

**International
Platform
of Doctoral Research
in the Fields of
Performing Arts
and Cultural Management**

20 and 21 June 2025



UNIVERSITATEA
LUCIAN BLAGA
— DIN SIBIU —





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**International Platform of
Doctoral Research in the Fields
of Performing Arts and Cultural
Management**

The Art of Saying “Thank You”: Theatre and Cultural Diplomacy

20 and 21 June 2025

Daniel David



Thank you for the opportunity to address an introductory speech for this international and national landmark event, the Sibiu International Theatre Festival, this year, 2025, having the theme „Thank you“.

I'd like to start by saying that the Ministry of Education and Research is generally in charge of knowledge. How do we generate knowledge through research? How do we disseminate it to children, to their minds and behaviors, but also in the minds and behaviors of adults through education? How do we teach them to use this knowledge in their daily lives?

If I think about the International Theatre Festival, the first thing that obviously comes to mind is related to the fundamental key element which is represented by esthetic values. What I mean is beauty. The esthetics is a dominant component. But if I start to think closely to what is happening in this festival, in theatre performances, and other festival events, I obviously start to see other values as well, such as ethics - which teaches us what is good, what is bad, how to behave, and more and more often I am seeing scientific values, pertaining to the truth, both in the content of theatre performances, and in other festival events, such as the doctoral research platform and so on. Therefore, what happens within this event, in my opinion, is complementary to the activity of the Ministry. I am glad that the festival exists. It is a national and international landmark. You are doing an amazing thing for Sibiu and for this country so I can only say Thank you and carry on!

Daniel David
Minister of Education and Research



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Constantin Chiriac



I extend this word of gratitude on behalf of the Festival and all the structures that, during the thirty-two years of continuous editions, created this Doctoral Platform twelve years ago. We are celebrating the Doctoral Platform in the field of performing arts, cultural management, cultural diplomacy, thinking about how friendship has meant the driving force of the festival's development for three decades.

The uniqueness of this festival is linked to its richness, diversity and capacity to generate projects, now and here. All these projects are conceived with an eye to the needs of the community, the region, the country; they are in dialog with the several countries around the world, with global players in education and research, but above all with friends of the festival. The Platform itself has become a respected institution worldwide. Twelve years ago, when we started the project, the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu did not yet have a doctoral school in Performing Arts.

The doctoral platform was born thanks to the openness of two great universities: Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III and Brown University in the United States. They are partners of the Sibiu Festival and have led to the creation of the Doctoral School of Theatre and Performing Arts at the Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu.

Today we are proud to be able to talk about the inauguration of the Romanian Academy's Research Institute for Performing Arts.

Its existence is also linked to this doctoral platform, which includes forty-nine universities in dialogue, but also seventy-seven great international personalities who have agreed that what they have created in artistic terms can be exploited in education and research: from Peter Brook, Peter Stein, Eugenio Barba, Lev Dodin, Ariane Mnouchkine, Mihail Barîşnikov, Peter Sellers, John Malkovich, Eugène Ionesco, Jon Fosse. We will be able to develop a hub of projects in such a way that great artists, together with the universities involved, can meet young people who need access to research, and their ingenuity and availability can be used in the fullest, rendering this institute unique. This is the first time that the Romanian Academy has created an institute that is not financed from public money, but from funding, which means taking great risks.

The friendliness and credibility of the festival and the platform guarantee that what we do here in Sibiu will be a nodal point of education and opportunity for young people. This year's theme, The Art of Saying "Thank You": Theatre and Cultural Diplomacy, gives us the wonderful opportunity of responding to challenges and hardships by taking credit for the structures that offer an answer to the challenges of reality. Here we think about the Digital Stage...

We are the only festival, the only theatre, the only performance scholarship that is able to make us of such a tool. We offer more than eighty shows that tour around the world with the festival. Even NATO military forces from thirty countries have access to these performances.

We are convinced that the presence of the Romanian Academy's Performing Arts Research Institute within the Doctoral Platform will be a legitimate opportunity for all the universities involved. Through their professors and doctoral students, through the projects that it will generate, this hub will bring forth challenges, but also opportunities for researchers. Thank you to the Ministry of Education and Research!

I would like to personally thank Minister Daniel David and Rector Sorin Radu, as well as their teams, for the extraordinary support received for the Festival of Universities and for the Doctoral Platform, both of which stand in the middle of this great Festival. The Platform comes as a natural extension of the research area which is immediately linked to the artistic creation. We are thankful for the festival, the performance grants, the volunteering program, the diversity promoted.

Thank you to the spectators and to all the partners in Romania and around the world who support the miracle of Sibiu, through the power of making connections in the name of friendship. How simple and beautiful it is to say "Thank you!". Thank you, dear lifelong friends!

We are in the midst of a historic moment and thank you for being part of building the future. Thank you!

Constantin Chiriac
President of Sibiu International Theatre Festival

Ion M. Tomuş



It has been three decades since the “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu understood the benefits of being associated with an international theatre festival. Both institutions have grown, have improved, and have come to represent poles of excellency: in education, in the artistic field, in their relation to the community and their partners. Of course, it was not always easy, but the challenges were overcome, and I am absolutely convinced that this partnership has established a set of good practice, which is unique in the global educational and artistic environment.

Ten years ago, in 2015, a new doctoral field of study was established in our university: Theatre and Performing Arts. This represented a tremendous opportunity in the specialization and improvement of young artists. What is more, it highlighted the position of those who already enjoyed their colleagues’ and the public’s appreciation.

The doctoral platform in performing arts is a unique academic initiative: its establishment is meant to encourage creative dialogue amongst doctoral students and academic staff from all over the world, within the context of the Sibiu International Theatre Festival. At the same time, the festival represents one of the gateways through which the field Theatre and Performing Arts opens itself up to the world, in the name of creation and research. The final aim of these endeavours is the opportunity for young artists to perfect themselves through their masters’ practice. Thus, the public shall continue to enjoy the magic of theatrical performance.

The theme of this year’s doctoral platform conference is extremely generous: THE ART OF SAYING “THANK YOU”: THEATRE AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY and it fits into the festival’s larger theme.

This year, the doctoral platform is joined by U.talk, which aims to be a bridge between the theatre school festival and the doctoral platform, in the generous context of the Sibiu International Theatre Festival. During U.talk, theatre schools participating in the festival will meet with doctoral students and doctoral supervisors, as well as professionals in the field involved in education, to discuss and analyze the productions presented to the public the previous day. Also, for each participating institution, U.talk offers the opportunity to recommend themselves and present their strategies in terms of artistic education, scientific research and artistic creation. The aim of U.talk is to set up a space for international academic dialogue, devoided of formality, as well as to create an active hub, beneficial to networking and future university projects and exchanges.

Ion M. Tomuş

**Head of PhD School in Theatre and Performing Arts
Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu**

Octavian Saiu



The Dialogue of Hope and the Two Words that Bind Us Together

In times like these, which appear so close to the end of time itself, we may wonder what the role of theatre is. To show us that we can all play different roles? To reinforce that very instinctual sense of playfulness? To remind us of our own humanity? To make us more human than we already are? To protect us from the advancement of dehumanizing technologies? Not too far from these arises another set of questions, about cultural diplomacy. If diplomacy in its most technical definition seems to fail more and more at a global scale, can its cultural iterations make any possible difference?

Framed this way, all the above points may sound defeatist, hopeless and devoid of any genuine faith in what the art of the stage can achieve on the stage of the world. All the more despondent is the tone about the virtues of cultural diplomacy, a field destined to restate its own weaknesses. And yet, this is not the atmosphere one would like to create for this conference. ***Au contraire***, as Beckett – the most optimist of all pessimists – would say. When choosing such a theme for an assembly of artists, academics, and diplomats, the message must be one of genuine hope.

Even if theatre cannot save the world, even if cultural diplomacy can hardly make it any better, there is something that both these domains of the human spirit still have to offer: the endless possibilities of dialogue. It is the essence of each of them. Theatre is about dialogue, as the language of two hearts reaching out to one another. Likewise, cultural diplomacy finds avenues for facilitating dialogue across any sort of boundary. The mental space they foster is that of togetherness. The emotional values they cherish derive from it, against all forms of division – social, ideological or merely linguistic. Indeed, theatre and cultural diplomacy are the joint territories of dialogue and hope.

In keeping with the theme of this year's festival, the overall vision for this conference stems from the most simple and at the same time the most meaningful two words any of us can utter: 'thank you!' In theatre, they are never forgotten, because the applause at the end of every show, anytime and anywhere, are their reinforced echoes. In cultural diplomacy, they are indispensable beyond any formality, as the core principle of celebrating otherness. If gratitude is an art, then we can all try to master it. So, on behalf of Sibiu International Theatre Festival, to each and all of those participating in this event: THANK YOU!

Octavian Saiu
Chair of the Conference

International Platform of Doctoral Research in the

Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris 3 (France)
Brown University (USA)
Suffolk Community College (USA)
Pace University (USA)
Yale University (USA)
Arizona State University (USA)
Leeds Beckett University (UK)
University of Warwick (UK)
The Grotowski Institute (Poland)
University of Bologna (Italy)
Folkwang Universität der Künste (Germany)
The Central Academy of Drama (China)
Shanghai Theatre Academy (China)
Beijing Dance Academy (China)
Japan Women's University (Japan)
Nagoya City University (Japan)
Nihon University (Japan)
Waseda University (Japan)
Meiji University (Japan),
Moscow State University of Culture and Arts (Russia)
Université de Moncton (Canada)
École Nationale de Théâtre du Canada (Canada)
George Enescu National University of Arts (Romania)
Center of Excellence in Image Studies, University of Bucharest (Romania)
Academy of Arts in Osijek (Croatia)
National Academy for Theatre and Film Arts, Sofia (Bulgaria)
Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

Fields of Performing Arts and Cultural Management

University of East Anglia (UK)
University of Warsaw (Poland)
Bar-Ilan University (Israel)
Yerevan State Institute of Theatre and Cinematography (Armenia)
University of Texas (USA)
University of California (USA)
Zurich University of the Arts (Switzerland)
Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (Israel)
University of Gdansk (Poland)
Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines)
Aix-Marseille Université (France)
Université Cergy-Paris (France)
Hamburg University (Germany)
Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts (Moldova)
University of Surrey (UK)
Kyoto University of the Arts (Japan)
Ithaca College (SUA)
Adam Mickiewicz University (Poland)
Communication University of China, Nanjing (China)
Institute of the Arts, Barcelona (Spain)
Université de Strasbourg (France)
Babeş-Bolyai University (Romania)
American University in Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
New Bulgarian University (Bulgaria)
University of Arts Târgu-Mureş (Romania)
University of Michigan (USA)

General presentation

The main objective for the International Platform of Doctoral Research in the Fields of Performing Arts and Cultural Management is to promote inter-institutional collaboration and theatre research in the context of Sibiu International Theatre Festival. For this purpose, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu has established partnerships with other important universities, such as Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris 3 (France); Leeds Beckett University (UK); York St. John University (UK); Folkwang Universität der Künste (Germany); Brown University (USA); Suffolk Community College (USA); Pace University (USA); The Central Academy of Drama (China); Japan Women's University (Japan); Nagoya City University (Japan); Nihon University (Japan); The Open University of Hong Kong (China); Beijing Dance Academy (China); Shanghai Theatre Academy (China); Moscow State University of Culture and Arts (Russia); Waseda University (Japan); Université de Moncton (Canada); Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts (Moldova), École Nationale de Théâtre du Canada (Canada), etc. The International Platform is an excellent opportunity for dialogue and academic interaction between young and established researchers each year, during Sibiu International Theatre Festival.

The Department of Drama and Theatre Studies and the PhD school in the fields of Performing Arts and Cultural Management of Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu are preoccupied especially with the practical implications of academic research. For the International Platform, we are considering events such as one-man shows, which are part of doctoral study programme, plays directed or performed by PhD students, as well as talks and public lectures offered by PhD supervisors and students. The aim of all these is to encourage outstanding and exceptional PhD research. All these events are organized in conjunction with Sibiu International Theatre Festival, drawing on its credibility, artistic standards and international academic visibility.





KEYNOTE SPEAKER
SIR JONATHAN MILLS

Sir Jonathan Mills AO is Vice-Chancellor's Creative Fellow at the University of Melbourne. He is a world famous Australian-born composer and renowned festival director based in the UK. He is the composer of award-winning works including *Eternity Man* (Genesis Foundation commission, 2003) and the oratorio *Sandakan Threnody* (Prix Italia, 2005). A former director of the Edinburgh International Festival (2007–2014), he currently leads the UNESCO-recognised Edinburgh International Culture Summit and serves as President of the EFFE (European Festival Association's Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe programme) International Jury. He is Visiting Professor at the University of Edinburgh and Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne. His contributions have been honoured by numerous international distinctions.



ALEXANDRU BOUREANU

Alexandru Boureanu is Professor and PhD Supervisor, General Manager of the "Marin Sorescu" National Theatre in Craiova, and teaches at the University of Craiova, Faculty of Letters, Department of Arts and Media. He is a graduate of the National University of Theatre and Film "I. L. Caragiale" in Bucharest, where he also completed advanced studies in Theatre Aesthetics and Theory, as well as a Master's in Theatre Directing. He holds a PhD in Economic Sciences – Management from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, with a thesis titled *The Impact of Modern Management on the Activity of Independent Theatre Companies*. He has directed around 20 plays by contemporary playwrights such as Gilles Granouillet, Matei Vişniec, Michelle Lowe, Alexandr Galin, Marine Auriole, Geo Iancu Călinescu, and Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt, as well as canonical authors such as René de Obaldia, Leonid Zorin, Ion Creangă, I.L. Caragiale, Victor Eftimiu, Al. Kiriţescu, Leonid Andreev, Jean Genet, Eugène Ionesco, André Roussin, among others.



BERNICE CHAN

Chan Bernice is currently the General Manager of the International Association of Theatre Critics (Hong Kong), and an Examiner for the Hong Kong Arts Development Council (Drama Committee). She is also a Panel Member of the Hong Kong Drama Awards, the Hong Kong Theatre Libre, and the IATC (HK) Critics Awards, as well as the Vice President of the International Association of Libraries, Museums, Archives and Documentation Centres of the Performing Arts (SIBMAS). She received the Hong Kong Arts Development Council-University of Leeds-Chevening Scholarships in 2005 and obtained her Master of Arts in Theatre Studies from the University of Leeds (UK). Chan has curated and edited over 50 publishing projects about performing arts.



COSMIN CHIVU

Cosmin Chivu is Associate Professor at Pace School of Performing Arts (New York). His PhD thesis focuses on an in-depth study of techniques and practices that became known as 'The Method', developed at the Actors Studio New York, which changed the art of acting worldwide. The study will include major influencers in the early stages of work development and breakthrough performances discussed and analyzed by their disciples, as well as an analysis on the continuation of The Method and how its practices are in support of the new realities of theater, film, and television.



CĂLIN CIOBOTARI

Călin Ciobotari is a theatre critic, associate professor and PhD supervisor at the Faculty of Theatre of the “George Enescu” National University of Arts Iași. He’s also an associate professor of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Political Sciences at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University Iași. Member of the International Association of Theatre Critics, the Romanian Theatre Union and the Romanian Writers’ Union, he is the author of more than twenty books and a thousand articles (publishing, studies, theater chronicles, etc.). He is the editor-in-chief of the magazine *Dacia Literara*, producer and presenter of the show “The Stage” (Apollonia TV Iași). In 2019 and 2022 he was awarded the UNITER Award for Theatre Criticism. In 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024 he was director and selector/curator of the National Theatre Festival. Among his widely popular volumes, we mention *The Marginals of Chekhov* (2016), *The Director and the Text. Reading Practices* (2017), *Hamlet in the Cherry Orchard* (2018), *Rereading Gorky. A theater on the brink of crisis* (2021), *Letters to Hamlet* (2023), *A History of Kissing in Theatre* (2023). Within the Doctoral School of Theatre, whose director he has been since 2020, his focus is Aesthetics, Drama Theory and Performance Arts. Email: calinciobotari@yahoo.com



NICOLE COLIN

Nicole Colin is Full Professor of German studies at Aix-Marseille University (AMU), an honorary professor at the University of Amsterdam (UvA), and Director of the German-French graduate school “Conflicts of cultures – cultures of conflicts” (AMU / University of Tübingen). She works on German cultural history (with a focus on philosophy and theatre), the theory of cultural transfer, and the sociology of cultural fields. Currently she leads the consortium in the Horizon Europe Project NARDIV – *United in Narrative Diversity? Cultural (Ex-)Change and Mutual Perceptions in Eastern and Western Europe at the threshold of the digital age* (2023-2026). In 2013, she was awarded the *Deutsch-Französischer Parlamentspreis* for her monograph *Deutsche Dramatik im französischen Theater nach 1945. Künstlerisches Selbstverständnis im Kulturtransfer* (Bielefeld 2012). She is the co-author of *Im Schatten der Versöhnung. Deutsch-französische Kulturmittler im Kontext der Europäischen Integration* (Göttingen 2018) and co-editor of the *Dictionnaire des relations culturelles franco-allemands depuis 1945* (Lille 2023).



IOAN POP-CURȘEU

Ioan Pop-Curșeu is Professor, PhD, at the Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, since 2020, and is the director of the affiliated Doctoral School. Books published (as sole author or in collaboration): *Magie și vrăjitorie în cultura română. Istorie, literatură, mentalități* [Magic and Witchcraft in Romanian Culture: History, Literature, Mentalities] (2013), *Manual de estetică* [Aesthetics Handbook] (2014), *Iconografia vrăjitoriei în arta religioasă românească. Eseu de antropologie vizuală* [The Iconography of Witchcraft in Romanian Religious Art: An Essay in Visual Anthropology] (2020), *Études comparatives sur la sorcellerie: anthropologie, cinéma, littérature, arts visuels* (2021), *Witchcraft in Romania* (2022, Palgrave Macmillan), *Dada se dă-n spectacol* [Dada Takes the Stage] (2023). He has also published numerous articles in the field of film studies, as well as literary criticism and anthropological essays. He has translated twelve books (published in Romania and France), edited three collective volumes, and eleven thematic issues of *Studia UBB. Dramatica* and *Ekphrasis*.



NAI-CHU DING

Nai-Chu Ding is one of the most prominent theatre producers in the Chinese-speaking world. Starting from work with her theatre group Performance Workshop in Taiwan in the 1980s, she has produced over 60 theatre plays, including most of the work of her husband, Director Stan Lai. Among her credits are iconic classics that have altered the landscape of theatre in the Chinese speaking world, such as *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land*, *A Dream Like A Dream*, *The Village*, *Just Play It*, and *Millennium Teahouse*. She performed in Stan Lai’s early work, *Plucking Stars* and *Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land* (1986), originating the iconic character of *Yuin*. Nai-chu Ding has also produced three films, *The Peach Blossom Land*, *The Red Lotus Society*, and *Finding Shangri-La*, which have received numerous awards at international festivals. She has produced large scale events, including the 2009 Deaflympics Opening and Closing Ceremonies. She is currently the Managing Director of Performance Workshop Theatre, and the CEO of Theater Above, Shanghai.



AURELIA GROSU

Aurelia Grosu is Romania's Consul General in Marseille. She began her diplomatic career with a solid academic background, during more than 20 years of experience in European affairs and communication, she has held key positions, including Minister Counsellor at the Romanian Embassy in Paris and Romania's representative to international organisations, including the International Organisation of La Francophonie.



BIANCA IOSIF

Bianca Iosif is a PhD student at the University of Strasbourg, in co-supervision with Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Her research focuses on the theatre of Alexandra Badea, exploring the trajectory from the intimate to the extimate. She investigates contemporary Romanian-language dramaturgies as a means of questioning forms of intimacy and developing a dramaturgical and performative definition of extime. Alongside her doctoral work, she teaches in the Performing Arts Department at the University of Strasbourg. She is also engaged in theatrical translation, notably translating *Valentina* by Caroline Guiela Nguyen.



RICHARD JORDAN

Richard Jordan has been at the forefront of commissioning, developing, and producing works by a diverse range of established and emerging writers and artists from around the world. A new writing and musical theatre specialist and an experienced dramaturg, Richard founded his London-based creative production company, Richard Jordan Productions, in 1998. Described by *The Stage* newspaper as “one of the UK's most prolific theatre producers”, his productions have been recipient of over 60 awards including: the TONY Award, Laurence Olivier Award, and EMMY Award. A two-time Amnesty International Award-winner and recipient of the US Black Alliance Award, he has produced theatre which highlights human rights and social agendas.



MICHELLE LOH

Michelle Loh is Lecturer with the Faculty of Creative Industries at LASALLE College of the Arts, University of the Arts Singapore, where she teaches arts policy and research on the BA and MA Arts Management programmes. She is editor of *Traditional Chinese Music in Contemporary Singapore* (Pagesetters, 2020) and serves on the Executive Committee of Poetry Festival Singapore. With over 15 years of experience as an arts manager and researcher, her work focuses on cultural policy, arts management, and traditional Chinese music.



ANDREI LUCA

Andrei Luca is the Director of the Directorate for Cultural Diplomacy, Education and Science of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2020, and is also the President of the EU Network of Science Diplomacy Counsellors of the EU Member States' Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Previously, within the MFA, he held positions such as Director of Communication, Director General for the Diaspora, Deputy to the Romanian Ambassadors in Madrid and Rome and also Alternate Representative at the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs in Vienna.



MIDORI OKUYAMA

Midori Okuyama is Professor and Head of the Department of Theater, College of Art, Nihon University. After studying psychology at the National Ochanomizu Women's University, Midori Okuyama began working as producer at Ginza Saison Theater. In 1995 she joined Sankai Juku Butoh Company as an administrator, and she went to New York to study Arts Administration at Teachers College, Columbia University in 1998. Returning from New York, she founded the international producing company Âme Arts, Inc, and produced the first Asia tour of Richard Foreman's Ontological Hysteric Theatre, coordinated two-times' Tokyo presentations of Théâtre du Soleil, directed by Ariane Mnouchkine (France), the first Japan presentation of Yael Farber's "Molara,"(South Africa) , produced a Japanese version of "Buchettino" directed by Chiara Guidi of Societas Raffello Sanzio.(Italy) The last piece has toured broadly in Japan for more than 10 years. Beside these own producing jobs, she served as General Producer of Setagaya Public Theater, served as coordinator for the contemporary theater section of 'Japonisme' program in 2018 in France, organized by the Japan Foundation. Recently she was on the Advisory Committee for the reformation of Takarazuka Revue Company (2024-2025).



RALUCA RĂDOI

Raluca Rădoi is a cultural marketing and communications specialist with over ten years of experience, both in the private and public sector. In 2021, she received her PhD from the National University of Theatre and Film "I.L. Caragiale" in Bucharest with a thesis focusing on cultural marketing in the performing arts institutions. Currently, she is Director of the Training and Development Department at the National Institute for Cultural Research and Training in Romania - Culturadata. Since 2022, she is the PR and Communication Manager of the International Association of Theatre Leaders [IATL]. Prior to these roles, she was the Communications Coordinator of the Romania-France Season at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Romania. She developed cultural marketing strategies, organized high-level events, managed media relations and social media content, created and implemented cultural and social projects in various organizations.



ARMANDO ROTONDI

Armando Rotondi is an academic, journalist, writer, and theatre practitioner from Italy. He is a Full Professor of Performance Theory and Storytelling at the Institute of the Arts Barcelona (IAB), where he has been directing the MA programmes for the past ten years. He is also a Professor of Performing Arts Management in the MA programme at the International University of Catalonia. He has worked as a researcher and/or lecturer at several institutions, including Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca, the University of Naples "L'Orientale", the University of Naples Federico II, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, the University of Strathclyde, and the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava. In 2023, he was an invited artist at the Prague Biennale. As a journalist, he has contributed to The Theatre Times and Orizzonti Culturali Italo-Romeni. He also serves as a convener for the European Journal of Theatre and Performance and as Director of Mise en Abyme Journal. His participation in the Platform is supported by the Scholarship for Foreign Cultural Journalists 2025, awarded by the ICR – Romanian Cultural Institute.



PHIL SANGER

Phil Sanger is an artist-scholar and doctoral candidate at the University of Surrey. His research explores queer, autoethnographic performance-making, using life coaching as a performance-generating system. He has performed internationally and collaborated with leading UK companies such as Phoenix Dance Theatre and Vincent Dance Theatre. His teaching and creative work centre lived experience, somatic awareness, and inclusive, identity-led practices.



GIORGI SHALUTASHVILI

Giorgi Shalutashvili is a Doctor of Arts, Professor, and Rector at Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film Georgian State University. Born on September 1, 1965, in Tbilisi, he graduated from the Rustaveli State Theatre Institute in 1987. He served as Artistic Director of Meskheta State Drama Theatre from 1989 to 1992 and has taught at his alma mater since 1992, mentoring five generations of actors. Shalutashvili has also made significant contributions to documentary filmmaking, directing over 20 documentaries since 2000. He co-founded the National Dramaturgy Festival in 2006 and was Chief Director of Akhmeteli State Drama Theatre from 2008-2009. With more than 50 stage productions and 20 films to his name, his works have earned recognition at prestigious festivals, including the Grand Prix at the Eurasian TV Forum (2001), multiple awards at the Venice International Film Festival (2005), and the Grand Prix at the G.Eristavi Comedy Festival (2014).



ROBERT SHAUGHNESSY

Robert Shaughnessy is Professor of Theatre at Guildford School of Acting, University of Surrey, and has previously held chairs at the University of Kent and Roehampton University. His current research sits at the intersection between Shakespeare studies, the cognitive humanities, dramaturgy and applied and socially engaged performance, performance, inclusion and neurodiversity. His Arden Performance Edition of *The Winter's Tale* was published in 2025, and he is completing the volume on *The Comedy of Errors* for the Manchester University Press Shakespeare in Performance series.



KALINA STEFANOVA

Kalina Stefanova, PhD, Full Professor of Theatre and Criticism at NATFA, Sofia, is author/editor of 17 books: 15 of them are on theatre, including five in English (published by Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge, etc), and two fiction ones, published in ten countries. She has been a Visiting Scholar/Lecturer world-wide. In 2016 she was appointed as Visiting Distinguished Professor of the Arts School of Wuhan University. She served as Vice President of the International Association of Theatre Critics for two mandates (2001/2006) and as its Director Symposiums for two mandates (2006-2010).



MARINA VASADZE

Marina Vasadze defended her doctoral dissertation on the semiotics of Robert Sturua's theatrical language. The associate professor at Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film Georgia State University, the head of Publishing House Kentavri at Shota Rustaveli Theatre and Film Georgia State University, teaches History of world theatre to BA, MA, DOC.H. She is the author and editor of several books and has published over 1000 articles in local and foreign magazines.



JOACHIM UMLAUF

Joachim Umlauf has served as the director of the Goethe-Institute in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Paris, Lyon, Bordeaux, and Marseille. Since 2019, he has been the director of the Goethe-Institute in Bucharest and the head of the German-Romanian network of cultural centers in Romania and the Republic of Moldova. From 2000 to 2005, he was the head of the "German Studies" department at DAAD in Bonn. Before that, he was a German lecturer at the University of Venice (Ca' Foscari) and the Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris. He also taught at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po' Paris) and LMU Munich. Currently, he teaches German Studies at the University of Bucharest, cultural management at the Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris, and at Lorraine University in Metz. Mr. Umlauf is a permanent member of the scientific boards of the journals LENDEMAINS, Allemagne d'aujourd'hui, and Gerflint, and a board member of Fundatia9 (Bucharest). He has published numerous articles and several books, including "Lexikon der deutsch-französischen Kulturbeziehungen nach 1945" (with Nicole Colin, Corine Defrance, and Ulrich Pfeil; the French edition was published in 2023) and, together with Nicole Colin, "Im Schatten der Versöhnung" (Steidl, 2019).

SUPERVISING PROFESSORS IN THE FIELD OF THEATRE AND PERFORMING ARTS AT LUCIAN BLAGA UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU



Professor
Constantin CHIRIAC
Dr. Habil



Professor
Marian RÂLEA
Dr. Habil



Professor
Cristian RADU
Dr. Habil



Professor
Catherine NAUGRETTE
Dr. Habil



Professor
Spencer GOLUB
Dr. Habil



Professor
Octavian SAIU
Dr. Habil



Professor
Ion M. TOMUŞ
Dr. Habil



Associate Professor
Nechit Diana
Dr. Habil

PHD STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAMME OF THEATRE AND PERFORMING ARTS „LUCIAN BLAGA” UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU

Vicențiu Rahău wrote a thesis about the Sibiu International Theatre Festival from the Individual to the Community Development. He is an artistic consultant at Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu, is responsible for the indoor section of the festival and is holding seminars with the students from the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies. He completed his thesis in November 2018. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Cătălin Pătru is a young actor of the Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu, who made himself noticed by the public from the very first years after graduation. He used to hold acting classes within the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies and did a thesis on the interactions in theatre: dancing, animation and film. He completed his thesis in April 2019. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Silviu Scrob graduated the Theatre Studies and Cultural Management line of study at the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies and has chosen as a subject for the PhD thesis the management of the artistic production. He completed his thesis in March 2021. (supervisor: Professor Cristian Radu, Dr. Habil.)

Cristina Ghinea graduated the Theatre Studies and Cultural Management line of study at the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies and worked as a specialist in communication at Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu and at Sibiu International Theatre Festival. She focused her studies on cultural marketing within the context of new digital paradigms. She completed her thesis in November 2019. (supervisor: Professor Cristian Radu, Dr. Habil.)

Dan Cogălniceanu is a cultural manager preoccupied with the urban communities which are not very active culturally speaking. The subject of his thesis was determining research directions for the identification of culturally diverse models. He completed his thesis in April 2019. (supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Dragoș Buhagiar is one of the most important set designers in Europe, having collaborated with renowned directors worldwide. His doctoral research had practical applications in a true artistic laboratory, in a tight connection with the actor, the director and the theatre manager. He completed his thesis in December 2020. (supervisors: Professor George Banu, Dr. Habil and Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Ofelia Popii is famous, firstly, for her role as Mefisto in Goethe's *Faust* (directed by Silviu Purărete). Her doctoral study focused on teaching acting and also on the metal equilibrium of the actor while creating a particular role on stage. She started teaching acting classes at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu in 2017. She completed her thesis in November 2019. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Eugen Jebeleanu is a young director interested in the social theatre. He directed the performance Families for the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies and for Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu, which questions the concept of family and the way it is integrated in the reality of the 21st century. He completed his PhD studies in November 2021. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Ondina Tăut has graduated History of Arts at Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca and at the present moment she the assistant for the vice-president of the Culture Committee within the European Parliament. She focused her research on the management of the historical heritage. She completed her thesis in October 2023. (supervisor: Professor Cristian Radu, Dr. Habil.)

Cristiana Mermeze graduated the Theatre Studies and Cultural Management line of study at the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies and wrote a thesis about reviving through culture the rural area around Sibiu. She completed her thesis in November 2019. (supervisor: Professor Cristian Radu, Dr. Habil.)

Simona Chițan is a known personality in the context of the Romanian cultural journalism. The subject for her thesis is the reception of contemporary theatre in the universe of the criticism expertise. She completed her thesis in the summer of 2022. (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Ali Deac is an actor at the Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu, counting already numerous roles in his resume. His PhD thesis is dedicated to the influences of the German theatre on the Romanian theatre context, especially on what the body expression in the postdramatic language is concerned. (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Petru Hadârcă is a director and actor from Chișinău (Moldova). He is the general manager at Mihai Eminescu National Theatre in Chișinău. He graduated at Boris Shchukin Theatre Institute in Moscow and did a thesis on the social impact of theatre in Moldova, and also on the history of the national theatre in Chișinău. Of course, his theoretical approach on the thesis was accompanied by a strong and relevant practical work. He completed his thesis in December 2020. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Silvia Macrea is the general manager at one of the most important folkloric dance companies in Romania: Cindrelul – Junii Sibiului. She has dedicated her career to struggling to preserve and to promote the authentic Romanian folklore dance and she has managed to take her dance company to important festivals all around the globe. She is not only a skilled manager,

but also a researcher, as she did a doctoral thesis on the particular links between the contemporary performing arts and the preservation of traditional Romanian culture. She completed her thesis in April 2021. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuș, Dr. Habil.)

Codruța Vulc is a young and remarkable cultural manager that has created one of the most enjoyed rock music festivals – Artmania. She is writing a thesis on the impact of such events on the local and regional community and she is preoccupied on how a music festival can help educate the audience. (supervisor: Professor Cristian Radu, Dr. Habil.)

Adrian Matic is one of the most important actors at Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu. He started teaching acting classes at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu in 2017 and did a thesis on theatre and multimedia techniques in the digital age, focusing on emotions, creativity and distance. He completed his thesis in July 2024. (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Vlad Robaș is a young actor at Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu. He is preoccupied with music in theatre and performing arts and has been an assistant for the music rehearsals for Purcărete's The Scarlet Princess. He is a teaching assistant in acting at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and did thesis on the rhythm, sound and music in the plays at Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu. He completed his thesis in November 2024. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuș, Dr. Habil.)

Andrada Olariu is assistant for Constantin Chiriac, the President of Sibiu International Theatre Festival. She graduated Theatre Studies and Cultural Management and she is doing a research on the management and strategies of the festival in Sibiu. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Fatma Mohamed is an actress that in 2017 started teaching dance and stage movement classes at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Her thesis focused on the archaic rituals in theatre. She completed his thesis in July 2024. (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Oana Marin is a young actress that is working together with Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu. She received her MA in The Art of Dramatic-character Interpretation in 2017. Since 2017 she teaches stage speech at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and did a thesis on the role and importance of the spoken word in Vasile Voiculescu and William Shakespeare's sonnets. She completed her PhD studies in November 2021. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Cristina Blaga is a young actress that is working together with Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu. She received her MA in The Art of Dramatic-character Interpretation in 2016. Since 2017 she teaches acting at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and did a thesis on the concept of mimesis and on the pedagogical methods regarding the expression in theatre. She completed her PhD studies in November 2021. (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Alba Stanciu is part of the staff at the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. She teaches theoretical courses and has already finished her first PhD thesis in Philology, on the myth of Don Juan. Now she is working on her second thesis (this time in Performing Arts) and she is focusing on the opera stage directing as a result of theatrical reforms. (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Dan Bartha is working for more than two decades for Sibiu International Theatre Festival where he coordinated the Logistic Department for almost 17 years. Since

2011, he is responsible for the selection and coordination of the outdoor performances. He is an associated professor at "Lucian Blaga" University, Sibiu and he started a PhD in October 2018 with a thesis entitled Good-Practice Guide for Organizing an Outdoor Performing Arts Event in a Public Space. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Alin Gavrilă is working for Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu since 2002 where he designed the sets for more than 30 plays. He graduated Ion Andreescu Academy for the Fine Arts in Cluj-Napoca and has developed a special interest in the set design for the street theatre, which is an unexplored field in Romanian performing arts. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Alexandru Malaicu is a young actor working for Radu Stanca Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu. He received his MA in The Art of Dramatic-character Interpretation in 2013. Since 2018 he teaches acting at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and is doing a thesis on the concept of manipulation in theatre. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

Radu Grigore is a young writer and director working in the Romanian TV and movie industry. He has an MFA at University of Southern California (USA) in writing for screen and television and he has worked with all the important Romanian actors in the field. Radu Grigore's is doing a thesis on the contemporary techniques in screenwriting. (supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Rareş Stoica is a young actor that graduated from Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca. He then moved to Bucharest, where he started important collaborations with theatres is now one of the most active and visible actors in the young generation. He completed his PhD studies in December 2021. (supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Alexandru Condurache is a freelance documentary maker with 25 years of experience in film and television. Since 1994, he has been an associate professor at several universities in Iaşi (Romania), the field of expertise being that of visual language. Between 1996 and 2017 he owned a video production company. He did a thesis on the visual impact of Silviu Purcărete's shows, which he completed in September 2023. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Alexandru Grecu is one of the most important theatre directors in Moldova and also the head of UNITEM (Moldovan Theatre Union). He is the artistic manager of Satirucus Theatre in Chişinău and did a PhD thesis on the special place of the artist in the contemporary society. He completed his thesis in early 2023. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Sorana Maier is assistant professor at the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies of the Faculty of Letters and Arts, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. She received her PhD in 2022 for the thesis entitled "The Theatrical Manifestations of the Romanian Cultural Societies of Sibiu, Expression of National Identity". Her research interests range from the history of the Romanian theater in Sibiu, the history of culture and elites in Sibiu, to the history of the Romanian media in Transylvania and the urban evolution of Sibiu in the XIX-XX. She authored and co-authored several books related to the history of the city of Sibiu and the local culture. She completed her thesis in July 2022. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

Cosmin Chivu is Associate Professor at Pace School of Performing Arts (New York). His PhD thesis focuses on an in-depth study of techniques and practices that became known as 'The Method', developed at the Actors Studio New York, which changed the art of acting worldwide. The study will include major influencers in

the early stages of work development and breakthrough performances discussed and analyzed by their disciples, as well as an analysis on the continuation of The Method and how its practices are in support of the new realities of theater, film, and television. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Lucian Romaşcanu is a Romanian politician, member of the Parliament. He has excellent experience in media and press, as he used to work for the most important Romanian TV stations. He is doing a PhD study on leadership and cultural diplomacy. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Andreea Ciortea is a senior cultural manager, trainer, and entrepreneur. Her PhD research focuses on the development of festivals as cultural public spheres and the way in which various categories of audiences develop within the festival field. (supervisor: Professor Cristian Radu, Dr. Habil.)

Pali Vecsei completed his studies in Acting at "Lucian Blaga" University in Sibiu and is currently writing his PhD thesis on the silence of the actor, under the guidance of Professor Marian Râlea, PhD, at the same University. He has been an actor with the "Radu Stanca" Theatre for many years and has mastered numerous parts on stage, including silent ones. His area of research interests is the actor's silence and its structural and artistic impact on acting. He completed his thesis in December 2023 (supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Iustinian Turcu is a young actor at Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu. In 2017 he received a UNITER award for his debut. Since then, he was considered one of the most talented young actors in Romania. He did a PhD thesis on the androgynous myths in Europe and Asia, which he completed in October 2023. (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Ionica Alexiu graduated the Theatre Studies and Cultural Management line of study at the I.L. Caragiale National University of Theatre and Film in Bucharest. Her PhD thesis focused on the influences of the new forms of theatre in the virtual reality or online medium. She completed her thesis in October 2023. (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Minela Popa is a well-known make-up artist, part of the National Theatre "Marin Sorescu" of Craiova. She is also a collaborator for many theaters in the country, including National Theatre "Radu Stanca" of Sibiu, in which she had many contributions, including among other things the make-up for the show "Povestea prîntesei deocheate". She has a great deal of experience in a lesser-known artistic field of the theater, in which she manages to combine discipline with creativity, shaping the face of the theater personas. She has collaborated with many resounding directors and scenographers: S. Purcărete, R. Wilson, V. Mugar, Lia Mantoc, collaborations which have brought her numerous awards in the field of theatre and movie make-up. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

Ozana Barabancea is a lyrical artist at the National Opera of Bucharest for over 34 years and is the conductor of the 'Sounding Lights' Orchestra, since 2018. She has performed in Europe, Great Britain, Japan, Thailand, France and Albania. She teaches canto and is a television personality. She is participating in opera, theatre and musical performances and has collaborated with many international directors and musicians such as piano player Anca Parghel (jazz), soprano Angela Gheorghiu, pianist Marius Vernescu, theatre director Andrei Şerban, director and scenographer Petrica Ionesco and many others. Within her opera activity, she has had over 70 premieres over the years. She has acted in films, television sitcoms, musical productions and at the National Theatre in Bucharest (in Chi-

ago, the role of Mother Morton, directed by Ricard Reguant). (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

Ştefan Tunsoiu is one of the youngest actors at Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu. He is also working on a PhD thesis focused on the avant-garde movement in the Romanian interwar theatre, and on how it echoed throughout the following decades in the theatre in Sibiu and the way it manifests today in various forms of artistic expression and theatrical experiment. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

Nadia-Diana Arsin is the manager of the Lucian Blaga Cultural Center in Sebeş. The institution brings together two museums, a library and a house of culture. Since 2017, she has been managing the Lucian Blaga Festival in Sebeş, an event conceived as a poetry contest in 1981, that has become one of the longest-lasting festivals in Romania. She runs the publications Caietele Blaga and Paşii Profetului. Her doctoral research explores the dimensions of performing arts in the Lucian Blaga International Festival in Sebeş. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

Sînziana Nedin has studied and graduated in 2005 from the National University of Theatre and Film "I.L. Caragiale" in Bucharest. Active as an actor for theatre, film and television with most notable parts at the DSTT (German stately theatre in Timișoara), a leading part in a short TV series on a major television in Romania along with a renowned cast of actors and other appearances in films and television. (supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Alin Mihalache is an actor that graduated from the National University of Theatre and Film "I.L. Caragiale", Bucharest and after graduation he was freelance collaborator of "Teatrul Mic". He is currently working towards a PHD. In his research,

he hopes to initiate new theatrical explorations following the directions already established by contemporary postmodern art movements, namely the Japanese "Superflat" movement and the South African follow-up, the "Superstroke". (supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Amalia Iorgoiu has graduated Theatre Directing and Dramatic Writing (at UNATC Bucharest) and is writing a study about theatre creation as a psychoanalytic process of healing, about how rehearsal can be like an individual or a group therapy. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

Irina Chirilă is a stage and costume designer from Bucharest. She is the set designer at Ioan Slavici Classical Theater in Arad. She writes a thesis about the scenographic route in theater, detailing the stages of creation and implementation, study the particularities of different theater stages in Romania, specifying various materials and techniques that can be used to build the set, costume or create the make-up. This approach is based on an intense theoretical study and a great professional diversity. (supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Erwin Şimşensohn is a theater director and, since 2019, manager of the Constanța State Theater. He graduated Theatre Directing at UNATC (Bucharest), in the class of Prof. Catalina Buzoianu in 2013, and later obtained a degree in economics at ASE Bucharest. He was invited by the US State Department to participate in the US Leadership Exchange Program and in 2013 he was selected from over 350 applicants among the 22 participants in the Young Leaders Program of the Aspen Romania Institute. He is passionate about theatre but also about management and cultural administration and for a short period of time he was Secretary of State in the Ministry of Culture, coordinating the institutions of shows and concerts. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Claudia Gorun is a PhD Candidate in the field of Theatre at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. She is currently working as a delegate producer at the Marin Sorescu National Theatre from Craiova (Romania). Her sphere of studies and work experience varies from visual arts, journalism, public relations to applied behavior analysis and theatre. It is precisely this diversity of fields that has inspired and drawn her towards a particular research that is based on the intersection of two different worlds – Applied theatre and ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder). (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Loreta Popa made her literary debut with "Letters for Ema" (Editura Semne, 2009). "The Story of the Blue Wolf", "Love Letters - Today, Acum" - 2010 (Mateiaș Publishing House), "The song of The Colour" - 2011 (Neverland Publishing House), "33" - 2015 (TracusArte Publishing House) and a re-edition of "Letters for Ema" (2017, For You Publishing House). After 30 years in the cultural media, a journey as editor and editor at the newspapers Dimineata, Cronica română, Vocea României, Sport XXI, National, Jurnalul National, Cariere magazine, Taifasuri, Evenimentul Zilei and as editor-in-chief of Jurnal Spiritual magazine, since January 2017, she is the coordinator of Public Relations/Marketing, PR at the National Museum of Romanian Literature in Bucharest. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

Corina Cojoacă is a PhD Candidate in the field of performing arts at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. A former professional musician and opera singer, having a Bachelor's Degree in Opera Singing and Classical Composition at both the Academy of Music Gh. Dima and the National University of Music Bucharest, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Public Relationships at the University of Babeş-Bolyai, and a Master's Degree in the Art of Interpreting Dramatic Characters at the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies

at the University of Lucian Blaga, she has a profound cross-disciplinary vision regarding the performing arts. Besides the artist field, she also gained experience in other areas such as financial, purchasing, logistic, marketing and management. (Supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Maria Lelea is a young actress from Romania and a Ph.D. student of Theatre and Performing Arts at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Her research interests are in social theatre, feminism, and the impact that art has on society. Maria's MSc thesis emphasizes one woman's show techniques and addiction as a social issue we must all acknowledge together. As an actress, she goes for provocative and complex female characters – like Christiane F. in *We, the children with wings* (directed by Mariana Camarasan) or *Rose in Dancing at Lughnasa* (directed by Mariana Camarasan and Amalia Iorgoiu). The lack of powerful female characters inspires her Ph.D. study. The thesis focuses on contemporary female archetypes, the gender data gap, the importance of women directors and playwrights, and the critical moments in the progress of female characters. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

In recent years, **Yaroslava Babenchuk's** research/project work focused on developing new approaches to planning the design and construction of new Performing Arts facilities. As audiences change, technologies penetrate the art form and everyday life, and cities around the world focus more and more on developing spaces for their communities to engage, create, and be together there appeared a need to think in a more complex way about what the future Performing Arts facilities will be like. In an effort to address this question, Yaroslava over the last 4 years engaged into multiple conversations globally about the future of Performing Arts infrastructure, including a Global Scholar Award work on the topic in Singapore and Romania. Previously, Dr. Babenchuk produced

and presented live shows internationally, worked for major Performing Arts festivals around the world, led special projects at the International Renaissance Foundation (Ukraine), advised the Minister of Culture of Ukraine etc. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Constantin Gajim is a PhD student at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, where he is majoring in theater and performing arts. He was born in the Republic of Moldova and currently resides in Sibiu, Romania. Gajim graduated from the Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts in Chisinau with a degree in stage directing, and later pursued further studies in cultural management at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. He already had the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained from his studies as an actor-dancer in three shows and one performance in the genre of physical theater. Currently, Gajim is working as an associate teacher with the students of the theatrical art department at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomuş, Dr. Habil.)

Dan Boldea is an actor, playwright and musician, graduate of the Faculty of Theatre and Film in Cluj-Napoca, currently a PhD student at the Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu. He has performed or written over 20 plays in Romanian theatres, appeared in films such as *Toni&Friends* directed by Ion Indolean. Among the awards he has received is the *Excellentia* award for his academic research activity, awarded by Babeş-Bolyai University. In addition to his dramaturgical and research work, he also published a book in 2023. Most of the projects he creates are based on documentary or Verbatim theatre techniques, and deal with social issues of interest such as migration, ethnic or sexual minorities or women's rights. Among his productions are *CTRL+Z* (Apropo Theatre, Bucharest), directed by Ana Maria Țirlea, *Disneiland* (Maidan Theatre, Cluj-Napoca), directed by Diana Aldea and *The promised aspara-*

gus (Kallasch Theatre, Berlin), directed by Selma Bohelmann. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomus, Dr. Habil.)

Ileana Racoviceanu is a doctoral student at “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu, Faculty of Letters and Arts, the Drama and Theatre Studies Department, and a collaborator of the “Radu Stanca” Theatre in Sibiu. Her work focuses on identifying and analyzing structures that can meet the need for a deeper connection between theatre and education. With over 20 years of experience in project management and organizing cultural and educational events, she believes that a knowledge society must address the child, the young person, and the adult in an integrated, flexible, and agile manner, fostering lifelong learning that nourishes their curiosity, physical and mental mobility, emotions, and cognition. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Dumitru Acriș is a theatre director who is particularly interested in the Russian dramatic universe. He graduated in stage direction from the prestigious GITIS University in Moscow and has directed numerous productions. At the Radu Stanca National Theatre in Sibiu he directed *The Seagull* and *The Cherry Orchard*. Since 2024, he has been teaching at the Department of Theatre Arts at the Lucian Blaga University in Sibiu. As for his doctoral study, he is concerned with the comparative analysis of different working methods of great directors. (supervisor: Professor Constantin Chiriac, Dr. Habil.)

Alexandrina Grecu is a graduate of the Department of Theatre Arts at the “Lucian Blaga” University of Sibiu and is an actress at the Satiricus National Theatre in Chisinau. She has played numerous roles in theatre since her adolescence. Having evolved in a bilingual cultural space (Romanian and Russian), Alexandrina performs in both languages. Her doctoral thesis focuses on the actor performing in

two languages. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomus, Dr. Habil.)

Emőke Boldizsár is a stage actress at the Radu Stanca National Theater in Sibiu, Romania and also assistant teacher at the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies of the Faculty of Letters and Arts, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu where she is studying for her PhD. As part of the Hungarian ethnic minority, playing in a lot of German-speaking plays, her interests go towards exploring the connections between language and theater and how they influence each other. Her thesis is focused on the influence of language and the effects of multilingualism upon the diversity of an actors play. She worked with important well-established theater-directors and had a wide range of roles, from tragedy to drama and comedy. She gave her voice for several audio-guides in Hungarian, German, Romanian and English. (supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Andrada Oltean is a young actress that is working with Radu Stanca National Theatre, Gong Theatre in Sibiu and Godot Theatre in Bucharest. She received her MA in the art of dramatic character interpretation in 2022. As a PhD students, Andrada is working as an associate teacher with the students of the Drama and Theatre Department at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and is doing a thesis on the actor's training as the foundation of the creative process. (supervisor: Professor Ion M. Tomus, Dr. Habil.)

Ileana Ursu is an actress at Maria Filotti Theatre in Brăila, at Excelsior Theatre and Metropolis Theatre in Bucharest. She graduated acting at Faculty of Theatre and Film, Babeș-Bolyai University, with two Master degrees at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu and National University of Theatre and Film “I.L. Caragiale”. Her PhD thesis focuses on the relation between reality and fiction in the contemporary stage productions and more specifically

on the way it is reflected in the theatrical creation of Eugen Jebeleanu. (supervisor: Assistant Professor Diana Nechit, Dr. Habil.)

Tiana Alexe is a theatre critic and PR specialist. She holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree from the National University of Theatre and Film „I.L. Caragiale” in Bucharest and is currently pursuing a PhD at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. Alongside her academic work, Tiana is part of the teams at ACT Theatre and Metropolis Theatre, where she actively contributes to developing, organising, and promoting cultural projects. Her professional experience in theatre enables her to bridge academic theory and stage practice, offering a nuanced understanding of contemporary theatrical phenomena. As a critic, she has been an editor for *Yorick.ro* and *Amfiteatru* and is currently a contributor to *Teatrul Azi* journal. (supervisor: Professor Octavian Saiu, Dr. Habil.)

Ana Maria Bălescu graduated the National University of Theater and Film “I.L. Caragiale” in Bucharest. She also holds a master's degree in Acting from “Spiru Haret” University in Bucharest, obtained in 2012. Currently, she is an actress at the “Țândărică” Animation Theatre, a creative mentor for professional integration through theater, a trainer, and a theatrical educator for children and young people. Additionally, she is a founding member of the Cultural Association “AIGRAI.” Her research work is based on models and strategies in theater for young audiences. (supervisor: Professor Marian Râlea, Dr. Habil.)

Paula Olga Nagy is a PhD candidate in Performing Arts at LBUS, with a dissertation on the possibilities of applying Design Thinking methods in the study of performing arts. She has extensive experience in organising academic events and managing research projects. (supervisor: Assistant Professor Diana Nechit, Dr. Habil.)

Sabina Oltean graduated at Lucian Blaga University of, the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies, with a Bachelor's Degree in 2014 and with a Master's Degree

in 2016. She works as an administrator of the Department of Drama and Theatre Studies since 2019. She is actively involved in the Sibiu International Theatre Festival since 2009, where she started as a volunteer and evolved during each edition. Since 2009 she is the assistant for “The Drama and Arts Management University Convention” a structure associated with the main festival. During her student years she worked as a project manager assistant at Radu Stanca National Theatre for the following performances: *Oidip* directed by Silviu Purcărete, *Master and Margarita* directed by Zoltan Balazs, *Tattoo* directed by Radu Afrim, *The Ghost is here* directed by Kushida Kazuyoshi, *Nathan the Wise* directed by Armin Petras, *Marat/Sade* directed by Charles Muller. (supervisor: Conf. Univ. Dr. Diana Nechit)

LUCIAN BLAGA UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU

Youth Without Old Age and Life Without Death



20 JUNE, 18:00HRS
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND ARTS - CAVAS (12 BANATULUI ST.)
16+
1H

CHOREOGRAPHY BY: ȘTEFAN LUPU

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: ANDRADA OLTEAN
COSTUMES: MARIA CONSTANTIN
LIGHTING DESIGN: DORIN PĂRĂU
MUSICAL ILLUSTRATION: ȘTEFAN LUPU, ANDRADA OLTEAN
MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT: VLAD ROBAȘ
PROJECT MANAGER: LUMINIȚA BÎRSAN
PROJECT ASSISTANT: IZABELA ROMAN
MAKE UP: IULIA NEGREA
SOUND DESIGN: BOBARIU CĂTĂLIN
PRODUCERS: UNIVERSITATEA „LUCIAN BLAGA” DIN SIBIU
CO-PRODUCERS: TEATRUL NAȚIONAL „RADU STANCA” SIBIU

CAST: ALEXANDRU BUMBEȘ, ANDRADA OLTEAN, ISABELA HAIDUC, ADA BICFALVI, DAVID CRISTIAN, FABIAN TODERICĂ, EVA FRĂȚILĂ, ALBERTA DIMA, ANA ȘTEFAN, MELANIA VESELU, ANIA PETREAN, ȘTEFAN CHELIMÎNDRĂ, MIHAI MOCANU



“Youth without old age and life without death” represents the search for eternal happiness that can only be attained through the fulfilment of love. The main character, Făt-Frumos (Prince Charming), embarks on an initiatory journey in this world of fantasy, illustrating the idea that we must overcome, with steadfast courage, every obstacle fate places before us to achieve the fulfilment of our existence. The main character stands for a generation at the beginning of their journey, filled with hope and the desire to grasp the essence of life and understand its meaning.

An ingenious theatrical and choreographic experiment that builds a bridge between Romanian folklore and the demands of contemporary show.

LUCIAN BLAGA UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU

Mutter

AFTER: BERTOLT BRECHT



27 JUNE, 16:00 & 21:00HRS
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND ARTS - CAVAS (12 BANATULUI ST.)
16+
1H 30MIN

DIRECTION AND SET DESIGN: DUMITRU ACRIȘ

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: CRISTINA BLAGA-TOMUȘ

LIGHT DESIGN: DORIN PĂRĂU

SOUND: CĂTĂLIN BOBARIU

VIDEO: CĂTĂLIN CORA

PROJECT MANAGER: LUMINIȚA BÎRSAN

ASSISTANT MANAGER: FLAVIUS DUBLEȘU

ASSISTANT PROJECT: BOGDAN CONTEA

CAST: ANIA PETREAN, ANA ȘTEFAN, ANDREEA STANCIU, ALEXIA MARCU, ALEXANDRU BUMBÊȘ, BOGDAN LISCAN, DIMITRIE BUJOR, FABIAN TODERICĂ, IONUȚ ARIN, IULIANA DOGARU, RALUCA HONGU, MĂDĂLINA FOFIÇAȘ, MIHAI MOCANU, SORANA ILIE, THEODORA CONSTANTIN, VERONICA ODAGIU



The performance directed by Dumitru Acriș brings Bertolt Brecht's great tragedy before the audience at a time when war is as present in our lives as it was when the text was written. The performance proposes a new vision of the micro tragedies within the great tragedies of history, of a guilt for which it is hard to and the culprit and, fatally, of the slow but sure break-up of a family trapped in the unforgiving and merciless logic of war.

A necessary performance and a manifesto that captures with a painful authenticity the challenges of present history.

LUCIAN BLAGA UNIVERSITY OF SIBIU



26, 27, 28 JUNE, 10:00-13:00HRS
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND ARTS - ROOM 4 (12 BANATULUI ST.)

ACCES BY REGISTRATION, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY
BY REGISTERING FOR THIS WORKSHOP, PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO ATTEND ALL THREE DAYS

Meyerhold's Biomechanics in Practice



The workshop proposes techniques and practices for applying Vsevolod Meyerhold's Biomechanics.

Dumitru Acriș

Born on 22 June 1983,

2000–2004: Graduate of AMTAP, Faculty of Dramatic Arts and Artistic Management, specialising in theatre and cinema acting,
2010–2012: Master's degree in directing at AMTAP,

2012–2017: Graduate of the GITIS University of Theatre in Moscow, Russia.

He has staged around 50 shows. He participates in various national and international theatre festivals.

CARLO GINZBURG AND FRANCO MORETTI IN DIALOGUE WITH OVIO OLARU AND ANDREI TERIAN

28 JUNE, 12:30HRS
THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC FORUM (HALL OF MIRRORS)
1H 50MIN

Drama and History: a Conversation on Büchner's Danton's Death

Franco Moretti has taught English and Comparative Literature at the universities of Salerno and Verona, at Columbia, and at Stanford, where he founded the Center for the Study of the Novel and the Literary Lab. He has published several books, among which *The Way of the World*, *Atlas of the European Novel 1800-1900*, *Graphs Maps Trees. Abstract Models for Literary History*, *The Bourgeois*, and *Distant Reading*. His books and essays have been translated into thirty languages.

Carlo Ginzburg is an Italian historian, best known for developing the method called microhistory. A former professor at University of Bologna, UCLA, and the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, Carlo Ginzburg became internationally famous with books like *The Cheese and the Worms (Il formaggio e i vermi [1976])* and *Ecstasies: Deciphering the Witches' Sabbath (Storia notturna: Una decifrazione del Sabba [1989])*. His work mixes history, anthropology, and literary theory. Ginzburg is often interested in how "ordinary" people thought and imagined the world, especially during the Renaissance and Early Modern periods. He's considered one of the most influential historians of the 20th century and his books and essays have been translated into thirty languages.

Ovio Olaru teaches German literature and Norwegian at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu. His research focuses on Comparative and World Literature, he has co-edited several volumes and conducted research in several research projects. He has translated numerous books from Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, and Icelandic, among which Jon Fosse's *Septology* and several of his plays.

Andrei Terian is Professor of Romanian literature and Vice Rector for Research, Innovation, and Internationalization at the Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, Romania. His specialties are 19th to 21st century Romanian literature, world literature, and cultural heritage. He has published essays in international journals such as *Textual Practice*, *Life Writing*, *CLCWeb – Comparative Literature and Culture*, *Slovo*, *World Literature Studies*, *Primerjalna Književnost*, *Interlitteraria*, *ALEA: Estudios Neolatinos*. His latest books include the coedited volumes *Romanian Literature as World Literature* (Bloomsbury, 2018) and *Theory in the "Post" Era* (Bloomsbury, 2021; AATSEEL Prize for Best Multi-Scholarly Volume). He is also the PI of the projects "A Transnational History of Romanian Literature" (2021–2026) and "Establishing a Laboratory of Cultural Heritage in Central Romania" (2023–2025).







