

LET THE ACTORS ENTER!

All Set for the 73rd Festival Opening Ceremony

Dubrovnik, 9 July 2022 – The traditional raising of the *Libertas* flag to the verses of Ivan Gundulić's *Hymn to Liberty* in front of St. Blaise's Church, on **10 July at 9 p.m.**, will mark the start of the **73rd Dubrovnik Summer Festival**, open from **10 July to 25 August** with performances staged on almost twenty site-specific locations in Dubrovnik.

– The opening ceremony is always a great honour and a great responsibility. It is something that is eagerly awaited, in Dubrovnik, as well as in the rest of Croatia. It is my pleasure, after two years of the opening ceremonies not being in at their full capacities, that this year we have the orchestra, the choirs and a large team of amazing actors who will be entering the City – points out the director of the grand opening **Aida Bukvić**, who also wrote the script for the ceremony along with dramaturge **Marijana Fumić**.

The ceremony will feature, under the baton of maestro **Ivan Hut**, the soprano **Kristina Kolar**, the **Dubrovnik Symphony Orchestra**, **Pro musica Mostar Academic Choir**, **Libertas Mixed Choir**, **Dubrovnik Chamber Choir** and **Blasius Choir**, with the **Festival Drama Ensemble** joined in their performance by the **Acting students of the Zagreb Academy of Dramatic Arts** as well as the **Lindo Folklore Ensemble**. The end of the festivities will bring a fireworks show, starting sometimes after 10 p.m.

Alongside the large audience and important dignitaries gathered in front of St. Blaise's, the grand opening ceremony of the 73rd Festival will be broadcast live by the HR Radio Dubrovnik and the Channel 1 of Croatian Radio for their listeners to join in the joy, with the viewers of Croatian Radio and Television's Channel for whom, as is tradition, the broadcast will also be aired. The 47 days of the upcoming festival season will bring more than 60 drama, music, folklore and other events on almost 20 site-specific locations.

Always an especially curious festival tradition ahead of the formal opening is followed with great interest by numerous citizens of Dubrovnik and their guests – the midnight **dress rehearsal, which will be held tonight, 9 July, exactly at 12 a.m.**

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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