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**INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM OF DOCTORAL RESEARCH IN THE FIELDS  
OF PERFORMING ARTS AND CULTURAL MANAGEMENT**

**THE LANGUAGE OF THE SOUL:  
CREATIVITY, THEATRE & THE ART OF BEING HUMAN  
International Conference  
19–20 June 2026, Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu, ROMANIA**



Theatre has long served as one of humanity's most profound languages for expressing inner life, collective memory, and the complexities of human existence. In an era marked by rapid cultural, social, and technological transformations, the performing arts continue to offer a space where creativity, imagination, and embodied knowledge illuminate what it means to be human.

The Department of Drama and Theatre Studies and the PhD School in Theatre and Performing Arts at Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu invite scholars, doctoral researchers, artists, and practitioners to submit proposals for the international conference "The Language of the Soul: Creativity, Theatre & the Art of Being Human."

As the conference is organised within the framework of the International Platform of Doctoral Research in the Fields of Performing Arts and Cultural Management, we are particularly interested in the participation of PhD supervisors in theatre and performing arts, as well as doctoral researchers working in these fields. The conference seeks to encourage meaningful dialogue between experienced scholars and emerging researchers, highlighting the collaborative dimension of doctoral research. In this spirit, joint presentations by PhD supervisors and their doctoral candidates are especially encouraged.

The conference forms part of the International Platform of Doctoral Research in the Fields of Performing Arts and Cultural Management, an academic initiative dedicated to fostering dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas among emerging and established researchers in theatre and performance studies. The platform takes place annually in the vibrant context of the Sibiu International Theatre Festival, encouraging encounters between academic research and artistic practice. Its theme is closely connected to the 2026 edition theme of the Sibiu International Theatre Festival: SOUL.

The conference is scheduled during the opening weekend of the Sibiu International Theatre Festival, offering participants the opportunity not only to engage in academic exchange but also to attend performances from the festival programme and to experience the unique cultural and artistic environment created by one of the most prominent events in the European performing arts landscape.

Given the close connection between the conference and the Sibiu International Theatre Festival, contributors are especially encouraged to engage, in their proposals, with the work and artistic legacy of the creators honoured with stars on the Sibiu Walk of Fame. Established as a symbolic recognition of

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outstanding contributions to the performing arts, the Walk of Fame celebrates internationally renowned artists whose work has significantly shaped contemporary theatre, dance, and performance culture.

Since its establishment, the Sibiu Walk of Fame has honoured major figures of the international stage, including Ariane Mnouchkine, Peter Brook, Robert Wilson, Declan Donnellan, Eugenio Barba, Krystian Lupa, Lev Dodin, Thomas Ostermeier, Rimas Tuminas, Philippe Genty, Wajdi Mouawad, Peter Sellars, Akram Khan, Sasha Waltz, Katie Mitchell, Milo Rau, Tiago Rodrigues, Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker, John Malkovich, Jon Fosse, Wole Soyinka, Alain Platel, and many others. The list also includes renowned performers and cultural figures such as Isabelle Huppert, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Charlotte Rampling, Tim Robbins, Bill Murray, Kathleen Turner, and Victor Rebengiuc.

Proposals may therefore consider the aesthetic visions, artistic practices, and cultural impact of these artists, exploring how their work contributes to a deeper understanding of creativity, theatrical language, and the art of being human.

We welcome proposals addressing topics including, but not limited to:

- Theatre and the expression of interiority
- Creativity and artistic identity
- The actor's craft and embodied knowledge
- Performance, emotion, and affect
- Theatre as a space for reflection on the human condition
- Intersections between artistic practice and academic research
- Theatre, culture, and social transformation
- Cultural management and the ecology of performing arts
- Practice-based research in theatre and performance

The conference aims to provide an international forum for academic exchange between doctoral students, early-career scholars, and established researchers, while also encouraging dialogue between theoretical reflection and artistic practice.

Please submit the following materials by 1 May 2026, to [ion.tomus@ulbsibiu.ro](mailto:ion.tomus@ulbsibiu.ro) & [bogdan.contea@ulbsibiu.ro](mailto:bogdan.contea@ulbsibiu.ro):

- an abstract (maximum 300 words)
- 3–5 keywords
- a short bio including institutional affiliation

Notifications of acceptance will be sent shortly after the submission deadline. Limited accommodation may be available for selected participants. A limited number of tickets to performances from the Sibiu International Theatre Festival programme, scheduled during the conference days, may also be offered by the organisers.

Following the conference, a selection of papers will be invited for publication in a forthcoming volume. Final manuscripts should comply with the citation and formatting guidelines of The Chicago Manual of Style.

Further details regarding the conference programme and practical information will be communicated after the selection process.