

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE  
20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RESTORATION  
OF MONTENEGRO'S INDEPENDENCE

THEATRE IN  
MONTENEGRO:  
IDENTITY,  
TRANSITION AND  
THE EUROPEAN  
CONTEXT

15-16. OCTOBER 2026  
CETINJE, MONTENEGRO

Organized by



КРАЉЕВСКО  
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2006 / 2026  
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# CALL FOR PAPERS

International Conference on the 20th Anniversary  
of the Restoration of Montenegro's Independence

## THEATRE IN MONTENEGRO: IDENTITY, TRANSITION AND THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT

Organized by the Royal Theatre "Zetski Dom", in collaboration with the  
Faculty of Dramatic Arts, University of Montenegro  
15-16 OCTOBER 2026, CETINJE, MONTENEGRO

### THEMATIC JUSTIFICATION

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the restoration of Montenegro's independence, the Royal Theatre "Zetski Dom," in collaboration with the Faculty of Dramatic Arts at the University of Montenegro, is organizing an academic and professional conference with the aim of exploring the developmental trajectories of Montenegrin theatre within a broader socio-political and aesthetic context. Contemporary theatre in Montenegro develops at the intersection of several historical and cultural processes: postsocialist transition, transformations of the institutional system, and contemporary European aesthetic trends.

The contemporary Montenegrin scene is characterized by a dynamic interplay of plural aesthetics and institutional changes. This process encompasses the evolution of domestic dramaturgy and the consolidation of hybrid performance practices, while the production system is expanding through the strengthening of the independent scene and intensive international exchange. At the same time, theatre remains a vital platform for public discourse, critically engaging with issues of history, cultural memory, identity, and social values.

In order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of theatre in Montenegro as a dynamic system, it is necessary to consider the historical, institutional, and cultural processes that have shaped its development—from the dramatic socio-political changes of the 1990s to the ongoing processes of European integration. The restoration of state independence represented the culmination of the processes that began in the final decade of the twentieth century. The twentieth-anniversary of the restoration provides an opportunity to explore the interplay between the broader context and the theatre as a space for public reflection—both in the processes of (re)constructing collective memory and in critically examining contemporary social narratives.

The aim of the conference is to examine contemporary Montenegrin theatre as a complex system operating between tradition and innovation, institutional structures and independent initiatives, national symbolic frameworks and transnational networks of cultural exchange. Special focus will be on theoretical and practical approaches that enable analysis of theatrical systems in small states within a contemporary European context. In the case of Montenegro, this also entails gaining deeper insights into the processes of (re)constructing collective identities, the phenomenon of incomplete transition, and the exploration of tensions between desirable European cultural models and the local theatrical reality.

## **SUGGESTED THEMATIC AREAS (NOT RESTRICTIVE):**

### **MONTENEGRIN THEATRE AND (COLLECTIVE) IDENTITY**

Theatre and identity politics  
Stage reinterpretation of themes from national history  
Theatre and the politics of collective memory  
Theatre and the Yugoslav wars  
The relationship between theatre and the socio-political context in times of crisis  
Theatre as a public sphere

### **MONTENEGRIN THEATRE AND STRUCTURAL-AESTHETIC TRANSITION**

Theatre and post-socialist transition  
Cultural policy and institutional reforms after 2006  
Development of the independent scene and new production models  
Contemporary dramaturgy and new directorial poetics  
Documentary and activist theatre  
Site-specific practices  
Theatre criticism and media reception  
Theatre for children and youth  
Development of scenic design  
Festivals as production and aesthetic frameworks  
Documentation and digitalization of performance practices i

### **MONTENEGRIN THEATRE IN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT**

International co-productions and collaborative networks  
Theatre and cultural diplomacy  
Translation  
Cultural transfer and artist mobility  
Politics and aesthetics of intercultural collaboration in theatre  
Representation of Montenegrin theatre in Southeast Europe  
New European cultural policies (inclusivity, diversity, audience development, participation, decentralization, strategic planning, accountability, and transparency)

**Special Panel:** Theatre of Small States in the European Context: Between Symbolic Representation and Network Integration

## FORMATS

The conference accepts proposals for:

- academic papers
- presentations of research based on artistic practice
- artist talks
- roundtables and thematic panels
- workshops and presentations

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The application should include:

- title and abstract (250–300 words)
- a short biography and institutional affiliation (up to 100 words)
- indication of the preferred presentation format
- working language(s): Montenegrin, Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian, and English

Submission deadline: **June 15, 2026**

**Travel and accommodation costs for conference participants will be covered by the conference organizers.**

**Additional information about the conference program, registration, and the publication of the proceedings will be announced in due course.**

**Please send your proposal and abstract to:**

**[konferencija2026@zetskidom.me](mailto:konferencija2026@zetskidom.me)**