

FIRST DRAMA PREMIERE

New festival location rang with laughter at the *Lovers* premiere

Dubrovnik, 20 July 2022 – First drama premiere of the 73rd Dubrovnik Summer Festival season, *Lovers* directed by **Aleksandar Švabić** and performed by the **Festival Drama Ensemble**, was held **last night, 19 July in front of St. Jacob's Church**. Judging by the first audience reactions, it was a job well done by the young creative team and the actors.

Director Aleksandar Švabić staged *Lovers*, a work by an unknown author from the second half of the 17th century, on a new festival location featuring minimal set design. The young cast forming the Festival Drama Ensemble received a several minute's long applause and calls to bow by the audience plenty of times as well after last night's premiere performance.

– I'm extremely pleased because each member, of the cast and creative team both, did a tremendous job. I cannot take all the credit for myself because the actors are very much the creators of their parts, and each individual in the whole team of the play is an equally important part of the entire process – the director Aleksandar Švabić briefly pointed out just after the premiere.

Besides the director, part of the creative team are **David Morhan** and **Mia Popovska**, set and costume designers while scene movement was done by assistant Director **Damir Klemenčić**. **Maro Market** is the composer and studio musicians are **Mario Bočić** and **David Vidović**, lighting designer **Martin Šatović**, speech advisor **Maro Martinović**, and **Antonela Tošić** is the stage manager and assistant dramaturge. The **Festival Drama Ensemble** are **Nataša Kopeč** as Vesela and **Dražan Šivak** as Intrigalo, **Kristijan Petelin** covering **Andrej Kopčok** as Fabrizio Pisoglavčić, **Boris Barukčić** as Lovro Kalebić, **Damir Klemenčić** covering **Kristijan Petelin** as Proždor, **Josipa Bilić** as Lukrecija and **Veronika Mach** as Anka.

Lovers will be playing every day until 22 July, at 9.30 p.m. and tickets are sold out. The sponsor of the play is Dubrovnik Summer Festival's faithful partner OTP Bank.

The Dubrovnik Summer Festival – the centre of Croatian and global spirit and culture, a place of creation and not just a place of visit, a place of community, ideas and new artistic expressions, is traditionally supported this year by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia, the City of Dubrovnik, the Dubrovnik-neretva county, Dubrovnik Tourist Board and numerous sponsors Euroherc, Mastercard, HEP, ACI club, ALH, Kraš, Coca-Cola, Croatia Airlines and TuttoBene and donors Caboga Stiftung foundation, OTP bank, and other benefactors who helped bring this most prestigious cultural event in Croatia to fruition.

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