portray different body types, sexualities, genders, materials that value and explore everyone's pleasure? If women were more visually exposed to female sexual pleasure, would they be more actively advocating for their rights on pleasure and orgasm?

The purpose of this panel is to focus on the female sexual pleasures (while being fully aware that is impossible to talk about this as if it were one). We want to actively disassemble the mainstream porn's "holy trinity" (the empty pick-up line, the set of sex poses that are almost always intended to show only the genitals, and the finale – the cum shot) in a way that will consider the potential of feminist and queer porn productions. Finally, we want to address the myth of feminists hating porn.

Our guests on this panel are: Lana Zdravkovic (Slovenia), who holds a doctorate in philosophy and works as a researcher and a performer who often implements her (often overly sexualized) body in her work; Sarah Held (Germany), whose research and artistic practices focus on the protest's culture, the intersection between feminism and political activism against sexual violence. The moderator of our panel discussion will be Ivana Dragsic - a sociologist, an activist and a cultural manager. She plays music in many clubs and on her radio program *Дискордіа* (Diskordia) – the possible soundtrack for the fall of the patriarchy.

Performance

„I, Victim“ & „The Second Time“

11 May, Saturday — 20:30

Кино Фросина

Simona Semenič

in collaboration with the International Festival of Contemporary Arts – City of Women, Ljubljana and MOT+

Text: Simona Semenič

Performed by: Verica Nedeska and Simona Semenič

Lighting design: Igor Remeta

Production: *City of Women, Firstborn Girl* and *MOT+*

Simona Semenič's first solo theatre piece entitled **“I, victim”** premiered on the 13th International Festival of Contemporary Arts – City of Women in 2007. Her performance includes an interpretative reading of the artist's autobiographical text that deals with her close encounters with the different types of dark forces. Sharing her experience with epilepsy and the health system, genital herpes and the health system, she creates a relationship and talks of her ways of coping with what many of us have to deal with every day.

In order to perform “I, victim” on *FIRSTBORN GIRL*, after a few years of active work on films, Verica Nedeska is finally coming back on the theatre stage. She worked together with director Biljana Radnoska on the preparations of the performance for the Macedonian audience. Thanks to the openness and support from *City of Women* and *MOT+*, *Firstborn Girl* is proud to announce its first performance co-production.

“I, victim” has its sequel. **“The Second Time”** is the second time she does this performance since the same festival in 2014 when she begins her monologue where her first show ended. Opening her show with the last line from the previous act “Let me smoke”, she tells us what happened in-between the two performances.



Simona Semenič is a Slovenian playwright and a performer. She has received the highest national award for artistic creation in Slovenia - *Prešeren Fund Award*, and she's a three-time winner of the highest award to be bestowed on a playwright - *Grum Prize*. Her plays have been translated in fourteen languages, shown and published in several countries in Europe, USA and the Middle East, and awarded in Slovenia and abroad.



Verica Nedeska is a Macedonian actress and performer who has graduated on the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Skopje and a Master of Arts in Applied Arts at FAMU in Prague. Recently, except acting, she has been writing, directing and producing. She is currently working on her feature film *Shame* and she just finished her first short film *Vera* where she had the role as a scenarist and a director. Verica lives in Prague but is still active on the Macedonian stage, and so far she has accomplished plenty of significant collaborations with local and foreign renowned directors and authors. Besides theatre and film, she dearly loves music and poetry.



Biljana Radnoska is a Macedonian theatre director who graduated on the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in the class of Slobodan Unkovski and Zlatko Slavenski. She is a recipient of several national and international awards and was part of the Art Academy's Master's program for laboratory approach in theatre and performing arts DasArts in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. She lives and works in the fictional city "Theatre for Magdalena" between Skopje and Amsterdam. Her work is a layered provocation of certain theatre cannons, a reassessment of hierarchies and forms through the prism of emotional landscapes.

Concert

Nalyssa Green, Post Lovers, SPETI

11 May, Saturday – 22:30

Plateau

Nalyssa Green (GR), Post Lovers (GR), SPETI (MK)

in collaboration with ISKRA Tourbooking



Nalyssa Green is a singer, a songwriter and a feminist from Athens, Greece, who composes theatre music and is interested in performance art. She has three albums so far, and her third album “Bloom” is actually the first album recorded in her mother tongue. Her need to express and sing in Greek verse only strengthens her musical identity and style that ultimately weds her dreamy melodies and her fairy-tale vocals. The motive of blooming in this album is followed by the singer’s personal stories, in which she cultivates her feminine creative force.



Post Lovers is a solo project by the singer and songwriter Eleni Karageorgou, introduced in the summer of 2017. The music of Post Lovers is a mix of short indie-folk tunes and a-bit-too personal songwriting with playful backing vocals, all set in a 90's background. In her debut album, Eleni shares her thoughts with the listener providing a resounding female answer to the male-dominated contemporary songwriting. Her songs can be described as a harmonic assemble of masterly crafted tunes, fragile memories, and feelings that deal with the cruelty of love, family and human nature.



DZRETI is a contemporary Macedonian band formed in June 2018 after three days of spontaneously creating music in Prague that led to publishing their first album "Sweet, short tunes" in August 2018 in Skopje. DZRETI started as a duo, rapidly growing into a band of four, consisting of Sanja Jakimova (vocal), Vladimir Vladimirov (guitar), Bojan Jankov (bass) and David Stojkoski (keyboard). The three singles from the album, *Mountains*, *Wind* and *Oh, free yourself* are their way of showing "a comfortable and intimate atmosphere from a period they decide not to let their inspiration to rest".

Body Flow

Ivana Kocevská

12 May, Sunday — 13:00

Plateau



"Dance, dance, otherwise we are lost" – Pina Bausch

Body Flow is an assembly of dance moves combined with strengthening exercises, stretching, balancing, coordination and proper breathing. **Ivana Kocevská**, a graduated ballet pedagogue, and the participants, under her guidance, will all together learn to relax their own body and move gracefully, naturally with the help of several elegant dance exercises. Kocevská will share her approach to this technique with us and her training is open to take for anyone, regardless of physical fitness and age. No prior dance experience or sports discipline is required to practice this technique.

Join us! Shift your limits and discover your inner dancing spirit!

Bazaar

12 May, Sunday — 13:00

Plateau

An open space for the exciting handmade crafts of our favourite local creatives. Don't forget to bring your savings, you'll definitely need them.

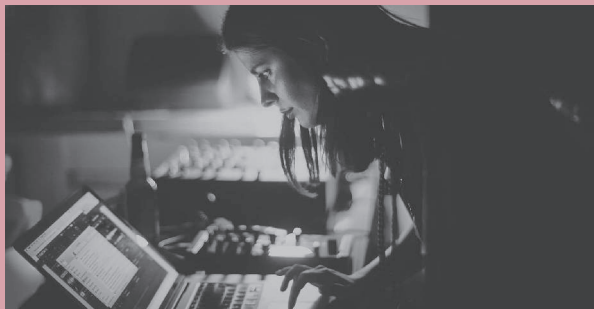
Dj Set

Tea Shaldeva

12 May, Sunday — 14:00

Plateau

Tea Shaldeva, or Galathea, is a DJ and an artist, having already produced one album so far. She DJs in Skopje since 2012 and has been entertaining the audience of Firstborn Girl several times. She will join us again this year during the day.



Children's program: Theatre play for kids

Counter fairy - tale

12 May, Sunday — 18:00

Plateau

Theatre Shadows and clouds



Hannah the butterfly thinks nature made a mistake giving her this name, knowing very well she would be happier to transform into Johnny the Grasshopper. She is sick of going to the ballet. She secretly hides her wings and sneaks into parties, mingling in the crowds. Her best friend Maya the ant tells her she will get caught, but Hannah is restless and doesn't care. This spring she will be named Johnny and it will be it!

The theatre play will be created as a product from the three-day workshop for children (and adults) who will together contribute in developing the story's characters as well as the story in a way that will allow kids, not only to learn how to do shadow puppet theatre, but also to influence the elements of the performance with personal experiences and thoughts.

The theatre *Shadows and Clouds* are a bunch of people who obsessively make plays for big and small children, going back to 2005. Since last year they have their own self-sustainable independent space (theatre) in the heart of Debar Maalo, that has a small scene and an open showground for all interested organisations and individual artists. This art troupe has a mission to create a mobile and independent theatre platform which will find new ways of expression through old media and will connect with the audience outside the institutionalised art. While searching for new tools, sounds and shadows, the theatre can count its numerous collaborations with visual artists and performers from different fields, as well as its visits in Turkey, Brazil, USA, Russia, Georgia, Spain, Germany, The Netherlands, France, Greece, Serbia, etc.

Slam

PeachPreach Slam

#сегакажувам

#ISpeakUpNow

12 May, Sunday – 20:00

Plateau



PeachPreach is a narrative initiative for female oral history, intended to match the traditional male-dominated written history and to normalize women's experiences. At the same time, it strives to affirm the women who contribute to society, as well as to reveal new and fresh narrative voices. Following the concept of its authors, **Rumena Buzharovska** and **Ana Vasileva**, the initiative was created at the beginning of 2016 and realized by *Tiiit! Inc.* within the program of the *FirstBorn Girl* festival. Nine events have been held so far: four Gala nights for the occasion of the 8th of March, few storytelling nights in Bitola, Ohrid, Shtip, Kumanovo, as well as the first PeachPreach slam in 2018 in Skopje.

Following the refreshing, empowering and compassionate story wave about women's experiences due to the #MeToo movement that swept the world and our regions, the topic for this year's slam is "I am saying it now". The format of this event is planned in a way that each participant is expected to retell a theme coordinated story within ten minutes, that will have in focus a female story of undergoing psychological or physical harassment that has not yet been said and/or that remains disregarded by society. The storytelling will take place in a relaxed atmosphere and will not be filmed.

The Slam is part of the project Peach Preach, supported by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation - Sweden.

Drag Show

Boris Gay

12 May, Sunday — 22:00

Buffet Frosina



Fashioning his figure after the example and the picture of Doris Day, **Boris Gay** is Scotland's premier drag kind primed to entertain at this festival. Expect humour, talent, modesty and perhaps a little nudity! Boris will sing and dance in his unique camp cabaret style before presenting a talk on life as a drag king and the drag scene in the UK. Before leaving the podium he will finish with a flourish, another unique song and dance.

Exhibition

“O”

Parallel Program
Women's room
(foyer Frosina, first floor)

Jana Jakimovska



Digital, because the future is digital. Photographed, because, in this era of copy-paste, the old skills are nothing but unnecessary luxuries. Scribbled, because everyone can scribble. Textually burdened, because we live in the time of memes, snapchat and purikura. Self-portrait, because your story will be easier to bear seen through someone else's distorted face. Facts, because the gods should be silenced once and for all. Humour, because there is not a subject that shouldn't be made fun of. Orgasm, because the things we don't talk about cease to exist. - Jana Jakimovska

Jana Jakimovska (1981) got her BA and MA at the Department of painting at the Faculty of Fine Arts in Skopje. She engages in painting, digital media, graphic design, photography, illustration, and public space interventions. Her latest work focuses on the feminist aspect through the issues of the body, the self, sexuality, and the position of women in society today. So far, she has had fifteen solo exhibitions in New York, Skopje, Belgrade, Prishtina, Kumanovo, Gevgelija, and Shtip. She has taken part in numerous group exhibitions in Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Germany, and the USA. She works as an associate professor at the Academy of Fine Arts at the Goce Delchev University in Shtip.

Festival team:

Jana Kocevska, Kristina Lelovac, Jana Stardelova, Monika Jamandilovska, Kalia Dimitrova, Elena Krsteva, Kumjana Novakova, Stefan Bogeski, Georgi Stardelov, Manja Velichkovska, Blagica Petrova, Nenad Gjorgjievski Tonkin, Ena Bendevska.

Supporters:

FRIDA - Young Feminist Fund, Ministry of Culture of The Republic of North Macedonia, City of Skopje, Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Embassy of Sweden, The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation

Collaborators:

Youth Cultural Centre - Skopje, MOT+, City of Women - Ljubljana (Slovenia), European film Festival Cinedays, Museum of Contemporary Culture - Skopje, Password Production (Taksirat Festival), ISKRA Tourbooking, MEDUZA.mk, Theatre Shadows and clouds, CRNC - Centre for the Research of Nationalism and Culture, Peach Preach

Illustrations and poster design by: Marija Strajnic (*Lovers.rs*)

Event catalogue design by: Igor Delov



Festival Team:



Jana Kocavska (Skopje, 1986) graduated at the Institute for Ethnology and Anthropology in Skopje. She is one of the founders of *Tiiiiit! Inc.* and the *Firstborn Girl Festival*. As part of the organisational teams, Jana worked at several valuable cultural festivals in Macedonia, such as *CRIC* – Festival of Critical Culture, *Skopje Pride Weekend* and volunteered at *MakeDox* – Festival of Documentary Film and *Other Story* – Regional literature festival for short prose, etc. She is also one of the founders of *CRNC* – Centre for the Research of Nationalism and Culture and at the moment works at Coalition Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalised Communities – *Margins*.



Kristina Lelovac (Skopje, 1985) is actress and assistant professor at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Skopje, where she is enrolled in doctoral studies in Theatrology. Her fields of interest are professional training of actors and re-thinking of theatre practices in the context of (contemporary) political realities. She has performed in independent theatre productions, film and television projects. She has participated in domestic and international festivals, study visits, summer schools and workshops (*MOT, TESZT* – Timișoara, *IMPULSE* – Düsseldorf, *Mladinsko Theatre* – Ljubljana, U.S. State Department *IVL Program*). She is a member of several activist initiatives and one of the founders of *Tiiiiit! Inc.* and the *Firstborn Girl Festival*.



Jana Stardelova (Skopje, 1986) is a graduate in Cultural studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Ljubljana. She is one of the founders of *Tiiiiit! Inc.* and the *Firstborn Girl* festival. Since 2011 she is active in the NGO sector in Ljubljana, where she works as a project assistant on youth projects in the area of migration, human and minority rights. Since 2014 she works at the *International Organization for Migration* on the mission in Ljubljana, Slovenia.



Monika Jamandilovska (1994) is a graduate at the Faculty of Philology “Blazhe Koneski” in the Department of Translation and Interpreting – Skopje, where she’s currently living and working as a translator for French and English language. Along translating she has been working in production for plenty of events and projects. She started working as a volunteer for *Firstborn Girl* since its first edition in 2013, and she became part of its regular team working actively as a project assistant and translator.



Kalia Dimitrova (Skopje 1991) has a degree in political sciences from the Faculty of Law *Iustinianus Primus* at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. Her master’s degree in the field of cultural studies brings her to the Netherlands, Poland, and the United States, where she studies and lives until 2016, before returning in Skopje. In 2018 she published her first book of poetry *Witches today*. In 2018 she became part of the team behind the *Firstborn Girl* Festival. Currently, she is working at the *Helsinki Committee for Human Rights* of the Republic of Macedonia. She is the Coordinator and editor-in-chief of the first feminist platform in the Macedonian language – *Medusa* (www.meduza.mk).



Kumjana Novakova works in the field of creative documentary cinema and audiovisual arts. She acquires her formal education in social sciences in Sofia, Sarajevo, Bologna and Amsterdam. In 2006 she co-founds the *Pravo Ljudski Film Festival* in Sarajevo. Currently, she works at the Museum of Contemporary Arts in Skopje as a film curator and is the co-author and co-researcher at the interdisciplinary art theory programme *Radical Education*. Collaborates with several film festivals and cinema platforms, and teachers engaged documentary cinema at the *Béla Tarr’s* film factory and at the Documentary / Non-fiction department at ESCAC, Barcelona. She curates the film program on *Firstborn Girl* since 2014.



Elena Peljhan (Skopje, 1988) received her master degree at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Skopje in the department of Industrial Design and Marketing. She is an active participant in the development of the music scene in Macedonia and is one of the founders of the informal organization for promotion and support of music artists *All Together Distro*. In 2017 she became part of the team in a Youth Cultural Center in Germany *Esperanza* and a music critic for the polish website *beehype*. The same year, she started her personal project for organizing and tour managing *Iskra Tourbooking*, an independent music booking agency.



Georgi Stardelov (1990, Skopje) - a non-graduate archaeologist, a retired athlete and a fan of the mountains and the seas. Since 2010 he is working and volunteering on arts and culture festivals, providing organisation and logistics support in Macedonia and the region. He is the official brother to this festival and its rights hand since its beginning.



Stefan Bogeski (1988) has graduated in Industrial Design at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Skopje. He's part of the *Skopje Pride Weekend* team and is actively engaged in a series of cultural and art events for the visibility of trans and gender queer people. In 2018 he joined the team behind the *Firstborn Girl* Festival. That same year he joined Ivana Dragsic as an editor and host of the radio show *Discordja - a possible soundtrack to the fall of patriarchy*. He is currently working in the Coalition for Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities - *MARGINS* as a project coordinator in developing a system for prevention and protection from gender-based violence in high-schools.



Manja Velichkovska (Skopje, 1995) has graduated in General and Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Philology "Blaze Koneski" at the St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. She is currently working on her master's degree in Philosophy in the field of Aesthetics. During her undergraduate studies, she volunteered at the publishing houses *Goten* and *Templum* and at the world cultural centre *Esperanza*. Currently, she is part of the editorial team at the student conference of philology *Kako si mi?* and the online platform *In Medias Res* and since 2018 she joined the regional informal group of literary critics *Pobunjene Čitateljke*. Her interests include (feminist) aesthetics of space, geopoetry and geocriticism.



Blagica Petrova began her engagement in civil society during her studies at the Faculty of Economics in Skopje. As a student and after graduation she was actively involved in the students printed magazine *Izlez* first as a journalist and later as editor-in-chief and as Executive Director of Way Out Student Organization. Later on, she worked as a Membership and Communications Coordinator for the *National Youth Council of Macedonia* where she worked on public relations, coordination of member organizations, regional offices, and a pool of trainers of the Council. Currently, she is working with the Association of Economic Researchers as a junior researcher and technical support and she is a Coordinator assistant at the Investigative film festival Skopje organized by *PINA* – Platform for investigative journalism and analysis.

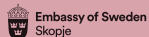


Nenad Gjorgjievski Tonkin (Skopje, 1978) has a Bachelor's degree in pre-school education and is currently working on his second BA in sculpture and scenography on the Faculty of Fine Arts in Skopje. As a member of the band *Bei The Fish*, he has produced four studio albums and has had many concerts throughout Europe. Since 2013 he has been producing his own music under the name *Mammoth & Yashem*. He has had two solo and several group exhibitions in Macedonia, Italy, and Germany. He composed music for theatre plays and short films, worked on scenography for short films and theatre plays. He was part of the organisational teams on the *KRIK* and *Firstborn Girl* festivals and this year is a technical implementer on the radio show *PeachPreach* on channel 103.



Ena Bendevska (Skopje, 1994) graduated in political sciences and international security on the University College Maastricht in the Netherlands. During her studies, she is actively engaged in the *Refugee Project Maastricht* where she worked with women migrants in their asylum application process and the volunteer program at the Universidad del Pacifico in Lima where she worked with children and women from socially-endangered environments. Now she is employed at the *Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia*, where she works as a project coordinator on projects related to the youth education as well as a visual editor for the first feminist platform in Macedonian - *Medusa* (www.meduza.mk). This year, she joins the team behind the *Firstborn Girl* Festival.

Поддржувачи:



Соработници:



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НАЦИОНАЛИЗМОТ И КУЛТУРАТА
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