

ONCE MORE AT THE FESTIVAL

Lion House returns to the playground under Minčeta Fort

Dubrovnik, 25 July 2022 – Last year's premiere and award-winning play *Lion House*, directed by **Aida Bukvić** based on the eponymous Ivan Salečić novel is again part of the festival programme this summer, returning to the playground under Minčeta Fort from this **Tuesday to Friday, 26 to 29 July**. The first performance, on **26 July**, will be starting at **10 p.m.** while the others will start at **9.30 p.m.**

Lion House portrays Dubrovnik as a place where burdened history and burlesque transition clash. Intertwining two stories, about modern Dubrovnik, as well as the one from the past with an emphasis on the Gundulić family history, Ivan Salečić created a singular novel in fiction and faction coexist and our ideas about the glorious past are broken against the harsh reality of everyday life. The present-day bitter-humorous complications surrounding the purchase and restoration of an apartment in the historic city core are complemented with an interesting and engaging history of Dubrovnik, above which looms the grim fate of the Great Earthquake. Festival Drama Ensemble performing *Lion House* consists of leading acting names, including: **Amar Bukvić** as Ivan, **Iva Kraljević** as Vanja, **Jadranka Đokić** as Laima and Nika Gundulić, **Dražen Šivak** as Šeh, **Branimir Vidić – Flika** as Nikša, **Maro Martinović** in the role of Ivan Gundulić, **Doris Šarić-Kukuljica** as the Professor and Luce, **Romano Nikolić** and **Marin Klišmanić** as Ivan Gundulić's sons Šiško and Mato, with **Veronika Mach** as their sister Džive and **Gloria Dubelj** as Kata. The play received the Orlando Award for the best artistic achievement in the drama programme of the 72nd Dubrovnik Summer Festival. There were also three nominations for the Croatian Actor Awards, which went to Maro Martinović for his role as Dživo Gundulić in the best supporting actor category, to Gloria Dubelj as Kate for exceptional young drama artist under 28 in the drama category, and to dramaturge Marijana Fumić for the best best premiering contemporary Croatian drama text or best dramatization, adaptation, dramaturgical transformation of text or a play's dramaturgy.

Aida Bukvić was born in Zagreb where she attended Archdiocesan Classical Gymnasium and went on to study Theatre Direction at the Academy of Dramatic Art. For her graduate play, Pero Budak's "Klupko", she received a Days of Satire award in 1999, with the play also being nominated for the Croatian Association of Drama Artists Award in the same year. Since then, Bukvić has directed more than thirty plays in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her plays have received critical acclaim and numerous awards, having performances at both domestic and foreign festivals. Bukvić is a full professor at the Academy of Dramatic Art in Zagreb, Acting Department. *Lion House* was her directing debut at the Dubrovnik Summer Festival which she did with the creative team: dramaturge **Marijana Fumić**, set designer **Ivo Knezović** and his assistants, **Pietro Boban** who did the original paintworks and **Timo Škrlec** who did the sculptures. **Blaženka Kovač-Carić** is in charge of the stage movement, **Mirjana Zagorec** is the costume designer. Lighting design is done by **Martin Šatović** while **Maro Market** created the music. The play, which premiered on 20 August 2021, is subtitled in English.

Tickets are available online at the Festival's official website <https://www.dubrovnik-festival.hr/> and through the ticket service www.ulaznice.hr, as well as the Festival Palace Box Office (Od Sigurate 1), which is open every day from 9 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the venue, two hours prior to the performance. Purchases made with Mastercard® and Maestro® cards provide special benefits and discounts.

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.

##

Media Contact:

Katija Krečak Jarović

PR and Marketing Department

M. 095 323 20 52/ T. 020 326 112

E. katija.krecak.jarovic@dubrovnik-festival.hr

www.dubrovnik-festival.hr